



AN  
IMPARTIAL AND CORRECT  
HISTORY OF THE WAR

BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

AND  
GREAT BRITAIN;

*Declared by a Law of Congress, June 18, 1812, and  
concluded by a ratification and exchange of a Trea-  
ty of Peace, at the City of Washington, Feb.  
17, 1815.*

COMPRISING A PARTICULAR DETAIL  
OF THE  
NAVAL AND MILITARY OPERATIONS,

AND  
*A Faithful Record of the Events produced dur-  
ing the Contest.*

INCLUDING  
THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS.

1. The President's Message to Congress of 1st June, 1812.
2. The Report of the Committee of Foreign Relations of 3d June, 1812.
3. The Act declaring War between the United States and Great Britain.
4. The Treaty of Peace.
5. Niles' List of Prizes, captured during the War.
6. The Treaty of Peace of 1793.

CAREFULLY COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

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1816.

*District of New-York, ss.*

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the sixteenth day of May, in the thirty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America, John Low, of the said L. S. district, hath deposited in this office the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as Proprietor, in the words following, to wit :

“ An Impartial and Correct History of the War between the United States of America, and Great Britain, declared by a law of Congress, June 12, 1812, and concluded by a ratification and exchange of a Treaty of Peace, at the city of Washington, February 17, 1815. Comprising a particular detail of the Naval and Military operations, and a faithful record of the events produced during the contest; including, 1. The President's Message to Congress of 1st June, 1812. 2. The report of the Committee of Foreign Relations of 3d June, 1812. 3. The Act declaring War between the United States and Great Britain. 4. The Treaty of Peace. 5. Niles' List of Prizes, captured during the War. 6. The Treaty of Peace of 1783. Carefully compiled from Official Documents.”

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled “ An act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned.” And also to an Act, entitled “ An act, supplementary to an act, entitled an act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints.”

THERON RUDD,

Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.

## PREFACE.



No era, in the moral world, has excited the public curiosity, or affected the general interest of mankind, more than the discovery of a western continent in the year 1492. Attracted as the public mind was by that event, yet its resulting importance was not then fully anticipated by the most extravagant hopes or the most acute prognostics. To convert the natural riches of the new world to the advantage of the old, was the only object which the kings of Europe wished to accomplish, or intended to essay. Neither king nor subject expected that the western world would become the seat of empires, independent of European rulers; much less did they expect that the future monarchs of the east would meet in the new world, rivals capable of opposing and defeating attempts at continuing in political subjection, the descendants of emigrants, led to the new continent by cupidity, driven to it by persecution, or banished as an expiation of their crimes.

It was not until long after the first settlement of America by Europeans, that it was sagaciously observed, that "the new world seemed destined to give laws to the old." The observation drew forth but the derision or contempt of the hearers and readers. A prophecy so improbable and which could not, it was supposed, be accomplish-



ed, if at all, in a hundred centuries, was deemed too puerile to be credited, and too distant to be dreaded.

The revolutionary war gave the first substantial proof that materials for all the purposes of self-government existed in America. In proportion as the genius and resources of the inhabitants were developed, in the same degree did they find advocates in the different parts of the world, who either saw with pleasure the successful prospect which opened itself to the people of the United States, (late British colonies,) secretly encouraged and relieved them, or openly supported and assisted them. The happy termination of this contest led to the belief, that the theories of political prophets were not only probable, but their consummation less distant than had been hitherto supposed.

The United States having, by the treaty of peace of 1783, become a nation by the consent of all other nations, had as if to begin the world, without any other capital than the virtue of the citizens, and without security against foreign aggression, except what could be drawn from their own courage and patriotism.

As yet their population was little more than three millions of inhabitants; the want of a well consolidated confederation rendered the government weak; and the many incidents and difficulties attending the attempt to reconcile various interests with a general principle, increased this difficulty. The speculations as to the future des-

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tinies of the people were various. England had concluded peace *pro forma*, but she continued hostile in fact. Great Britain was but a small island, yet her sovereign was a king over extensive regions, and many islands in various parts of the globe: the example of several of her colonies rejecting her authority and uniting in support of each other, was dangerous to the parent country; it was found impossible to subdue them by force; it was determined to do so by intrigue, corruption and robbery.

The colonies remedied one great inconvenience by forming a general constitution in 1789, which stands an unrivalled instance of patriotism, wisdom, and justice; a rapid growth of population and extension of commerce, a cultivation of literature, arts and sciences were fast advancing to a point that would outrival England in every respect.

As this state of things advanced in America, England proceeded to measures of increased violence and injustice. Seeking for pretexts, in principles novel, unknown to other nations, and even contravening her own established practice, she left to America the alternative of submission to her will or resistance by war; the latter was resorted to.

The history of the revolutionary war is already before the public. It is a valuable record of what men determined to be free can do. This war brought into a phalanx that mass of military patriotism, which, under the immortal WARREN, commenced its career of glory at Bunker-hill;

and terminated it, under the immortal WASHINGTON, at York Town.

The task now undertaken must be interesting to every citizen of the United States. A record of the second struggle against the same enemy, who during seven years of revolutionary contest, carried fire and sword, the bayonet, the halter, and the tomahawk, throughout the United States, will surely be an acceptable treat.

The military talents which sprang as if into a miraculous existence during the late war; the patriotic courage which displayed itself on every occasion; their successful triumphs in almost every battle, are proud proofs, that where genius is free to act, and that influenced by an *amor patriæ*, no dangers are too difficult to overcome, no difficulties too great to be subdued.

The apparent military and naval power of England was, to that of America, at the commencement of the late war, as that of the lion to the lamb; but the incensed eagle stretched forward his beak, and with it tore the laurel from the Briton's brow; and, flying over the waters, he wrested with his talons the trident from the "mistress of the deep."

In giving details of these events, these imperishable monuments of American glory, a strict regard has been had to truth, uninfluenced by any unworthy consideration; and it is hoped that this small volume will be found to contain as copious a view of history as could reasonably be expected, within so circumscribed a compass.

## HISTORY OF THE WAR, &c.



AMERICA seems to have been destined, by Providence, as the soil which should give birth, strength, and maturity, to rational liberty: in this respect, its discovery must be considered of prime benefit to mankind. Columbus, a lover of justice, would have fixed the residence of liberty in South America, but this extraordinary adventurer became the object of persecuting envy, he was sacrificed at the shrine of ambition and tyranny; and the southern peninsula, the only part of the western continent which Columbus had visited, was given up to cupidity, plunder, and the most horriſic ill-treatment and massacre of its hospitable inhabitants. The fictitious riches, the gold, which it produced, invited an early and continued migration from the old to the new continent, insomuch, that the latter has already lost, in a great degree, its original uncultivated aspect; and, were the genius of its new inhabitants not restrained by the policy of its rulers, would, ere now, have advanced far towards all perfection, to which man can aspire. For more than three hundred years has South America bowed to the will of despots, and man has presented but the disgusting contrast of tyrants and slaves. A patriotic flame has lately diffused a gleam of light through the darkened atmosphere which overspread the political region

of the south; man begins there to assume the character for which God and nature had destined him; and philanthropy may hope, that the present generation will not pass away, until liberty will smile over every part of America, and all its inhabitants be happy.

The inordinate ambition of hereditary governments, and their just jealousies of each other, have given an unbounded spring to the desire of extended dominion and foreign conquests. This spirit, however injurious, has, in some respects, contributed towards the increased knowledge of geography, the diffusion of general information, and the facilitating of a social intercourse between the inhabitants of distant regions.

England, famed for the adventurous spirit of its inhabitants, and the unequalled ambition of its sovereigns, could not remain an indifferent spectator of a European rival taking possession of a new world. Expeditions were soon formed for the more perfect discovery of the new continent. John Cabot, having obtained a commission from Henry VII. of England, to discover unknown lands, and annex them to the crown, discovered the eastern coast of North America. Sir Francis Drake subsequently sailed along it; and England, by right of prior discovery, claimed its sovereignty. Gold mines are generally confined to tropical climates; the soil of North America, contiguous to the sea, appeared to be light, sandy, or unfit for profitable cultivation; the climate was variable and unhealthy; the aborigines were more savage and inhospitable than those of the south. No adequate inducement presented itself to new settlers; and, had the inhabitants of England no necessity for quitting their native country, they never would discover a wish to transfer their residence to the then inhospitable cli-

mate of North America. A stimulus was not long wanting.

The granting of immense tracts of uncultivated wilds to individuals or companies, was not likely to induce any rapid settlement. Individuals might, for the purpose of enhancing the value of their personal fortunes, influence emigrants to settle on their new estates; and these settlers, having changed their residence, might be compelled to abide by a choice from which it would be difficult or impossible to recede. But their reports and their fate would reach their friends; emigration would cease, or be too slow for any efficient purpose: decrease of population, by insalubrity of climate and the inroads of Indians, would be little, if at all, overbalanced by births, and the accession of transported felons.

Man, in all stages, is a lover of liberty, reason dictates that he has rights; but this reason obscured by artificial ignorance, and enervated by habitual bondage, becomes incapable of action, and insensible to the true extent of his misery. The slave feels pain, without knowing whence it originates, or how it should be remedied. This observation is strictly applicable only to corporeal slavery. The slavery exercised over the conscience, is that in support of which no sophistry can prevail; and to which no term, no length of endurance, can reconcile the sufferer. No prescription can justify the practice of enslavement in any case; and no slave, however abject, will admit it in cases affecting his conscience. God has instilled into the heart of man certain religious duties, and whenever the fulfilment of these is forbidden by human edicts, the injured person fears not to revolt or seek an asylum against persecution. With God on his side, he

fears no other power, and can be happy in a wilderness or in a cave.

It is not now necessary to enter into a detailed view of the persecutions against Christians in Europe. Who that has not heard of them? It is sufficient to observe that no difficulties, real or imaginary, could deter the persecuted Christians from seeking an asylum where, free from interruption, they might adore their God as conscience dictated. America offered that asylum; and to this circumstance it is due, that the wilderness is so fast giving way to cultivation, the internal resources of the country have been explored and rendered operative, the seemingly insurmountable obstacles of the new country have disappeared, and a state of comfort equal to that of any part of Europe has been produced.

This comfort was wickedly marred by the British government, while it ruled the North American colonies. A desire to proceed to the chief object of this work, and its limits precluding any particular recital of these evils, leaves only room to remark, that they were such as to create much unhappiness in the colonies, to produce complaints, remonstrances, and petitions to the mother country; and, finally, were carried to such excess as to be no longer sufferable.

On the ever to be remembered 4th July, 1776, the people of these colonies, by their representatives in congress assembled, having published a moderate, but firm, a grievous, but true statement of the multiplied injuries inflicted on them by the British king and government, declared that the united colonies "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states." These united colonies consisted of the states of New-Hampshire, Massachussets, Rhode-Island, Connecticut,

New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia; leaving England in possession of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, New-Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.

The contest which succeeded was looked on by the world with astonishment; its novelty and its importance excited general interest. A few people, without an army, without arms, without discipline, or munitions of war, without money, without allies, opposing their unorganized force against a nation rich and powerful, with numerous ships, armies, and navies, having discipline, money, credit, and all the means of warfare, and being in possession of the colonies, the inhabitants of which declared themselves absolved from all allegiance to the crown of Great Britain, was a crisis of uncommon moment. The contest was long and severe; a blood-thirsty vengeance on one side led the British to the most shameful excesses; a determination to live free or die, guided the people of America, under the direction of the great WASHINGTON, and the other sages and patriots in the field and the cabinet, to a completion of all they wanted, all they wished. Tyranny looked down, liberty rejoiced, on the completion of the happy triumph.

The wound inflicted on the pride and interest of England, by this disruption of her empire, was truly great, but still greater than was then contemplated. Under the dominion of England, the increase of population would be slow, the increase of commerce and manufactures still slower: the country would be a warehouse for British manufactures, the inhabitants a nursery for British armies and navies. It was necessary that a people should be free; that genius should be unchecked, industry unrestrained, in order to prove, how far free men were superior



to whatever theory could conceive of them. The experiment has been successfully tried in the United States.

The country of a monarch would not in a century recover from injury such as had been suffered by the United States. But the people of America felt all their toils and losses compensated by the acquisition of freedom; they stood erect, and, as if by magic, appeared in all the might of a nation. In less than thirty years their country shook off the appearance of a howling wilderness, their population increased three fold, their manufactures increased so as to supply nearly all their wants, and every sea witnessed their immensely increased external trade; in short they became the rivals of England.

A long course of wars, and the revolutionary war of America, more than any other, increased the national debt of Great Britain to a great and burthensome amount. To meet this exigency, as well as to gratify the national wish, and to provide for the further and growing charges in support of foreign colonies, an increased trade was necessary. The industry of Englishmen showed itself in the successful and unparalleled extension of her manufactures, and the policy of her rulers aimed at an undivided foreign commerce, in support of the home system.

The naval successes of Britain, during the French war, had nearly accomplished her vast design. The ships of Holland, France, Portugal, Spain, and Italy, had nearly disappeared from the ocean; those of Russia, and the other naval powers of the north of Europe, had been gained over to the British interest, or destroyed by the superiority of her fleets. The United States, although in a state of infancy, was yet the only nation that had virtue or courage sufficient to move in a just course, uninfluenced by intrigue,

and unintimidated by menace. Towards this nation, Britain for years manifested the most ungenerous, injurious, and cowardly conduct, amounting, in its effects, to war, while the United States, pursuing an honourable and pacific course, were debarred from making reprisals. This one sided war, had it been permitted to continue, would have sunk the States in the esteem of foreign nations, dried up the sources of their growing greatness, reduced them to a state of contemptible imbecility, and, not improbably, to a merited state of dependence; they might again become colonies—British colonies!

Hitherto the Americans looked but little to home manufactures; the capital of the merchant was employed on the ocean, and the people of the interior found sufficient employment in tilling the soil. There was a great and profitable demand for every kind of produce, and the citizens were in the habit of receiving manufactures of all kinds from foreign nations, and particularly from England.

Had England been satisfied to contend for commercial superiority by fair means, she would long, very long, continue to supply the United States with almost every kind of manufacture; but she calculated that the pacific policy of the States would continue, and that the political disputes among her own citizens would render her a weak enemy even in war; and it is even probable, that the resubjugation of the colonies were in a certain expected event contemplated. That event was to be the overthrow of France. Had the United States unresistingly submitted until the restoration of the Bourbons, they would then have had war with a vengeance.

“The history of the present king of Great Britain,” says the declaration of independence, “is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations.”

This would at this day, be a just representation of the conduct of Great Britain, from the termination of the revolutionary, to the commencement of the present war. Instead of dwelling more minutely on it, it is sufficient to say, that it was so continued, so multiplied and multifarious, that the United States had no alternative but submission to wrongs, by which they would be degraded as a nation, or an appeal to arms. The latter was resorted to.

On Monday, the 1st of June, a confidential message was received in both chambers of congress, from the president of the United States, which was read with closed doors, and referred, in each house, to committees to report thereon.

The message (as appeared after the injunction of secrecy was removed) was in the following words.

## MANIFESTO.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of  
the United States.*

I communicate to Congress certain documents, being a continuation of those heretofore laid before them, on the subject of our affairs with Great Britain.

Without going back beyond the renewal in 1803 of the war in which Great Britain is engaged, and omitting unrepaired wrongs of inferior magnitude, the conduct of her government presents a series of acts hostile to the United States, as an independent and neutral nation.

British cruisers have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great highway of nations, and of seizing and carrying off persons sailing under it; not in the exercise of a belligerent right founded on the law of nations against an enemy, but of a municipal prerogative over British subjects. British jurisdiction is thus extended to neutral vessels in a station where no laws can operate, but the law of nations, and the laws of the country to which the vessels belong; and a self-redress is assumed, which, if British subjects were wrongfully detained and alone concerned, is that substitution of force, for a resort to the responsible sovereign, which falls within the definition of war. Could the seizure of British subjects in such cases be regarded as within the exercise of a belligerent right, the acknowledged laws of war, which forbid an article of captured property to be adjudged without a regular investigation before a competent tribunal, would imperiously demand the fairest trial, where the sacred rights of persons were at issue. In place of such a trial, these rights are subjected to the will of every petty commander.

The practice, hence, is so far from affecting British subjects alone, that, under the pretext of searching for these, thousands of American citizens, under the safeguard of public law, and of their national flag, have been torn from their country and every thing dear to them; have been dragged on board ships of war of a foreign nation, and exposed under the severities of their discipline, to be exiled to the most distant and deadly climes, to risk their lives in the battles of their oppressors, and to be melancholy instruments of taking away those of their own brethren.

Against this crying enormity, which Great Britain would be so prompt as to avenge if committed against herself, the United States have in vain exhausted remonstrances and expostulations. And that no proof might be wanting of their conciliatory dispositions, and no pretext left for a continuance of the practice, the British government was formerly assured of the readiness of the United States to enter into arrangements, such as could not be rejected, if the recovery of British subjects were the real and the sole object. The communication passed without effect.

British cruisers have been in the practice also of violating the rights, and the peace of our coasts. They hover over and harass our departing commerce. To the most insulting pretensions they have added the most lawless proceedings in our very harbours; and have wantonly spilt American blood within

the sanctuary of our territorial jurisdiction. The principles and rules enforced by that nation, when a neutral nation, against armed vessels or belligerents hovering near her coasts, and disturbing her commerce, are well known. When called on, nevertheless, by the United States, to punish the greater offences committed by her own vessels, her government has bestowed on their commander additional marks of honor and confidence.

Under pretended blockades, without the presence of an adequate force, and sometimes without the practicability of applying one, our commerce has been plundered in every sea; the great staples of our country have been cut off from their legitimate markets; and a destructive blow aimed at our agricultural and maritime interests. In aggravation of these predatory measures, they have been considered as in force from the dates of their notification; a retrospective effect being thus added, as has been done in other important cases, to the unlawfulness of the course pursued. And to render the outrage the more signal, these mock blockades have been reiterated and enforced in the face of official communications from the British government, declaring, as the true definition of a legal blockade, "that particular ports must be actually invested, and previous warning given to vessels bound to them not to enter."

Not content with those occasional expedients for laying waste our neutral trade, the cabinet of Great Britain resorted at length to the sweeping system of blockades under the name of Orders in Council, which has been moulded and managed as might best suit its political views, its commercial jealousies, or the avidity of British cruisers.

To our remonstrances against the complicated and transcendent injustice of this innovation, the first reply was, that the orders were reluctantly adopted by Great Britain as a necessary retaliation on the decrees of her enemy proclaiming a general blockade of the British isles, at a time when the naval force of that enemy dared not to issue from his own ports. She was reminded, without effect, that her own prior blockades, unsupported by an adequate naval force, actually applied and continued, were a bar to this plea; that executed edicts against millions of our property could not be retaliation on edicts, confessedly impossible to be executed; that retaliation, to be just, should fall on the party setting the guilty example, not on an innocent party, which was not even chargeable with an acquiescence in it.

When deprived of this flimsy veil for a prohibition of our trade with her enemy, by the repeal of his prohibition of our trade with Great Britain, her cabinet, instead of a corresponding repeal, or practical discontinuance of its orders, formally avowed a determination to persist in them against the United States, until the markets of her enemy should be laid open to British products; thus asserting an obligation on a neutral

power, to require one belligerent to encourage, by its internal regulations, the trade of another belligerent; contradicting her own practice towards all nations; in peace as well as in war; and betraying the insincerity of those professions which inculcated a belief that, having resorted to her orders with regret, she was anxious to find an occasion of putting an end to them.

Abandoning still more all respect for the neutral rights of the United States, and for its own consistency, the British government now demands as prerequisites to a repeal of its orders, as they relate to the United States, that a formality should be observed in the repeal of the French decrees, no wise necessary to their termination, nor exemplified by British usage; and that the French repeal, besides including that portion of the decrees which operates within a territorial jurisdiction, as well as that which operates on the high seas, against the commerce of the United States, should not be a single repeal in relation to the United States, but should be extended to whatever other neutral nations, unconnected with them, may be affected by those decrees. And, as an additional insult, they are called on for a formal disavowal of conditions and pretensions advanced by the French government, for which the United States are so far from having made themselves responsible, that in official explanations, which have been published to the world, and in a correspondence of the American minister at London, with the British minister for foreign affairs, such a responsibility was explicitly and emphatically disclaimed.

It has become indeed sufficiently certain, that the commerce of the United States is to be sacrificed, not as interfering with the belligerent rights of Great Britain,—not as supplying the wants of her enemies, which she herself supplies—but as interfering with the monopoly which she covets for her own commerce and navigation. She carries on a war against the lawful commerce of a friend, that she may the better carry on a commerce with an enemy—a commerce polluted by the forgeries and perjuries which are for the most part the only passports by which it can succeed.

Anxious to make every experiment, short of the last resort of injured nations, the United States have withheld from Great Britain, under successive modifications, the benefits of a free intercourse with their market, the loss of which could not but outweigh the profits accruing from her restrictions of our commerce with other nations. And to entitle these experiments to the more favourable consideration, they were so framed as to enable her to place her adversary under the exclusive operation of them. To these appeals her government has been equally inflexible; as if willing to make sacrifices of every sort, rather than yield to the claims of justice, or renounce the errors of a false pride. Nay, so far were the attempts car-

ried to overcome the attachment of the British cabinet to it unjust edicts, that it received every encouragement within the competency of the executive branch of our government, to expect that a repeal of them would be followed by a war between the United States and France, unless the French edicts should also be repealed. Even this communication, although silencing for ever the plea of a disposition in the United States to acquiesce in those edicts, originally the sole plea of them, received no attention.

If no other proof existed of a predetermination of the British government against a repeal of its orders, it might be found in the correspondence of the minister plenipotentiary of the United States at London, and the British secretary for foreign affairs, in 1810, on the question whether the blockade of May, 1806, was considered as in force or as not in force. It had been ascertained that the French government, which urged this blockade as the ground of its Berlin decree, was willing, in the event of its removal, to repeal that decree: which being followed by alternate repeals of the other offensive edicts, might abolish the whole system on both sides. This inviting opportunity for accomplishing an object so important to the United States, and professed so often to be the desire of both the belligerents, was made known to the British government. As that government admits that an actual application of an adequate force is necessary to the existence of a legal blockade, and it was notorious that if such a force had ever been applied, its long discontinuance had annulled the blockade in question, there could be no sufficient objection on the part of Great Britain to a formal revocation of it; and no imaginable objection to a declaration of the fact that the blockade did not exist. The declaration would have been consistent with her avowed principles of blockade, and would have enabled the United States to demand from France the pledged repeal of her decrees; either with success, in which case the way would have been opened for a general repeal of the belligerent edicts, or without success, in which case the United States would have been justifiable in turning their measures exclusively against France. The British government would, however, neither rescind the blockade, nor declare its non-existence; nor permit its non-existence to be inferred and affirmed by the American plenipotentiary. On the contrary, by representing the blockade to be comprehended in the orders in council, the United States were compelled so to regard it in their subsequent proceedings.

There was a period, when a favourable change in the policy of the British cabinet was justly considered as established. The minister plenipotentiary of his Britannic majesty here, proposed an adjustment of the differences more immediately endangering the harmony of the two countries. The proposition

was accepted with a promptitude and cordiality corresponding with the invariable professions of this government. A foundation appeared to be laid for a sincere and lasting reconciliation. The prospect, however, quickly vanished. The whole proceeding was disavowed by the British government, without any explanations which could at that time repress the belief, that the disavowal proceeded from a spirit of hostility to the commercial rights and prosperity of the United States. And it has since come into proof, that at the very moment when the public minister was holding the language of friendship, and inspiring confidence in the sincerity of the negotiation with which he was charged, a secret agent of his government was employed in intrigues, having for their object a subversion of our government, and a dismemberment of our happy union.

In reviewing the conduct of Great Britain towards the United States, our attention is necessarily drawn to the warfare just renewed by the savages on one of our extensive frontiers; a warfare which is known to spare neither age nor sex, and to be distinguished by features peculiarly shocking to humanity. It is difficult to account for the activity and combinations which have for some time been developing themselves among tribes in the constant intercourse with British traders and garrisons, without connecting their hostility with that influence, and without recollecting the authenticated examples of such interpositions hitherto furnished by the officers and agents of that government.

Such is the spectacle of injuries and indignities which have been heaped on our country; and such the crisis which its unexampled forbearance and conciliatory efforts have not been able to avert. It might at least have been expected, that an enlightened nation, if less urged by moral obligations or invited by friendly dispositions on the part of the United States, would have found, in its true interest alone, a sufficient motive to respect their rights and their tranquillity on the high seas; and that an enlarged policy would have favored that free and general circulation of commerce, in which the British nation is at all times interested, and which, in times of war, is the best alleviation of its calamities to herself as well as the other belligerents; and more especially that the British cabinet would not, for the sake of a precarious and surreptitious intercourse with hostile markets, have persevered in a course of measures which necessarily put at hazard the invaluable market of a great and growing country, disposed to cultivate the mutual advantage of an active commerce.

Other councils have prevailed. Our moderation and conciliation have had no other effect than to encourage perseverance, and to enlarge pretensions.—We behold our seafaring citizens still the daily victims of lawless violence committed on the



great common and highway of nations, even within sight of the country which owes them protection. We behold our vessels freighted with the products of our soil and industry, or returning with the honest proceeds of them, wrested from their lawful destinations, confiscated by prize-courts no longer the organs of public law, but the instruments of arbitrary edicts; and their unfortunate crews dispersed and lost, or forced or inveigled, in British ports, into British fleets; whilst arguments are employed in support of these aggressions which have no foundation but in a principle equally supporting a claim to regulate our external commerce in all cases whatsoever.

We behold, in fine, on the side of Great Britain, a state of war against the United States; on the side of the United States, a state of peace towards Great Britain.

Whether the United States shall continue passive under these progressive usurpations, and these accumulating wrongs: or opposing force to force in defence of their natural rights, shall commit a just cause into the hands of the Almighty disposer of events, avoiding all connexions which might entangle it in the contests or views of other powers, and preserving a constant readiness to concur in an honorable re establishment of peace and friendship, is a solemn question which the constitution wisely confides to the legislative department of the government. In recommending it to their early deliberations, I am happy in the assurance that the decision will be worthy the enlightened and patriotic councils of a virtuous, a free, and a powerful nation.

Having presented this view of the relations of the United States with Great Britain, and of the solemn alternative growing out of them, I proceed to remark, that the communications last made to congress on the subject of our relation with France, will have shown, that since the revocation of her decrees as they violated the neutral rights of the United States, her government has authorised illegal captures, by its privateers and public ships, and that other outrages have been practised on our vessels and our citizens. It will have been seen also, that no indemnity had been provided, or satisfactorily pledged for the extensive spoiliations committed under the violent and retrospective orders of the French government against the property of our citizens seized within the jurisdiction of France. I abstain at this time from recommending to the consideration of congress definitive measures with respect to that nation, in the expectation, that the result of protracted discussions between our minister plenipotentiary at Paris and the French government, will speedily enable congress to decide, with greater advantage, on the course due to the rights, the interests, and the honor of our country.

JAMES MADISON.

*Washington, June 1, 1812.*

Mr. Calhoun, from the committee of foreign relations of the house of representatives, to whom was referred the President's message, made a report, on the 2d June, of which the following is a copy.

*The Committee of Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the Message of the President of the United States, of the 1st of June, 1812,*

#### REPORT—

That after the experience which the United States have had of the great injustice of the British government towards them, exemplified by so many acts of violence and oppression, it will be more difficult to justify to the impartial world their patient forbearance, than the measures to which it has become necessary to resort, to avenge the wrongs and vindicate the rights and honor of the nation. Your committee are happy to observe, on a dispassionate review of the conduct of the United States, that they see in it no cause for censure.

If a long forbearance under injuries ought ever to be considered a virtue in any nation, it is one which peculiarly becomes the United States. No people ever had stronger motives to cherish peace; none have ever cherished it with greater sincerity and zeal.

But the period has now arrived, when the United States must support their character and station among the nations of the earth, or submit to the most shameful degradation. Forbearance has ceased to be a virtue. War on the one side, and peace on the other, is a situation as ruinous as it is disgraceful. The mad ambition, the lust of power, and commercial avarice of Great Britain, arrogating to herself the complete dominion of the ocean, and exercising over it an unbounded and lawless tyranny, have left to neutral nations an alternative only, between the base surrender of their rights, and a manly vindication of them. Happily for the United States, their destiny, under the aid of Heaven, is in their own hands. The crisis is formidable only for their love of peace. As soon as it becomes a duty to relinquish that situation, danger disappears. They have suffered no wrongs, they have received no insults, however great, for which they cannot obtain redress.

More than seven years have elapsed since the commencement of this system of hostile aggression by the British government, on the rights and interests of the United States. The manner of its commencement was not less hostile, than the spirit with which it has been prosecuted. The United States have invariably done every thing in their power to preserve the relations of friendship with Great Britain. Of this disposition, they gave a distinguished proof at the moment when they were made

the victims of an opposite policy. The wrongs of the last war had not been forgotten at the commencement of the present one. They warned us of dangers, against which it was sought to provide. As early as the year 1804, the minister of the United States at London, was instructed to invite the British government to enter into a negotiation on all the points on which a collision might arise between the two countries in the course of the war, and to propose to it an arrangement of their claims on fair and reasonable conditions. The invitation was accepted. A negotiation has commenced and was depending, and nothing had occurred to excite a doubt that it would not terminate to the satisfaction of both parties. It was at this time and under these circumstances that an attack was made, by surprise, on an important branch of the American commerce, which affected every part of the United States, and involved many of their citizens in ruin.

The commerce on which this attack was so unexpectedly made, was between the United States and the colonies of France, Spain, and other enemies of Great Britain. A commerce just in itself; sanctioned by the example of Great Britain, in regard to the trade with her own colonies; sanctioned by a solemn act between the two governments in the last war, and sanctioned by the practice of the British government in the present war, more than two years having then elapsed without any interference with it.

The injustice of this attack could only be equalled by the absurdity of the pretext alledged for it. It was pretended by the British government, that in case of war, her enemy had no right to modify its colonial regulations, so as to mitigate the calamities of war to the inhabitants of its colonies. This pretension, peculiar to Great Britain, is utterly incompatible with the rights of sovereignty in every independent state. If we recur to the well-established and universally admitted law of nations, we shall find no sanction to it in that venerable code. The sovereignty of every state is co-extensive with its dominions, and cannot be abrogated or curtailed in its rights, as to any part except by conquest. Neutral nations have a right to trade to every port of either belligerent, which is not legally blockaded, and in all articles which are not contraband of war. Such is the absurdity of this pretension, that your committee are aware, especially after the able manner in which it has been heretofore refuted and exposed, that they would offer an insult to the understanding of the house, if they enlarged on it; and if any thing could add to the high sense of the injustice of the British government in the transaction it would be the contrast which her conduct exhibits in regard to this trade, and in regard to a similar trade, by neutrals, with her own colonies. It is known to the world, that Great Britain regulates her own trade in war and in peace, at home and in her colonies, as she

finds for her interest—that in war she relaxes the restraints of her colonial system in favor of the colonies, and that it never was suggested that she had not a right to do it; or that a neutral, in taking advantage of the relaxation, violated a belligerent right of her enemy. But with Great Britain, every thing is lawful. It is only in a trade with her enemies that the United States can do wrong. With them all trade is unlawful.

In the year 1793, an attack was made by the British government on the same branch of our neutral trade, which had nearly involved the two countries in a war. The difference, however, was amicably accommodated. The pretension was withdrawn, and reparation made to the United States for the losses which they had suffered by it. It was fair to infer, from that arrangement, that the commerce was deemed by the British government lawful, and that it would not be again disturbed.

Had the British government been resolved to contest this trade with neutrals, it was due to the character of the British nation that the decision should be made known to the government of the United States. The existence of a negotiation which had been invited by our government, for the purpose of preventing differences by an amicable arrangement of their respective pretensions, gave a strong claim to the notification, while it afforded the fairest opportunity for it. But a very different policy animated the then cabinet of England. The liberal confidence and friendly overtures of the United States were taken advantage of to ensnare them. Steady to its purpose, and inflexibly hostile to this country, the British government calmly looked forward to the moment when it might give the most deadly wound to our interests. A trade, just in itself, which was secured by so many strong and sacred pledges, was considered safe. Our citizens, with their usual industry and enterprize, had embarked in it a vast proportion of their shipping, and of their capital, which were at sea, under no other protection than the law of nations, and the confidence which they reposed in the justice and friendship of the British nation. At this period the unexpected blow was given. Many of our vessels were seized, carried into port, and condemned by a tribunal which, while it professes to respect the law of nations, obeys the mandates of its own government. Hundreds of other vessels were driven from the ocean, and the trade itself, in a great measure, suppressed. The effect produced by this attack on the lawful commerce of the United States, was such as might have been expected from a virtuous, independent, and highly injured people. But one sentiment pervaded the whole American nation. No local interests were regarded; no sordid motives felt. Without looking on the parts that suffered most, the invasion of our rights was considered a common cause, and from one extremity of our Union

to the other, was heard the voice of a united people, calling on their government to avenge their wrongs, and vindicate the rights and honor of the country.

From this period the British government has gone on in a continued encroachment on the rights and interests of the United States, disregarding in its course, in many instances, obligations which have heretofore been held sacred by civilized nations.

In May 1806, the whole coast of the continent, from the Elbe to Brest inclusive, was declared to be in a state of blockade. By this act the well-established principles of the law of nations, principles which have served for ages as guides, and fixed the boundary between the rights of belligerents and neutrals, were violated. By the law of nations, as recognized by Great Britain herself, no blockade is lawful, unless it be sustained by the application of an adequate force, and that an adequate force was applied to this blockade, in its full extent, will not be pretended. Whether Great Britain was able to maintain legally so extensive a blockade, considering the war in which she is engaged, requiring such extensive naval operations, is a question which is not necessary at this time to examine. It is sufficient to be known, that such force was not applied; and this is evident from the terms of the blockade itself, by which, comparatively, an inconsiderable portion of the coast only was declared to be in a state of strict and rigorous blockade. The objection to the measure is not diminished by that circumstance. If the force was not applied, the blockade was unlawful, from whatever cause the failure might proceed. The belligerent who institutes the blockade cannot absolve itself from the obligation to apply the force under any pretext whatever. For a belligerent to relax a blockade which it could not maintain, it would be a refinement in injustice, not less insulting to the understanding than repugnant to the law of nations. To claim merit from the mitigation of an evil, which the party had not the power, or found it inconvenient to inflict, would be a new mode of encroaching on neutral rights. Your committee think it just to remark, that this act of the British government does not appear to have been adopted in the sense in which it has been since construed. On consideration of all the circumstances attending the measure, and particularly the character of the distinguished statesman who announced it, we are persuaded that it was conceived in a spirit of conciliation, and intended to lead to an accommodation of all differences between the United States and Great Britain. His death disappointed that hope and the act has since become subservient to other purposes. It has been made by his successor a pretext for that vast system of usurpation which has so long oppressed and harassed our commerce.

The next act of the British government which claims our

attention, is the order of council of January 7, 1807, by which neutral powers are prohibited trading from one port to another of France or her allies, or any other country with which Great Britain might not freely trade. By this order the pretension of England, heretofore claimed by every other power, to prohibit neutrals disposing of parts of their cargoes at different ports of the same enemy, is revived, and with vast accumulation of injury. Every enemy, however great the number, or distant from each other, is considered one; and the like trade with powers at peace with England, who from motives of policy had excluded or restrained her commerce, was also prohibited. In this act the British government evidently disclaimed all regard for neutral rights. Aware that the measures authorized by it could find no pretext in any belligerent right, none was urged. To prohibit the sale of our produce, consisting of innocent articles, at any port of a belligerent not blockaded, to consider every belligerent as one, and to subject neutrals to the same restraints with all, as if there was but one, were bold encroachments. But to restrain, or in any manner interfere with our commerce with neutral nations with whom she had no justifiable cause of war, for the sole reason that they restrained or excluded from their ports her commerce, was utterly incompatible with the pacific relation subsisting between the two countries.

We proceed to bring into view the British order in council, of November 11, 1807, which superseded every other order, and consummated that system of hostility on the commerce of the United States, which has been since so steadily pursued. By this order all France and her allies, and every other country at war with Great Britain, or with which she was not at war, from which the British flag was excluded, and all the colonies of her enemies, were subjected to the same restrictions as if they were actually blockaded in the most strict and rigorous manner, and all trade in articles the produce and manufacture of the said countries and colonies, and the vessels engaged in it were subjected to capture and condemnation as lawful prizes. To this order certain exceptions were made, which we forbear to notice, because they were not adopted from a regard to neutral rights, but were dictated by policy to promote the commerce of England, and so far as they related to neutral powers, were said to emanate from the clemency of the British government.

It would be superfluous in your committee to state that by this order the British government declared direct and positive war against the United States. The dominion of the ocean was completely usurped by it, all commerce forbidden, and every flag driven from it, or subjected to capture and condemnation, which did not subserve the policy of the British government, by paying it a tribute, and sailing under its sanction. From this period the United States have incurred the heaviest

losses and most mortifying humiliations. They have borne the calamities of war without retorting them on its authors.

So far your committee has presented to the view of the house the aggressions which have been committed under the authority of the British government on the commerce of the United States.—We will now proceed to other wrongs, which have been still more severely felt. Among these is the impressment of our seamen; a practice which has been unceasingly maintained by Great Britain in the wars to which she has been a party since our revolution. Your committee cannot convey in adequate terms the deep sense which they entertain of the injustice and oppression of this proceeding. Under the pretext of impressing British seamen, our fellow-citizens are seized in British ports, on the high seas, and in every other quarter to which the British power extends—are taken on board British men of war, and compelled to serve there as British subjects. In this mode our citizens are wantonly snatched from their country and their families, deprived of their liberty, and doomed to an ignominious and slavish bondage, compelled to fight the battles of a foreign country, and often to perish in them. Our flag has given them no protection; it has been unceasingly violated, and our vessels exposed to danger by the loss of the men taken from them. Your committee need not remark, that while the practice is continued, it is impossible for the United States to consider themselves an independent nation. Every new case is a new proof of their degradation. Its continuance is the more unjustifiable, because the U. States have repeatedly proposed to the British government an arrangement which would secure to it the controul of its own people. An exemption of the citizens of the United States from this degrading oppression, and their flag from violation, is all they have sought.

This lawless waste of our trade, and equally unlawful impressment of our seamen, have been much aggravated by the insults and indignities attending them. Under the pretext of blockading the harbours of France and her allies, British squadrons have been stationed on our own coast, to watch and annoy our own trade. To give effect to the blockade of European ports, the ports and harbours of the United States have been blockaded. In executing these orders of the British government, or in obeying the spirit which was known to animate it, the commanders of these squadrons have encroached on our jurisdiction, seized our vessels, and carried into effect impressments within our limits, and done other acts of great injustice, violence, and oppression. The United States have seen with mingled indignation and surprise, that these acts, instead of procuring to the perpetrators the punishment due to unauthorized crimes, have not failed to recommend them to the favour of their government.

Whether the British government has contributed by active measures to excite against us the hostility of the savage tribes

on our frontiers, your committee are not disposed to occupy much time in investigating. Certain indications of general notoriety may supply the place of authentic documents; though these have not been wanting to establish the fact in some instances. It is known that symptoms of British hostility towards the United States have never failed to produce corresponding symptoms among those tribes. It is also well known that on all such occasions abundant supplies of the ordinary munitions of war have been offered by the agents of British commercial companies, and even from British garrisons, wherewith they were enabled to commence that system of savage warfare on our frontiers, which has been at all times so indiscriminate in its effect on all ages, sexes and conditions, and so revolting to humanity.

Your committee would be much gratified if they could close here the detail of British wrongs; but it is their duty to recite another act of still greater malignity than any of those which have been already brought to your view. The attempt to dismember our union, and overthrow our excellent constitution, by a secret mission, the object of which was to foment discontents and excite insurrection, against the constituted authorities and laws of the nation, as lately disclosed by the agent employed in it, affords full proof that there is no bounds to the hostility of the British government towards the United States,—no act, however unjustifiable, which it would not commit to accomplish their ruin. This attempt excites the greater horror, from the consideration that it was made while the United States and Great Britain were at peace, and an amicable negotiation was depending between them for the accommodation of their differences through public ministers regularly authorized for the purpose.

The United States have beheld, with unexampled forbearance, this continued series of hostile encroachments on their rights and interests, in the hope that, yielding to the force of friendly remonstrances, often repeated, the British government might adopt a more just policy towards them; but that hope no longer exists.—They have also weighed impartially the reasons which have been urged by the British government in vindication of these encroachments, and found in them neither justification nor apology.

The British government has alleged in vindication of the orders in council, that they were resorted to as a retaliation on France, for similar aggressions committed on our neutral trade with the British dominions. But how has this plea been supported? The dates of British and French aggressions are well known to the world. Their origin and progress have been marked with too wide and destructive a waste of the property of our fellow-citizens, to have been forgotten.—The decree of Berlin, of Nov. 21, 1806, was the first aggression of France in the present war. Eighteen months had been elapsed



after the attack made by Great Britain on our neutral trade, with the colonies of France and her allies, and six months from the date of the proclamation of May, 1806.—Even on the 7th Jan. 1807, the date of the first British order in council, so short a term had elapsed after the Berlin decree, that it was hardly possible that the intelligence of it should have reached the United States. A retaliation which is to produce its effect, by operating on a neutral power, ought not to be resorted to, till the neutral had justified it by a culpable acquiescence in the unlawful act of the other belligerent. It ought to be delayed until after sufficient time had been allowed to the neutral to remonstrate against the measure complained of, to receive an answer and to act on it, which has not been done on the present instance; and when the order of Nov. 11th was issued, it is well known that the minister of France had declared to the minister plenipotentiary of the United States at Paris, that it was not intended that the decree of Berlin should apply to the United States. It is equally well known, that no American vessel had then been condemned under it, or seizure been made, with which the British government was acquainted. The facts prove incontestibly, that the measures of France, however unjustifiable in themselves, were nothing more than a pretext for those of England. And of the insufficiency of that pretext, ample proof has already been afforded by the British government itself, and in the most impressive form. Although it was declared that the orders in council were retaliatory on France for her decrees, it was also declared, and in the orders themselves, that owing to the superiority of the British navy, by which the fleets of France and her allies were confined within their own ports, the French decrees were considered only as empty threats.

It is no justification of the wrongs of one power, that the like were committed by another, nor ought the fact, if true, to have been urged by either, as it could afford no proof of its love of justice, of its magnanimity, or even of its courage. It is more worthy the government of a great nation, to relieve than to assail the injured. Nor can the repetition of wrongs by another power repair the violated rights or wounded honor of the injured party. An utter inability alone to resist, would justify a quiet surrender of our rights, and degrading submission to the will of others. To that condition the United States are not reduced, nor do they fear it. That they ever consented to discuss with either power the misconduct of the other, is a proof of their love of peace, of their moderation, and of the hope which they still indulged, that friendly appeals to just and generous sentiments would not be made to them in vain. But the motive was mistaken, if their forbearance was imputed, either to the want of a just sensibility to their wrongs, or of a determination, if suitable redress was not obtained, to resent

them. The time has now arrived when this system of reasoning must cease—it would be insulting to repeat it—it would be degrading to hear it. The United States must act as an independent nation, and assert their *rights* and avenge their *wrongs*, according to their own estimate of them, with the party who commits them, holding it responsible for its own misdeeds, unmitigated by those of another.

For the difference made between Great Britain and France, by the application of the non-importation act, against England only, the motive has been already too often explained, and is too well known to require further illustration. In the commercial restrictions to which the United States resorted as an evidence of their sensibility, and a mild retaliation of their wrongs, they invariably placed both powers on the same footing, holding out to each in respect to itself, the same accommodation, in case it accepted the condition offered, and in respect to the other, the same restraint, if it refused. Had the British government confirmed the arrangement which was entered into by the British minister in 1809, and France maintained her decrees, with France would the United States have had to resist, with the firmness belonging to their character, the continued violation of their rights. The committee do not hesitate to declare, that France has greatly injured the United States, and that satisfactory reparation has not yet been made for many of those injuries. But, that is a concern which the United States will look to and settle for themselves. The high character of the American people, is a sufficient pledge to the world, that they will not fail to settle it, on conditions which they have a right to claim.

More recently the true policy of the British government towards the United States has been completely unfolded. It has been publicly declared by those in power that the orders in council should not be repealed until the French government had revoked all its internal restraints on the British commerce, and that the trade of the United States with France and her allies, should be prohibited until Great Britain was also allowed to trade with them. By this declaration it appears, that to satisfy the pretensions of the British government, the United States must join Great Britain in the war with France, and prosecute the war, until France should be subdued, for without her subjugation, it were in vain to presume on such a concession. The hostility of the British government to these states has been still further disclosed. It has been made manifest that the United States are considered by it as the commercial rival of Great Britain, and that their prosperity and growth are incompatible with her welfare. When all these circumstances are taken into consideration, it is impossible for your committee to doubt the motives which have governed the British Ministry in all its measures towards the United States since the year 1805. Equal-

ly is it impossible to doubt, longer, the course which the United States ought to pursue towards Great Britain.

From this view of the multiplied wrongs of the British government since the commencement of the present war, it must be evident to the impartial world, that the contest which is now forced on the United States, is radically a contest for their sovereignty and independence. Your committee will not enlarge on any of the injuries, however great, which have had a transitory effect. They wish to call the attention of the House to those of a permanent nature only, which intrench so deeply in our most important rights, and wound so extensively and vitally our best interests, as could not fail to deprive the United States of the principal advantages of their revolution, if submitted to. The control of our commerce by Great Britain, in regulating at pleasure and expelling it almost from the ocean; the oppressive manner in which these regulations have been carried into effect, by seizing and confiscating such of our vessels with their cargoes, as were said to have violated her edicts, often without previous warning of their danger; the impressment of our citizens from on board our own vessels, on the high seas, and elsewhere, and holding them in bondage until it suited the convenience of their oppressors to deliver them up are encroachments of that high and dangerous tendency which could not fail to produce that pernicious effect, nor would those be the only consequences that would result from it.—The British government might, for a while, be satisfied with the ascendancy thus gained over us, but its pretensions would soon increase. The proof, which so complete and disgraceful a submission to its authority would afford of our degeneracy, could not fail to inspire confidence that there was no limit to which its usurpations and our degradation might not be carried.

Your committee, believing that the free-born sons of America are worthy to enjoy the liberty which their fathers purchased at the price of so much blood and treasure, and seeing, in the measures adopted by Great Britain, a course commenced and persisted in, which might lead to a loss of national character and independence, feel no hesitation in advising resistance by force, in which the Americans of the present day will prove to the enemy and to the world, that we have not only inherited that liberty which our fathers gave us, but also the will and power to maintain it. Relying on the patriotism of the nation, and confidently trusting, that the Lord of Hosts will go with us to battle in a righteous cause, and crown our efforts with success—your committee recommend an immediate appeal to ARMS.

The report was, after two ineffectual motions, to have the doors opened, ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Calhoun, from the same committee, on leave given, presented a bill, declaring war between Great Britain and her dependencies, and the United States and their territories. This bill was warmly opposed and debated for two days; when the question being taken, shall the said bill pass? It was resolved in the affirmative.

The Yeas and Neas were as follows:

### YEAS.

*New Hampshire.* Dinsmoor, Hall, and Harper—3.

*Massachusetts.* Seaver, Carr, Green, Richardson, Turner, and Widgery—6.

*Rhode-Island.* None.

*Vermont.* Fisk, Shaw, and Strong—3.

*Connecticut.* None.

*New-York.* Pond, Avery, and Sage—3.

*New-Jersey.* Condit, and Morgan—2.

*Pensylvania.* Seybert, Anderson, Brown, Roberts, Findley, Smilie, Lyle, Whitehill, Bard, Davis, Lefever, Hyneman, Piper, Lacock, Crawford, and Smyth—16.

*Delaware.* None.

*Maryland.* Kent, Little, M'Kim, Ringgold, Brown, and Archer—6.

*Virginia.* Nelson, Gholson, Goodwyn, Newton, Taliaferro, Dawson, Basset, Smith, Hawes, Roane, M'Koy, Pleasants, Clopton, and Burwell—14.

*North-Carolina.* Alston, Blackledge, Macon, King, Cochran, and Pickens—6.

*South-Carolina.* Williams, Cheves, Lowndes, Butler, Calhoun, Earle, Winn, and Moore—8.

*Georgia.* Troup, Bibb, and Hull—8.

*Kentucky.* Johnson, Desha, New, M'Kee, and Ormsby—5.

*Tennessee.* Rhca, Grundy, and Sevier—3.

*Ohio.* Morrow—1.

## NAYS.

- New-Hampshire.* Bartlett, and Sullivan—2.  
*Massachusetts.* Quincy, Reed, Taggart, Ely,  
 Brigham, White, Tallman, and Wheaton—8.  
*Rhode-Island.* Potter, and Jackson—2.  
*Vermont.* Chittenden—1,  
*Connecticut.* Sturges, Davenport, Mosely,  
 Champton, Tallmadge, Pitkin, and Law—7.  
*New-York.* Bleecker, Emot, Cooke, Fitch,  
 Gold, Sammons, Stow, Tracy, Van Cortlandt,  
 Mitchill, and Metcalf—11.  
*New-Jersey.* Boyd, Hufty, Maxwell, and  
 Newbold—4.  
*Pennsylvania.* Milner, and Rodman.—2  
*Delaware.* Ridgely—1.  
*Maryland.* Key, Goldsborough, and Stow-  
 art—3.  
*Virginia.* Randolph, Lewis, Baker, Breck-  
 enridge, and Wilson—5.  
*North-Carolina.* Pearson, M'Bryde, and Stan-  
 ford—3.  
*South-Carolina.* None.  
*Georgia.* None.  
*Kentucky.* None.  
*Tennessee.* None.  
*Ohio.* None.

Yeas. 79

Nays 49

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 Majority for war 30

On the 5th of June, a confidential message was received by the Senate, from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Macon and Mr. Findley, two of their members—Mr. Macon, chairman:

“Mr. President—The House of Representatives have passed a bill, entitled, ‘An act declar-  
 ing war between Great-Britain and her dependen-  
 cies, and the United States and their territories;’

in which they ask the concurrence of the Senate; and request that the bill be considered confidentially." And they withdrew.

The bill, from the House of Representatives, was before the Senate, from day to day, until the 17th June. It underwent a very enlarged discussion, met with much and violent opposition, but finally passed that body on the latter day; there appearing for its passage 19; against it, 13.

The act was passed into a law on the 18th, in the following words;

#### AN ACT,

*Declaring War between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America and their territories.*

*BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That WAR be, and the same is hereby declared to exist between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America and their territories; and that the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to use the whole land and naval force of the United States to carry the same into effect, and to issue to private armed vessels of the United States commissions or letters of marque and general reprisal, in such form as he shall think proper, and under the seal of the United States, against the vessels, goods, and effects of the government of the same United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the subjects thereof.*

*June 18, 1812.*

APPROVED,

JAMES MADISON.

On the following day (19th June) war was declared, by proclamation, the injunction of secrecy

being previously removed in both houses of Congress.

A peace of nearly 30 years, during which the Americans attended but little to improvements in the arts of war, rendered them apparently a very unequal match for a nation whose armies and natives were more numerous than they had been at any former period. The best friends of America feared much for the fate of the little American navy. It was also supposed that our undisciplined armies must experience several defeats from the well trained regulars of England; but those, who knew any thing of the revolutionary war, felt no doubt as to what would be the event of the present. The wonderful exploits and happy issue that remains to be recorded, will show, that even the warmest enthusiasts did not probably anticipate renown and glory such as was in store for Americans.

The public prints, on both sides, were warm in their denunciations of their respective opponents, and threats of what would and could be performed. The following are given as specimens.

*From the London Courier.*

"America knows not that the vigor of the British empire increases with the necessity of exerting it—that our elasticity rises with the pressure upon us—that difficulties only make us more firm and undaunted—that dangers only give us the additional means of overcoming them. It is in such a state of affairs, in such a great crisis, that a nation like Great Britain becomes greater. We are now the only bulwark of liberty in the world—placed, a little spot, a speck almost on the ocean, between the old and the new world, we are contending with both; with one arm we are beating the armies of the master of the continent of

*Europe, and with the other we shall smite his prefect on the continent of America."*

*From the New-York Morning Post.*

"With a stone and a sling only, America commenced the war of independence. Without arms, without clothing, without money, and without credit, we took the field; relying upon stout hearts, and the assistance of God for the success of a righteous cause. The event has proved, that with such reliances, a nation has nothing to fear. Our country has again thrown itself upon the protection of the Lord of Hosts; we need but prove faithful to Him and to ourselves. Victory will again crown our efforts, and peace and plenty reward us for our toils. Who, that is truly an American, will despair of the success of his country? Who will dare to believe that we can be otherwise than CONQUERORS? We had imagined this impossible, except with the agents of the enemy; yet, in a crisis so important, not only to us, but to posterity, we have found that the spirit of treason has dared to stalk abroad, even at noonday, amongst us. Is the enemy so strong in the camp—so confident of support, as to hazard a fearless defiance? We are, it is true, proud to exist in a land of freedom—but when men threaten us with giving the assistance of their pens to the cause of our adversaries, who will hesitate to say that such freedom becomes traitorous?"

The state of the regular army was, at this time, such as scarcely to deserve the name.—The militia, with the exception of a few uniform companies in the cities, consisted of a yeomanry and others accustomed to parade for a few hours each year, some with bad arms, others without any. The preparations for war on the land was confined to an expedition under the command of



general Hull, of which notice will be taken in the proper place. The navy consisted of the following vessels.

*List of American Vessels, and their force.*

	Rated.	Mounting.	
Constitution,	44	58	Capt. Hull.
United States,	44	58	Decatur.
President,	44	58	Com. Rodgers.
Chesapeake,	36	44	Ordinary.
New-York,	36	44	do.
Constellation,	36	44	do.
Congress,	36	44	Capt. Smith.
Boston,	32		Ordinary.
Essex,	32		Capt. Porter.
Adams,	32		Ordinary.
CORVETTE.			
John Adams,	26		Capt. Ludlow.
SLOOPS OF WAR.			
Wasp,	16	18	Capt. Jones.
Hornet,	16	18	Lawrence.
BRIGS.			
Siren,	16		Lieut. Caroll.
Argus,	16		Crane.
Oneida,	16		Com. Woolsey.
SCHOONERS.			
Vixen,	12		Lieut. Gadsen.
Nautilus,	12		Sinclair.
Enterprise,	12		Blakely.
Viper,	12		Bainbridge
170 Gun Boats,			Capt. Shaw.
BOMBS.			
Vengeance,	}		Ordinary.
Spitfire,			
Ætna,			
Vesuvius,			

Commodore Rodgers, being at New-York, on receiving the president's proclamation, announce-

ing war, addressed his men on the occasion, offering their wages and a discharge to such as were unwilling to risk their lives with him. A general huzza preceded the declaration of every individual to "stand or fall with the commodore." The anchor was heaved, and, before night, the commodore passed the light-house of Sandy-Hook, and proceeded to sea, having under his command the frigates *President*, *United States*, and *Congress*, and the sloops of war *Hornet* and *Argus*. The commodore returned to Boston, after a cruise of 72 days during which he passed within one day's sail of the British channel, passed near the island of Madeira, and the Azores, and returned by the banks of Newfoundland and cape Sable. He made 7 captures and 1 recapture; and chased two British frigates, one of them the *Belvidera*. This cruise was of great benefit, as it compelled the enemy to concentrate his force, by which a vast quantity of property was saved from falling into the enemy's hands.

On the day after the commodore sailed, the following appeared in the *New-York Columbian*, and accounts for the escape of his Britannic majesty's vessels of war, *Belvidera* and *Tartarus*, which had been for some days off Sandy Hook.

"It is undoubtedly a fact, that dispatch-boats with information have been sent off to the British vessels which were cruising off the harbor, since the declaration of war. By whom they were sent off, it is not necessary at present to mention. But this much may, and ought to be said—that if it was done by an American citizen, he has committed treason by the laws of the United States, and deserves, and may receive a hanging for it. There is no suspicion, however, entertained that such an infamous act has been done by any American. As it has therefore been the

act of the subjects of the king of England, whether they are in or out of office, the act is a violation of the hospitality which tolerates their residence in our city, and calls loudly upon the constituted authorities to put the laws immediately in force against alien enemies, and to rid the city of spies, or at least of such as disgrace their character by acting in so infamous a capacity."

It is however a lamentable fact, that the enemy had his adherents within the United States, consisting of native citizens as well as of foreigners. The public were apprized of the infamous and cowardly means used by the British to corrupt the citizens by the agency of hired incendiaries, among whom the notorious *John Henry* was conspicuous. The first effusions of the press were watched with care, and the citizens indignant at the conduct of the British government, which rendered war not only necessary, but unavoidable, were ready to construe every opposition to government, into an act of adhesion to the enemy. The spirit of 1776 seemed to revive; and the terms "Whig" and "Tory" were again coming into use. The party which designated itself as "Federal," was long opposed to the officers of the general government; and were in the practice of condemning, opposing, and thwarting all its measures. This party, to be consistent, also opposed the war.—There was another party opposed to war, merely because it must prove injurious to England; this was properly a British tory party, and should be distinguished from these federalists, who, notwithstanding their opposition to men, were yet Americans. The tory endeavoured to screen himself beneath the semblance of federalism; and the federalist, who could weakly lend the mask, should not complain if both should be mistaken for tories.

There were several editors of federal politics who deserved and received the applause of their political opponents for conduct pursued immediately subsequent to the declaration of war. The following extract from a federal paper deserves particular notice.

*From the United States Gazette, printed at Philadelphia.*

“The people of this country, whatever may be their opinions of this incomprehensible war, demand, and will insist, that it be now carried on with the vigour necessary to accomplish the object of all war,—honor while it lasts, and real peace and security when it ends.”

A paragraph of a seemingly different complexion, appeared immediately after the declaration of war, in the Federal Republican, printed at Baltimore, and edited by Mr. Wagner. It was in the following words:

“We mean to represent in as strong colours as we are capable, that the war is unnecessary, inexpedient, and entered into from partial, personal, and as we believe, motives bearing upon their front marks of undisguised foreign influence which cannot be mistaken. We mean to use every means of constitutional argument, and every legal means to render as odious and suspicious to the American people as they deserve to be, the patrons and contrivers of this highly impolitic and destructive war, in the fullest persuasion that we shall be supported and ultimately applauded by nine tenths of our countrymen, and that our silence would be treason to them.”

The citizens, in a state of high irritation, proceeded, in the evening of the 22d June, to Mr. Wagner's printing office, which was destroyed. This procedure was followed by some rioting;

and the paper was removed to Georgetown, (Col.) where it continued to be printed.

On the 7th July, an order was issued from the department of state of the United States, requiring all British subjects to register their names, ages, places of residence, persons composing their families, &c. at the office of the marshal of the United States for the district in which such subjects resided. This order was followed by others, directing alien enemies who were engaged in foreign commerce, to remove from the vicinity of the sea or tide water. The information constantly conveyed to the enemy from the ports and harbours of the United States, was supposed to render such a measure necessary. It would be much to the honor of the citizens, if this treasonable intercourse with the enemy were confined to aliens; subsequent information obtained at the navy department of the United States, has sufficiently proved that several profligate citizens have also held communication with and supplied the wants of the enemy.

A cartel ship arrived in July, at Boston, from Halifax, and delivered on board the United States frigate Chesapeake, three seamen, formerly taken out of that frigate by the British frigate Leopard.

It will be recollected that the Leopard attacked the Chesapeake in time of peace, while the latter was unsuspecting of an attack, and unprepared for defence. The Chesapeake was fired into, boarded, and these men taken by force from her.

Remonstrance on the part of the United States was made to the British government, and redress demanded for this wanton breach of the laws of nations. The British government disavowed any agency in the act; but yet promoted the commander of the Leopard, not to the yard-arm of a ship,

but to the command of a 74. The restoration of these men had been for some time promised by the British government; it was pleasing to see it so soon effected after the declaration of war. Whether the war had any influence in this transaction, must be matter of conjecture, in which the reader will exercise his own opinion.

This is not the only instance in which war produced a change to those Americans who were impressed and confined on board British men of war. Several of them, having declined serving against their country, were sent to prison as prisoners of war, and became entitled to be liberated by exchange. This mode of treating them, after their character as American citizens was acknowledged, was certainly unjust; they should have been fully released; not having been taken in time of war, or in arms, they were entitled to rank as non-combatants.

On the 12th July, Mr. Foster, the late British minister, and Mr. Barclay, late consul, departed from the United States, at New York, on board the British flag of truce, *Colibri*. These gentlemen were much esteemed for their private amiable qualities.

The first British victory over the American fleet, happened on the 20th July. On this day, the United States' schooner *Nautilus*, lieutenant Crane, fell in with a fleet of the enemy, and was captured after a chase of eight hours. No honor was lost by the Americans on this occasion; the vast disparity of force rendered resistance as imprudent as it would be unavailing. The brave commander's sword was returned by the British officer, Com. Brooke, as an acknowledgment of the skill and bravery with which he endeavoured to save his ship. Lieut. Crane and his crew were afterwards honorably acquitted, by a court of inquiry, of all censure in the loss of the *Nautilus*.

On the 27th of this same month, the frigate *Constitution*, captain Hull, chased a British frigate into a British fleet, and was chased in turn by the enemy, consisting of a ship of the line, four frigates, a brig and a schooner. The chase continued 60 hours. The *Constitution* arrived safe in Boston. The great address by which captain Hull saved his ship, drew forth the admiration of the enemy, and the applause of his countrymen.

It was the wish of the Americans, as they also endeavoured in a former war, to induce the Indians to be neutral. Humanity and civilization plead in favour of a principle which would not add savage barbarity to the other evils of war; but unfortunately, the policy of a "magnanimous" enemy was different. The Americans soon learned that the enemy had leagued himself with the ruthless savage of the wilderness; the known warfare of the tomahawk and scalping-knife was to act in concert with the modern invention of rockets; in short, all means within the power of the enemy, were to be combined against the people of the United States.

The first act in which the *allied* Indians and British signalized themselves, was in the taking of the fort of Michilimackinac, on the 17th of July, 1812, not being apprized of the declaration of war. The garrison consisted of 63 men, and 47 on board two vessels in the harbour. The *allies* consisted of about 700.

The probability of an approaching war had determined the United States' government to station a competent force in the Michigan territory, for the protection of the inhabitants against the incursion of the enemy, as well as for the purpose of acting offensively, if such should be deemed prudent. General Hull had been at the seat of government in the spring previous to the declaration of war, where he made arrangements for con-

ducting a force to Detroit. He accordingly proceeded, and being joined by the 4th United States' regiment, 1200 Ohio militia, and other troops, in all about 2500 men, he reached the rapids of the Miami of the lake, about the last of June. The general put on board a vessel the baggage and hospital stores of the army, with an officer and 30 men, with directions to sail for Detroit. The British, having been apprized of the declaration of war, captured the vessel at Fort Malden, mouth of Detroit river; and thus the army suffered a serious loss.

On the evening of the 12th July, general Hull crossed the river Detroit, which divides the United States' territory of Michigan from the British province of Upper Canada, and fixed his headquarters at the town of Sandwich, about two miles within the British province. From this place he published a proclamation, of which the following is a copy :

BY WILLIAM HULL,

*Brigadier General and Commander of the North  
Western army of the United States :*

#### A PROCLAMATION.

INHABITANTS OF CANADA,

After thirty years of peace and prosperity, the United States have been driven to arms. The injuries and aggressions, the insults and indignities of Great Britain, have once more left them no alternative but manly resistance or unconditional submission. The army under my command has invaded your country; the standard of the Union now waves over the territory of Canada. To the peaceable unoffending inhabitants, it brings neither danger nor difficulty. I come to find enemies, not to make them. I come to protect, not to injure you.

Separated by an immense ocean and an ex-



tensive wilderness from Great Britain, you have no participation in her councils, no interest in her conduct. You have felt her tyranny; you have seen her injustice; but I do not ask you to avenge the one, or to redress the other. The United States are sufficiently powerful to afford every security, consistent with their rights and your expectations. I tender you the invaluable blessing of civil, political, and religious liberty, and their necessary result, individual and general prosperity; that liberty which gave decision to our councils, and energy to our conduct in a struggle for independence, which conducted us safely and triumphantly through the stormy period of the revolution—the liberty which has raised us to an elevated rank among the nations of the world; and which afforded us a greater measure of peace and security, of wealth and improvement, than ever fell to the lot of any people. In the name of my country, and the authority of government, I promise you protection to your persons, property and rights; remain at your homes; pursue your peaceful and customary avocations; raise not your hands against your brethren. Many of your fathers fought for the freedom and independence we now enjoy. Being children therefore of the same family with us, and heirs to the same heritage, the arrival of an army of friends must be hailed by you with a cordial welcome. You will be emancipated from tyranny and oppression, and restored to the dignified station of freedom. Had I any doubt of eventual success, I might ask your assistance; but I do not. I come prepared for every contingency; I have a force which will break down all opposition, and that force is but the vanguard of a much greater. If, contrary to your own interest, and the just expectations of my country, you should take part in the approaching

contest, you will be considered and treated as enemies, and the horrors and calamities of war will stalk before you. If the barbarous and savage policy of Great Britain be pursued, and the savages are let loose to murder our citizens, and butcher our women and children, this war will be a war of extermination. The first stroke of the tomahawk—the first attempt with the scalping-knife, will be the signal of one indiscriminate scene of desolation. No white man found fighting by the side of an Indian will be taken prisoner—instant death will be his lot. If the dictates of reason, duty, justice, and humanity, cannot prevent the employment of a force which respects no rights, and knows no wrong, it will be prevented by a severe and relentless system of retaliation. I doubt not your courage and firmness; I will not doubt your attachment to liberty. If you tender your services voluntarily, they will be accepted readily. The United States offer you peace, liberty and security.—Your choice lies between these and war, slavery and destruction. Choose then; but choose wisely; and may He who knows the justice of our cause, and who holds in his hand the fate of nations, guide you to a result the most compatible with your rights and interests, your peace and happiness.

By the General,

A. P. HULL.

*Captain of the 13th United States' regiment of Infantry, and Aid-de-Camp, Head-Quarters, Sandwich, July 12, 1812.*

WILLIAM HULL.

This proclamation was well calculated to inspire confidence and secure the friendship of the Canadians. The American troops were in high spirits, anxious to be led against the enemy's post at Fort Malden. The British force, consisting of regulars, militia, and Indians, was in-

ferior to the Americans, as appeared by the official communication of the British general Brock to his government. The moment seemed favourable to strike an important, perhaps a decisive blow. The Indians, except a few of whom had joined the British, remained neutral, watching with their usual sagacity, until they could discover on what side victory was likely to perch; nearly all the Canadian militia had deserted; the time of attacking Fort Malden was determined on at a council of field officers, and preparations commenced for advancing to the attack, when, by an unexpected order, the plan of attack was abandoned, and Canada evacuated, shamefully leaving to their fate the Canadians who had joined the American standard.

This gave time to the enemy to be reinforced, and it soon was rumoured in the American camp that the commanding officer intended to surrender his army in the event of an attack by the enemy. This seemed so unaccountable at a time when superiority of force was on the American side, that the officers had resolved, in the event of the rumour being well founded, to divest the general of his command. The execution of this plan was prevented by the absence of two commanding officers of regiments who were ordered on detachments. The British being reinforced by about 400 men, and the Indians becoming more decided, general Brock advanced and took a position opposite to Detroit, where, without interruption, he established a small battery.

On the 15th August, the town of Detroit was summoned to surrender, which being refused, a firing began from the British batteries, which was returned by the Americans, and continued, with little effect, until night. At day-light on the 16th, the firing recommenced on both sides, the ene-

my commenced the landing of troops below Detroit, which being soon effected, they marched in close columns of platoons, twelve in front, towards the fort of Detroit.

Against this body of troops not a shot was fired, although it advanced in a situation within the range of the American cannon. When the British reached within 100 yards of the American line, orders were given by Gen. Hull for the troops to retreat to the fort; and soon after, the fort was surrendered, and the American army became prisoners of war.

By a proclamation immediately issued by the British commander, gen. Brock, it appears that general Hull had also surrendered the territory of Michigan.

This was a severe and unexpected blow against the Americans. It gave rise to a court-martial on the conduct of general Hull, which will be noticed in its proper place; it, in a great degree, destroyed the confidence the Canadians had in the government and arms of the United States; it determined the Indians to take part with the enemy; and led not only to a prolongation of the war, but to many, or perhaps all of those savage acts of murder, in which the Indians were subsequently engaged, against the citizens of the United States.

General Hull, in his official account, states, that at the time the enemy advanced against Detroit, he could not bring into the field more than 600 men, that the regular force of the enemy, then advancing, was much more than that number, and twice that number of Indians.

An official letter from colonel Cass, who had a command under general Hull, put the business in a quite different light, concluding with the following paragraph:

“I was informed by general Hull, the morning

after the capitulation, that the British forces consisted of 1800 regulars, and that he surrendered to prevent the effusion of human blood.—That he magnified their regular force nearly five-fold, there can be no doubt. Whether the philanthropic reason assigned by him is a sufficient justification for surrendering a fortified town, an army and a territory, is for the government to determine. Confident I am, that had the courage and conduct of the general been equal to the spirit and zeal of the troops, the event would have been as brilliant and successful as it now is disastrous and dishonorable.”

The British official account is positive as to the inferiority of the enemy's force.

A few days before the surrender of Detroit, major Van Horn, of colonel Findley's regiment of Ohio Volunteers, was detached with about 200 men to proceed to the river Raisin, to reinforce captain Brush, who, with a company of Ohio Volunteers, were escorting provisions for the army. At Brownstown, a large party of Indians formed an ambuscade, and the major's detachment received a heavy fire at a few yards from the enemy. The whole detachment retreated in great disorder; and could not, by any exertion of major Van Horn, be rallied.—On this occasion, there were 7 officers and 10 privates killed, besides a considerable number wounded.

Before the return of major Van Horn, another detachment consisting of 600 men, under the command of lieutenant colonel Miller was ordered to proceed to the river Raisin, to open the communication to the river, and protect the provisions which were under the escort of captain Brush. Lieutenant colonel Miller marched from Detroit on the 8th August; and on the 9th about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the van guard commanded by captain Snelling of the 4th United States regi-

ment, was fired upon by an extensive line of Indians and British at the lower part of Maguago, about 14 miles from Detroit. Captain Snelling maintained his ground in a most gallant manner, under a heavy fire, until the arrival of the main body under lieutenant colonel Miller, when the general attack was made on the enemy, who was compelled to retreat before the Americans. The rout continued until fatigue and the approach of night rendered it necessary to desist from further pursuit.

A short time previous to the surrender of Detroit, a provisional agreement was entered into by general Dearborn, and colonel Baynes, the British adjutant-general, that neither party should act offensively before the decision of the American government should be taken on the subject. This suspension of hostilities was grounded on a letter from Sir George Prevost, Governor of Lower Canada, to general Dearborn, suggesting the probability of a general suspension of hostilities in consequence of a proposed suspension or repeal of the British orders in council, of which Mr. Foster, late minister to the United States had received advices on his arrival at Halifax. Whether governor Prevost seriously believed all which he represented, or that the suspension of hostilities, which did not include the operations at Detroit, was intended to favour the British army in that quarter, cannot now be determined; it, however, enabled the British to reinforce general Brock, and probably contributed to the fall of Detroit. The American government, viewing the British proposition as coming in an indirect manner, offering no satisfactory security for its observance, and adhering with little variation to their former pretences, did not hesitate to disagree to the proposal. The armistice terminated on the 8th September.

The disgraceful surrender of Detroit was, in some

degree, to be compensated for, by the bravery of American seamen. On the 19th August 1812, the American frigate *Constitution*, captain Isaac Hull, fell in with his Britannic majesty's frigate *Guerriere*, captain J. R. Dacres, in lat. 40. 20 N. lon. 55 W.; and after a severe action of 30 minutes, during which the Americans displayed great superiority in tactics and courage, the British ship surrendered.

The *Guerriere* suffered so much in her rigging and hull, and was so entirely disabled, that it was found impossible to tow her into port, she was of course burnt, by order of captain Hull, as soon as the prisoners were removed.

The *Guerriere* had been formerly a French 44; but was rated only as 38; she carried 49 guns.

The following official account of her capture from the French by the British naval captain Lavie, places this point in an indisputable view, as the advocates of Britain, sorely hurt by this proof of the superiority of American naval tactics, endeavored to misrepresent the relative size and force of the American and British frigates.

From Capt. LAVIE to Lord KEITH.

*Blanche, Yarmouth, July 26, 1803.*

"My Lord—I have the honor to acquaint you of my return to Yarmouth to-day, having in company the *Guerriere* frigate, commanded by Monsieur Hubert, of the Legion of Honour, whom I captured on the 19th inst. in long. 62, off the Faro Islands, after a sharp contest of 45 minutes.

"Le *Guerriere* is of the largest Class of frigates, mounting fifty guns, with a complement of 317 men, but they were very soon sadly reduced by our destructive fire, and the ship has also suffered very severely, while the damages of the *Blanche* were confined to the topmasts, rigging and sails.

"THOMAS LAVIE."

The following is a return of the killed and wounded:

On board the *Constitution*, one lieutenant of marines and six seamen—Total killed 7. Two officers, four seamen and one marine—Total wounded 7. Total killed and wounded 14.

On board the *Guerriere*, killed 15, wounded 63, missing 27—Total 105.

Her navy was the chief boast of England, and on it was her chief reliance; yet she was destined to meet her greatest wounds and disasters on the watery element.

On the 17th July, the British appeared before Sackett's Harbour, with the *Royal George* of 24 guns, the *Prince Regent* of 22, *Elmira* of 20, *Seneca* of 18, and another armed vessel. A message was sent ashore demanding the surrender of the American vessel of war the *Oncida*; and also the late British schooner *Nelson*, seized for a breach of the revenue laws. A compliance with this demand being peremptorily refused, the enemy advanced within gun-shot. A firing begun from a 32 pounder ashore, and was returned by the squadron which stood off and on. A brisk cannonading was continued for more than two hours, when a shot from the 32 pounder having raked the flag ship of the enemy, as she was wearing to give another broadside, the squadron fired a few guns and bore away for Kingston, the citizens greeting them with the good old tune of "Yankee Doodle," from all the music at the post. The British shipping appeared to be much injured.—Not a man lost on the American side.

The steadiness of the American troops, and the alacrity with which the neighbouring detachments and volunteers, to the amount of nearly 3000, assembled for the protection of this important post, was, at this early stage of the war, a pleasing presage of what might be hereafter expected, when



men would become more inured to danger. Col. Bellinger commanded the American troops. Capt. Woolsey, who commanded the *Oncida*, having sailed from the harbour and reconnoitred the enemy, returned and moored his vessel with a spring on her cable, near the battery; and giving the command of her to his lieutenant, he went ashore and took command of the 32 pounder, which, under his direction, did very considerable damage to the enemy.

The frigate *Essex*, Captain Porter, sailed on a cruise from New-York, on the 3d of July, and arrived in the Delaware on the 7th September. On the 13th August, the *Essex* fell in with the British sloop of war *Alert*. The *Alert* bore down and commenced an action, which lasted eight minutes; she was much cut to pieces, and had seven feet water in her hold when she struck, and three men wounded. The *Essex* received no injury.

Captain Porter having thrown the guns of the *Alert* overboard, dispatched her as a cartel to St. John's in Newfoundland, with about 500 prisoners which he had taken in the *Alert*, and from other captured vessels.

Governor Prevost, of Lower Canada, issued a proclamation, on the 19th September, by which all citizens of the United States are ordered to quit Canada by the 15th of October; till which time they may depart with their moveable property, by permission of three of the council. After that time, every citizen of the United States found in Canada, will be treated as a prisoner of war, unless he has taken the oath of allegiance.

A considerable force having been assembled in the neighbourhood of the Niagara river, under the command of major general Stephen Van Rensselaer, with the view, as was generally understood, of effecting a descent upon the British province of

Upper Canada, a strong and impatient desire was discovered among the troops to try their strength against the enemy. This gradually rose to such a height, that resistance to it seemed scarcely, if at all, possible; patriotism was passing the limits of subordination. "This, (says the general, in his official communication to general Dearborn,) was expressed to me through various channels, in the shape of an alternative; that they must have orders to act, or, at all hazards, they would go home.

Impelled by this consideration, the general made dispositions for the intended attack on the British post at the heights of Queenstown. Some information gained from a person who was engaged to pass over to Canada, and who returned safe, seemed to warrant an attack, which, besides the immediate object, might have a controuling effect upon the movements at Detroit, where it was understood the British general Brock had gone, with all the force he could spare from the Niagara frontier.

An intention to transport troops across the river, on the morning of the 11th October, was frustrated through the means of a boatman, selected for his skill and steadiness; but who, going ahead in the extreme darkness, passed the intended place far up the river, and there fastened his boat to the shore, and abandoned the detachment. In this front boat nearly every oar belonging to all the boats were deposited. The expedition was given up, and the detachment returned to camp.

This circumstance, so far from damping the ardour of the troops, seemed to give additional force to the desire of encountering the enemy. A second attempt was determined on.

At dawn of day, on the 13th of October, the troops commenced embarking under cover of a battery. The movement was soon discovered, and a brisk firing of musketry commenced on the Ca-

nada side, which was soon followed by a cannonade on the boats, the American cannon returning the fire. Col. Van Rensselaer, with 100 men, effected a landing, and coolly advanced in the face of a tremendous fire, during which the colonel received four wounds, which prevented that useful exertion he was so willing to make. Col. Christie, with his detachment, landed some time after. Col. Van Rensselaer, although scarcely able to stand, ordered his men to storm the fort, which service was gallantly performed. Reinforcements having arrived to both parties, the conflict became severe and general; the enemy soon retreated, and the rout was followed up with great spirit by the Americans. Victory appeared complete. The enemy, at this moment, received a reinforcement of several hundred Indians from Chippawa, and commenced a furious attack, but were promptly met and routed by the rifle and bayonet. The general observing a hesitation in the embarkation of the troops, he passed over to accelerate their movements. Could the details of this day be here closed, all would be honour, all would be glory to the American character. But it must be recorded—alas! it cannot be concealed, that no persuasion of the general could influence the remaining troops to pass into the boats. A large reinforcement from fort George, soon afterwards was seen coming up the river; this reinforcement obliqued to the right from the road, and formed a junction with the Indians in the rear of the heights.

The boats were dispersed; the boatmen had fled panic-struck. The American troops, thus situated, maintained a most obstinate conflict for half an hour; when, exhausted of strength and ammunition, they were obliged to surrender. General Brock was slain, and his aid-de-camp mortally wounded. The whole number of Americans engaged was about 1600, of which 900 were

regulars and 700 militia. The militia were liberated as prisoners on parole, not to serve during the war.

Major general Van Rensselaer resigned the command of the army on the Niagara frontier, to brigadier general Smyth, on the 14th October.

On the 10th November, general Smyth published a proclamation from his camp near Buffaloe. As this document became the subject of much comment, it is given here in full. It was in the following words:

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#### TO THE MEN OF NEW-YORK.

For many years you have seen your country oppressed with numerous wrongs. Your government, although above all others devoted to peace, have been forced to draw the sword, and rely for redress of injuries on the valour of the American people.

That valour has been conspicuous. But the nation has been unfortunate in the selection of some of those who directed it. One army has been disgracefully surrendered and lost. Another has been sacrificed by a precipitate attempt to pass it over at the strongest point of the enemy's lines, with most incompetent means. The cause of these miscarriages is apparent. The commanders were popular men, "destitute alike of theory and experience" in the art of war.

In a few days the troops under my command will plant the American standard in Canada. They are men accustomed to obedience, silence, and steadiness. They will conquer, or they will die.

Will you stand with your arms folded, and look on this interesting struggle? Are you not related to the men who fought at Bennington and Saratoga? Has the race degenerated? Or have you, under the

baneful influence of contending factions, forgot your country? Must I turn from you, and ask men of the six nations to support the government of the United States? Shall I imitate the officers of the British king, and suffer our ungathered laurels to be tarnished by ruthless deeds? Shame, where is thy blush?—No; where I command, the vanquished and the peaceful man, the child, the maid, and the matron, shall be secured from wrong. If we conquer, we will “conquer but to save.”

*Men of New-York!*

The present is the hour of renown. Have you not a wish for fame? Would you not choose in future times to be named as one of those who, imitating the heroes whom Montgomery led, have, in spite of the seasons, visited the tomb of the chief, and conquered the country where he lies? Yes; you desire your share of fame. Then seize the present moment. If you do not, you will regret it, and say, “the valiant have bled in vain; the friends of my country fail,—and I was not there.”

Advance then to our aid. I will wait for you a few days. I cannot give you the day of my departure. But come on. Come in companies, half companies, pairs, or singly. I will organize you for a short tour. Hide to this place, if the distance is far, and send back your horses. But remember that every man who accompanies us, places himself under my command, and shall submit to the salutary restraints of discipline.

ALEX. SMYTH,

Brig. Gen.

*Camp, near Buffalo, Nov. 10, 1812.*

This proclamation had the effect of bringing to the frontier a very considerable number of volunteers, men who lived the hardy life of farmers, were accustomed to the woods, knew well the use of the rifle, and feared Indians as little as they did Englishmen.

On the 17th November, general Smyth issued a public address to his soldiers, preparatory to an

immediately intended entrance into the enemy's territory. The sentiments contained in this address are noble, humane and soldierly. From such a general and such an army, the public expected a very successful campaign.

Their hopes were not to be realized. Twice the troops embarked and as often disembarked. Public opinion, hitherto on the side of general Smyth, now began to veer. His courage, as well as his patriotism, was questioned; censure was followed by insult and menace. The project of invasion was finally abandoned. The volunteers were dismissed, and the army ordered into winter quarters. Thus ended the operations, for this season, of the army of the centre.

General Smyth justified himself on the grounds that he had directions not to pass over with less than 3000 men; that he could not prevail on more than 1500 men to embark; and that an attack on the enemy, under such circumstances, was contrary to the opinion of a council of his officers. "My orders," says the general in reply to a committee from the patriotic citizens of the western counties of New-York, "were to pass into Canada with 3000 men at once. On the first day of embarkation not more than 1400 men were embarked, of whom 400, that is, half of the regular infantry, were exhausted with fatigue and want of rest. On the second embarkation, only 1500 men were embarked, and these were to have put off immediately, and to have descended the river to a point where reinforcements were not to be expected. On both days, many of the regular troops were men in bad health, who could not have stood one day's march; who, although they were on the sick report, were turned out by their ardent officers."

This reply was dated 3d December. On the 8th of the same month, general Peter B. Porter gave notice in the Buffalo Gazette, that he would soon

publish a "true account of some of the most prominent transactions of those days." In his notice general Porter ascribes the failure of the expedition to the cowardice of general Smyth.

General Smyth must remain convicted, in the eyes of the world, of falsehood and cowardice, if he continued passive under such charges—Modern chivalry pointed out the course which must be pursued. General Smyth sent a challenge to general Porter, which the latter accepted.

The parties passed over to Grand Island, on the 13th December; a shot was exchanged, in an intrepid manner, but without effect, when, on the suggestion of general Smyth's second, a mutual explanation and reconciliation took place; and the parties separated.

General Porter, on the following day, delivered the promised statement of transactions, to the editor of the Buffalo Gazette, in which paper it accordingly appeared.

The statement is plain and satisfactory; and divested of that asperity, which was probably intended to accompany it.

In this statement, it is represented, that, on the 27th November, there were collected in the neighbourhood of Niagara, 4500 effective men, that the vessels collected for the purpose, were sufficient for the transportation of 3550 men; that the number of men actually embarked were estimated to consist of between 2000 and 2600; that about 2000 more men were paraded on shore, seemingly ready to cross; that several boats, of sufficient capacity to carry about 1000 men, were still lying unoccupied; and that the enemy, estimated at about 500 men, were drawn up in a line, at about half a mile from the river.

As a proof of what could be effected, had the men been permitted to pass over, general Porter states the bravery and success with which a detach-

ment which crossed over by direction of general Smyth, accomplished its mission; having completely routed the enemy, spiked his cannon, and taken several prisoners. "Out of 12 naval officers, who embarked in this enterprize, nine of them, (says general Porter) with more than half their men, were killed or wounded."

General Smyth, in a letter to the editors of the *National Intelligencer*, dated 28th January, 1813, refutes the statement of general Porter. "I affirm (says general Smyth) that on the 27th November, there were collected in the neighbourhood of Black Rock, not more than 3500 effective men, non-commissioned officers, and privates, of every corps under my command; not more than 1500 of those were liable to be ordered to cross the Niagara, according to opinions generally received. On the 21st, there were 1050 good troops embarked, and also as many irregular volunteers as occupied five boats, estimated at 150. On the morning of the first December, the number of men armed with muskets, who were at the navy-yard, embarked or not embarked, did not exceed 2000 men."

In this refutation, general Smyth insinuates that general Porter, acting as contractor to the army, was not prepared to supply the necessary rations, having on the 30th November only 35 barrels of flour on hand, "not two pounds of flour to each man."—"The hostility of general Porter to myself (says general Smyth) grew out of the contract."

While the expeditions thus progressed from ill-design to its unavoidable consequence, unsuccessful termination, the minor expeditions did honour to the officers who commanded and the few men who were engaged in them. Among these the following must not be omitted.

The brigs *Adams* and *Caledonia*, which were surrendered to the enemy by general Hull, at Detroit, having arrived and anchored under the Bri-



tish fort Erie, captain Elliot determined on an attempt to regain them. Having made the necessary dispositions, he advanced at one o'clock in the morning of the 9th October, having under his command 100 men in two boats; at 3 o'clock he was along side the vessels; in 10 minutes they were under way, and the prisoners secured. An unfavorable wind obliged them to run down the river, by the forts, under a heavy fire of round, grape, and cannister shot, from a number of pieces of heavy ordnance and flying artillery; and he was compelled to anchor about 400 yards from one of their batteries; the Caledonia being got into a safe position, a fire was returned from the guns of the Adams as long as ammunition lasted. It being found impossible longer to withstand the fire of the enemy, which would probably sink the vessel in a short time, he was compelled to cut the cable and drift down the river out of the reach of the batteries, but remained still exposed to the flying artillery; having thus dropt astern for about 10 minutes, and being deserted by the pilot, he was brought up on the shore of Squaw Island. From this place he sent the prisoners on shore with much difficulty; and, having himself passed from the brig to the shore, he soon discovered that about 40 soldiers had crossed in a boat from the British side, and boarded the brig; but they were soon compelled to abandon her with the loss of nearly all their men. During the whole of the morning, both sides of the river kept up alternately a continual fire on the brig, and so much injured her that it was impossible to have floated her—she was of course destroyed.

Major Young having command of the Troy militia at French mill, on the St. Regis river, proceeded to the village of St. Regis, where the enemy had landed with a view to establish himself in force, and vigorously attacked him at 5 o'clock

on the morning of 22d October; one stand of colours, forty prisoners, with their arms, equipments, &c. were the fruits of this spirited and well conducted expedition. This was the first standard taken from the enemy, in the present war. The party returned safe to their camp without having a man hurt. The enemy lost 4 killed, and one mortally wounded.

The movements of the enemy, during these times, were not to them equally honorable or important.

An attack of the enemy on the village of Ogdensburg was defeated. The enemy had 1000 men, the Americans only 400. This happened on the 2d October.

On the 3d October, the British brig Royal George went into the Genessee river, and cut out the schooner Lady Murray and a revenue cutter. There was no force then there, that could resist the enemy.

The national pride had been already highly gratified by success on the ocean; the public eye was anxiously directed to that element, in expectation of further glory. The public hope was not to be disappointed.

At day-light, on the 18th October, about the lat. of 37 deg. north, and lon. 65 deg. west, captain Jacob Jones, commanding the United States' sloop of war Wasp, of 18 guns, got sight of a British convoy of six large armed merchant ships under protection of the British sloop of war Frolic, commanded by captain Whinyeates. A signal was made by the frolic for the fleet to disperse. At 30 minutes past eleven A. M. an engagement commenced between the two sloops, at a short distance, and continued until the vessels were so close that the rammers of the Wasp were, while loading the last broadside, shoved against the side of the enemy. The Frolic was boarded on her fore-

castle, and immediately surrendered. The manner in which this engagement was maintained was highly honorable to the Americans. The Frolic mounted 22 guns; sixteen of them 32 pound carronades, and four twelve pounders on the main deck, and two twelve pounders, carronades, on the top-gallant fore-castle, making her superior in force to the Wasp, by four 12 pounders. On board the Wasp, there were five killed, and five wounded. The exact loss of the enemy could not be ascertained, as many of the dead lay buried under the masts and spars that had fallen upon the deck, which two hours exertion had not sufficiently removed. Lieutenant Biddle, who had charge of the Frolic, states, from what he saw, and from information from the officers, the number of killed must have been thirty; that of the wounded, about forty or fifty.

The Wasp suffered so much in this action, that both masts fell on the deck a few minutes after separating from the Frolic; every brace and most of the rigging had been shot away during the action.

In this state, she nearly remained, when, in two hours after the action, the British ship Poictiers, of 74 guns, hove in sight; and, soon after took possession of the two sloops, and ordered them for Bermuda.

The captain of the Frolic, in his official letter to admiral Warren, states that every officer was wounded, and the greater part of the men either killed or wounded; there not being twenty persons remaining unhurt.

The following resolution of the Common Council of New-York, will show the high light in which they held captain Jones and his crew:

*Resolved*, That an elegant Sword be presented to captain JONES, late of the United States' sloop of war Wasp, and also the freedom of this city, as a testimony of the high opinion this Corpora-

tion entertain of his gallant conduct in capturing the British sloop of war *Frolic*; and that the thanks of the Common Council be presented to his brave officers and crew.

The United States' frigate *United States*, captain Stephen Decatur, being on a cruise, fell in, on the 25th October, 1812, with his Britannic Majesty's frigate *Macedonian*, captain J. S. Carden, in lat. 29 N. lon. 29 30 W. and, after an action of an hour and a half (17 minutes of which was in close action) the British frigate was captured. The *Macedonian* was of the largest class of British frigates, two years old, but four months out of dock, and mounting 49 guns, (the odd one shifting.) This engagement gave another indisputable proof of the superiority of American discipline and gunnery.

The loss on both sides were as follows:

On board the *United States*, 2 seamen, 2 marines, 1 boy—Total killed, 5.

Wounded, 1 lieutenant, 1 carpenter, 4 seamen, 1 marine—Total wounded, 7; of whom lieutenant Funk and John Archibald died of their wounds.

On board the *Macedonian*, there were 36 killed, and 68 wounded; 36 of whom severely.

By the muster roll of the *Macedonian*, it appeared that there were seven impressed Americans on board, during the action, two of whom were killed.

The *United States* and *Macedonian* arrived off Montaug Point on the 4th December; but were prevented from reaching New-York before the first day of the new year, 1813.

On the arrival of captain Hull, at New-York, he was presented by the corporation of the city, with the freedom of the city, in a gold box. As soon as captain Hull entered the council chamber, conducted by aldermen Fish and Mesier, and

general Morton, he was addressed by his honour De Witt Clinton, mayor of the city, in an appropriate speech. Captain Hull, with all that modesty so frequently allied to virtuous bravery, made a short but very becoming reply. The captain then took the freeman's oath, and retired, amidst an immense crowd, who filled the air with reiterated huzzas. On the following day, a splendid naval dinner was given by the corporation to captain Hull, com. Decatur, and captain Jones, in testimony of the high sense entertained of the merits of these gentlemen. Nothing was omitted to render this dinner truly descriptive of the occasion, and the feelings of the citizens.

On the 9th. Jan. another dinner was given by the corporation to the crew of the United States. The seamen and marines, having formed in procession, proceeded from the place of landing to the city hotel, amidst the plaudits of thousands of citizens. On the arrival of the sailors, and they being seated, they were addressed by Mr. Vanderbilt, with his usual energy and perspicuity. The boatswain made a short reply, expressive of the gratitude of his shipmates, and their wish for a further opportunity to prove their devotedness to their country. At 6 o'clock the procession was re-formed, when they proceeded to the theatre, at the express wish and invitation of the managers, who reserved the pit exclusively for their accommodation. The harmony of the day was not interrupted by a single irregularity.

The enemy had some consolation, (if consolation it can be called,) by the capture, in November, of the United States' brig of war Vixen, of 14 guns, by his majesty's frigate Southampton, of 32 guns.

On this occasion, the intrepid exertions of our men, aided by their officers, were chiefly instrumental in saving the movable property on board the

frigate. So sensible was Sir James Yeo of the generous conduct of the American sailors, that he drew them up on the island, and publicly thanked them in the warmest terms.

Although a patriotic support of the war was the distinguishing feature of the public sentiment, yet there was a strange apathy too prevalent, which tended not a little to render its early stage unpropitious to the country. Something was necessary to awaken the unroused loyalty of the people. Victory might have that effect; perhaps defeat was a more powerful agent. The defeat and surrender of general Hull so much disappointed the expectations excited by the general's proclamation, that it is impossible to depict the first effect. The mortification of disappointment, added to the serious loss of a fine army, threw a temporary gloom over the citizens.—

This soon gave way to resentment, and a determination to wipe off the "foul stain". The spirit of the nation rose, and that of 1776 seemed to return. This sentiment, which pervaded a great proportion of the nation, was most powerful in the western country. All felt the necessity of immediate action; Kentucky and Ohio may be said to have broken loose; an army was ready, as if by magic, prepared to avenge the late disgrace. A leader was wanting; all eyes looked, with a common impulse, towards the hero of Tippecanoe; the united voice of the people called on the governor to dispense with all formalities; and WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON was appointed major-general, with directions to take command of the north-western army. This appointment was confirmed by the President of the United States.

The exposed situation of the north-western frontier, after the surrender of Hull, required the utmost exertions for its protection. It was not

possible entirely to avert the impending danger.

The Indians had already commenced their savage warfare by an attack on Fort Dearborn, and the massacre of its garrison. Fort Dearborn, (Chicago) was but a weak garrison, consisting of about 50 men; there were also in it a few women and children. A large body of Indians having menaced the fort, it was agreed in a council which was held with the faithless tribe, that the garrison should be spared, on condition of surrendering the place without resistance. They marched out on the 15th September; and when about a mile from the fort, were fired on, and murdered, with the exception of about 10 or 12, who escaped.

Fort Belview, (Madison) on the Mississippi, was attacked on the 4th September, by the Indians, with all the desperation that a want of real courage could inspire. The attack was renewed daily until the 8th, when the Indians, after suffering very severely, withdrew, leaving the brave garrison safe. One soldier, who was out of the fort when the attack commenced, was massacred. No lives were lost in the fort, and only one man wounded.

About 11 o'clock in the evening of the 4th September, Fort Harrison, in the Indiana territory, was attacked by a vast number of Indians. The garrison was weak, and the most of them, including its intrepid commander, capt. Z. Taylor, either sick or convalescent. The attack was continued in a most furious manner, until about sunrise the following morning, when the savages retired, driving away or shooting all the cattle they could find.

Several expeditions were formed against the Indians, for the protection of the inhabitants, and keeping open the necessary communications. Col. Russell, with a small detachment of the United States' rangers, proceeded to the head of the Peori

lake, where he destroyed the celebrated Pimer-tain's town. General Hopkins, with about 1200 troops, left Fort Harrison on the 11th December, and succeeded in destroying several villages along the Wabash; a party of 62, that left the camp in search of a man who was missing, fell in with a large force of horse and foot Indians: this party suffered a defeat, with a loss of 16, making, with the missing man, 17. General Tupper defeated a numerous body of British and Indians, near the rapids of Miami; the difficulty of crossing the river, and want of provisions, obliged the expedition to return, having lost 4 killed, and 1 being wounded. Col. Campbell, with 600 men, attacked one of the Massissinewa towns, on the 17th and 18th December, and defeated the Indians after a most desperate conflict; the American loss was 8 killed and 23 wounded; the Indian town was burned. Col. John B. Campbell, on the 17th November, attacked the savages at a town on the Massissinewa, which he burned, as well as three other towns further down the river, killing several, and taking 37 prisoners. On the morning of the 11th Dec. his camp was attacked by about 300 Indians, who were defeated, after an engagement of about three quarters of an hour. The loss of the Americans in these affairs was 9 killed, and about 35 or 40 wounded; about 40 of the Indians were killed. The Indians also suffered a defeat from colonel Williams, commanding the Tennessee troops.

These actions were well calculated to inspire the Indians with a proper respect for the Americans; and if followed up with continued success, would tend to estrange the savage enemy from his British ally; but a sad reverse soon occurred.

A detachment under the command of general Winchester, being attacked on the 22d January, at Frenchtown, on the river Raisin, by a greatly superior force of Indians and British, aided by



several pieces of artillery, suffered a defeat. The Americans lost no honour on this occasion; they defended themselves and fought with desperation, even beyond the time when prudence and honour would have sanctioned a surrender. General Winchester, being himself a prisoner, agreed to a surrender of the troops under his command, on condition that they should be protected against the savages, and allowed to retain their private property and side-arms.—Thirty-five officers, and 490 non-commissioned officers and privates were made prisoners; the number of killed was considerable.

The prisoners who were in health were marched to Malden; the wounded were, contrary to the terms of capitulation, left at the mercy of the Indians. On the morning of the 23d, such of the wounded as were unable to travel were tomahawked and scalped.

The following is a copy of the report of a committee of congress on this subject.

“The massacre of the 23d January, after the capitulation, was perpetrated without any exertion on their part to prevent it; indeed it is apparent, from all the circumstances, that if the British officers did not connive at their destruction, they were criminally indifferent about the fate of the wounded prisoners. But what marks more strongly the degradation of the character of the British soldiers, is the refusal of the last offices of humanity to the bodies of the dead. The bodies of our countrymen were exposed to every indignity, and became food for brutes, in the sight of men who affect a sacred regard to the dictates of honor and religion.—Low indeed is the character of that army which is reduced to the confession, that their savage auxiliaries will not permit them to perform the rites of sepulture to the slain. The committee have not been able to discover even the expression of detestation,

which such conduct must inspire, from the military or civil authority on the Canadian frontier, unless such detestation is to be presumed from the choice of an Indian trophy as an ornament for the Legislative Hall of Upper Canada."

At a meeting of the officers who survived the battle of French-town, held at Erie, (Pa.) the 20th February, 1813, the following statement and resolutions were agreed to.

Whereas, it is deemed necessary that our fellow citizens should be informed of the late perfidious and brutal acts of the British government, performed by their officers at the battle of Frenchtown.

Resolved, That the following statement of the conduct of the British officers, be published to our countrymen:

That when general Winchester was taken prisoner on the 22d January, 1813, and brought before colonel Proctor, the British commander, he directed the commanding officer of the Americans (major Madison) to surrender. Major Madison refused so to do, unless those who surrendered should be free from savage massacre; this was agreed to; and the British officers pledged themselves to have a sufficient force with the wounded to protect them, and that they should be conveyed to Malden the next morning. They likewise promised to return to the officers their arms at Malden.

Capt. N. G. F. Hart, inspector to the north-western army, being among the wounded, it was proposed by his friends that they should carry him with them: this they were prevented from doing by capt Elliot, a British officer, and an old acquaintance of captain Hart's, who promised capt. H. his special protection, to convey him in his own sleigh to Malden that evening, and informing him that he should be welcome to remain at his house there, until he should recover.

These were the *promises* of the British—let our countrymen and the world see how they were fulfilled.

At the break of day next morning, the savages were suffered to commit every depredation upon our wounded which they pleased. An indiscriminate slaughter took place of all who were unable to walk; many were tomahawked, and many were burned alive in the houses. Among the unfortunate thus murdered, it is with regret and sorrow we have to name captains Hart and Hickman.

The arms of the officers, as promised, were never returned. Every species of private property remaining in the tents, belonging to both officers and soldiers, were plundered by the savages.

Resolved, That in consideration of the high respect we hold to the memories of both officers and soldiers who were thus cruelly murdered, by permission of the British commander Proctor, and his subalterns, and those who gloriously fell in the field, *defending the only free government on earth*, that each of us wear black crape on our hats and left arms for the space of ninety days.

Resolved, That a similar procedure, testifying their respect for those who were murdered and fell on that day, be recommended to our brother officers and soldiers who survived it.

SAMUEL WILLIAMS, President.

JOHN BECKLEY, Secretary.

The little progress hitherto made by land against the enemy, had determined the congress and general government on adopting a more efficient plan of warfare. Several new appointments of officers were made; and commodore Chauncey was appointed to the command of the lake navy.

The commodore sailed from Sackett's Harbor on Lake Ontario; on the 8th November fell in with and chased the Royal George until he lost sight of her in the night; on the following day renewed the chase, and followed her into Kingston harbor; where he engaged her and the batteries, for nearly two hours: at sun down he hauled off,

being obliged, by badness of the weather, to return to Sackett's Harbor.

The Constitution frigate having undergone every necessary repair, proceeded from Boston on a second cruise in October. On the 29th December, 1812, in south lat. 13. 6, and west lon. 38. ten leagues distant from the coast of Brazil, fell in with and captured his Britannic majesty's frigate Java, after an action of one hour and 55 minutes. The Java carried 49 guns, and upwards of 400 men, and was commanded by captain H. Lambert, a brave and gallant officer. The Java was so perfect a wreck, that it seemed extremely doubtful whether she could be brought to the United States, she was therefore burned in two days after being captured.

The Java had been lately out of dock, having undergone a thorough repair, in order to carry out lieutenant general Hislop, who was going as commander in chief to Bombay. Besides her full complement of men, the Java had upwards of 100 supernumeraries, going to British ships of war in the East Indies; also several officers, passengers, going out on promotion. The number of men was considerably more than that of the Constitution. By her quarter-bill she had one man more stationed at each gun than the Constitution had. The loss on board the Constitution was 9 killed and 25 wounded. The enemy had 60 killed and 101 wounded; but by a letter written on board the Constitution by one of the officers of the Java, and accidentally found, it was evident that the enemy's wounded must have been considerably greater; the letter states 60 killed and 170 wounded. This additional number of wounded men have probably died, before they could be removed. Among the wounded on board the Constitution, was captain Bainbridge,

the commander: captain Lambert, of the Java, was wounded mortally.

General Hislop was immediately paroled, with the officers of his staff; and at the request of general Hislop, in a letter dated St. Salvador, Jan. 3, 1813, all the officers of the Java were in like manner paroled. Commodore Bainbridge restored all the private property of gen. Hislop, including articles of plate to a large amount.

The corporation of the city of New-York presented commodore Bainbridge with the freedom of the city, on the 8th December, 1813.

The following resolution was passed by the senate of Massachussetts, the 19th February.

“Resolved, that the thanks of this Senate be given to commodore William Bainbridge, and the officers and crew of the frigate Constitution, under his command, for their brilliant achievement in capturing and destroying his Britannic majesty’s frigate Java; and that the commodore be requested to communicate the same to his officers and crew, with an assurance from this branch of the legislature, that they will hold in grateful remembrance those who fell in fighting for the essential and violated rights of their country.”

Although it is a fact established beyond the power of contradiction, that every possible indulgence and attention were exercised towards the crew of the Java, yet were some of her officers so ungrateful as to charge the Americans with having ill-used the vanquished in a variety of ways. In reply to a publication in the British Naval Chronicle for May, 1814, by Thomas Cook Jones, surgeon of the Java, and another publication in the same paper, for June, by one of the lieutenants of the Java, charging the Americans with cruelty, &c. Mr. Amos A. Evans, surgeon of the frigate Constitution, published in the Boston Chronicle,

a complete refutation of the British slander, concluding with the following words :

“ I challenge the British to produce a solitary instance, where they have given a faithful and candid relation of the result of their actions with us, since the declaration of the present war. They have of late established for themselves a kind of national character, that I trust none will envy them the possession of. They have proved, that although they may not always be able to conquer in battle, they can prevaricate, defame, or mistake, with as much ease as any nation on earth.”

Commodore Rodgers sailed from Boston the 8th Oct. 1812, on his second cruise, having under his command the frigate *President*; the *United States*, capt. Decatur; *Congress*, capt. Smith; and brig *Argus*, capt. Sinclair. The *President* and *Congress* arrived at Boston in December. During their cruise, they captured the British packet *Swallow*, with 168,000 dollars on board, and the British ship *Argo*, laden with oil and whalebone, both of which arrived some time before. They saw no enemy's cruisers but the *Nymphe* and *Galatea*, which they chased, but lost sight of in the night. The squadron have been as far east as long. 22, and to the south as far as lat. 17 N. From the 1st to the 30th November, they never saw a sail. On the 22d October, lying to in a gale, the *President* sprung her mainmast badly; and on the 21st December, lying to in the Gulf Stream, shipped a heavy sea, which swept the starboard gangway, started the boats, killed 2 men, and wounded 7. The *President* brought in 50 prisoners.

The specie was landed from the *President* at the navy-yard in Charlestown, and being placed in six waggons, each carrying the national colours, was thus carried to the State Bank in Boston, where it was safely deposited, amidst the huzzas of thousands of spectators.

The commodore parted company with the United States and *Argus*, the 12th October.

The U. S. brig *Viper*, capt. Henley, of 12 guns, was captured on the 17th January, 1813, in lat. 29 N. 83. 30 W. by his Britannic majesty's frigate *Narcissus*, of 32 guns, after a chase of 5 hours;—no fighting.

Commodore Bainbridge left the U. S. sloop of war *Hornet*, capt. James Lawrence, off the harbor of St. Salvador, where she remained from the 6th until the 24th January, blockading the *Bonne Citoyenne* and another armed vessel. Being at length driven from her station by the *Montague*, of 74 guns, which was sent to relieve the *Bonne Citoyenne*, captain Lawrence proceeded off Demarara river, where, on the 24th February, 1813, he fell in with and engaged his Britannic majesty's brig of war *Peacock*; the action lasted but 15 minutes, in which short space of time the *Peacock* was literally cut to pieces; an ensign, union down, was hung from the fore rigging, as a signal at once of distress and surrender. Lieut. Shubrick, who was sent on board her, returned with a report that she was fast sinking, having then six feet of water in her hold. The boats of the *Hornet* were immediately despatched, and every possible exertion made to keep her afloat until the prisoners could be removed, by pumping and baling, without effect; as she sunk in five and a half fathoms water, carrying down nine of her crew, and three of the crew of the *Hornet*, viz. John Hart, Joseph Williams, and Hannibal Boyd. Several of the *Hornet's* crew narrowly escaped a similar fate, being saved by jumping into a boat that was lying on the booms, as she went down.

The *Peacock* was one of the finest vessels of her class in the British navy; she mounted 16 twenty-four pound carronades, two long nines, one twelve pound carronade on her top gallant forecastle, as

a shifting gun, and one four or six pounder, and two swivels, mounted aft; her crew consisted, at the time of the action, of one hundred and thirty men.

The loss on board the Peacock could not be ascertained by capt. Lawrence, but must have been considerable. Capt. Peake, her commander, and four men, were found dead on board, and 33 wounded, most of them severely, three of whom died of their wounds, after being removed. The total of killed, wounded and drowned, was certainly 42, and probably more.

The Espeigle, a British brig, mounting 10 thirty-two pound carronades and two long nines, lay about 6 miles in shore, and within sight of the action: she declined coming in aid of her consort, or to approach the victorious ship, although capt. Lawrence cleared his ship, in expectation of a second engagement.

Captain Lawrence, stated, that there were two impressed American seamen on board the late British sloop of war Peacock, one a native of the State of New-York, and the other a native of Norfolk. One of them was pressed two years and a half, and the other about 18 months previous, neither of them entered, and both were compelled to fight during the engagement with the Hornet.

Before the engagement commenced, the above mentioned American seamen left their station, went to the captain of the Peacock, and asked his permission to go below, with the crew of the brig Hunter, of Portland, as they could not fight against their country. This request was peremptorily refused by captain Peake, and the two Americans were forced to their station, and compelled to fight.

Captain Lawrence further stated, that another impressed American was reported to have been on



board the Peacock, and that he was killed during the action.

The reader should not be carried away with the belief, that the commander of the *Espeigle* was a coward. That may possibly have been the case, but it is far from being probable.—Those who wish to allow to American naval heroes their well earned honors, will be readier to ascribe the modesty of the Englishmen to the effect of American prowess, than to British cowardice. Prudence is a virtue which often requires courage to exercise. Had the commander of the *Espeigle* encountered the victorious American, he would be defeated. He probably believed so; and, believing it, he acted with prudence.

The following comment on the capture of the Peacock is extracted from the London Globe.

“The late captain of the *Swallow* packet, captured by the Americans, landed on Monday at Falmouth, from on board the Childers sloop of war. He confirms the loss of the Peacock, which struck to the *Hornet*, after a severe and sanguinary conflict, and went down while the enemy were taking out her crew. Sixteen English and four Americans went down in her. The force of the two vessels was nearly equal. The circumstances, therefore, which have enabled America thus to add another laurel to her brow, it is most important to know, and we trust they will be fully inquired into. In the cases of capture by large American frigates, the mercenary writers for the admiralty have assured their readers that they have, by some charm, been able to practise a *deceptio visus* upon our navy; that although apparently frigates, they are in fact great ships of the line; but as no disparity of size is supposed to have existed in this disaster, Mr. Croker's scribes will probably give out, that the crew of the *Hornet* were not of the ordinary race of sailors, but that every one was a Hercules in strength, and an Archimedes in science.”

The following appeared in a Halifax paper.

*"In our extracts from American papers our readers will find an account of the capture of the Peacock. The good fortune of the Americans has not forsaken them; on the contrary, it is more conspicuous in this than in their previous actions. Every one conversant with gunnery must know, that had a vessel been MOORED for the sole purpose of making an EXPERIMENT, it is not at all likely she would have been SUNK in so short a time.*

Previous to the action with the Peacock, captain Lawrence captured, on the 4th February, the English brig Resolution, of 10 guns, from Rio Janeiro, bound to Maranh, which he burned after taking from her about £23,000 sterling in specie. On mustering the morning after the action, there were found on board the Hornet 277 souls, including the crew of the American brig Hunter, of Portland, taken a few days before by the Peacock. This additional proof of the superiority of American tactics has not been exceeded by any former instance. It may indeed be said to have decided the relative merits of American and British seamen, the superiority claimed by the British is no longer maintainable—the Americans rank decidedly as first in naval tactics.

Captain Lawrence, while off St. Salvador, sent a challenge to captain Greene, of the Bonne Citoyenne, which the latter prudently declined accepting.

The following resolutions passed the common council of the city of New-York, on the 29th March, 1813.

*"Resolved, That the freedom of the city be presented to Captain Lawrence, together with a piece of plate with appropriate devices and inscriptions, and that his honor the Recorder be requested to forward the same, with a copy of this resolution.*

*Resolved, That in testimony of the high sense*

which this Common Council entertain of the conduct of the United States' sloop of war Hornet, by the capture of his Britannic Majesty's sloop of war Peacock, in the unexampled short period of fifteen minutes, that the Common Council will give a public dinner to the crew of the United States sloop of war Hornet."

These many and splendid naval victories deserved not only the applause but the gratitude of the nation. Congress was not insensible to this. A law passed that body in March, 1813, appropriating the sum of 25,000 dollars, to be distributed among the officers and crew of the Constitution, for the destruction of the Guerriere; and a like sum of 25,000 dollars, for the destruction of the Java; and the sum of 25,000 dollars, to be distributed among the officers and crew of the Wasp, for the capture of the Frolic.

The United States' frigate Chesapeake, captain Evans arrived at Boston the 10th April, 1813, from a cruise of 115 days, having sailed from the same port the 17th December, 1812.

From Boston the Chesapeake ran down by the Madeiras, Canaries, and Cape de Verds; thence down to the equator, between long. 16 and 25, where she cruised 6 weeks; thence down the coast of South America, passing within 15 leagues of Surinam, (was in the same place the hornet sunk the Peacock the day after she left) down by Barbadoes, Antigua, and most of the windward West-India islands; thence on the United States, between Bermuda and the Capes of Virginia, by the Capes of Delaware within 12 leagues, by New-York within 20 leagues, thence through the east channel to Boston.

The Chesapeake captured, during her cruise, 3 British, and 1 American vessel sailing under a British licence; and re-captured an American schooner. The Chesapeake was chased by two

ships of war (a 74 and a frigate) off the Western Islands. Off the Capes of Virginia, gave chase to a sloop of war, and continued chasing for two days, when the sloop escaped in the night. Seven men died of a malignant fever; and three were lost by the carrying away of the main-top-mast, during a heavy flaw, the day before her arrival in port.

On the 26th April, the enemy in great force invested fort Meigs; and, on the 1st May, commenced a cannonade. On the 9th May, the siege was raised. The garrison made successful sorties against the right and left wing of the enemy. General Clay also attacked the enemy, with great success, and spiked several pieces of cannon; but the Kentuckians, with too much ardor and confidence, remained on the ground, although frequently called on to return to the fort, until attacked by a very superior force of Indians and British, when they were defeated with a loss of about 500 men.

On the 25th April, commodore Chauncey sailed from Sackett's Harbor, having on board his fleet about 1700 troops, destined to commence operations against Canada. They arrived opposite Little York, the capital of Upper Canada, on the morning of the 27th April, and immediately commenced the landing of the troops, under a heavy fire from the enemy.—After a very severe and sharp contest of half an hour, the enemy was repulsed by a number far inferior to theirs. As soon as the remainder of the troops had landed, the enemy retired to his works. One battery being carried, the troops were advancing towards the main works, when a tremendous explosion took place from a magazine previously prepared, and which threw out an immense quantity of stones, by which the Americans lost in killed and wounded about 200 men, among the killed, the

gallant brigadier-general Pike. The British regular troops having retreated, the commanding officer of the militia agreed to terms of capitulation, and the capital of Upper Canada was surrendered to the American troops. The American loss in killed and wounded was 269. Enemy's loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, 930.

As an evidence of the barbarity of the enemy, the following despatch from commodore Chauncey to the secretary of the navy is given.

Sir, I have the honor to present to you by the hands of lieutenant Dudley, the British standard taken at York on the 27th of April last, accompanied by the mace, over which was hung a human scalp — These articles were taken from the parliament house by one of my officers, and presented to me. The scalp I caused to be presented to general Dearborn, who, I believe, still has it in his possession. I also send by the same gentleman one of the British flags taken at Fort George on the 27th of May. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

On the 22d May, commodore Chauncey sailed from Sackett's Harbor, having 350 men of colonel M'Comb's regiment on board, and arrived near Niagara on the 25th; the other parts of his squadron had arrived before, and landed their troops. The commodore had an immediate interview with general Dearborn, and a plan of operations against the enemy was agreed on. On the 26th, the commodore reconnoitered the position for landing the troops; and at night sounded the shore. The morning of the 27th was fixed on for an attack on the enemy at Fort George. The heavy artillery, and as many troops as could be stowed, were taken on board the fleet, the remainder were ordered to embark on board boats,

and follow the fleet.—At 3 o'clock in the morning, a signal was made for the fleet to weigh, and the troops were embarked on board the boats before 4; and soon after, generals Dearborn and Lewis went on board the fleet. In the course of the morning, the different vessels advanced, and took positions as directed. All the vessels anchored within musket shot of the Canada shore; and in ten minutes after they opened upon the batteries, they were completely silenced and abandoned. The light troops, under colonel Scott and major Forsyth, landed at 9 o'clock; general Lewis' divisions with light artillery, under colonel Porter, supported them. General Boyd's brigade landed immediately after; and generals Winder and Chandler followed in quick succession.—The enemy, who had been concealed in a ravine, now advanced in great force to the edge of the bank, and disputed the landing with great warmth; but the coolness and intrepidity of the Americans compelled them to give way in every direction. The enemy soon deserted the fort, which was occupied before noon by the Americans. The enemy lost 108 killed, 163 wounded, and 113 taken prisoners. The Americans lost 39 killed, and 111 wounded. In the enemy's loss, 507 militia, who were paroled, are not included.

Prior to the taking of Fort George, three Americans in the camp, who refused to bear arms, were, by order of colonel Clark, taken out, and without ceremony *shot!* This infernal scoundrel met with his deserts soon after—he was killed at the time of the surprise of generals Winder and Chandler.

A fire was kept up at intervals during the succeeding night, from the batteries at Fort Erie. On the morning of the 28th, all the magazines from Chippewa to Point Albino were blown up,

the enemy retreated; and Fort Erie was entered in the afternoon by the American troops.

In these different transactions, commodore Chauncey bore a spirited and useful part. The loss on board his fleet consisted of 5 killed and 11 wounded.

Captain Perry, afterward known as the hero of Erie, volunteered his<sup>s</sup> services on this occasion, and materially aided in securing success. "He was," according to commodore Chauncey's report, "present at every point where he could be useful, under showers of musketry, but fortunately escaped unhurt."

The enemy, probably with a wish to perform some exploit that might balance his losses in the neighborhood of Niagara, prepared, with a strong force, to attack the American post at Sackett's Harbor. On the 28th May the enemy's fleet appeared, accompanied by a large number of boats. Lieutenant Chauncey, of the navy, came in from the lake, firing alarm guns. General Jacob Brown, who commanded the fort, made every possible disposition to repel the menaced attack. On the morning of the 29th, 33 large boats, filled with troops, came off from the enemy, and proceeded to Garden-island, under cover of some gun-boats. The militia, stationed near where the enemy proposed to land, fired with considerable effect, and then fled from their post. The enemy effected a landing with about 1200 men at Horse-island. A detachment of militia, under command of captain M'Nitt, threw themselves, with considerable effect, on the rear of the enemy's left flank, while the regulars, under colonel Backus engaged and routed him. General Prevost, who commanded the British expedition, retreated with great precipitation, under protection of the guns of his vessels; and thus saved himself and men from being made prisoners. According to a previous ar-

rangement, it was agreed that, in a certain event, the stores, &c. at the navy-point should be destroyed. This event did not happen; but some person, unauthorised, brought information to lieutenant Chauncey that the battle was lost—the stores, accordingly, were destroyed.

Gen. Jacob Brown, of the state of New-York, who commanded the land forces at Sackett's harbour, gave a substantial proof of those military talents, which in all his subsequent operations were so conspicuously useful to his country, and so uniformly honourable to himself, that even envy never dared lisp an insinuation discreditable or dishonourable to the general. Sir James Lucas Yeo commanded the British fleet.

The enemy's loss was very considerable, including several officers of distinction. The Americans lost about 150 in killed and wounded; colonel Mills was killed, and colonel Backus mortally wounded. About 400 regular troops sustained the heat of the action.

At the close of the action, a British barge, with a naval lieutenant, under a flag of truce, came to the bank of the river, and demanded of an officer who was standing there, in the name of the general and commodore, the surrender of Sackett's harbour. The officer replied "No," and the flag returned.

The pride and presumed superiority of Britain on her own domain, the ocean, was materially tarnished. The laurels plucked from France, Spain, Portugal, and Holland, were withering, and seemed to be transferred to adorn the brows of the hitherto despised commanders of the Lilliputian fleet of America. It was resolved by the enemy to retrieve lost honour. An expedient was resorted to, which was successful as far as the capturing of a ship; yet an astonished and admiring world remained unaltered in the opinion, that the supe-



riority of American tars was not lessened by the event, nor the fading lustre of British invincibility in any manner retrieved.

For some time before the 1st of June, the British frigates Tenedos, Bellepoule, and Shannon, were off the harbour of Boston, where the Chesapeake lay. The Tenedos and Bellepoule, having put a part of their crews on board the Shannon, proceeded to sea. The Shannon (the best frigate in the British navy) appeared alone off the harbour; on which the Chesapeake got under weigh, at meridian, on 1st June:—at 15 minutes before 6, an action commenced, within pistol shot, and in a few minutes the vessels closed; the arm-chest of the Chesapeake was blown up by a hand-grenade thrown from the enemy's ship: and immediately after, the Chesapeake was carried by boarding, and the private signals of the navy of the United States fell into the hands of the enemy.

The enemy boasted not of this victory; it cost him too dear, and was an indisputable proof of American bravery. Never was there such carnage between two ships in so short a time.—The loss on board the Shannon cannot be exactly ascertained; the loss on board the Chesapeake was 48 killed, and 96 wounded. Total killed and wounded, 144.

Every officer upon whom the command of the ship would devolve, was either killed or wounded, previously to the capture of the vessel. The brave capt. Lawrence was mortally wounded.

On the authority of captain John Upton, commander of the privateer Cossack, of Salem, the following circumstances were published in an eastern paper.

“After the enemy had complete possession of the ship, and the men were ordered from the tops, Mr. Berry, a midshipman, who commanded the mizen top, surrendered himself as a prisoner, when two sailors

rushed up, and seizing him by the collar, attempted to throw him overboard; but he got within the shrouds, when they seized him by the heels, and pitched him on the deck. Being stunned by the fall, he lay for some time senseless; and when he came to, he was cut over the head with a cutlass, which nearly terminated his existence. Mr. Livingston, another midshipman, after receiving a musket ball through his body, was run through the body three times, notwithstanding his repeated cries for quarter, and after the enemy had possession of the ship! He lived long enough to express his indignation at the brutality of his enemies, and expired in a few hours. Three men were killed in the hold after the capture of the ship; and they even fired into the cockpit, among the wounded and dying! Eleven of the Chesapeake's officers were confined in a small place, nine feet by 6, with a guard at the door, till they arrived at Halifax, and only 1 or 2 permitted to come out at a time. Men were shot at in coming down out of the tops to surrender themselves and other instances of barbarity took place, disgraceful to a civilized people."

The boastings of British editors, and the rejoicings of British partizans, were rather mad than enthusiastic, on the recovery of her trident by the mistress of the deep; but this rejoicing did not long continue; the facts connected with the engagement could not be long concealed. The cowardly superiority of the enemy, the unexampled bravery of the Americans, and the great loss of blood in defence of their flag, especially when contrasted with former engagements, in which the enemy was defeated, left no solid ground for exultation, nothing of which to boast. The unprejudiced reasoner will yet be found holding the laurel, and doubting whether to award it to the victors or the vanquished. The honours conferred on captain Broke by his countrymen, were justly due to great valour, of which he is certainly possessed; although in this instance it was tar-

nished by a dastardly plan to render success certain.

The body of captain Lawrence was interred at Halifax on the 8th June; on which occasion the British officers joined in procession, to show their respect for a naval commander whose heroism, skill and demeanor drew respect from all, even from the enemy.

Captain Crowinshield, of Salem, (Ms.) having obtained a flag of truce, proceeded to Halifax in the brig Henry, at his own private expense; and being permitted to take on board his vessel the body of captain Lawrence, and also that of lieutenant Ludlow, brought the corpses to Salem, where a funeral procession took place on the 17th August, with every mark of regret, esteem and gratitude, which the citizens could bestow. Judge Story delivered a suitable oration. The effect produced on the audience, when the orator pronounced the last dying words of Lawrence, "DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP," may be conceived—to describe it would be impossible.

Mr. Edward N. Cox, brother-in-law to captain Lawrence, proceeded to Salem, and having received the bodies of the two heroes, conveyed them to the city of New-York, where they were finally interred. The arrangements for a public funeral were made under the direction of a committee of the common council of the city.

On Thursday the 16th September, pursuant to arrangements, the bodies of our valiant countrymen, Lawrence and Ludlow, were finally consigned to the peaceful tomb. The unusual number which swelled the mournful procession, and the undissembled sorrow which marked every countenance, from the highest to the lowest order, evinced in an unparalleled degree the public sympathy, and that the honours paid to the "mighty dead" were not more conspicuous than deserved. On

no similar occasion have we witnessed a testimonial of respect so universal and sincere. It was indeed a day of mourning. The hearts of hoary patriots and youthful heroes beat in solemn unison, and the bright eye of beauty glistened with a tributary tear. Not only the reflections arising from such a scene, but every transaction connected with the proceedings of the day, were calculated to inspire with reverence the coldest and most disinterested spectator.

The concourse of spectators who witnessed this interesting and impressive exhibition was innumerable, and is supposed to amount to forty or fifty thousand. The streets were lined, the windows crowded, and the roofs covered with citizens, viewing the grand and solemn spectacle. The cavalcade of boats in the harbor, from its novelty in particular, attracted much attention, and the wharves and the rigging of the vessels in the docks were crowded with spectators.

The corporation made a provision of 1,000 dollars for each of the two infant children of captain Lawrence.

An application to the British naval officer, captain Oliver, for permission to convey the bodies of Lawrence and Ludlow, by water to New-York, was shamefully refused.

The following extracts, translated from a French paper, is worthy of a place here.

"The British, who had triumphed in so many naval combats previously to the prevailing American war, have long relinquished the practice of rejoicing for victories obtained over a single frigate. If an achievement of that sort took place against any of the European powers, the detail of the action was merely inserted in the London Gazette, the papers of the metropolis echoed the narrative, paid a passing compliment to the officer, and the affair went off being recorded *pro memoria*, in the Naval Chronicle, as a thing of course. Votes of honor from the cor-

poration of London, a sword of a hundred guineas value, and parliamentary encomiums, were reserved for the hero who should destroy a fleet. The battle of the Nile, that of Trafalgar, and the like, were alone brilliant enough to excite the applause of a people grown callous to common feats of renown, and who, accustomed to vanquish every thing on the ocean, believed themselves omnipotent on that element. In the Americans, the British have found an enemy that has obstructed the agreeable train of their maritime ideas. The citizens of the United States are the best seamen in the world. Their officers are men of nautical science, of great experience, and generally in the prime of life. The first naval combat of the war, marked, not a simple equality of skill and courage in the men of the two countries, but a decided superiority in favor of the Americans. If the English pride was mortified at the sudden reverse in the case of the *Guerriere*, the whole British government was thrown into consternation at the capture of the *Macedonian*, the *Java*, the *Frolic*, and the *Peacock*. Such rapid and successive defeats made the cabinet of St. James bristle again; it seemed as if all the English captains were doomed to pass, one after the other, under the Yankee yoke, or to the regions of the dead!"

"A triumph gained by something very like an artifice, has given occasion to the most extravagant demonstrations of joy in London. A member of Parliament, whose name is *Croaker*, which in the English tongue, signifies a noisy, but contemptible reptile, has pronounced on the occasion a most preposterous eulogium; and the corporation of London have treated the affair as if the fleets of all the world had been anchored in the Thames, as trophies of their valor! Who is there that does not perceive in this vaunting of the Islanders, a real fear for their ultimate naval superiority? The Americans will soon recover from this event. They are a people who do not yield to misfortune. We had some experience of them 30 years ago; and they have already evinced that they have not degenerated."

The barbarous usage which the crew of the Chesapeake received from the enemy, when contrasted with the treatment which the brave Lawrence and his crew observed when they were victors, is the best possible comment on the character of both nations.

It is a fact worthy of note, and in the highest degree honourable to our brave tars, that on the day succeeding the destruction of the Peacock, the crew of the Hornet made a subscriptin, and supplied the prisoners (who had lost almost every thing) with two shirts and a jacket and trowsers each.

The following is the official report of an extraordinary event which occurred on the 6th June :

#### COPY OF A LETTER

*From Major-General Dearborn to the Secretary of War.*

*Head-Quarters, Fort-George, June 6, 1813.*

Sir,

I have received an express from the head of the lake this evening, with intelligence that our troops, commanded by brig. gen. Chandler, were attacked at two o'clock this morning by the whole of the British and Indian forces; and by some strange fatality, though our loss was small, (not exceeding thirty) and the enemy completely routed and driven from the field, both brig. generals Chandler and Winder were taken prisoners. They had advanced to ascertain the situation of a company of artillery, when the attack commenced. Gen. Vincent is said to be among the killed of the enemy; Col. Clarke was mortally wounded, and fell into our hands, with 60 prisoners of the 49th British regiment. The whole loss of the enemy is 250. They sent in a flag with a request to bury their dead.—General Lewis, accompanied by brig. gen. Boyd, goes on to take the command of the advanced troops.

It appears, that on this occasion the advanced guard of the American army commenced a sharp skirmish with the advance of the enemy, on the afternoon of the 5th June; the latter was compelled to retreat into a thick wood. In the evening the Americans took a position behind Stoney-creek; the light infantry and part of the rifle corps formed the right wing; the artillery, the centre; the 5th, 16th and 23d infantry, and some riflemen, the left, and the cavalry in the rear; the picket guards were strong, and so placed as to surround the encampment with centinels. The whole force did not exceed 1000 men; but their disposition was the best that could be made. Three hundred men were encamped on the border of the lake, for the protection of the boats.

About two o'clock in the morning, the enemy forced the picket, and attacked the encampment in the dark, with his whole force of regulars and Indians. The Americans withstood and resisted the enemy with such resolution and success, that when the day dawned, none of the enemy were to be seen, but the killed and wounded, who covered the field of battle.

The attack began on the right, and was gallantly repelled by the fire of the light troops and 25th regiment, commanded by major Smith. In a few minutes it became general along the whole line, and was nobly returned by the artillery of the centre, commanded by captains Townsend and L. Leonard, and by the troops of the left wing, viz. the 5th, under lieutenant-col. Milton, the 23d. commanded by major Armstrong, and the 16th. The fire continued with little intermission for one hour, during which time the enemy attempted, by frequent charges, to break our line, but without effect, being obliged to give way by the well directed fire of our brave troops.

The 13th and 14th regiments, which had been

detached the preceding evening, were active in making prisoners, and advanced with much ardor to the field, in hopes of sharing with the gallant 5th and 25th, 23d and light troops, the glory of another combat. But the unfortunate capture of brig. gens. Chandler and Winder, who were taken in the action, unknown to any part of the army, and hurried to the enemy's lines, prevented the future operations from being carried into effect with the promptitude which would assuredly have taken place, had either of those officers been present to command.

As soon as it was discovered that generals Winder and Chandler were prisoners, colonel James Burn, on whom the command devolved, summoned a council of war, a majority of whom decided that the army ought to retire to its former position at Forty-mile creek.

The army on this occasion has proved its firmness and bravery, by keeping its position in a night attack, in which the yells of the Indians, mingled with the roaring of cannon and musketry, were calculated to intimidate. The enemy charged repeatedly, and so dark was the night, that our army could not distinguish friend from foe; in one of these they succeeded in carrying off a 6 pounder, a howitzer and a caisson, to the great mortification of our brave artillery. It is presumed it was on that occasion also that we lost our generals, who were distinctly heard encouraging our men to fight. The squadron of dragoons remained formed and steady at their posts, but could not act on account of the darkness of the night, and the thickness of the adjacent woods:

*Report of killed, wounded, and missing, in the action  
of the 6th June, at Stoney Creek.*

Killed—1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 15 privates.



Wounded—1 captain, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, and 34 privates.

Missing—2 brigadier-generals, 1 major, 3 captains, 1 subaltern, 9 sergeants, 4 corporals, 80 privates.

Total—killed, wounded, and missing, 154.

Correct returns from the reports of the different corps in the action of the 6th inst. at Stoney creek.

J. JOHNSON, Asst. Adj. Gen.

The enemy acknowledged to have on this occasion, the 8th or king's regiment, 280 men; 49th regiment, 430; total regular, 710, besides "a powerful body of Indians, under the chief Norton." As the enemy makes no mention of his militia, and as he is known to under-rate his actual force in every engagement, it may be supposed that his force in the engagement at Stoney-creek, was very considerable.

The American army took up a position at Forty mile-creek, ten miles in rear of the ground on which it had been attacked. Here it was joined at 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th June, by a reinforcement under the command of gen. Lewis. At 6 o'clock in the evening, the hostile fleet hove in sight; the Americans lay on their arms during the night. At dawn of day the squadron appeared about a mile from the shore; about 6 o'clock, towed in a large schooner, (it being a dead calm,) with a view to destroy a number of boats, attached to the American army, which lay on the beach. By means of a temporary furnace, constructed in half an hour, under direction of Captain Totten, of the engineers, and by the successful fire from 4 pieces of artillery, worked by the men of capt. Archer and Towson's companies, the enemy's schooner was compelled to retire, without effecting the destruction of the boats. A party of Indians, having occupied a commanding eminence, commenced an attack on the Americans, but were soon dis-

lodged and forced to retreat before a party of volunteers, under command of lieut. Elbridge, adjutant in col. Chrystie's regiment. Sir James Yeo, commander of the enemy's fleet, having failed in his attack on the boats, sent a flag to the American commander, demanding a surrender of the army; to this a verbal negative was given. On the 14th, a part of the camp equipage and baggage were put in boats, and the weather being favourable, the boats put off, without waiting for a detachment of 200 men, which were ordered to go on board for the purpose of protecting them, in case of being attacked. It was for a short time calm, but a breeze springing up, when they had progressed about three miles, they were bore down upon by an armed schooner; the most enterprising kept on and escaped; others ran to the shore and deserted their boats; twelve of the boats, principally containing baggage of the officers and men, were taken. At 10 o'clock, gen. Lewis put the army in motion, in order to return to Niagara; the Canadian militia and savages hung on their flanks and rear, during the retreat.

Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler was detached on the evening of 23d June, with 570 men, to a place called Beaver-dams, about 9 miles from Queens-town, to disperse a body of the enemy collected there. The enemy's force was understood to consist of above 80 regulars, 150 or 200 militia, and 50 or 60 Indians. Colonel Boerstler's detachment reached within about two miles of Beaver-dams, at 8 o'clock in the morning, when it was attacked from an ambuscade, consisting of 500 regulars, and 100 Indians, but soon repulsed the enemy, and then retired to a clear field, and sent an express for reinforcements. A reinforcement of 300 men, under command of Colonel Chrystie, was quickly marched to the aid of Colonel Boerstler; but, on arriving at Queenstown,

was informed, that Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler, with his command, had surrendered to the enemy. The reinforcement returned to camp. The American troops fought with great bravery for two hours, while surrounded by superior numbers. General Dearborn, in his official statement, dated at Fort George, June 25th, expresses his surprise, "why it should have been deemed proper to remain several hours in a position surrounded by woods, without either risking a decisive action, or effecting a retreat, remains to be accounted for, as well as the project of waiting for a reinforcement from a distance of fifteen or sixteen miles." This difficulty was soon cleared up by Major Chapin, who commanded the militia at the battle of Beaver-dams, but who arrived at Buffaloe in the night of the 13th July, having, together with his company, escaped from the enemy, after being prisoners of war. Captain Chapin stated, that the enemy was considerably superior in number, notwithstanding which, Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler would have been able to maintain his position, or cut a passage through the enemy, so as to effect a retreat; but at this juncture, a British officer rode up, and demanded the surrender of the American party. The demand was made, he said, to prevent the effusion of blood. He asserted also, upon his honour, and declared in the most solemn manner, that the British regular force was double that of the American, and that the Indians were 700 in number. Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler, under a belief of these facts, and thinking it impracticable to get off the wounded, whom he was unwilling to abandon to the mercy of the savages, and deeming it extremely uncertain whether a retreat could be effected, thought proper to agree to terms of capitulation, which were at length signed by himself on the one part, and by Lieutenant Colonel Bishop on the other.

Captain Chapin makes the following statement :

"The articles of capitulation were no sooner signed, than they were violated. The Indians immediately commenced their depredations, and plundered the officers of their side-arms. The soldiers too were stripped of every article of clothing to which the savages took a fancy, such as hats, coats, shoes, &c."

By the articles of capitulation, it was stipulated that the wounded should be taken good care of, the officers be permitted to retain their side-arms, private property be respected, and the militia immediately parolled. How characteristic of a savage and faithless enemy was this shameful violation of honour and good faith.

Major Chapin and his corps were detained under a guard at the head of Lake Ontario, and no attention paid to the article of capitulation, which provided for their being parolled. On the 12th inst. they were ordered down the lake to Kingston ; for which place they were embarked in two boats, accompanied by a guard of 15 men, under the command of a lieutenant. Thirteen of the men, with the lieutenant, were stationed in the forward boat with Major Chapin and the other officers, while the remaining two, (a sergeant and one man,) took the direction of the other boat, which contained the soldiers. An agreement had been entered into, previous to their departure, of seizing the first opportunity that offered to regain their liberty, which they determined to effect, or die in the attempt. When they were within about 12 miles of York, the boat which was filled with the prisoners, was rowed by them along side of the other, under pretence of taking something to drink. The signal being given, they sprang upon the guard, who little expected such a manœuvre, and in a short time disarmed them, and gained possession of the boats. They immediately altered their

course from Kingston to Fort Niagara, and after rowing hard for most of the night, and escaping with difficulty from one of the enemy's schooners, which gave them chase, arrived in safety with their prisoners, at the American garrison.

The following extract of a private letter from Fort George, made its appearance in a public newspaper, in the first week in August:

"A large boat arrived two days since from Little York, containing one lieutenant, and 8 of his Britannic majesty's militia, captured by 8 of our men, (3 regulars, and 5 militia,) taken at Beaver Dams. The lieutenant and his party were conducting them to Kingston—our men rose on the English, and brought them in here. Another boat, with 14 of Boerstler's men, has just come in from York, bringing with them their sentinel, and one other person."

It would be an unpardonable injustice to the brave Chapin not to give his own report of this heroic escape. The following is a copy of his letter to General Dearborn, dated Fort George, June 13th, 1813.

"Sir—I have just arrived from my confinement in Canada, with my men, without our parole. Our return happened in the following mannner; I received orders at Burlington heights on Monday morning, to go to Kingston—We set off accordingly under the care of a guard of 16 men. I had with me 28 men. We all went on very quietly till 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time I gave a signal to attack the guard, which were stationed in the following order; A sergeant and one man in the boat with my men, a lieutenant and 13 men in the boat with me and two officers. At the signal, my men ran along side of the boat I was in. Lieut. Showers ordered them to fall astern. I ordered them on board—at which time the officer attempted to draw his sword, I seized him by the neck and threw him on his back—two of his men drew their bayonets upon me—I immediately seized

both bayonets at the same instant, and threw them on the top of the officer, and kept all down together; at the same moment, my men seized the guard, and wrested from them their arms—we then, having possession of the arms, changed our course, and arrived here this morning half after two o'clock, all safe. We have brought two boats with us.

I have the honour to be very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CYRENUS CHAPIN."

On the 11th July, 1813, 250 British regulars crossed the Niagara, below Black Rock, moved up towards that place, and marched far above the navy-yard, before any alarm was given. The detached militia, being surprised, retreated up the beach, and left the enemy in quiet possession of the village, who proceeded to burn the sailors' barracks and block-houses at the great battery; they then proceeded to the batteries, dismounted and spiked three 12 pounders, and took away three field pieces, and one 12 pounder; they took from the store-houses a quantity of whiskey, salt, flour, pork, &c. which, with four citizens, they took across the river. At the first moment of the alarm, General Porter left Black Rock for Buffalo; at which place he assembled a body of volunteers, and a few regulars, which, with 100 militia, and 25 Indians, formed a junction about a mile from the enemy. After being formed with the militia and Indians on the flanks, and the volunteers and regulars in the centre, they attacked, and the enemy, after a contest of 20 minutes, retreated in the utmost confusion, to the beach, embarked in several of our boats, and pulled for the opposite shore; all the boats got off without injury, except the last, which suffered severely from our fire, and from appearance, nearly all the men in her were killed and wounded. The British lost 8 killed on the field, besides those killed

and wounded in the boats. The Americans took 15 prisoners, who were sent to Batavia. On the American side, sergeant Hartman, Jonathan Thomson, and Joseph Wright, were killed, and 5 wounded, two of which were Indians.

On the 7th July, the enemy attacked a guard about a mile and a half from Fort George, when Lieut. Eldridge, with 39 men, who volunteered under him, went to relieve them; but, in his zeal to execute the order, he unexpectedly found himself surrounded in the wood by Indians, who opened a deadly fire upon his little corps, which cut down 18—a few fled, and the remainder were taken by the Indians, and stripped, scalped, and mangled in a horrid manner. Only 9 of the corps escaped.

During the night of the 4th July, a party of the enemy, consisting, according to the British account, of 44 men, but known to exceed that number, passed over in boats from Chippawa to Fort Schlosser, which was guarded by only 12 men, whom the enemy made prisoners, together with three of the citizens; and also succeeded in carrying off some flour, salt pork, whiskey, &c.; one brass six pounder, a few stands of arms, some ball-cartridges, &c. with which they hastily retired. The enemy being reinforced, returned on the succeeding evening to complete the plundering, which his hurry and fears compelled him to leave unfinished during his first visit, but observing a guard, he retreated without attempting to land.

A body of the enemy, consisting of about 200 men, beside Indians, attacked the pickets at Fort George, on the 17th July, but were bravely repulsed, after a contest of one hour. Although this affair was not otherwise of much consequence, it was in a degree so, inasmuch as it gave a full opportunity of testing the conduct of the American officers engaged; as it was fought in detachments. Colonel Scott had command of the troops

on this occasion. General Boyd, in his official report, highly extolled the activity and bravery of those engaged, particularly Majors Cummins, and Armstrong; Captains Vandeursen, Madison, Birdsall, and Towson.

A declaration of war, of which the following is a copy, was issued by the Six Nations of New-York Indians, immediately after the invasion of the state by the British.

### DECLARATION OF WAR,

BY THE SIX NATIONS OF INDIANS.

We, the Chiefs and Councillors of the Six Nations of Indians, residing in the state of New-York, do hereby proclaim to all the War Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations, that WAR is declared on our part, against the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

Therefore, we do hereby command and advise all the War Chiefs to call forth immediately the Warriors under them, and put them in motion, to protect their rights and liberties, which our brethren, the Americans, are now defending.

(Signed)

*By the Grand Councillors.*

Major-General Dearborn had been for some time in a state of ill health. On the 15th July he was superceded in the command of the army on the Niagara frontier; and was succeeded by Gen. Boyd, the second in command. On this occasion, the general received a very affectionate address from General Boyd, and the other officers serving at Fort George. As, however, the cause of the general's dismissal was the object of various conjecture, the following extract from the general order, issued on the occasion, will give to the reader all the satisfaction in our power to communicate.

“The major general commanding, having received orders from the secretary of war, to retire from the



command of this army until his health shall be re-established, and until further orders—the command devolves on Brig. Gen. Boyd. Were the major-general permitted to consult his own feelings, no consideration could induce him to leave the army at this important crisis; but the first duty of a soldier is to obey his superiors."

About the 15th or 16th of July, two private armed boats, each carrying a 6 or 8 pounder, and 50 men, sailed from Sackett's Harbour, to cruise in the St. Lawrence! On Monday, the 19th, they fell in with a gun-boat, carrying a 6 pound carronade, conveying 15 of the enemy's batteaux, captured them without the loss of a man, and brought them into Cranberry creek, about 49 miles above Ogdensburg. The batteaux had on board 230 barrels pork, 300 bags pilot-bread, ammunition, &c. bound from Montréal to Kingston. On Tuesday morning, 3 of the enemy's gun-boats, with 250 soldiers from Prescott, arrived off the creek, and landed their men. The privateersmen had hardly time to construct a breast-work of their bags of pilot-bread, before they were attacked by 200 of the enemy; and strange to tell, after an obstinate engagement, in which from 40 to 60 of the enemy were killed, his force retreated precipitately to their boats, except 15, who took to the woods and were pursued. The American loss was trifling, though it is not specified. Sixty-seven British prisoners, captured in the batteaux and gun-boat, arrived at Watertown on Tuesday evening.

The employment of Indians by the enemy rendered it absolutely necessary to attach the friendly Indians to the army of the United States. On this occasion there was an opportunity of proving that the savage can abstain from those barbarous acts, which the enemy must have encouraged, or certainly did not attempt to prevent.

A body of volunteers and Indians, under command of Major Chapin, had a skirmish with the enemy near Fort George, on the 17th August, in which the latter was defeated, and completely routed. The American Indians captured 12 of the British Indians, and 4 whites. The Indians, in a council held with them previous to this affair, covenanted not to scalp or murder. Their bravery in battle was as conspicuous as their humanity to the vanquished; no insult was offered even to the dead.

At day-break on the 24th August, the enemy, with his whole force, commanded by Sir George Prevost, drove in all the American pickets at Fort George. A skirmish ensued in the village, with little effect, when the enemy retired, leaving 15 of his men dead on the field, and a few prisoners, including a captain of the 49th. The Americans lost 2 men killed, and a few wounded.

The pain of being compelled to relate the barbarity of a faithless enemy, on almost every occasion where he had power, is pleasingly mitigated by the contrast which the acts of American soldiers and seamen produce. Among the many, too numerous for recollection or detail, the following will be read with satisfaction.

On the 21st September, a company of volunteers, principally of the village of Buffaloe, embarked for Sugar Loaf, (about 14 miles from Fort Erie,) under command of Major Chapin, with an intention to surprise and capture a British guard, commanded by Colonel Warren. The Colonel had anticipated the attack, and had withdrawn himself and guard from the lake some miles, into the interior of the country.—The party took several prisoners, who were immediately paroled; and 34 barrels of flour, and a bale of blankets, all of which was the property of government. There were several hundred barrels of flour at the

mills, but there being no proof of its being public property, it was not taken. The conduct of Major Chapin, in all his incursions into the enemy's territory, has been strictly honorable; carefully distinguishing between friends and enemies; justly discriminating between public and private property.

The American fleet, under command of Commodore Chauncey, went out of the inner harbour of Sackett's Harbour, the 19th July, 1813, and sailed soon afterward. The fleet stretched over for the enemy's shore, and from thence stood up the lake, and arrived off Niagara, in the evening of the 27th July. Com. Chauncey being informed that the enemy had a considerable deposit of provisions and stores at Burlingbay, had determined to attempt their destruction. Having taken on board 250 infantry, the fleet proceeded to the head of the lake, but owing to light winds and calms, did not arrive to an anchorage before the evening of the 29th.—Two parties were sent on shore, who took some of the inhabitants, from whom they learned that the enemy was lately reinforced, and that he had from 600 to 800 regulars. The troops were, however, landed the next morning, together with some marines and sailors; but, on reconnoitering the enemy's position, he was found posted upon a peninsula of high ground, strongly intrenched, and his camp defended by about 8 pieces of cannon. It was judged inexpedient to attack him with a force scarcely half his numbers, and without artillery. The men were re-embarked in the course of the afternoon; and the fleet weighed in the evening, and stood for York, in the harbour of which place it anchored about 3 o'clock, P. M. On the 31st, the schooners sailed into the upper harbour; the marines and soldiers, under the command of Colonel Scott, landed without opposition, (upwards of 400

men of the enemy having left York for the head of the lake, two days previous to the disembarkation.) Several hundred barrels of flour and provisions were found in the public store-house; also 5 pieces of cannon, 11 boats, and a quantity of shot, shells, and other stores; all of which were either destroyed or taken away—a few prisoners were taken. The troops were re-embarked on the 1st August, having previously burned the barracks, and public store-houses—the expedition arrived at Niagara on the 3d.

On the 7th August at day-light, Commodore Chauncey discovered the enemy, consisting of 2 ships, 2 brigs, and 2 large schooners, on Lake Ontario. He immediately weighed anchor, and manœuvred to gain the wind. Both fleets continued to manœuvre for several hours, at a distance from each other of about 5 or 6 miles, Commodore Chauncey endeavouring in vain to bring the enemy to action. Toward night it became quite calm, during which time the Commodore endeavoured to reach the enemy by sweeps, but without success. Wind, during the night, was very squally. At day-light, on the 8th, discovered that 2 of the schooners, the *Hamilton* and *Scourge*, mounting together 19 guns, had foundered, and every soul on board them, except 16, perished. This accident gave the enemy a decided advantage, yet the Commodore offered him battle, which was declined.—In the afternoon the wind fell away, and the Commodore again endeavoured to reach the enemy by means of his sweeps, but was again unsuccessful. During the afternoon, the enemy, taking advantage of a wind which sprang up, and brought him to windward, endeavoured to cut off the American schooners, but they were able to come into their station before he could reach them. Night coming on, and the weather, as on the former night, squally, the Commodore, to guard

against further accident, as well as to afford some rest to his men, who had been 40 hours at quarters, ran in toward Niagara, and anchored outside the bar. Here he received on board, and distributed in different vessels, 150 men, to aid in boarding, in case he could close with the enemy.

Soon after day-light on the 9th, he discovered the enemy, weighed anchor, and stood after him. The winds were light and variable, and before noon quite calm; at 5 P. M. the wind sprang up, pursued the probable course of the enemy during the night. In the morning of the 10th, discovered the enemy, and gave him chase; before the wind changed, brought the enemy to windward, by which he was again enabled to avoid an action. Both fleets continued manœuvring until 11, when a firing commenced between both fleets. The wind favoured the enemy, and enabled him to effect one purpose of all his long and cowardly manœuvring, by separating two vessels from the remainder of the squadron, and capturing the Growler and Julia.

On the morning of the 11th, the Commodore got sight of the enemy, but he still refused battle, notwithstanding his increased advantage, by the capture of 2 vessels, and a wind favourable to him. A gale coming on, Commodore Chauncey returned to Sackett's Harbour, to obtain provisions, of which, his ships were nearly destitute.

On the 7th September, the enemy's squadron, under command of Captain Yeo, was discovered close in with the Niagara river. Commodore Chauncey's fleet immediately weighed anchor, and prepared for action. The enemy sailed to the northward; the Commodore in pursuit.—The pursuit was continued all around the lake, until the morning of the 12th, when the enemy succeeded in getting into Amherst-bay. During the

chase, there was a running fight, off Genessee-river, which continued three and a half hours; the enemy suffered much; the Americans did not lose a man.

Commodore Chauncey continued to blockade the enemy in Amherst-bay, until the 17th Sept. when a heavy wind from the westward favoured his escape into Kingston, and the American fleet returned to Sackett's harbour. After a few hours' delay at Sackett's harbour, Commodore Chauncey sailed again for Niagara, where he arrived on the 24th. On the 19th he saw the enemy off the False Ducks, but took no notice of him, in the hope that he might follow the commodore up the lake.

On the 26th September, Commodore Chauncey learned that the enemy's fleet was in York-bay; he prepared to weigh, but was prevented from getting out of the river before the evening of the 27th. On the 28th the enemy was discovered under way in York bay; the Americans formed a line for battle, and ran down for the enemy's centre. The enemy endeavoured to avoid an action. At ten minutes past 12, the enemy, in order to save his two rear vessels, was compelled to tack in succession, beginning at his van, when he hoisted his colours, and commenced a fire on commodore Chauncey's flag-ship, the general Pike, for the purpose of covering his rear, and attacking the American rear as he passed to leeward. By a happy manœuvre, commodore Chauncey defeated this part of the adversary's plan, when the latter bore away. The American ships, however, closed so near as to bring their guns to bear; and in 20 minutes, the main and mizen top-masts and main yard of the *Wolf* were shot away.—This ship immediately put before the wind, and set all sail upon his main mast; and by keeping dead before the wind, was enabled to escape.—The chase was

continued until near 3, P. M., during which time the commodore's ship kept within point blank shot of the enemy, and sustained the whole of his fire during the chase.

At 15 minutes past 3, the commodore was obliged to give up the chase; his ship was making water so fast, that it required all his pumps to keep her clear; and others of his vessels were much damaged. The enemy's fleet was within six miles of the head of the lake, where, owing to the stiffness of the gale, both fleets might go ashore at a place in possession of the enemy. The commodore, therefore, thought proper to proceed to Niagara. The general Pike, suffered a considerable loss of men, among whom were 22 killed or wounded by the bursting of a gun. On the 1st October, the commodore sailed again from Niagara, taking under convoy several boats with troops for Sackett's harbour. Having convoyed these as far as it was deemed necessary for their safety, he left them to proceed coastways, and bent his course in search of the enemy.

On the 2d October, at 10 A. M., the enemy was discovered steering a course for Niagara. Commodore Chauncey ordered a chase; the enemy avoided an engagement as usual, and was far ahead by sun-down. On the morning of the 3d, the enemy was discovered at anchor close in with the land, between Twelve and Twenty-mile creeks, but made sail on discovering the American fleet. The chase continued all day: the enemy could barely be made out from the mast-head by sun-down. At day-light, on the 4th, he could not be seen. The Commodore, suspecting that the enemy, availing himself of a very dark night, had shaped his course for Kingston, directed his course for the Ducks.—At 3 P. M. the Commodore discovered 7 sail near the false Ducks, gave chase, and at 4 o'clock, discovered them to be sloops and

schooners. At 5 P.M. gained considerably on them, which the enemy perceiving, he took the men out of a slow sailing gun-boat, and then burned her to prevent her capture. At sun-down, when opposite the Real Ducks, the Hamilton, (late Growler,) Confiance, (late Julia,) and Mary-Anne, struck their colours, and were taken possession of. The Drummond soon after struck to the Sylph; and on the following morning, the Sylph took possession of the Lady Gore. But one of the enemy's vessels, a small schooner, escaped, and she owed her safety to the darkness of the night.

Commodore Chauncey proceeded to Sackett's Harbour with his prizes. The captured vessels mounted from 1 to 3 guns each, and were returning with troops from the head of the lake. The following are the number and description of troops of the enemy made prisoners on this occasion, viz. 1 major, 1 captain, 3 subalterns, 1 surgeon, 10 sergeants, 4 drummers, 202 rank and file, of De Watteville's regiment; 1 lieutenant, 2 master's mates, 35 seamen and marines, of the royal navy; and 4 sailing masters of the provincial navy. The enemy's squadron was seen going into Kingston the same evening.

It was cause of much surprise that the British were permitted to obtain an ascendancy as to actual force on the lakes Champlain, Ontario, and Erie; if they did not make all the use of their numerical superiority which they ought to have made, it must remain for themselves to explain. Commodore Yeo was brave, and an experienced officer. His apparently cowardly conduct on Lake Ontario, must have been the result of his private instructions. It must be confessed, that this surmise is ill supported when connected with the policy of the British commanders on lakes Champlain and Erie. On both these lakes, the



enemy reckoned on success, as what must certainly result from his superior tactics, supported by a superior force. He did try his strength and talents against the Yankees, and with his ships and invincibility, handed over to the Yankees, all the laurels which were gleaned from every other naval power.—The American war, on the sea and the lakes, has disgraced, degraded, and humbled the proud mistress of the deep, and raised the aspiring and noble minded American to a height, which every nation in the world, except England, has witnessed with a pleasure or enthusiasm, that speaks a language to the Briton, not equivocal, but galling, dreadful, ominous.

For some time, the enemy assumed, and in fact, held the command of Lake Erie. His fleet was commanded by an officer of experience, who tauntingly boasted of his superiority.—Commodore Oliver H. Perry was appointed to take command of the American fleet. The following extract of a letter from him to the secretary of the navy, was dated 4th August, and announced his intention of meeting the enemy.

“I have great pleasure in informing you, that I have succeeded in getting over the bar, the United States’ vessels, the Lawrence, Niagara, Caledonia, Ariel, Scorpion, Somers, Tigress, and Porcupine. The enemy have been in sight all day, and are now about 4 leagues from us. We shall sail in pursuit of them at 3 to-morrow morning.”

The following official letters from the Commodore, are proofs of the modesty, as the result of the engagement was, of the undaunted heroism, and naval skill of this great commander.

*Copy of a Letter from Commodore Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.*

U. S. brig Niagara, off the Western Sisters, Head of Lake Erie, September 10, 1813, 4 P. M.

SIR,—It has pleased the Almighty to give to the

arms of the United States, a signal victory over their enemies on this lake. The British squadron, consisting of 2 ships, 2 brigs, 1 schooner, and 1 sloop, have this moment surrendered to the force under my command, after a sharp conflict. I have the honour to be, &c.

O. H. PERRY.

Hon. W. Jones, Secretary of the Navy.

*Copy of a Letter from Commodore Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.*

U. S. schooner Ariel, Put-in-Bay, 13th  
Sept. 1813.

SIR,—In my last I informed you that we had captured the enemy's fleet on this lake. I have now the honour to give you the most important particulars of the action. On the morning of the 10th inst. at sunrise, they were discovered from Put-in-bay, when I lay at anchor with the squadron under my command. We got under way, the wind light at S. W. and stood for them. At 10 A. M. the wind hauled to S. E. and brought us to windward; formed the line and bore up. At 15 minutes before 12, the enemy commenced firing; at 5 minutes before 12, the action commenced on our part. Finding their fire very destructive, owing to their long guns, and its being mostly directed at the Lawrence, I made sail, and directed the other vessels to follow, for the purpose of closing with the enemy. Every brace and bowline being soon shot away, she became unmanageable, notwithstanding the great exertions of the sailing-master. In this situation she sustained the action upwards of two hours, within canister distance, until every gun was rendered useless, and the greater part of her crew either killed or wounded. Finding she could no longer annoy the enemy, I left her in charge of Lieut. Yarnell, who, I was convinced, from the bravery already displayed by him, would do what would comport with the honour of the flag. At half past 2 the wind springing up, Capt. Eliot was enabled to bring his vessel, the Niagara, gallantly into close action; I immediately went on board of her, when he anticipated my wish, by volunteering to bring the schooners, which had

been kept astern by the lightness of the wind, into close action. It was with unspeakable pain, that I saw, soon after I got on board the Niagara, the flag of the Lawrence came down, although I was perfectly sensible, that she had been defended to the last, and that to have continued to make a show of resistance, would have been a wanton sacrifice of the remains of her brave crew. But the enemy was not able to take possession of her, and circumstances soon permitted her flag again to be hoisted. At 45 minutes past 2, the signal was made for "close action." The Niagara being very little injured, I determined to pass through the enemy's line, bore up and passed ahead of their two ships and a brig, giving a raking fire to them from the starboard guns, and to a large schooner and sloop, from the larboard side, at half pistol-shot distance. The smaller vessels at this time, having got within grape and canister distance, under the direction of Captain Elliot, and keeping up a well directed fire, the two ships, a brig, and a schooner, surrendered, a schooner and sloop making a vain attempt to escape."

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*Extract of a letter from Commodore Perry.*

U. S. schooner Ariel, Put-in-Bay, 13th  
September, 1813.

"I also beg your instructions respecting the wounded. I am satisfied, sir, that whatever steps I might take, governed by humanity, would meet your approbation. Under this impression, I have taken upon myself to promise Captain Barclay, who is very dangerously wounded, that he shall be landed as near Lake Ontario as possible, and I had no doubt but you would allow me to parole him."

The following is the statement of the respective forces of the contending fleets.

*Statement of the force of the British Squadron.*

Ship Detroit,	19 guns—1 on pivot, and
	2 howitzers.
Queen Charlotte, 17 do.	1 do.

Schr. Lady Prevost,	13 do.	1 do.
Brig Hunter,	10 do.	
Sloop Little Belt,	3 do.	
Schr. Chippewa,	1 do. and 2 swivels,	

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63 guns.

*Note.*—The Detroit was a new ship, very strongly built, and mounting long 24's, 18's, and 12's.

*Statement of the force of the United States Squadron.*

Brig Lawrence,	20 guns.
Niagara,	20 do.
Caledonia,	3 do.
Schr. Ariel,	4 do. (1 burst early in action.)
Scorpion,	2 do.
Somers,	2 do. and 2 swivels.
Sloop Trippe,	1 do.
Schr. Tigress,	1 do.
Porcupine,	1 do.

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54 guns.

The loss, on the part of the Americans, was as follows:

	<i>Killed.</i>	<i>Wounded.</i>	<i>Missing.</i>
Lawrence,	22	61	83
Niagara,	2	25	27
Caledonia,		3	3
Somers,		2	2
Ariel,	1	3	4
Trippe,		2	2
Scorpion,	2		2
	<hr/> 27	<hr/> 26	<hr/> 123

Two days previous to the action, 57 men unfit for duty in the small vessels.

While giving the Commodore's own account of this action, we cannot omit his laconic letter to General Harrison. It has been called, by a

writer, "Cæsarean brevity." Cæsar said "veni, vidi, vici;" but Perry did not conquer merely by showing himself to an enemy, who, reckoning on his own known superiority of force, and presumed superiority in tactics, calculated with great certainty on conquering the Yankces. The battle was hard fought, and the loss on both sides very great. Perry might have said, "veni vici," or, as he would translate the words of the Roman general—"we met the enemy, and they are ours;" but the addition of "vidi" might favour the opinion that he won the battle from the timidity or inactivity of the enemy; which would be depriving the brave Perry and his crew of more than half their merit.

*"U. S. brig Niagara, off the Western Sister,  
head of Lake Erie, Sept. 10, 1813, 4 P.M.*

"Dear General,  
but "We have met the enemy,—and they are ours. Two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop. Yours, with great respect and esteem,  
(O. H. PERRY."

Hitherto we have seen the enemy beaten ship to ship, but now we were to witness them fleet to fleet; and a more decisive or splendid victory was never achieved. "From the best information," says the heroic Perry in a letter to general Harrison, "we have more prisoners than we have men on board our vessels."

Compared with this, all former naval victories lose their splendor; even the great Nelson, were he alive, must rank below Perry. Nelson never captured an entire fleet; Perry has, and that with a fleet inferior in size, weight of metal, and number of men.

The British fleet was commanded by Com. Barclay, an officer of great merit, and much loved by those under his command. At a public dinner given to this officer at Terrebone, in Canada, he

gave a toast, which, while it proves the candour of the commodore who gave it, is an indisputable proof of the merit of him whose name was the subject of it. The toast was in the following words: "Commodore Perry, the gallant and generous enemy."

Soon after the victory on lake Erie, the President of the United States appointed Oliver H. Perry to the rank of captain in the navy.

The commodore was presented with the freedom of the cities of New-York and Albany.

The thanks of Congress were voted to the commodore, his officers, seamen and marines; and medals were presented to him and his officers.

The thanks of the Senate of Pensylvania, with medals, were also voted to the commodore, and those brave men who served under him.

Among the many testimonials of the gratitude of his fellow-citizens, too numerous to detail, the following particulars of a present from the citizens of Boston, deserves to be enumerated; viz.

A salver, of an oblong square shape, 23 inches long, by 16½ wide, with a bright gadroon edge.

Two ice pails, or decanter coolers, barrel shape, hooped round with a bright gadroon edge at top and bottom.

Two pitchers of a large size, Chinese shape, with tops, and bright gadroons at top and bottom.

Two dozen tumblers, plain barrel shape, with gadroons at bottom.

Wine glass coolers, each to hold a dozen glasses, oblong square shape, standing on feet, with balls ornamented with a bright gadroon at bottom, and narrow rim at top, impressed with an oak leaf.

A coffee pot, tea pot, sugar basin, cream ewer, tea caddy, and slop bowl,—all of oblong shapes, standing on feet, with balls at the corners, ornamented with deep borders, impressed with roses

and leaves, and with bright gadroons at top and bottom.

The large pieces bear the following inscription :

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“ SEPTEMBER 10, 1813,  
*signalized our first triumph in squadron.—A very  
 superior British force on Lake Erie,  
 was entirely subdued by  
 COM. O. H. PERRY ;  
 whose gallantry in action is equalled only by his  
 humanity in victory.*  
 PRESENTED  
*in honour of the victor, by the CITIZENS OF  
 BOSTON.”*

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The capture of the British fleet removed the chief object to the capture of Malden, and general Harrison made dispositions to avail himself of it. Boats were collected, and troops assembled. Governor Shelby arrived on the 17th September at the mouth of Portage river, with about 4000 volunteers. Gen. M'Arthur joined the army in three days after, with his brigade from Fort Meigs. On the 21st, the embarkation of troops commenced. Put-in-bay island was the place of rendezvous. Commodore Perry's fleet, including the captured vessels, were engaged in protecting and assisting the men and boats, as well as in conveying stores, baggage, &c. The army again embarked on board the fleet and boats at Put-in bay, on the 25th, and arrived the same evening at the Eastern Sister, a small island about sixteen miles from Malden. Here the expedition was detained some time by bad weather, during which time a

reconnoissance of the enemy's coast was made by general Harrison and commodore Perry. A despatch was also sent to apprize colonel Johnson of their movements, who, with his mounted rangers, was to co-operate in the reduction of Malden.

On the 27th the army embarked at the Eastern Sister, and landed near Malden, in excellent order. The enemy having previously evacuated the town, it was entered by the Americans without opposition.

It has been remarked in the early part of this history, that previous to the surrender of Detroit to the enemy, the Indians, with the exception of a few who had joined the enemy, remained inactive, watching with their usual sagacity, until they could discover on what side victory was likely to perch. True to their own insidious and cowardly policy, they went over to the victorious Britons ; but no sooner was the effect of treason wiped off by the courage of patriots, than the savage withdrew from his employers, and sought peace from those against whom he had so long raised the tomahawk.—By an official letter, written by general M'Arthur to the secretary of war, and dated at Detroit, subsequent to the retreat of the British, it appears that five nations of Indians, viz. the Ottawas, Chippeways, Pattewattemies, Miamies, and Kickapoos, have sued for peace. By an agreement entered into between them and Gen. M'Arthur, on the part of the United States, "they have agreed to take hold of the same tomahawk with us, (the people of the United States) and to strike all who are, or may be, enemies to the United States, whether British or Indians."

After the evacuation of Malden by the enemy, general Harrison pursued the British, although he had very few horses, "scarcely sufficient to mount the general officers." whilst the retreating enemy had upwards of 1000 horses. Notwithstan-



ding all these disadvantages, the Americans pursued their object with so much diligence, that they came up with the enemy. The force destined for this service, consisted of about 140 regulars, Johnson's mounted regiment, (Kentuckians,) three companies of col. Ball's legion, and such of governor Shelby's volunteers as were fit for a rapid march: the whole amounting to about 3500 men. During the pursuit, which was attended with severe privations, the whole army subsisting for several days upon fresh beef, without bread or salt, and the infantry being without tents; a considerable quantity of arms were taken during the pursuit, being deserted by the enemy, and much more destroyed; these consisted chiefly of muskets taken, or rather given to them by the capitulation of Detroit; two 24 pounders, with their carriages, besides a large quantity of balls and shells, and two gun-boats, and several batteaux loaded with provisions and ammunition, fell into the hands of general Harrison. The destruction of these were attempted by the retreating enemy, but were saved by the activity of the pursuers. Near a place called M'Gregor's Mills, on one of the branches of the river Thames, the Indians were placed in great numbers, to dispute the passage of the river. Upon the arrival of the American advanced guard, a heavy fire was commenced on it by the Indians on the opposite side of the river. General Harrison, expecting the attack would be supported by the whole force of the enemy, drew up his entire army in order of battle, and brought up two 6 pounders to cover a party which was ordered to repair a bridge partially destroyed by the Indians. The Indians, as usual, when not early successful, fled, after suffering a considerable loss. The American loss was 2 killed, and 3 or 4 wounded.

On the 5th October, General Harrison came up with the enemy. The result cannot be given more

satisfactorily than will be found in the following extract from his letter to the secretary of war.

“ From the place where our army was last halted, to the Moravian towns, a distance of about three and a half miles, the road passes through a beech forest, without any clearing, and for the first two miles, near to the bank of the river. At from two to three hundred yards from the river, a swamp extends parallel to it, throughout the whole distance. The intermediate ground is dry, and although the trees are tolerably thick, it is in many places clear of underbrush. Across this strip of land, its left appayed upon the river, supported by artillery placed in the wood, their right in the swamp, covered by the whole of their Indian force, the British troops were drawn up.

The troops at my disposal consisted of about 120 regulars of the 27th regiment, 5 brigades of Kentucky volunteer militia infantry, under his excellency Governor Shelby, averaging less than five hundred men, and colonel Johnson's regiment of mounted infantry, making in the whole an aggregate something above 3000. No disposition of an army opposed to an Indian force, can be safe, unless it is secured on the flanks, and in the rear. I had therefore no difficulty in arranging the infantry conformably to my general order of battle. General Trotter's brigade of 500 men, formed the front line, his right upon the road, and his left upon the swamp; general King's brigade, as a second line, 150 yards in the rear of Trotter's, and Chiles' brigade, as a corps of reserve, in the rear of it. These three brigades formed the command of major general Henry; the whole of general Desha's division, consisting of two brigades, were formed *en potence* upon the left of Trotter.

While I was engaged in forming the infantry, I had directed colonel Johnson's regiment, which was still in front, to be formed in two lines opposite to the enemy, and upon the advance of the infantry, to take ground to the left, and forming upon that flank, to endeavour to turn the right of the Indians. A

moment's reflection, however, convinced me that from the thickness of the woods, and swampiness of the ground, they would be unable to do any thing on horseback, and there was no time to dismount them and place their horses in security. I therefore determined to refuse my left to the Indians, and to break the British lines at once by a charge of the mounted infantry; the measure was not sanctioned by any thing I had either seen or heard of; but I was fully convinced that it would succeed. The American backwoodsmen ride better in the woods than any other people. A musket or rifle is no impediment to them, being accustomed to carry them on horseback from their earliest youth. I was persuaded, too, that the enemy would be quite unprepared for the shock, and that they could not resist it. Conformably to this idea, I directed the regiment to be drawn up in close column, with its right at the distance of fifty yards from the road, (that it might be in some measure protected by the trees from the artillery,) its left upon the swamp, and to charge at full speed as soon as the enemy delivered their fire. The few regular troops of the 27th regiment, under their colonel, (Paul,) occupied, in columns of sections of four, the small space between the road and the river, for the purpose of seizing the enemy's artillery; and some ten or twelve friendly Indians were directed to move under the bank. The crotchet formed by the front line and general Desha's division was an important point. At that place the venerable governor of Kentucky was posted, who, at the age of sixty-six, preserves all the vigour of youth, the ardent zeal which distinguished him in the revolutionary war, and the undaunted bravery which he manifested at King's mountain. With my aids-de-camp, the acting assistant adjutant general, Captain Butler, my gallant friend Com. Perry, who did me the honour to serve as my volunteer aid-de-camp, and brigadier general Cass, who, having no command, tendered me his assistance, I placed myself at the head of the front line of infantry, to direct the movements of the cavalry, and give them the necessary

support. The army had moved on in this order but a short distance, when the mounted men received the fire of the British line, and were ordered to charge; the horses in the front of the column recoiled from the fire; another was given by the enemy, and our column, at length getting in motion, broke through the enemy with irresistible force. In one minute, the contest in front was over. The British officers, seeing no hopes of reducing their disordered ranks to order, and our mounted men wheeling upon them, and pouring in a destructive fire, immediately surrendered. It is certain that 3 only of our troops were wounded in this charge. Upon the left, however the contest was more severe with the Indians. Colonel Johnson, who commanded on that flank of his regiment, received a most galling fire from them, which was returned with great effect. The Indians, still further to the right, advanced and fell in with our front line of infantry, near its junction with Desha's division, and for a moment made an impression on it. His excellency Governor Shelby, however, brought up a regiment to its support; and the enemy, receiving a severe fire in front, and a part of Johnson's regiment having gained their rear, retreated with precipitation."

The active Indian Chief Tecumseh, after evincing great resolution, and continuing to fight although being badly wounded, fell, while directing a deadly aim at Colonel Johnson. The invincible courage of the colonel, and his great presence of mind, saved his own valuable life, and put an end to that of an irreconcilable foe. While the sanguinary Tecumseh was aiming at the colonel, the latter, although wounded in several parts, and much exhausted, discharged his pistol with great coolness, and brought the ferocious savage to the earth, where he was found dead. The American loss amounted to 7 killed and 22 wounded; the British loss was 12 killed, 22 wounded, and 601 regulars taken prisoners.

The Indians, from the best information, suffered severely, 33 of them were found dead on the field. Six brass pieces of artillery, and two iron 24 pounders, and a large quantity of small arms, fell into the hands of the victors. Every American will be pleased to learn, that among the field pieces, were three, which were taken from the British during the revolutionary war, bearing the motto, "*surrendered by Burgoyne at Saratoga,*" and lately surrendered to the enemy by General Hull. Major-General Proctor, who commanded the enemy's forces, escaped with difficulty, accompanied by about 50 persons, consisting chiefly of officers of the army.

After this total defeat of the enemy, the militia were discharged, and General Harrison, with his disposable regular force, accompanied by Com. Perry, arrived at Presque-isle, on the 22d October, from Detroit; from whence he sailed for Black Rock, with a view to co-operate with the army there or at Sackett's Harbour. By this excursion, he, in the short space of less than a month, recovered the territory of Michigan, punished, and forced into peace, the numerous hordes of savages, captured a British regular army, brought security to the inhabitants of the north western frontier of the United States, and marched triumphantly through a great portion of the Upper Province of Canada. General Cass was left in the provincial government of Michigan territory.

The instances of successful bravery, which had hitherto been frequent; were, in a manner, eclipsed by the following:

Major George Croghan, in the 22d year of his age, was left, by General Harrison, in command of 160 men, and with 1 six-pounder, at Fort Stephenson, (Lower Sandusky.)

In the course of two weeks, there had been no

fewer than ten rencounters; in one of which, the enemy carried a block-house at Fort Madison, on the 10th July, from which they attacked the fort, but without success. Four men were butchered in the block-house.

It would appear, that it was General Harrison's intention, not to expose the small force at Fort Stephenson, to be cut off by an enemy very superior in numbers; and the major was, for a short time, superseded in the command, in consequence of disobeying an order to burn and evacuate the fort; but, on his arrival at head-quarters of the general, he gave such satisfactory evidence of his ability to maintain the post, that he was immediately sent back, with directions to resume the command.

On the evening of the 1st August, the British and Indians, who had come up the Sandusky river, from the bay, commenced from their boats a heavy cannonading upon the fort, and threw in a great number of shells from their bomb batteries. The enemy continued his operations without success until the evening of the 2d, when, after throwing a great number of balls from a six-pounder, at the north-west angle of the fort, for the purpose of making a breach, a column, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Short, advanced to the point on which the artillery had been played, with intention of storming, but the judicious management of Major Croghan, foiled the enemy in his attempt. The ditch, which surrounded the works, was about eight feet wide, and of equal depth—this the enemy had to enter before they could approach the pickets: (through the top of each, a bayonet was driven in a horizontal direction,) while in this situation, the six-pounder, which was masked in a block-house, and a ravine adjacent, poured upon the storming column a tremendous shower of musket-balls, which did ter-

rible execution, and so confounded the assailants, that Lieutenant Colonel Short, who had previously ordered his men to "scale the pickets, and show the damned Yankee rascals no quarters," exhibited a white handkerchief as a signal of distress, evincing his disposition to have quarters given him, after he had proclaimed that the garrison should be massacred. It was, however, too late—the next discharge proved fatal—he fell—and Lieutenant Gordon of the 29th regiment, died by his side. This was nearly two hours before sun-set. The firing from the block-house was principally directed at the enemy who had taken refuge in the direction of the ravine—the slaughter there was immense, and General Proctor, who commanded in person, ordered the allied enemy to retreat to their boats. The greater part of the night was occupied in carrying off the dead and wounded—from the number of trails discovered in the grass, it is evident that no less than 50 of the dead were dragged away. About 30 killed, including the two officers mentioned above, were left in the ditch and ravine—and 30 prisoners, 18 severely wounded, which General Proctor, in his hurry, left behind, were afterwards brought into the fort. It is a fact, worthy of observation, that not one Indian was found among the dead, although it is known that from 3 to 400 were present, under the celebrated Captain Elliot.—The number of British regulars was 490, from the 49th regiment. Major Croghan had but 1 man killed, and 7 slightly wounded.

The British loss, by their own confession, amounted to 91, exclusive of Indians. There was, however, sufficient evidence to justify the belief, that it was considerably more.

When Colonel Elliot demanded the surrender of the fort, he stated, that unless his demand was promptly acceded to, a general massacre would

ensue. And when Colonel Short, who commanded the British regulars, destined to storm the fort, had formed his troops in a line parallel with the ditch, he ordered them, in the hearing of our men, to leap the ditch, cut down the pickets, and give the Americans no quarter. This barbarous order, which none but a savage could give, was not, however, permitted to go unpunished; for the words were hardly out of the mouth of the British commander, when the retributive justice of Providence arrested him; and the wretch was obliged to sue for that mercy which he had determined not to extend to others. It may be observed here, in honour of the character of the American soldiers, that although their little band were well aware of the fate which the enemy had prepared for them, yet, they were no sooner subdued, than the Americans forgot the crimes of the enemy in their sufferings; and the wounded in the ditch, whose groans and constant calls for water, were heard by the men in the fort, were supplied with that necessary article, on the night succeeding the discomfiture of the enemy, by the generosity of the Americans, who, with considerable hazard, ventured to risk their lives in order to alleviate the sufferings of the very men who had plotted their entire destruction.

The brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel has been conferred by the President of the United States, on Major Croghan.

The ladies of Chillicothe have presented him with a sword, and a flattering address.

On the 3d of June, a detachment of the enemy, with a number of gun-boats, from Isle-Aux-Noix, succeeded in capturing the United States' armed vessels, Growler and Eagle, on Lake Champlain, after a well contested defence by the brave crews of these vessels, against a very superior force. The consequence was, that the enemy gained a very decided superiority on the lake.

The enemy reckoned on success in his future



operations in this quarter, not only from his own superior force, but also from the unprepared state of the Americans. Com. Macdonough had not a sufficient number of seamen to man his sloops, and would be highly reprehensible had he been defeated in an attempt to recover the ascendancy on the lake. There were no troops stationed at Plattsburgh. While things were thus situated, the British flotilla, consisting of two sloops of war, (the *Eagle* and *Growler*, lately captured,) three gun-boats, and forty-four batteaux, loaded with troops, sailors, and marines, about fourteen hundred in all, under the command of colonel Murray, crossed the line at Champlain, on the 30th July, and entered Plattsburgh on the following day.

On the first information of the approach of the enemy, general Mooers gave orders for calling out the militia; and when the enemy arrived, about three hundred from Plattsburgh and the neighbouring towns had collected, who retired back a few miles, where they were joined by the residue of the regiment, from the county of Essex.

Although the officers who had the command of the expedition, assured the civil authority of the village, that private property should be respected, and that citizens not in arms should remain unmolested—yet these promises were no sooner made than violated; the enemy, not satisfied with destroying the public buildings, such as the block-house, arsenal, armory, hospital, and military cantonments, wantonly burned two store-houses, belonging to Peter Saily, esq. and one belonging to major N. Z. Platt—took, and carried off several thousand dollars worth of hardware, belonging to Frothingham & Co. of Boston, which had been stored with Mr. Saily. The destruction of private property was not limited to such

as they could eat, drink, and carry away, but furniture, which could not be of any use to the plunderers, was wantonly destroyed—tables, bureaux, clocks, desks, cupboards, and crockery, were cut and broken to pieces, and thrown about the houses—books and writings were torn to pieces, and scattered about the streets.

The various excesses of the enemy, during their short visit to Plattsburg, are described by several respectable authorities, to be enormous, cruel, and wanton, in a high degree.—“Well was it,” says one of the witnesses of the scene, “for our wives, sisters, and daughters, that they remembered the excesses at Hampton, and trusted not their persons to the mercy of the invaders.”

On Sunday, the faithless ruffians, the unprincipled invaders, re-embarked, and stood out of the bay. They took a Durham boat, loaded with flour, and eight sloops, one of which they burned.

On their return to Point-au-Roche, the crew of one of the boats landed, and part went to the house of a Mr. Williams; they found his wife out of the house; two of them went in, to keep the husband in check, while the third attempted to gratify his brutal desires upon her. Her husband, hearing her screams, came to her assistance, and in the struggle the woman discharged the villain's gun, disengaged the bayonet therefrom, which she stuck twice into his own back, and wounded him pretty severely: the other two fled, and Mr. Williams and his wife bound the rascal, and sent him in: the inhabitants on Point-au-Roche took the skiff in which they came, and the other soldiers.

The United States' troops at Burlington, under the command of major general Hampton, consisted of about 4000 men. They were under

arms, waiting the approach of the enemy, and would, undoubtedly, have defended their post against any attack they could have made on it.

On the 3d August the enemy appeared before Burlington, and fired into the town for some time, but no considerable damage was done. In the evening of the same day, a detachment proceeded to Shelburne, four or five miles south of Burlington, where they seized a sloop, with about four hundred barrels of flour. The limited force under general Hampton would not justify his detaching any part of his troops from the protection of property and stores under his immediate care: the marauding enemy wisely retired before reinforcements could have arrived.

It was the intention of the United States' government to make an attack on Montreal, before the winter would put an end to the campaign. The effecting of this object would give to the United States the entire command of Upper Canada, completely subdue the Indians, regain the confidence of the Canadians, which was suspended by the sudden retreat, and subsequent conduct of general Hull, and make an impression on the enemy which must incline him to peace, on just and honourable terms. A large force was ordered to Sackett's Harbour; and general Wilkinson, who had the chief command, was ordered to use his utmost effort, and the greatest possible expedition in carrying the design into effect.

On the 1st November, 1813, general Wilkinson's army began its movements from Grenadier Island, down the St. Lawrence. They had not proceeded far before the advanced corps, under general Brown, was attacked by the enemy from the shore. On returning the fire the enemy dispersed, and the army advanced.

The movements of the army under general Hampton were intended to facilitate those of general Wilkinson; and both armies were finally to unite, previous to the attack on Montreal.

The army under general Hampton moved from Chateaugay on the 21st October, and arrived at its position at Sears' on the 22d—thus having, with incredible labour, surmounted twenty-four miles of the most difficult part of the route, through the extensive and almost impassable forest, which bounds the Canada line. After four or five miles of open country, another forest of six or seven miles was opposed to their march, (which was on the north-west side of the river.) This the enemy had made almost an entire fortification, by crossing it with felled trees, interspersed with breast-works and ditches: through these obstructions the enemy was to be assailed—a part of their forces, consisting of light troops and Indians, were posted in these defences, while the main body, commanded by Sir George Prevost, in person, was lodged in the rear, fortified with batteries and cannon. The hardships the American army had endured, the continual rains that were falling, and the obstructions in front, would have damped the ardour of troops less disposed to disregard all sufferings and perils in pursuit of glory, and in the service of their country; but on the contrary, partaking largely of the spirit which inspired their commander in chief, every individual seemed uncommonly emulous of the enterprize.

It was believed that the obstructions could not be forced by the main body without great loss. To avoid this, the light companies and a regiment of infantry were detached at dark, on the evening of the 25th, to proceed on the opposite (S. E.) side of the river, to a fording place below the

enemy's advance, which they were to cross, and attack the enemy in flank and rear, while the main body should attack in front—and thus destroy the enemy's defence at a blow. Owing to the darkness of the night, incessant rain, and the difficulties of the wood, the guide who conducted this detachment having lost his way, the party did not arrive at the proposed point. The battalion of the 10th regiment, consisting of about 200 men, were, at the appointed time, (3 o'clock, P. M. on the 26th) at the entrance of the obstructed wood, waiting the attack of the troops on the enemy's flank, which was to be the signal for them to advance. At this moment, the enemy commenced a fire on this battalion, who promptly returned it, then charged and drove the enemy from their lurking places, dispersing them entirely, and silencing their fire. In this the Americans had only one man killed, and some 3 or 4 wounded. At this moment, the firing commenced on the opposite side of the river, with some of the light companies; and it was here, and not in either of the main divisions of the army, that any serious loss, or the least confusion, occurred. The enemy was, however, soon dispersed in this quarter also. After waiting some time for the renewal of the enemy's attack, the main body of the American army fell back slowly and in good order, the enemy not daring to show themselves, or in the least to interrupt their march, to a position 4 miles from the place of action. Here they were shortly after joined by the detached party, who had had some farther skirmishing with the enemy, of no great account. At this place they remained several days, without receiving the least molestation. The only failure of the expedition is attributable to the miscarriage of the guide, which disconcerted a plan that otherwise must have led to the capture of a considerable portion of the enemy's force, and the complete destruction of his plan of defence.

The American actual total loss, in killed, wounded, and missing, did not exceed 36 men. The whole American force engaged, did not exceed 255 men, on the side where the greatest force of the enemy were opposed. The other regiments did not arrive until the moment when the enemy were retiring, and were only formed, and in line, but took no part in the engagement.

Colonel Purdy, who commanded the detachment which fought this battle, in his report to general Wilkinson, is very free of his censure of general Hampton. "Incredible" says the colonel. "as it may appear, general Hampton entrusted nearly one half of his army, and those his best troops, to the guidance of men, each of whom repeatedly assured him, that they were not acquainted with the country, and were not competent to direct such an expedition."

"Towards sun-down," says the colonel, "I sent gen. Hampton a request that a regiment might be ordered down to cover my landing on the opposite side of the river; but judge my surprise on receiving intelligence that he had retreated with the second brigade, nearly three miles."

"Never, to my knowledge," says the colonel, in another part of his despatch, "during our march into Canada, and while we remained at the Four Corners, a term of 26 days, did gen. Hampton ever send off a scouting or reconnoitring party, (except in one or two cases, at Spears' in Canada, when he detached a few dragoons for this duty;) nor did he, from the time we commenced our march from Cumberland head, to our arrival at Plattsburgh, ever order a front, flank, or rear guard to be kept up, though a great part of the time we were in situations which evidently required it. True it is, these guards were occasionally sent out; not, however, by his order, but by the orders of the officers commanding brigades."

The colonel winds up his charges against general Hampton, by saying, "such has been the general's conduct, on some occasions, that I have, in common with other officers, been induced to believe that he was under the influence of a too free use of spirituous liquors."

The official account of this action, by the British general, Baynes, is very different from the above, but so improbable and wide from the truth, that it may, with much safety, be averred, that it did not meet belief from a single reader of any party.

As soon as general Wilkinson passed Kingston, and that it became evident he must have designed the taking of Montreal, the troops which were stationed for the defence of Kingston, were employed in annoying and delaying the progress of the American army. "The corps of the enemy" says general Wilkinson, in his official report to the secretary of war, "from Kingston, which followed me, hung on my rear, and in concert with a heavy galley, and a few gun-boats, seemed determined to retard my progress. I was strongly tempted to halt, turn about, and put an end to his teasing; but alas! I was confined to my bed; major general Lewis was too ill for any active exertions; and above all, I did not dare suffer myself to be diverted a single day from the prosecution of the views of government."

On the 10th about noon, General Brown, who was with his command in front, and some distance below the main body of the army, was engaged with the enemy, at the moment when a strong party of the enemy advanced on the rear of General Wilkinson, with several galleys and gunboats; from whence they commenced a fire, but were soon compelled to retire from the fire of a battery of 18 pounders, planted on the occasion. Wilkinson's army came to for the night, a short dis-

tance above the Longue Saut; it was intended to pass it that day, but the delays occasioned by disembarking and re-embarking heavy guns, prevented the army from reaching the Saut as early as expected; and the pilots would not dare enter the Saut, (a rapid of 8 miles,) at a late hour. At 10 o'clock the following day, General Wilkinson received advice, that General Brown, having forced the enemy, would arrive at the foot of the Saut early in the day. Orders were immediately given for the flotilla to sail, at which moment, the enemy's gun-boats appeared, and began to throw shells among the American flotilla. General Wilkinson, calculating from reports and appearances, that the enemy only looked for a favourable opportunity for attack, had determined to anticipate him. "Directions," says General Wilkinson, "were accordingly sent, by that distinguished officer, Colonel Swift, of the engineers, to Brig. Gen. Boyd, to throw the detachments of his command, assigned to him in the order of the preceding day, and composed of men of his own, Covington's and Swartwout's brigades, into 3 columns, to march upon the enemy, outflank him if possible, and take his artillery. The action soon after commenced with the advanced body of the enemy, and became extremely sharp, and galling, and, with occasional pauses, not sustained with great vivacity, in open space, and fair combat, for upwards of two and a half hours—the adverse lines alternately yielding and advancing. It is impossible to say, with accuracy, what was our number on the field, because it consisted of indefinite detachments taken from the boats, to render safe the passage of the Saut. Generals Covington and Swartwout, voluntarily took part in the action, at the head of detachments, from their respective brigades, and exhibited the same courage that was displayed by Brig. Gen. Boyd, who happened to be the senior officer on the ground.—



Our force engaged might have reached 16 or 1700 men, but actually did not exceed 1800; that of the enemy was estimated from 1200 to 2,000, but did not probably amount to more than 15 or 1600—consisting, as I am informed, of detachments from the 49th, 84th, and 104th regiments of the line, with three companies of the Voltigeur and Glengary corps, and the militia of the country, who are not included in the estimate.”

This battle (the battle of Williamsburgh,) was contested with a courage and obstinacy, that perhaps had no parallel. To witness undisciplined troops, and inexperienced officers, substituting courage and patriotism in place of military knowledge; and thus opposed, for 3 hours, to a regular army, was a sight on which the guardian angel of America, must have looked with exulting gratification. Amidst a shower of musketry and Shrapnel-shells, the brave Americans, insensible to fear, dashed into the ranks of the enemy, whose position was strengthened by ravines and thickets. The enemy retired for more than a mile before the resolute and repeated charges. The brigade, first engaged, had expended its ammunition, and was compelled to retire, in order to procure a supply. This movement so disconcerted the line, as to render it expedient for another brigade to retire. The artillery, owing to the nature of the ground, could not be brought up until after this event. The fire from the artillery was very destructive to the enemy; but when directed to retire, in passing a deep ravine, one piece was lost, but not until after the fall of its gallant commander, Lieutenant Smyth, and most of his men.

The whole of the line was re-formed on the borders of those woods from which the enemy had first been driven, when, night coming on, and the storm continuing, and the object of attack having been fully accomplished, the troops were directed

to return to the ground near the flotilla, which movement was executed in good order, and without any interruption from the enemy.

General Covington received a mortal wound, while leading his men to a successful charge.—Colonel Preston was severely wounded, while fighting at the head of his regiment. Major Cummings received a severe wound, while making a charge, but yet continued to fight until exhausted by the loss of blood. General Boyd has taken particular notice, in his official despatch, of the merits of Brig. Gen. Swartwout; Colonels Coles, Walback, Johnson, Pierce, Gaines, Ripely, and Aspinwall; Majors Morgan, Grafton, Gardner, Beebe, and Chambers; Lieutenants Henry, Whiting, and Worth. The general concludes his report in the following words: "Permit me now to add, sir, that though the result of this action was not so brilliant and decisive as I could have wished, and the first stages of it seemed to promise, yet, when it is recollected, that the troops had been long exposed to hard privations and fatigues, to inclement storms, from which they could have no shelter; that the enemy were superior to us in numbers, and greatly superior in position, and supported by 7 or 8 heavy gun-boats; that the action being unexpected, was necessarily commenced, without much concert; that we were, by unavoidable circumstances, long deprived of our artillery; and that the action was warmly and obstinately contested for more than three hours, during which there were but a few short cessations of musketry and cannon; when all these circumstances are recollected, perhaps this day may be thought to have added some reputation to the American arms. And if, on this occasion, you shall believe me to have done my duty, and accomplished any one of your purposes, I shall be satisfied."

After this engagement, the troops proceeded

down the river without farther annoyance from the enemy or their gun-boats, while the dragoons, with five pieces of artillery, marched down the Canada shore without molestation.—The next morning the flotilla passed through the Saut, and joined General Brown, near Cornwall.

On the arrival of General Wilkinson with General Brown, he learned that General Hampton, instead of meeting him near that place, was marching towards Lake Champlain. The letter of General Hampton, announcing this unexpected movement, together with a copy of that to which it was an answer, were immediately submitted to a council of war, who unanimously gave it, as their opinion, "that the attack on Montreal should be abandoned for the present season, and the army near Cornwall should be immediately crossed to the American shore, for taking up winter quarters, and that this place afforded an eligible position for such quarters."

Thus ended the campaign, and an expedition which seemed, in every respect, well calculated to effect its object.

General Wilkinson, who attributed the failure of this expedition to "the extraordinary, unexampled, and it appears, unwarrantable conduct of major-general Hampton, in refusing to join this army, with a division of 4000 men, under his command, agreeable to orders," in a letter to the secretary of war, of 15th November, writes—

"It is a fact, for which I am authorised to pledge myself, on the most confidential authority, that on the 4th of the present month, the British garrison of Montreal, consisted solely of 400 mariners, and 200 sailors, which had been sent up from Quebec. We have, with the provision here, and that left at Chateaugay, about forty days subsistence, to which I shall add thirty more."

In a letter of the 17th November, general Wilkinson writes—

“After what has passed between us, you can perhaps conceive my amazement and chagrin, at the conduct of major-general Hampton. The game was in view, and had he performed the junction directed, would have been ours in eight days. But he chose to recede, in order to co-operate, and my dawning hopes, and the hopes and honour of the army, were blasted.”

The loss at the battle of Williamsburgh, in Upper Canada, consisted of 102 killed, 339 wounded, including officers. The enemy's loss was represented, by authority worthy of credit, to exceed 500 in killed and wounded.

Statement of the strength of the enemy, in the action of the 11th November, 1813, on Kesler's field, in Williamsburgh, in Upper Canada—founded on the separate examination of a number of British prisoners taken on the field of battle.

Of the 89th regiment,	760
49th do.	450
Voltigeurs's,	270
Glengary's,	80 one company.
Of the 100th,	40 a detachment from Prescott.
Canadian Fencibles,	220
Indians,	40
Incorporated militia,	300
	<hr/> 2160

Four pieces of mounted artillery, and seven gunboats, one mounting a twenty-four pounder.

After the troops went into winter quarters, a placard was distributed in the American camp, of which the following is a copy.

“*To the American army at Salmon River.*

“NOTICE.—All American soldiers who are willing

to quit the unnatural war in which they are at present engaged, will receive, at the British outposts, the arrears due to them by the American government, to the extent of five months pay. No man shall be required to serve against his own country."

This produced no desertions, nor any other effect, except contempt of the wretched author of the placard.

A very handsome affair was executed the 12th October, by a party of men, under command of colonel Isaac Clark. The colonel, with his party, left Chazy landing, so as to arrive at Massasquoi-bay at an early hour in the morning. He arrived unperceived within a few roods of the enemy, who were drawn up in order of battle, by their commander, major Powell. The enemy commenced a fire on the left flank, but in ten minutes after the first attack, they laid down their arms, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war.

Colonel Clark despatched captain Finch, with his company, to reconnoitre the course of a body of about 200 men, who were supposed to be advancing against him. Captain Finch proceeded with such promptness and ability, as to surprise and capture the advanced guard, consisting of cavalry, except one man, who fled, and, giving the information, the enemy escaped.

The prisoners were then put on board boats, and sent to Burlington.

The whole American force engaged was 102. The number of prisoners taken was 101; the killed and wounded of the enemy 23.

The success of this expedition was materially aided by a knowledge of the country, into which he marched, which a commander of an expedition should always be full master of.

The following gallant action will be best de-

tailed by giving the official report, which was made in the following words :

*“ Charleston, ( S. C ) August 21, 1813.*

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you, that the privateer schooner Decatur of this port, arrived here yesterday, with H. B. M. schooner Dominico, her prize. She was captured on the 5th inst. after a most gallant and desperate action of one hour, and carried by boarding, having all her officers killed or wounded, except one midshipman. The Dominico mounts 15 guns, one a 32 pounder, on a pivot, and had a complement of 83 men at the commencement of the action, 60 of whom were killed or wounded. She was one of the best equipped and manned vessels of her class I have ever seen. The Decatur mounts 7 guns, and had a complement of 103 men at the commencement of the action, nineteen of whom were killed and wounded. I have the honour to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

JOHN H. DENT.

Hon. Wm. Jones, Secretary of the Navy.”

During the combat, which lasted an hour, the king's packet ship, *Princess Charlotte*, remained a silent spectator of the scene, and as soon as the vessels were disengaged from each other, she tacked about, and stood to the southward. She had sailed from St. Thomas, bound to England, under convoy, to a certain latitude, of the Dominico.

The loss on board the Dominico consisted of killed 13, wounded 47, 5 of whom mortally.

On the 14th of this month, (August, 1813,) the U. S. brig *Argus* was captured by the British sloop of war *Pelican*. The *Argus* sailed from New-York, the 21st June, for France, and arrived at Le Orient, after a passage of 23 days, where Mr. Crawford, minister from the United

States to the court of France, landed. From Le Orient the Argus sailed on a cruise, in the British channel, where she fell in with the British sloop Pelican, fitted out for the purpose of taking the Argus. The action was well supported by the Americans for 40 minutes, when the enemy succeeded in capturing the Argus, by boarding. The number of killed and wounded on board the American will best explain the bravery with which the ship was defended against a vessel which the British editors acknowledged to be superior in size and armament. Killed on board the Argus, 2 midshipmen, 4 seamen—wounded, mortally, Capt. Wm. W. Allen, commander, 1 carpenter, 1 boatswain's mate, 1 seaman—wounded, severely, Lieut. Watson, 1 quarter-master, 3 seamen, 1 carpenter's mate; wounded slightly, 8; total, 24.

When captain Allen was removing out of the Argus, to be removed to the hospital, he exclaimed, "God bless you, my lads, we shall never meet again."

The Argus, previous to her capture, had taken and destroyed 21 sail of British vessels.

The following statement will show the force of the two vessels.

Argus,—16 24 pound carronades, 2 long 9s. Burthen 298 tons, 94 men fit for duty, 5 sick, the rest absent in prizes.

Pelican,—22 32 pound carronades, 2 long 9s, and 2 swivels. Burthen 584 tons, 179 men, 11 of them volunteers for the occasion, from ships at Cork.

On the 5th September, the U. S. brig Enterprize, William Burrows, commander, fell in with H. B. M. brig Boxer, captain Elythe. The British brig was discovered at anchor, in shore, at 5 o'clock, A. M. Penmaquid bearing north 8 miles distance. After some manœuvring, the brigs approached at a quarter past 3 P. M. within half pistol shot of each other, when the

action commenced. At 20 minutes past 3, the brave commander of the *Enterprize* fell, mortally wounded. While lying on the deck, he refused to be carried below, raised his head, and requested "that the flag might never be struck." Thus lay the intrepid Burrows, until he learned the result of the action; when, clasping his hands, he said, "I die contented." He was then taken below, and died in 8 hours afterward. At 4, P. M. the enemy ceased firing, and cried out for quarters; saying, that as their colours were nailed, they could not haul them down;—a sufficient proof that it was resolved never to yield to a Yankee crew. Some of the crew of the *Boxer* have acknowledged that she left port with a complement of 115 picked men, for the purpose of taking the *Enterprize*—that 6 men were put on board a prize, and 6 ashore on the island of Manhiggen, leaving on board, when the action commenced, 104, which account agrees with the muster-book, found on board of the *Boxer*. The number of killed and wounded on board the *Boxer*, could not be ascertained with certainty, as many of the former were thrown overboard. The senior officer of the *Enterprize* states it, from the best information he could obtain, at between 20 and 30 killed, and 14 wounded. Capt. Blythe, the commander of the *Boxer*, was among the killed. The following extract of a letter from Capt. Hull to Com. Bainbridge, is too important to be omitted.

"I yesterday visited the two brigs, and was astonished to see the difference of injury sustained in the action. The *Enterprize* has but one 18-pound shot in her hull, one in her main-mast, and one in her fore-mast; her sails are much cut with grape shot, and there are a great number of grape lodged in her sides, but no injury done by them. The *Boxer* has eighteen or twenty 18-pound shot in her hull, most of them at the water's edge; several stands of 18-pound



grape stick in her side, and such a quantity of small grape, that I did not undertake to count them. Her masts, sails, and spars are literally cut to pieces; several of her guns dismounted and unfit for service; her top-gallant fore-castle nearly taken off by the shot; her boats cut to pieces, and her quarters injured in proportion. To give you an idea of the quantity of shot about her, I inform you, that I counted in her main-mast alone, three 18 pound shot holes, 18 large grape shot holes, 16 musket ball holes, and a large number of smaller shot holes, and without counting above the cat harpins. We find it impossible to get at the number killed; no papers are found by which we can ascertain it. I, however, counted upwards of 90 hammocks which were in her netting, with beds in them, besides several beds without hammocks. She has excellent accommodations for all her officers below in state rooms, so that I have no doubt that she had 100 men on board. We know that she has several of the Rattler's men, and a quantity of wads was taken out of the Rattler, loaded with 4 large grape shot, with a small hole in the centre, to put in a cartridge, that the inside of the wad may take fire when it leaves the gun. In short, she is in every respect completely fitted; and her accommodations exceed any thing I have seen in a vessel of her class."

If there is an American who would deny the honour due, on this occasion, to the American tars, let him read the following, from a London paper, and yield, however reluctantly, the palm to the first nation in the world, the hitherto despised citizens of the United States. The following is a copy of the extract alluded to.

"Among the American news, which is to be found in the papers just received from that country, it pains us to find a full confirmation of the loss of his maj. brig Boxer, which has added another laurel to the naval honours of the United States. The vessel by which she was captured, is represented (falsely, we believe) as of only equal force with herself; but what we regret to perceive stated, and trust will be found much ex-

aggerated, is, that the Boxer was literally cut to pieces, in sails, rigging, spars, and hull; while the Enterprize, her antagonist, was in a situation to commence a similar action immediately afterwards. The fact seems to be but too clearly established, that the Americans have some superior mode of firing; and we cannot be too anxiously employed in discovering to what circumstances that superiority is owing. The Boxer was certainly not lost for want of heroism. The British captain nailed his colours to the mast, and happily did not live to see them struck. Both commanders died during the action, which appears to have been of the most desperate kind; and both were buried at the same time, in the port to which the prize was carried."

The loss on board the Enterprize was—1 ordinary seaman killed; 1 commander (Burrows) 1 midshipman, (K. Waters) 1 carpenter's mate, mortally wounded; 3 quarter-masters, 1 boatswain's mate, 5 seamen, one marine, wounded; total, 14.

The remains of the gallant commanders, (Burrows and Blythe) were buried in Portland, with military honours. Capt. Blythe, of the Boxer, was one of the pall-bearers at the funeral honours paid to the late Capt. Lawrence, at Halifax.

The following memorial was caused to be inscribed on the monument of the gallant Lieut. Burrows, of Portland, by Mr. M. L. Davis, of New-York:

---

BENEATH THIS STONE

*Moulders*

THE BODY OF

**WILLIAM BURROWS,**

*Late Commander of the*

**UNITED STATES' BRIG ENTERPRIZE,**

Who was mortally wounded on the 5th of September, 1813, in an action which contributed to increase the fame of American valour, by capturing his

**BRIT. MAJESTY'S BRIG BOXER,**

after a severe contest of 45 minutes.

A passing stranger has erected this monument of respect to the manes of a patriot, who in the hour of peril, obeyed the loud summons of an injured country, and who gallantly met, fought and conquered the foe-man.

The U. S. brig *Enterprize* was formerly a schooner, and is the same vessel with which lieutenant Sterrett, in August, 1801, captured, without the loss of a man, the Tripolitan ship of war *Tripoli*, of 14 guns, and 85 men, 50 of whom were killed and wounded.

By a resolution of Congress, the President of the United States was requested to present to the nearest male relative of lieutenant William Burrows, and to lieutenant R. McCall, of the brig *Enterprize*, a gold medal; and a silver medal to each of the commissioned officers of said vessel.

The president of the United States having considered the *Boxer* as equal in force to the *Enterprize*, has ordered her to be delivered up for the benefit of the captives.

Commodore Rodgers arrived at Newport the 26th September, in the frigate *President*, having sailed from Boston, on his third cruise, in company with the *Congress*, the 30th of April preceding. After parting company with the *Congress*, on the 8th May, in lon. 60, W. lat. 39, 30, N. he shaped his course to the southward of the Grand Bank, with the view to intercept the enemy's West-India trade; being disappointed in this quarter, he pursued a route to the northward, on a parallel with the eastern edge of the Grand Bank, so as to cross the tracks of the West-India, Halifax, Quebec, and St. John's trade. Not being successful, after reaching the latitude of 48 N. he steered towards the Azores, off which he continued until the 6th June, without meeting an

enemy's vessel. From hence he crowded sail to the N. E. in search of an enemy's convoy, which he learned was seen sailing from the West-Indies to England. Although disappointed in falling in with the convoy, he nevertheless made 4 captures, the 9th and 13th of June. This brought him so far to the north and east, that he resolved on going into the North Sea. He put into North Bergen on the 27th June, to procure provisions and water, not having seen any enemy's vessels since the 13th. At Bergen he could procure only water, and departed from thence the 2d July, stretching over towards the Orkney-Islands; and from thence towards the North Cape, in search of a British convoy that was to sail from Archangel, of which he obtained information from two vessels, which he captured on the 13th and 18th July. In this object he was disappointed, by the appearance of two of the enemy's ships of war, (a line of battle ship, and a frigate,) off the North Cape, on the 19th July. The President was chased by these two ships for eighty hours, but effected her escape. The Commodore next proceeded to a station where he might intercept the trade passing into and out of the Irish channel. In this position he made three captures, between the 25th July and 1st August; when, fearing the great superior force of the enemy in that quarter, he changed his ground; and, after taking a circuit round Ireland, and getting into the latitude of Cape Clear, he steered for the Banks of Newfoundland, near which he made two captures. From the banks, he steered for the United States; and, being short of provisions, was compelled to make the first port, into which he could safely enter. He brought in with him H. B. M. schooner High Flyer, a tender to admiral Warren, captured on the 23d July. He took 271 prisoners:

216 of whom were sent home in cartels, and 55 brought home in the President.

The movements on the Niagara frontier began at this time to wear a serious aspect.

The following address was circulated in the western district of the state of New-York.

**"TO THE PATRIOTS OF THE WESTERN  
DISTRICT.**

The period being at hand which is to decide the fate of the province of Upper Canada, and the command of the Niagara frontier having devolved on me, I think proper to invite the old and young patriots of the western district to join my brigade in defence of their country and rights—any number not exceeding 1000, will be accepted and organized immediately on their arrival at Lewiston, and officered by the choice of their men. As the movements of an army require secrecy, objects in view cannot be particularly developed; but those who feel disposed to distinguish themselves, and render services to their country, may be assured that something efficient and decisive will be done. The term of service will be two months, if not sooner discharged; and every thing shall be done to render their situations as comfortable as possible. I wish none to volunteer who may have any constitutional objections to cross the Niagara river: 1400 of my brigade have already volunteered to cross the river, and go wherever they may be required; and 600 of them are now doing duty at Fort George. I flatter myself that no other consideration need be urged, than love of country, to excite the patriotism of the yeomanry of the western district.

Given at head-quarters, Lewiston, October 2d, 1813.

**GEORGE M'CLURE, Brig. Gen.  
Commanding Niagara Frontier."**

A considerable number of patriotic volunteers flocked on this occasion to the standard of gen. M'Clure.

The following is an extract of the general's letter to governor Tomkins, of the state of New-York, dated Fort George, 6th October, 1813.

"We have commenced offensive operations against the enemy. About 500 militia volunteers, and about 150 Indians, commanded by colonel Chapin, attacked the piquet guard of the enemy about a mile and a half from Fort George, and drove them in upon the main body, when the enemy opened a fire from several field pieces. Our men retired in good order into the fort, with the loss of one man killed, and two or three wounded. The enemy's loss was 7 killed, many wounded, and 4 prisoners.

"In a short time, the enemy appeared in considerable force within 500 yards of the fort, at the edge of the woods; Chapin again sallied out with about 300 men, and some Indians, commenced a brisk fire on the whole of the enemy's line, and drove them half a mile—but, perceiving, by the movements of the enemy, that they would outflank us, I ordered 200 to reinforce him, and in two detachments to attack the enemy's flanks. We succeeded in driving the enemy into the woods, when, night coming on, put an end to the conflict. Our loss was trifling; I have not ascertained that of the enemy. Colonel Chapin is a brave man. Every officer and soldier did his duty.

Col. Chapin, in a private letter, to a friend in Buffalo, thus details the brush he had with the enemy.

"While at dinner I received information of the British army being in the town of Newark. I immediately rallied a party of 100 men, and commenced a fire upon them, who returned it with much warmth—we kept the ground till we were reinforced by 60 Indians, and 100 militia. With this force, we compelled the enemy to retreat, and pursued them one and a half miles, when we received a reinforcement of 100 men; with this force, we drove them half a mile further, where they covered themselves in a ravine, and open-

ed a most tremendous fire of musketry upon us. After an hour and a half hard fighting we drove them from the ravine, back to the batteries—it being now nearly dark, we returned in good order.

“From some deserters, and a prisoner we took, we learn that we had contended with the whole British army, consisting of 1100 men, with the great Gen. Vincent at their head: and that we killed 32. Our loss was 4 killed and wounded.”

Major Chapin has recently been brevetted lieutenant-colonel, in the United States’ army.

General M’Clure, with the New-York militia, volunteers and Indians, succeeded in driving the British army from the vicinity of Fort George, and pursued them as far as Twelve-mile-creek. Colonel Scott, who commanded at Fort George, having informed General M’Clure, that he was under orders to leave that place with the regulars, the general was compelled to abandon his design, and return to Fort George.

It was general M’Clure’s wish, by the aid of the regular troops, to clear Upper Canada above Kingston, of the British armies, to establish a temporary government, secure the friendship, and, if necessary, the co-operation of the inhabitants, and compel the Indians to separate themselves from the enemy, or accompany them in their retreat. That this could be effected, can scarcely be doubted, but it was necessarily abandoned in favour of a design which originated with the general government, and which, had it succeeded, would have been more important. The regular troops were principally drawn from the Niagara frontier, to co-operate with Gen. Wilkinson in his intended attack on Montreal. Gen. Harrison’s army was also ordered to Sackett’s Harbour. Gen. M’Clure endeavoured to influence Gen. Harrison to aid him in attacking the enemy; but the instructions from the general gov-

ernment were positive; and Commodore Chauncey had arrived with his fleet to remove the troops to Sackett's Harbour. The force remaining with Gen. M'Clure, was barely sufficient to defend Fort George, and entirely inadequate to offensive operations; and this force, which the general stated to be "ungovernable," would soon be reduced by the expiration of their term of service.

The militia returned to their homes, with the exception of a few that were induced to remain beyond the term of their enlistment. The general finding his force reduced to a number inadequate to defend his post, and the enemy advanced within a few miles of him, he called a council of officers, and put to them the question, "Is the fort tenable with the present number of men?" They were unanimous in the opinion, that it was not tenable. The arms, ammunition, and public stores, were immediately sent across the river, and as a measure deemed necessary to the safety of the troops, the town of Newark was burned. "This act, (said Gen. M'Clure,) however distressing to the inhabitants, and my feelings, was, by order of the secretary of war, and I believe, at the same time, proper." The inhabitants had twelve hours notice to remove their effects, and such as chose to cross the river, were provided with all the necessities of life.

Capt. Leonard was left in command at Fort Niagara, with 150 regulars; Colonel Gries, with 20 men, and two pieces of artillery, was at Lewiston; Major Mallory, with 40 Canadian militia, were stationed at Schlosser; and the general went to Buffalo, to provide for the safety of that place, and Black Rock.

From Buffalo, General M'Clure issued an address to the inhabitants of the counties of Niagara, Genesee, and Chatague, apprising them of the menaced invasion of that frontier, and calling



on them to repair to Lewiston, Schlosser, and Buffalo, for the purpose of defending their country and home against a barbarous enemy. This was too late to produce the desired effect.

On the morning of the 19th December, about 4 o'clock, the enemy, consisting of regulars, militia, and Indians, to the number, by the most probable account, of 1500 men, crossed the Niagara river at five-mile meadow, and advanced against Fort Niagara, which they completely surprised, entering it while the men were nearly all asleep, and killing, without mercy or discrimination, those who came in their way. It will be recollected, that an attack on this place was expected, and that Captain Leonard, who commanded, had directions accordingly; yet General McClure observes, in his official despatch, "I am induced to think that the disaster is not attributable to any want of troops, but to gross neglect in the commanding officer of the fort, Captain Leonard, in not preparing, being ready, and looking out for the expected attack." It appears by another letter from General McClure, "that Captain Leonard was not in the fort at the time of the attack, having left it at a late hour the preceding evening."

On the same morning on which Niagara was taken, a detachment of militia stationed at Lewiston, under command of Major Bennet, was attacked by a strong party of the enemy, but the major and his few men cut their way with great bravery through several hundreds of savages and others, by whom they were surrounded. The villages of Youngstown, Lewiston, Manchester, the Indian Tuscarora village, and all the intervening houses, were burned, and many of the inhabitants inhumanly butchered, without respect to age or sex, by savages, headed by British officers painted. Major Mallory, who was stationed at

Schlosser, with about 40 Canadian militia, boldly advanced to Lewiston heights, and compelled the enemy to fall back to the foot of the mountain: for two days the major continued to resist the advance of the enemy, disputing every inch of ground to the Tautawanty creek.

Major general Hall, on learning the dangerous and exposed state of the frontier, hastened to Batavia; and, on the morning of the 23d December, at the request of General M'Clure, took the chief command of the men then assembling to repel the enemy. There was a great deficiency of ammunition and arms. With what could be procured, the general commenced his march towards Lewiston on the 25th, having under his command 150 infantry, under Lieut. Col. Lawrence, supported by one company of cavalry, under Captain Marvin, and in the expectation to join a corps of militia, said to be 200 strong, under Lieut. Col. Acheson, which was stationed 15 miles east from Lewiston, with instructions, if possible, to join the main force at Buffaloe. On the morning of the 26th, General Hall arrived at Buffaloe, where he found a considerable body of irregular troops of various descriptions. General M'Clure was left in command at Batavia. On the 27th, the troops at Buffaloe and Black Rock, were reviewed, and found to consist, in the aggregate, including Indians, of 1711 men, which were increased, on the morning of the 29th, by about 300 men, giving an entire force of 2011 men; but this force was soon reduced, by desertion, to 1200; and even these so deficient in ammunition, that a part of the cartridges were made and distributed after the men were paraded for battle, on the morning of the 30th.

In the evening of the 29th, at 12 o'clock, the horse patrol had been fired on, a short distance below Conjoktie's creek, and one mile below

Black Rock. The troops were immediately paraded, and stood by their arms. An attempt was made to dislodge the enemy from the sailors' battery near Conjoktie's, of which he had obtained possession. The attempt failed, through the darkness of the night, and confusion into which the militia were thrown by the enemy's fire. A second body of militia, sent on the same service, was equally unsuccessful; the men, after a short skirmish, fled in disorder. A third detachment was ordered on the same service, but was recalled to oppose a body of men which was discovered, as the day dawned, crossing the river. As soon as the force of the enemy was ascertained to be large, and commanded by lieutenant colonel Drummond, and their position reconnoitred, the best possible disposition was made to oppose them, with a force inferior in number, as it was in experience and ammunitions of war. General Hall thus briefly details the effect :

“ The attack was commenced by a fire from our six pounder under lieutenant Seely, below general Porter's house, and one twenty-four and two twelve pounders at the battery, under command of lieutenant Farnum, of the 21st U. S infantry, acting as a volunteer. At the same time the enemy opened a heavy fire from their batteries on the opposite side of the river, of shells, spherical and hot shot, and ball. The regiment under command of colonel Blakeslie, about 400 strong, were regularly in line, together with detached bodies from other corps, amounting, according to the best estimate I can make, in all about 600 men.—These few but brave men, commenced the attack with musketry upon the enemy in their boats, and poured upon them a most destructive fire. Every inch of ground was disputed with the steady coolness of veterans, and at the expense of many valuable lives. Their bravery, at the same time that it casts a lustre

over their names, reflects equal disgrace on those who fled at the first appearance of danger—and whom neither intreaties nor threats could turn back to the support of their comrades.

“Perceiving that the Indians, on whom I had relied for attacking the enemy's flank, were offering us no assistance, and that our right was endangered by the enemy's left, I gave directions for the reserve, under command of colonel M'Mahon, to attack the enemy in flank on our right. But terror had dissipated this corps, and but few of them could be rallied by their officers and brought to the attack. Of this corps there are some who merit well of their country—but more who covered themselves with disgrace. The defection of the Indians and of my reserve, and the loss of the service of the cavalry and mounted men, by reason of the nature of the ground on which they must act, left the forces engaged exposed to the enemy's fire in front and flank. After standing their ground for about one half hour, opposed to veterans and highly disciplined troops, overwhelmed by numbers, and nearly surrounded, a retreat became necessary to their safety, which was accordingly made. I then made every effort to rally the troops, with a view to renew the attack on the enemy's columns, on their approach to the village of Buffaloe. But every effort proved ineffectual; and experience proves, that with militia a retreat becomes a flight, and a battle once ended, the army is dissipated. Deserted by my principal force, I fell back that night to the Eleven-mile creek, and was forced to leave the flourishing villages of Black Rock and Buffaloe, a prey to the enemy, which they have pillaged and laid in ashes.”

General Hall retired to Eleven-mile-creek, where he collected about 300 men; and, with these, endeavored to cover the fleeing inhabitants, and make a show, to prevent the advance of the enemy.

Eight pieces of artillery fell into the hands of

the enemy. About thirty men were killed, and somewhat more than that number wounded, in the defence of Black Rock. But the worst remains to be told, or rather some faint idea to be given of the indescribable barbarity of the enemy.

Black Rock and Buffalo were destroyed, together with every building for two miles east of Buffalo on the Batavia road, and almost every building between Buffalo and Niagara along the river. "The enemy," says general Hall, "had with him at Black Rock and Buffalo, a number of Indians, (the general opinion in that country is about 200,) who pursued their accustomed mode of horrid warfare, by tomahawking, scalping, and otherwise mutilating the persons who fell into their hands. Among the victims of their savage barbarity was a Mrs. Lovejoy, of Buffalo, who was tomahawked, and afterwards burned in her own house. The conduct of these savages has struck the minds of the people on the Niagara frontier with such horror, as to make it absolutely necessary that a more efficient force than the ordinary militia of the country should be employed for its protection, to prevent its becoming entirely depopulated."

All the settlements of a populous country, forty miles square, were completely broken up, and 12,000 persons sent as if into beggary. The tomahawk and bayonet deprived parents of their children, and children of their parents; the savages white and red, who acted not merely as conquerors, but as murderers and robbers, by a fell swoop pounced upon their prey with all the ferocity of the tiger, and the all-desolating ruin of the locust. On the 4th January the robbers retired into their own woods, not daring to wait the chastisement that was prepared for them.

Considerable contributions of money were col-

lected for the relief of the surviving sufferers, who gradually returned to view the smoking ruins of their late habitations.

The enemy having declared their conduct on the Niagara frontier, to have been committed in retaliation for excesses said to have been committed by the American armies in Canada, the censure, or rather indignation of the suffering inhabitants were turned against general M<sup>c</sup>Clure, who had the command. The general, previous to retiring from command, published an address to the public, in justification of his own conduct, in which he seems to have been pretty successful. M<sup>c</sup>Clure was certainly a good and zealous soldier; ever ready to obey his superiors, he exacted obedience from those who were placed under his command: he knew that strict discipline was essential to form the practical soldier; and he probably suffered in the esteem of some because he pursued a system from which he could not depart without a crime, that might stamp him with indelible disgrace.

The importance of Fort Niagara, as a military position, is sufficiently evident, and the possibility of preserving it has been unfortunately proven by an enemy, who probably would not meditate its reduction, were he not in some manner apprized that the garrison, sufficiently strong, was not sufficiently watchful. Had this post been preserved, as it might have been, the ruthless massacre of its garrison, after resistance had ceased, would not have happened; nor would a savage enemy have dared to attempt his horrid incursion, without the previous possession of the key to the settlements along the Niagara frontier.

These observations are not merely speculative. The enemy had undoubtedly an early eye on the post at Niagara: it may perhaps be cause of sur-

prize to some, that it was not seized while in a state of ill defence, and that its occupation by the enemy was deferred to a time when it was amply supplied with men, arms, and ammunition. This can be best explained by a re-assertion, that the enemy very prudently waited until he could find the garrison not watchful, sleeping. To the undaunted prowess of one of the most intrepid, zealous, and active officers of the army, it is to be attributed, that the enemy had not an earlier possession of Niagara fort. Captain M'Keon, of the artillery, in his bold and successful defence of this post, has signalized himself in a manner that had few parallels during the war, and may probably be ranked with, because it bore strong similitude to, the brave exploit of the hero of lower Sandusky. This act of captain M'Keon will be best explained by the following letter to the secretary of war, which is now published for the first time.

*New-York, 6th June, 1813.*

SIR,

When the army was yet in its infancy, and but very few troops to garrison the old fort of Niagara, I had the honour to command at that station a company of the 3d regiment of the U. S. artillery; at this time the enemy prepared to bombard us, and raised several strong batteries for the purpose. We sustained his fire for seven hours, and had our works so much shattered, that our commandant, captain Leonard, thought them no longer tenable; he had the guns spiked, and evacuated the fort. According to orders, I retreated with the garrison; but at a very short distance from the place, I solicited and obtained captain Leonard's permission to return to it; at the moment, it was the depot of an immense quantity of public stores, worth perhaps a million of dollars, and still more valuable in a military point of view. These I wished at every risk to preserve. Though I possessed en-

tire command of all my men, I took back with me but 25 ; because, from the circumstance of the guns being spiked, I could not employ more ; and this number was enough for the execution of my plan, if it should succeed, and enough to lose if it should fail. I placed sentinels on the ramparts, and at the barriers, and caused them to give the usual call every six minutes through the night, so as to impress the enemy with a belief that the fortress was garrisoned, and the garrison vigilant. At the same time four men belonging to the laboratory had port fires lighted and fuzees prepared to blow up the magazine and all, if the enemy could not be intimidated from advancing upon us. Fortunately, he was intimidated ; the fort was saved ; and the next morning at 8 o'clock the garrison returned with a reinforcement. On the 16th of October, a second order was issued by general Alexander Smyth, for the evacuation of this fort, and the public property was accordingly removed from it to Lewiston ; but immediately I represented to col. Winder, that the fort was not only tenable, but that I would maintain it. He was pleased to sanction this opinion ; and thus I was in some measure the cause of preserving it a second time. On the 21st of November following, the enemy bombarded our fort with the greatest fury for 13 hours ; during which time it was my good fortune to have been most assailed by his attack, and most opposite to his position. The conflagration of Fort George and Newark, will, I trust, bear testimony to the successes of my efforts on that day.

(Signed)

JAS. M'KEON,

late capt. artillery.

The brave defence of Fort Niagara led to the following garrison order.

#### GARRISON ORDER.

*Fort Niagara, October 15, 1812.*

It is with the greatest satisfaction the commanding officer gives to captain M'Keon his full approbation for his spirited and judicious conduct during the severe cannonading from Fort George, and the batter-



ies on the opposite side of the river, against this post, for more than seven hours, on the 13th October inst.

To Dr. West he begs to express his sincere thanks for the aid and assistance received from him. To the non-commissioned officers and privates of the garrison he has only to say that they have his full approbation for their cool and determined courage, and their zeal and activity during the day.

N. LEONARD,

capt. commanding Fort Niagara.

While things were thus progressing on land, the British were preparing a naval force for the annoyance of the citizens on the sea-board.

Admiral Warren arrived at Halifax on the 27th September, 1812; and having attempted in vain to deceive the American government with false professions of a pacific intention, he proceeded, in January, off New York.

Early in February, 1813, the Chesapeake bay and Delaware river were blockaded.

The British fleet continued in the bay and rivers connected therewith. Their transactions, for the most part, form a history of petty landings, wherever no considerable force could be opposed to them, burning or taking every vessel that came within their power, plundering the inhabitants adjacent to the waters, burning houses, and insulting in the most libidinous manner, those females who did not or could not fly from them. The following deserve particular record :

A letter, of which the following is a copy, was sent to Lewiston, in the state of Delaware, on the 16th March, 1813.

SIR,

As soon as you receive this, I must request you will send twenty live bullocks, with a proportionable

quantity of vegetables and hay, to the Poitiers, for the use of his Britannic majesty's squadron now at this anchorage, which shall be immediately paid for at the Philadelphia prices. If you refuse to comply with this request, I shall be under the necessity of destroying your town.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

J. P. BERESFORD, Commodore,

commanding the British squadron  
in the mouth of the Delaware.

*The first magistrate of Lewistown.*

The magistrate transmitted the letter to Governor Haslet, who sent a reply to the admiral on the 23d, concluding in the following words: "I have only to observe to you, that a compliance would be an immediate violation of the laws of my country, and an eternal stigma on the nation of which I am a citizen. A compliance, therefore, cannot be acceded to."

On the evening of the 6th April, the Belvidera and two small vessels came close into Lewis, and commenced an attack by firing several 32lb. shot into the town, which have been picked up; after which a flag was sent, to which the following reply was returned:

SIR,

In reply to the renewal of your demand, with the addition for a supply of water, I have to inform you that neither can be complied with. This, too, you must be sensible of; therefore I must insist the attack on the inhabitants of this town is both wanton and cruel. I have the honour to be your most obedient servant,

S. B. DAVIS, Col. Commandant.

Another message was sent, in which the British captain, Byron, among other matter, wrote, "I grieve for the distress of the women—" to which a verbal reply was given, that "col. Davis is a

gallant man, and has already taken care of the ladies."

The attack continued till near 10 o'clock.—The firing was kept up during the greater part of the following day. One of the most dangerous of their gun boats was silenced by the fire from a small battery. The enemy withdrew on the 8th, after firing on Lewis for 22 hours, with little effect, and without accomplishing his object.

In their progress up the bay, the British landed at Frenchtown on the Elk river, and burned the store houses, destroying or carrying away all the public and private property which they contained.

From Frenchtown the enemy proceeded to Havre de Grace, a flourishing little village on the Susquehannah, where they landed in considerable force on the 3d of May, and proceeded to plunder and burn with a savageness that required but the use of the scalping-knife, to contrivail their red allies. Twenty four of the best houses in the town were burned, and the others plundered. A small party of militia were stationed at Havre de Grace, who on the approach of the enemy, made a slight resistance, and then retreated. An Irishman, named O'Neil, with a courage amounting to rashness, and an enthusiasm not confined by cold loyalty, opposed his single arm to the British host, was taken prisoner and carried on board the British fleet, but afterwards released on parole.

His countrymen residing in Philadelphia, presented the brave O'Neil with a sword.

From Havre de Grace the enemy proceeded further up the river, and burned the warehouse belonging to Mr. Stump, and a furnace belonging to Mr. Hughes, at Princippi.

On the morning of the 4th, the enemy evacuated Havre de Grace, and proceeded down the bay.

The next exploit of the enemy was the burning of the unprotected villages of Frederick and Georgetown; the former in Cecil county, the latter in Kent county, opposite each other on the Sassafras river, in the state of Maryland.

The movements of the enemy on the 20th June, having indicated a design to attack Norfolk, which place was then ill prepared for defence, Captain Tarbell, finding Craney island rather weakly manned, directed lieutenants Neale, Shubrick, and Sanders, with 100 seamen, to a small battery at the N. W. point of the island. At 5 o'clock on the morning of the 22d, the enemy was discovered landing round the point of Nansmond river, a force, reported by deserters and others to exceed 3000 men. At 8, A. M. the barges attempted to land, in front of the island, an additional force of 1500, when lieutenants Neale, Shubrick, and Saunders, with the sailors under their command, and the marines of the Constellation frigate, 150 in number, opened a fire, which was so well directed, that the enemy was obliged to retreat to his ships. Three of his largest barges were sunk; one of them, called the Centipede, Admiral Warren's boat, 50 feet in length, carried 75 men, the greater part of whom were lost. Several of the boats fell back in the rear of the island, and commenced throwing rockets from Mr. Wise's houses; but they were quickly compelled to move off, by the shot directed to that quarter from gun-boat No. 67. In the evening, the enemy's boats came round the point of Nansmond, and at sun-set were seen returning to their ships, full of men. At dusk they strewed the shore along with fires, in order to run away by the light.

The British troops that were previously landed, made their appearance on the main land, with a view to attack the west and north positions of the

island, but with no better success than attended the men in the boats. Two 24 pounders and four 6 pounders were advantageously posted, under the direction of major Faulkener of the artillery, which were so well served by capt. Emerson, lieutenants Hawl and Godwin, that they produced a serious effect on the enemy, who was soon compelled to retreat.

Opposed to the large British force, there were but a few hundred militia and artillerists; there were mounted on the island not more than eight pieces of cannon that could be brought to bear on the enemy. "The officers of the *Constellation*" according to the official report of commodore Cassin, "fired their 18 pounder more like riflemen than artillerists." This defence did great honour to the few Americans who were engaged. Norfolk was an important post, and the enemy determined on its occupation; the force sent against it was large; admiral Cockburn commanded in person, and was in one of the barges, encouraging the men to advance. Some French deserters reported, that a large bounty was to be given to the men in the event of success, and that it was promised to them that Norfolk would be given up to be plundered!

The loss of the enemy could not be less than 200, exclusive of several deserters; 22 prisoners were taken; also a brass 4 pounder, with a number of small arms, pistols, cutlasses, &c.

Not a man was lost on the side of the Americans; the enemy used only Congreve rockets.

On the 25th June, between 30 and 40 barges were discovered, filled with men, approaching the mouth of Hampton creek, from the direction of Newport's noose. The American troops were quickly formed on Little England plantation, south west, and divided from Hampton by a narrow creek, over which a slight foot bridge had

been erected. In a short time the enemy commenced landing troops in rear of the Americans. A little after five o'clock, A. M. several barges approached Black-beard's point, the headmost of which commenced a firing of round shot, which was returned from a small battery of four long 12 pounders. The entire of the force landed by the enemy consisted of at least 2500 men, supported by several heavy field-pieces, and some heavy guns, and rockets; the American troops were composed of 349 infantry and rifle, 62 artillerists, and 25 cavalry. This little force made the most judicious and best defence that was practicable, manœuvring and disputing every inch of ground. The contest was at one time very sharp, and maintained with a resolution that left hope of repelling the invaders; but the enemy, being very numerous, attempted to outflank and cut off the Americans, when part of the latter began to disperse in various directions. It now became indispensably necessary for all the Americans to retire, which they did, under a continued, but ill directed fire from the enemy, who pursued them for two miles. The Americans occasionally stopped at a fence or ditch, and at every fire brought down one of the pursuing foe.

Captain Pryor, with his lieutenants Lively and Jones, and his brave, active matrosses, after slaughtering many of the enemy with his field-pieces, remained on the ground till surrounded; and when the enemy was within 60 or 70 yards of the fort, they spiked their guns, broke through the enemy's rear, and by swimming a creek, made good their retreat without losing a man, taking with them their carbines, and hiding them in the woods.

The American loss was 7 killed, 16 wounded, (of whom 2 died of their wounds,) 1 prisoner, and 11 missing. The enemy took possession of the

village of Hampton, after suffering a loss, by the most probable calculation, of at least 200 men.

Major Crutchfield, who commanded the Americans, states the enemy's conduct, in the following extract from his official report:

"To give you, sir, an idea of the savage-like disposition of the enemy, on their getting possession of the neighbourhood, would be a vain attempt. Although sir Sidney Beckwith assured me, that no uneasiness need be felt in relation to the unfortunate Americans; the fact is, that yesterday there were several dead bodies lying unburied, and the wounded not even assisted into town, although observed to be crawling through the fields towards a cold and inhospitable protection.

"The unfortunate females of Hampton, who could not leave the town, were abused in the most shameful manner; not only by the soldiers, but by the venal savage blacks, who were encouraged in their excesses. They pillaged, and encouraged every act of rapine and murder, killing a poor man of the name of Kerby, who had been lying on his bed, at the point of death, for more than six weeks, shooting his wife in the hip at the same time, and killing his faithful dog, lying under his feet. The murdered Kerby was lying last night weltering in his bed."

A committee of congress, in a report to the house, thus notice this transaction.

"The shrieks of the innocent victims of infernal lust at Hampton, were heard by the American prisoners, but were too weak to reach the ears, or disturb the repose of the British officers, whose duty, as men, required them to protect every female whom the fortune of war had thrown into their power. The committee will not dwell on this hateful subject. Human language affords no terms strong

enough to express the emotions which the examination of this evidence has awakened; they rejoice that these acts have appeared so incredible to the American people. And, for the honor of human nature, they deeply regret that the evidences so clearly establish their truth. In the correspondence between the commander of the American and British forces, will be found what is equivalent to an admission of the facts, by the British commander."

The enemy soon evacuated Hampton, and retreated to his shipping, to avoid the punishment, which, had he remained, would have soon been inflicted. The following extract of a letter from captain Cooper to the lieutenant governor of Virginia, is proof of shocking barbarity which would disgrace the savage of the wilderness.

"I was yesterday in Hampton with my troop—that place having been evacuated in the morning by the British. My blood ran cold at what I saw and heard. The few distressed inhabitants running up in every direction to congratulate us; tears were shedding in every corner—the infamous scoundrels, monsters, destroyed every thing but the houses, and, (my pen is almost unwilling to describe it) the women were ravished by the abandoned ruffians.—Great God! my dear friend can you figure to yourself, our Hampton females seized and treated with violence by those monsters, and not a solitary American arm present to avenge their wrongs! But enough—I can no more of this. The enemy have received a reinforcement of 2000, in all 6000 men; and Norfolk or Richmond is their immediate aim. Protect yourselves from such scenes as we have witnessed. They retired in great confusion, leaving 3000 weight of beef, some muskets, ammunition, canteens, &c., and some of their men, which we took. It is supposed that they apprehended an immediate attack from 6000 of our men, which caused them to



retreat so precipitately. My friend, rest assured of one thing—that they cannot conquer Americans—they cannot stand them. If we had had 1200 men, we should have killed or taken the greater part of them.”

In further proof of these enormities, the following extract is given, from the letter of a gentleman of great respectability.

“At present you must content yourself with the following, and believe it as religiously as any fact beyond denial. Mrs. Turnbull was pursued up to her waist in the water, and dragged on shore by ten or twelve of these ruffians, who satiated their brutal desires upon her, after pulling off her clothes, stockings, shoes, &c. This fact was seen by your nephew, Keith, and many others. Another case—a married woman, her name unknown to me, with her infant child in her arms, (the child forcibly dragged from her,) shared the same fate. Two young women, well known to many, whose names will not be revealed at this time, suffered in like manner.—Dr. Colton, Parson Halson, and Mrs. Hopkins, have informed me of these particulars—another, in the presence of Mr. Hope, had her gown cut off with a sword, and violence offered in his presence, which he endeavoured to prevent, but had to quit the room, leaving the unfortunate victim in their possession, who, no doubt, was abused in the same way.

“Old Mr. Hope himself, was stripped naked, pricked with a bayonet in the arm, and slapped in the face—and were I to mention a hundred cases in addition to the above, I do not know that I should exaggerate.”

Admiral Cockburn is the redoubtable hero who commanded the enemy in the manly attack on Hampton.

On the 26th June, three of the enemy's barges attempted to enter Pagan creek, but were

resisted by a detachment of militia; and after exchanging 14 shots, without effect on either side, the enemy retired.

The enemy had such a total command of the waters of the Chesapeake, and the rivers falling into it, wherever the same were without the range of shot from the shore; and his movements were so various, that a general alarm was excited in the neighbourhood of these waters; the troops were necessarily kept embodied, and moving in a manner, which occasioned distressing and harassing difficulties. The fate of the females at Hampton excited an indignation, and roused a patriotism and a love of family kindred, which stifled all complaints among the harassed soldiery of Virginia and Maryland.—“Hampton” was a watchword, at which every husband, father, brother, and man, took his gun and fled with willingness, to meet the ruffians, who threatened, with worse than murder, the fair daughters of America.

It would scarcely be interesting to detail every petty landing, skirmish, and adventure, that occurred, while the enemy remained in the Chesapeake—the most conspicuous of them will, however, be noticed.

A party of the enemy landed a little below James-Town, on the 2d July, but were repulsed by the militia. Two of the enemy were killed, two taken, and several wounded. The militia suffered no loss.

On the 14th July, the U. S. schooner *Asp*, was attacked in Yocimo river, by the crews of 2 brigs, who put off in their boats, for that purpose. The boats, 3 in number, were beaten off by the well directed fire from the *Asp*; about an hour after, the boats returned, with two other boats, well manned. There were but 21 men on

board the *Asp*, and they could not effectually resist the great force sent against them; they, however, defended themselves obstinately and bravely: nor did they retreat until after the *Asp* was boarded by more than fifty of the enemy. The enemy set the vessel on fire. After their retreat, the survivors of the brave American crew went on board and extinguished the flames. The American loss in killed and wounded, amounted to 10 men. Mr. Sigourney, the intrepid commander of the *Asp*, was among the killed.

Some essays, published by the late Robert Fulton, on the practicability of destroying ships by *torpedoes*, induced several persons to turn their thoughts to this subject. A Mr. Mix, of the navy, accompanied by captain Bowman, of Salem, and midshipman M'Gowan, essayed to destroy the ship of war *Plantagenet*, of 74 guns, lying in Lynnhaven bay. For this purpose, they proceeded in a boat, in the night of the 24th July, 1813, and having reached within 100 yards of the ship, dropped the torpedo. It was swept along by the tide, but exploded a few seconds before it would have come in contact with the vessel. It produced great consternation and confusion on board the vessel, and induced several of the crew to take to their boats. The ship was greatly agitated, and some damage done by the violent motion of the water. The noise, occasioned by the explosion, was loud and tremendous; and the appearance of the water, thrown up in a column of thirty or forty feet high, awfully sublime. It has not been ascertained that any lives were lost.

The fleet, under command of Admiral Cockburn, returned to the Chesapeake on the 16th July, after an invasion of North Carolina, where the country was pillaged and laid waste by the

enemy, for several miles. On the 12th, a part of this fleet, consisting of two 74's, 3 frigates, and 3 schooners, appeared off Ocracock bar, in North Carolina, and immediately despatched, in boats, between 700 and 800 men, who attacked the privateer *Anaconda*, and schooner *Atlas*, lying inside the bar. There were but 18 men on board the *Anaconda*, who resisted the boats as long as they could, until finding that the vessel must be taken, they discharged the guns into the hull; but the enemy boarded her in time to plug the holes. The *Atlas*, and some small craft, were captured. The enemy took possession of Ocracock, and of the town of Portsmouth, without opposition.

Mrs. Gaston, of Newbern, wife of the member of congress, being told that the British had landed, and would shortly be in possession of Newbern, fell into convulsive fits, and expired in a few hours. Mrs. Curtis died in a similar manner, and a Mrs. Shepherd was at the point of death, but has recovered. Apprehensions of being treated like the unfortunate females of Hampton, it is supposed, produced this extraordinary degree of terror. A large body of militia and volunteers were assembled in the vicinity of Portsmouth, and on the point of attacking the enemy, when he thought prudent to retire.

Lieutenant Angus, commanding the Delaware flotilla, having discovered, on the 27th July, that the enemy had chased and taken a small vessel, near the Overfalls, got under way, and stood for the enemy. At the distance of about three quarters of a mile, he brought the enemy's sloop of war to action, having anchored for that purpose 8 gun-boats, and 2 block-ships, in a line ahead. A heavy British frigate had, by this time, anchored about half a mile further out.—After a

cannonade of one hour and 45 minutes, in which the enemy received several shot, without any material damage done to the flotilla, he manned his boats, 10 in number, (2 launches, the rest large barges and cutters,) with between 30 and 40 men in each, and despatched them after gun-boat No. 121, sailing-master Shead, which had fallen a mile and a half out of the line, and succeeded in capturing her, after a gallant resistance. The enemy would have been totally defeated, had he not been favoured by a calm, which enabled him to carry off the gun-boat No. 121, the colours of which were not struck until after being boarded. The sound of cannon on this occasion, was heard at the city of Washington, a distance of 120 miles.

Sailing-master Shead concludes his official report in the following words:

"I found it necessary, for the preservation of those few valuable lives left, to surrender to seven times our number; the enemy boarding, loaded our decks with men; we were all driven below, and it was with the utmost difficulty that the officers could stay the revenge of the seamen, who seemed to thirst for blood and plunder, the last of which they had, by robbing us of every thing; we had none killed, but 7 wounded, 5 slightly. The enemy's loss by us, was 7 killed, and 12 wounded, 4 of which have since died. They have conquered me, but they have paid dearly for it; and I trust, sir, when you come to view the disadvantages that I laboured under, having been but 7 days on board my boat, and scarcely time to station my men, and the misfortune of entirely disabling my gun, and the superiority of numbers to oppose me, you will be convinced, that the flag I had the honour to wear, has not lost any of that national character which has ever been attached to it."

It is painful to the historian, that while he records the many instances of virtuous patriotism, and glorious prowess, which signalized the citizens

and inhabitants of the United States, it becomes also his duty to record their crimes and treasons. Much consolation is, however, derived from the reflection, that patriotism was the prevailing sentiment of a great majority of the people. The following general order was published, and dated from the navy department, at the city of Washington, and sent, as a circular, to the commanding officers of stations, or vessels of the navy of the United States.

“The palpable and criminal intercourse held with the enemy’s forces, blockading and invading the waters and shores of the United States, is, in a military view, an offence of so deep a dye, as to call for the vigilant interposition of all the naval officers of the United States.

“This intercourse is not only carried on by foreigners, under the specious garb of friendly flags, who convey provisions, water, and succours of all kinds, (ostensibly destined for friendly ports, in the face, too, of a declared and rigorous blockade,) direct to the fleets and stations of the enemy, with constant intelligence of our naval and military force and preparation, and the means of continuing and conducting the invasion to the greatest possible annoyance of the country; but the same traffic, intercourse, and intelligence, is carried on with great subtilty and treachery, by profligate citizens, who, in vessels ostensibly navigating our waters, from port to port, under cover of night, or other circumstances favouring their turpitude, find means to convey succours or intelligence to the enemy, and elude the penalty of the law. This lawless trade and intercourse is also carried on to a great extent, in craft, whose capacity exempts them from the regulations of the revenue laws, and from the vigilance which vessels of greater capacity attract.

“I am therefore commanded by the President of the United States, to enjoin and direct all naval commanding officers; to exercise the strictest vigilance, and to stop or detain all vessels or craft, whatsoever, proceeding or apparently intending to proceed, to—

wards the enemy's vessels within the waters, or hovering about the harbours of the United States; or towards any station occupied by the enemy, within the jurisdiction of the United States, from which vessels or craft the enemy might derive succours or intelligence.

W. JONES."

The enemy, the better to carry his projects in the Chesapeake into execution, took possession of Kent-island, and fortified the narrows; which station, he, however, soon afterwards deserted. On the 10th August, he made an attack on St. Michael, with 11 barges, which went up the river on the opposite side, and came down on the side of St. Michael, with so little noise, that they were not perceived passing up or down the river; and as it was very cloudy, and the men in the fort, without suspicion of attack, the enemy landed before they were discovered. The men fired two guns and left the fort, of which the enemy immediately took possession, and gave three cheers, supposing they would have St. Michael without much difficulty; but they were very much mistaken, for the St. Michael's people, and Captain Vickers, of the Easton packet, with the artillery from Easton, attacked them so briskly, and pointed their guns with so much judgment, that our invaders were soon obliged to make off—the infantry were not engaged. Not a man of the Americans was hurt, although the grape-shot flew like hail in the town, and their balls went through a number of the houses. The two shots that were fired from the fort must have done some execution, as a quantity of blood was seen upon the shore, and two swords and a pistol were left behind, and their barges were seen to be struck by the artillery from the town.

On the morning of the 14th August, at four o'clock, the enemy attacked Queenstown, in

Queen Ann county, both by land and water;—about 600 troops were landed, and marched up to the town, and 20 armed barges made the attack by water—the attack was so unexpected, that but little resistance was made—a piquet guard of the American militia were fired on by the enemy, 1 of them was killed, and 2 or 3 wounded—the militia retreated to Centerville, and left the enemy in possession of the town.

Were the enemy to confine himself to the capturing of vessels and their cargoes, and the destruction of public property, he would be justifiable; but it is due to truth, not to conceal, that, departing from all established rules of warfare, he not only carried off private property, whenever he could seize it, but also destroyed whatever he could reach, and could not remove. On the 2d November, he landed on George's island, and burned all the buildings on it, he decoyed a great number of negroes, with a promise to make them free—and afterwards shipped these wretches to the West-Indies, where they were sold as slaves, for the benefit of British officers. The following device was practised with success.

A party of militia (17 in number,) stationed themselves behind the Sand-hills, while two white men with their faces and hands blackened, went down upon the beach, and waved their handkerchiefs to the ships, when a boat, with six men, immediately came ashore, followed, at some distance, by two others, full of men. Just as the men from the first boat were preparing to land, one of those disguised, in walking a few steps, showed his bare ankles, which he omitted to blacken, when the enemy exclaimed—"White men in disguise, by —; let us push off!"—which they did, and, at the same moment, the militia ran out and fired upon them, until they were out of gunshot; they killed two out of the six.



It would be impossible, in the compass allotted to this work, to do justice to the enemy. His barbarous and plundering conduct in the Chesapeake, and adjoining rivers, can only be equalled by the conduct of the same enemy in a former war. "The species of warfare" says the editor of a Norfolk paper, "waged by Captain Lloyd, of the Plantagenet, on the inhabitants of Princess Anne country, is of that pitiful and dishonourable kind, which cannot fail to attach a lasting stigma to his character, and cause his name to descend to oblivion, coupled with that of the infamous Dunmore, and clogged with the bitter execrations of all who shall hear the tale of his rapacity."

The Norfolk Herald thus ably and humanely notices the seizing and carrying off negroes:

"To take cattle, or other stock, would be consistent with the usage of civilized warfare; but to take negroes, who are human beings; to tear them for ever from their kindred and connections, is what we should never expect from a Christian nation, especially one that has done so much to abolish the slave-trade. There are Negroes in Virginia, and we believe in all the southern states, who have their interests and affections as strongly engrafted in their hearts as the whites, and who feel the sacred ties of filial, parental, and conjugal affection equally strong, and who are warmly attached to their owners, and the scenes of their nativity. To those, no inducement which the enemy could offer would be sufficient to tempt them away. To drag them away, then, by force, would be the greatest cruelty. Yes, it is reserved for England, who boasts of her religion, and love of humanity, to practise this piece of cruelty, so repugnant to the dictates of Christianity and civilization."

The great vigilance and activity of the citizens tended not only to disappoint, but frequently to punish the invaders.

On the 11th September, about 15 men volunteered from a militia company, stationed near the inlet, at Norfolk, to go and attack a party of the British, who were said to be on shore at the cape. When they came to the cape, and were mounting one of the sand-hills, they found themselves in full view, and within musket-shot of a large body of marines, who were exercising. A cluster of officers were standing some distance off, between their main body and our militia—the latter had not a moment to spare; they took deliberate aim at the officers, and fired; four of them fell. The militia then made the best of their way back to camp, while the enemy's shot whistled over their heads in all directions, but without effect.

The proceedings of the enemy along the coast, east of the Delaware, were not generally important.

The frigate *United States*, com. Decatur, frigate *Macedonian*, capt. Jones, and sloop of war *Hornet*, capt. Biddle, on the 24th May, got under way from New-York, with an intention of proceeding so sea through the sound. When off Hunt's point, the mainmast of the *United States* was struck with lightning, which tore away the commodore's broad pendant, and brought it down on deck, passed into one of the port-holes, down the after hatchway, through the ward room into the doctor's room, put out his candle, tore up his bed, and then passed between the skin and ceiling of the ship, and tore up about 20 nails of her copper at water's edge. No further trace of it could be discovered. The *Macedonian* was about 100 yards astern of the *United States*, and on observing the lightning strike her, immediately hove her topsails aback, fearing that the fire might find its way to the magazine.

On the 1st of June, the vessels attempted to put to sea, but were chased into New London by a

British force, consisting of a 74, a razee, and a frigate. The blockade of New London was immediately formed, and the inhabitants very highly alarmed lest the town should be attacked.

On the 21st of June, the British privateer *Buckskin*, (formerly belonging to Salem) chased a coaster into Owl Head narrows, (a small harbour in Massachussetts,) where five others were lying, the whole of which were captured, and removed down into what is called the Thoroughfare, preparatory to being manned out, and they began unlading one of the sloops, into which they intended to put the prisoners. During this time, from 200 to 300 militia collected, and proceeded down to Fox island, it being thick foggy weather; when at half past 3, on the morning of the 22d, the fog clearing away, the privateer appeared at anchor about 20 rods from the shore, where they commenced firing upon her with small arms, and one field-piece, which killed the privateersmen almost as fast as they came on deck. The 1st lieutenant cut the cable, and in attempting to hoist the jib, (lying flat on his back) had his under jaw shot away; the captain was killed; and but 9 men, it is said, remained unhurt, the rest being either killed or wounded. It being ebb tide, she drifted out, and when out of reach of the musketry, got under way, leaving all her prizes, which again fell into the hands of the rightful owners. The crews put in to man them, in attempting to escape to the privateer in boats, were either killed or wounded. The action lasted an hour.

On the 23d June, two barges, containing each about 15 men, from the blockading squadron off New London, attempted to land near the lighthouse, but on observing a company of artillery near the shore, pulled off as fast as possible. When the enemy imagined themselves out of

danger, they stood in the barges and cheered. at this moment a shot was fired from the artillery, which struck one of the boats, and killed or wounded eight or ten of the men in it.

A Mr. Scudder formed a design of destroying the British ship *Ramilies*, of 74 guns, off New London. For this purpose, ten kegs of powder were put into a strong cask, with a quantity of sulphur mixed into it. At the head of the cask were fixed two gun-locks, with cords fastened to the triggers, and to the under side of the barrels in the hatchway, so that it was impossible to hoist the barrels without springing the locks on each side of the powder; and on the top was placed a quantity of turpentine and spirits of turpentine, which in all probability was sufficient to have destroyed any vessel that ever floated on the water, if she could have been got along side, which was the object in view. These kegs were put on board the smack *Eagle*, which sailed from New York on the 15th June, for New London, but which the crew abandoned, on being pursued by the boats of the enemy. It was expected that the vessel would be brought along side the *Ramilies*, and by exploding, would destroy that ship. The wind dying away, and the tide being against them, she could not be brought along side. When the *Eagle* exploded, there were four boats along side, and a great many men on board her. After the explosion, there was not a vestige of the boats to be seen; the body of fire rose to a vast height, and then burst like a rocket. Every man near or about her were probably lost, as the boats sent from the *Ramilies* were seen to return without picking up any thing.

On the 10th June, three barges belonging to the blockading squadron, after capturing some sloops off the mouth of Connecticut river, attempt-

ted to land at Saybrook, but were beaten off by the militia. The enemy had three men killed on this occasion. The militia escaped unhurt.

On the 24th July, a 1st and 3d lieutenant, a sailing master, and 5 men, belonging to the *Ramilies*, were surprised and taken on Gardner's island, by a party of the crew of the *United States*, despatched for the purpose by commodore Decatur. The prisoners were paroled, and being at liberty, were joined by others of their crew, when they found themselves sufficiently strong to seize and carry off the American boat. There was an attempt also made to intercept the American party, but they escaped in a whale-boat to Sag harbour, from whence they returned in safety to New London.

Shortly after this transaction, Mr. Joshua Penny, of Easthampton, Long island, was taken out of his bed during the night, by a party from the enemy's ship, and being brought on board the *Ramilies*, was put in irons. Major Case, commanding the troops of the *United States* at Sag harbour, demanded his release as a non-combatant; but the British officer, (captain Hardy) declined, on the ground that he was a combatant; that he conducted a party of seamen from New London to Gardner's island, there to surprize and take several British officers; that his name had been entered on the books of one of the frigates. and that "he had been employed in a boat contrived for the purpose, under the command of Thomas Welling, prepared with a torpedo, to destroy this (captain Hardy's) ship." This last *crime* was undoubtedly that which led to the capture and severe treatment of Mr. Penny. He was treated with great severity while on board the *Ramilies*, from which vessel he was sent to Halifax, where he was treated like other prisoners. He was sent to Salem in a cartel ship, in May,

1814, and probably owed not only his liberation, but his life, to the circumstance that the president of the United States ordered two British subjects to be held as hostages for the safety of Mr. Penny.

The New-London blockading squadron came, on the 8th September, by the Sound, to a place about 20 miles from the city of New-York, captured 20 coasters, took a quantity of sheep from the main, and had probably other robberies or injuries in view. Commodore Lewis, on receiving information of the enemy's movement, proceeded up the Sound, with 25 gun-boats. By nine o'clock on the 9th, he was at Sands' Point, within 10 miles of the enemy. A British frigate and a sloop of war got under weigh, and stood toward them. At one o'clock, P. M. the commodore brought his flotilla to anchor in Hempstead bay, ready to receive the enemy. The British exchanged 10 or 15 shots at too great a distance to produce any effect, and then stood to the eastward, and were soon out of sight. The flotilla returned to its former station.

On the 5th July, the British tender *Eagle*, which had been employed by commodore Beresford, for the purpose of burning coasters, &c. was taken by a coup de main. The smack *Yankee* was borrowed for this purpose. Sailing master Percival went on board, and concealed 30 men in the hold, he tied a calf, a sheep, and a goose on deck, and, thus prepared, he stood out of Musquito cove; three men appeared on deck. The *Eagle*, on perceiving the smack, immediately gave chase, and after coming up with her, and finding she had live stock on deck, ordered her to go down to the commodore, then about five miles distant. The helmsman of the smack answered "aye, aye, sir," and apparently put up the helm for that purpose, which brought him

along side the *Eagle*, not more than three yards distant. The watchword, *Lawrence*, was then given, when the armed men rushed on deck from their hiding places, and poured into her a volley of musketry, which struck her crew with dismay, and drove them down so precipitately into the hold of the vessel, that they had not time to strike their colours. Seeing the enemy's deck clear, sailing-master Percival, who commanded the expedition, ordered his men to cease firing—upon which one of the enemy came out of the hold and struck the colours of the eagle. She had on board a 32 pound brass howitzer, loaded with cannister shot; but so sudden was the surprise, they had not time to discharge it. The crew of the *Eagle* consisted of H. Morris, master's mate of the *Poictiers*, W. Price, midshipman, and 11 seamen and marines. Mr. Morris was killed, Mr. Price mortally wounded, and one marine killed and one wounded. The *Eagle*, with the prisoners, arrived off the battery in the afternoon, and landed the prisoners at Whitehall, amidst the shouts and plaudits of thousands of spectators, assembled on the battery, celebrating the anniversary of our independence.

A detachment from the gun-boat flotilla near Sandy-Hook, most gallantly beat off about 100 of the crew of the *Plantagenet*, which drove ashore and boarded the schooner *Sparrow*, of Baltimore, on the 3d November, near Long Branch. The cargo, together with sails, rigging, &c. was saved; the vessel bilged.

The following copy of a letter from lieutenant Nicholson, commanding the gun-boats at Newport, announced the capture of the armed British sloop *Dart*, on the 4th October.

“ Sir—I have the pleasure to inform you of the capture of the British armed sloop *Dart*, by the re-

venue cutter of this place, last evening. She appeared off the harbor before sun set; the captain of the cutter offered his services to go out; I put on board three sailing-masters and about twenty men; she immediately made sail and laid aboard the Dart, and carried her by boarding. Her first officer was killed; two of our own men were wounded slightly. The prisoners I send for your disposal. Very respectfully, your most obedient humble servant,

“JOHN NICHOLSON.

“Com. John Rodgers, U. S. frigate President.”

The British admiral Warren issued a proclamation on the 16th November, declaring Long-Island Sound in a state of rigorous blockade. This was an extension or explanation of a former proclamation of the 24th September, by which the ports and harbors of New-York, Charleston, Port-Royal, Savannah, and the river Mississippi, were declared in a state of strict and rigorous blockade.

A proclamation was issued by the governor of Vermont on the 10th November, 1815, the object of which was to call home from the service of the United States a portion of the militia, which had been then serving in the state of New-York. Brigadier-general Davis repaired to the army, and demanded a compliance with the orders of his excellency; but obedience was refused, and the general was arrested.

A reply to the proclamation was drawn up at Plattsburgh the 15th November, and directed to his excellency, signed by all the officers of the Vermont militia then there. The reply contained, among other matter, the following decided and unequivocal expressions:

“We consider your proclamation as a gross insult to the officers and soldiers in service, inasmuch as it implies that they are so ignorant of their rights as to



believe you have authority to command them in their present situation, or so abandoned as to follow your insidious advice. We cannot regard your proclamation in any other light, than as an unwarrantable stretch of executive authority, issued from the worst of motives, to effect the basest purposes. It is, in our opinion, a renewed instance of that spirit of disorganization and anarchy which is carried on by a faction, to overwhelm our country with ruin and disgrace. We cannot perceive what other object your excellency could have in view than to embarrass the operations of the army, to excite mutiny and sedition among the soldiers, and to induce them to desert, that they might forfeit the wages to which they are entitled for their patriotic services."

A most positive proof of that actual treason, which lurked under the shade of an ill-timed opposition to the measures of the general government, was, soon afterward discovered, near New-London, as will be best explained by the following communication from commodore Decatur to the secretary of the navy, dated at New-London, December 20th, 1813.

"Some few nights since, the weather promised an opportunity for this squadron to get to sea, and it was said on shore that we intended to make the attempt. In the course of the evening two blue lights were burnt on both the points at the harbor's mouth, as signals to the enemy, and there is not a doubt but that they have by signals and otherwise, instantaneous information of our movements. Great but unsuccessful exertions have been made to detect those who communicate with the enemy by signal. The editor of the New-London Gazette, to alarm them, and in hope to prevent the repetition of these signals, stated in that newspaper, that they had been observed, and ventured to denounce those who had made them in animated and indignant terms. The consequence is, that he has incurred the express censure of some

of his neighbours. Notwithstanding these signals have been repeated, and have been seen by twenty persons at least in this squadron, there are men in New-London who have the hardihood to affect to disbelieve it, and the effrontery to avow their disbelief."

The U. S. frigate Congress, capain Smith, arrived at Portsmouth in December, after a cruise of nearly eight months. During her cruise, she got sight of an enemy's line of battle ship, with a frigate in company. She captured and destroyed one ship and one brig; and sent another captured brig as a cartel to the West-Indies. It will be recollected that the Congress sailed from Newport in April, in company with the President, and parted company the 8th May.

The hostile attitude of the Indians, and the battle with them at Tippacanoë, previous to the war, excited alarm, and caused an inquiry into its cause. A committee of congress, on that part of the president's message, which related to Indian affairs, turned their particular attention to the following inquiries:

"1st. Whether any, and what agency the subjects of the British government may have had in exciting the Indians on the western frontier, to hostilities against the United States.

"2d. The evidence of such hostility, on the part of the Indian tribes, prior to the late campaign on the Wabash.

"3d. The orders by which the campaign was authorised and carried on."

The committee reported, that "the evidence before them was as conclusive as the nature of the case can well be supposed to admit of, that the supply of Indian goods furnished at Fort Malden, and distributed during the last year by the British agents in Upper Canada, to the Indian tribes,

were more abundant than usual; and it is difficult to account for this extraordinary liberality, on any other ground than that of an intention to attach the Indians to the British cause, in the event of a war with the United States."

"Additional presents," continued the committee, "consisting of arms and ammunition, given at a time when there is evidence that the British were apprized of the hostile disposition of the Indians, accompanied with the speeches addressed to them, exciting disaffection, are of too decisive a character to leave doubt on the subject."

The part which the Indians took in the war between Great Britain and the United States, was an additional and strong evidence in support of the agency, which the British government had in the early hostility of the savages.

Scarcely was the Indian war with the north-western tribes brought to a conclusion, than the tomahawk was raised on the south-western border.

The southern tribes were divided into parties: one hostile, the other friendly, to the United States. The former was the stronger party; the latter needed protection, and were so bent on hostility, that it was found impossible to enforce on them a neutral policy. A departure from the usual forbearance of the United States government, to accept their services, was unavoidable; and the proffered services of friendly Indians were accepted.

It having been discovered that in consequence of an order from a British general in Canada, a large quantity of munitions of war were distributed by the Spanish governor of Pensacola, among the hostile tribe of Indians, colonel Collier, with about 180 men, marched with a view to intercept the Indians, on their return. On the

27th July, 1813, on the east side of Alabama, and waters of Escambia, he fell in with, and gave battle to the Muscogees. The fight was, for a short time, well maintained on both sides. At the moment when victory was about to declare in favour of colonel Collier's party, a junior officer, without authority, cried out "retreat!" It passed through the whole line, and, notwithstanding the exertions of colonel Collier, it was impossible to rally the militia: the enemy was left master of the field. Colonel Collier lost 2 men killed, and 10 wounded. The Indians acknowledged a loss of 6 killed, and several wounded. A considerable part of the presents brought by the Indians from Pensacola fell into colonel Collier's hands.

Fort Mimms, on Tensaw, was unexpectedly attacked on the 30th August, by a large force of Indians. The front gate lay open, and the Indians were rushing through, when first perceived by the garrison. The men, under command of major Beasley, were quickly formed, and a part of them contested a passage through the gate with great bravery; the action soon became general; the port-holes were taken and retaken several times. A block-house was defended by captain Jack and a few riflemen; for an hour after a part of it had been possessed by the enemy. A galling fire was kept up from the houses, until the enemy gave fire to the roofs. The place was no longer tenable. A retreat was attempted, under direction of captain Bailey of the militia, and ensign Chambliss, of the rifle company, but few of the party were able to effect it. Major Beasley fell while defending the gate, at the commencement of the action, which continued for about six hours.—Ninety-two men, including officers, were killed; and many respectable citizens, with numerous families, who had abandon-

ed their farms for security, were also killed or burned in the houses into which they had fled. The loss of the enemy could not be ascertained, but must have been very considerable.

Captain Kennedy, who was sent, after the retreat of the Indians, to bury the dead, made a report to General Claiborne, of which the following is an extract:

“We collected and consigned to the earth two HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVEN, including men, women and children.

“The adjacent woods were strictly searched for our countrymen, and in that pursuit we discovered at least one hundred slaughtered Indians. They were covered with rails, brush, &c. We could not be mistaken as to their being Indians, as they were interred with their war-dress and implements—and although they have massacred a number of our helpless women and children, it is, beyond doubt, to them, a dear-bought victory.”

The massacre at Fort Mimms, was followed by several other cruel murders in different places.

The general government, having been informed of these transactions, made a requisition on the states of Tennessee and Georgia, for detachments of militia, to be sent against the hostile Indians of the Creek nation.

The legislature of the state of Tennessee adopted a resolution, on the 27th September, in the following words:

RESOLVED, That the governor of this state be and he is hereby required, forthwith to give immediate information to the executive of the United States of the time when, and the place at which, the 3,500 men will be prepared to obey the orders of the general government, accompanied with a request that the said troops be immediately received into the public service.”

The legislature of Georgia gave authority to the governor, to call out such portion of the militia, as he might deem necessary, for the security and protection of the frontier inhabitants; and requiring that he call on the general government for subsistence for the troops that might be thus called out. This was, in effect, putting them at the disposal of the general government.

The militia of the states of Georgia and Tennessee, with the nearest regular troops, and other corps from the Mississippi territory, were marched against the hostile savages. General Andrew Jackson commanded the entire.

The first victory (for every battle, after this period, was a victory,) is thus detailed by General Jackson.

"We have retaliated for the destruction of Fort Mimms. On the 2d, I detached General Coffee with a part of his brigade of cavalry and mounted riflemen, to destroy Tallushatches, where a considerable force of the hostile Creeks were concentrated. The general executed this in stile. A hundred and eighty six of the enemy were found dead on the field, and about 80 taken prisoners, 40 of whom have been brought here. In the number left, there is a sufficiency but slightly wounded, to take care of those who are badly.

"I have to regret, that five of my brave fellows have been killed, and about 30 wounded; some badly, but none I hope mortally.

"Both officers and men behaved with the utmost bravery and deliberation.

"Captains Smyth, Bradley, and Winston, are wounded, all slightly. No officer is killed."

It appears, by General Coffee's statement, dated Camp at Ten-islands of Coosa, November 4th, that the Indians fought with a bravery that would do them honour, had they been engaged in a just cause, with an obstinacy, that would yield to no-

thing but death, and with a contempt of danger, truly characteristic of the savage.—The detachment, under command of General Coffee, consisted of 900, cavalry and mounted riflemen. Being arrived within one and a half miles of the Tallushatches town, the detachment was divided into two columns, the right composed of the cavalry, under Colonel Allcorn; the left composed of mounted riflemen, under Colonel Cannon. General Coffee marched with the riflemen; Colonel Allcorn encircled one half of the town, while Colonel Cannon completed the circle, by closing on the side opposite to Colonel Allcorn. When within half a mile of the town, the drums of the enemy beat, and the savage yells announced that the enemy was prepared for battle. In about an hour after sun-rise, Captain Hammond, and Lieutenant Patterson's companies went within the circle, and succeeded in drawing forth the enemy, and commenced the battle, when they withdrew before a violent charge from the Indians, until they reached Colonel Allcorn's column, when a general fire was opened on the savages, who retreated, firing until they got around and into their buildings. Here they fought as long as one existed. No quarter was sought, and none, from all appearance, would be accepted. The assault by the troops was warm and courageous, rushing up to the doors of the houses, as little intimidated as if there was no enemy to oppose them. In a conflict of this nature, it was impossible to provide against the destruction of a few of the squaws and children. The number of the enemy killed must have exceeded 200; 186 of whom were found; 84 women and children were taken prisoners. The loss of the militia consisted of 5 privates killed: 4 captains, 2 lieutenants, 2 cornets, 3 sergeants, 5 corporals, 1 artificer, and 24 privates, wounded.

On the evening of the 7th November, an express arrived to General Jackson, with information, that the hostile Creeks had encamped in great force near Lashly's fort, (Talladaga,) with the apparent intention of attacking the friendly Indians. The general immediately marched with about 2000 men, against the enemy, and encamped that night within six miles of the fort. At 4 o'clock, on the morning of the 8th, he continued his march towards the enemy, who was encamped within a quarter of a mile of the fort, to relieve which, General Jackson had so expeditiously moved. At sun-rise, the general was within half a mile of the fort, when he moved forwards in order of battle. The plan of attack was similar to that which proved so successful on the 3d instant. The enemy was to be enclosed in a circle. The advanced guard sent forward to bring on the engagement, succeeded in drawing forward the savages toward the main body of the army. On the arrival of the Indians, within a short distance of the main body of the army, a few companies of the militia commenced a retreat; but finding their place quickly supplied by a body of cavalry, who dismounted for the purpose, the militia rallied, when a general fire from the front line, and from that part of the wings which was contiguous, was poured on the savages, who unable to withstand or resist, retreated; but were met at every turn, and repulsed in every direction. Had it not been for the retreat of the militia, in the early part of the action, this victory would probably have been as complete as that of the 2d. The victory, however, was very decisive; 290 of the enemy were left dead on the field; many more were probably killed, who were not found; and many, or most of those who escaped, must have been wounded. Jackson was compelled to return to his camp near the Ten-islands, having marched



from thence without baggage, or other necessaries that could be dispensed with, or might retard his march. He lost, in the engagement, 17 killed, and 86 wounded. The enemy exceeded 1000 warriors. A stand of colours, bearing the Spanish cross, was taken from them.

On the 12th November, General White was detached from Fort Armstrong, on the Coosa, with about 1100 mounted men, (including upwards of 300 Cherokee Indians,) for the purpose of attacking the Hillabee towns, on the west side of Tallapoosa river. On the 17th, about 1 o'clock at night, the detachment marched within eight miles of the upper town, received information from one of their spies, a half breed and son of a Mr. Grayson, who had considerable property, and resided in that place, that his family and property would be sacrificed by the Indians on the next day, if General White did not relieve him. General White, with alacrity, dismounted three hundred of his troops, with part of the Indians, and marched to surprise the town before day-light. Having large creeks to wade, and the van having to tarry some time for the rear, which had fallen behind some distance, the town was not reached until sun-rise on the 18th, when the town was completely surrounded, and the savage enemy received the first fire without the least notice of the approach. They fired several guns, but we charged home upon them with loaded muskets, and charge of bayonets; and in 10 or 15 minutes they held up a flag, and the firing ceased. An Indian town at Oakfuskee, consisting of 30 houses, a town called Genalga, consisting of 93 houses, were burned by the troops in their march. The great number, if not the whole of the hostile Creeks, assembled at the Hillabee town, consisting of about 316, were either killed or captured. Sixty warriors were killed on the spot.—General

White's detachment had not a man killed or wounded.

Gen. Floyd, with 950 of the Georgia militia, and between 300 and 400 friendly Indians, proceeded to a town called Auttosée, on the southern bank of Talapoosee, about 18 miles from the Hickory Ground, in order to attack a large force of hostile Indians, reported to be assembled at that place. At half an hour after six o'clock, in the morning of the 29th November, the expedition reached the front of the town, and the men were formed for action. At this time, when the army was about to execute a pre-concerted manœuvre, for the purpose of surrounding the enemy, a second town was discovered about 500 yards below that which was first discovered. This compelled Gen. Floyd to adopt a new manœuvre, by dividing and disposing his force, so that both towns might be attacked at once. This disposition being made, and the troops having advanced, the battle commenced, and soon became general. The Indians fought with their usual obstinacy and desperation, but were soon compelled, by the superior force of artillery, and a charge of bayonets, to retreat and take refuge in out-houses and copses in the rear of the town. At nine o'clock, the enemy was completely driven from the plain, and the houses wrapped in flames. The militia being 60 miles from any depot of provisions, and but little remaining, it was judged imprudent to continue in the heart of a country, surrounded by hosts of savages. This place was, therefore, abandoned, and the troops commenced their march to Chatahouchie.

Auttossee was a favourite spot with the Indians, and it is conjectured, that the force assembled from several towns for its defence, must have been very considerable. It is difficult to give a precise account of the loss of the enemy; but from the

number which were lying scattered over the field, together with those destroyed in the towns, and the many slain on the bank of the river, which respectable officers affirm they saw lying in heaps at the water's edge, where they had been precipitated by their surviving friends, their loss in killed, independent of their wounded, must have been at least 200, (among whom were the Autosee and Tallasee kings;) and from the circumstance of their making no efforts to molest the troops, probably greater. The number of buildings burnt, some of a superior order, for the dwellings of savages, and filled with valuable articles, is supposed to be 400.

The number of the Americans killed and wounded, as furnished by the hospital surgeon, was—total killed, 11; total wounded, 54; among whom was general Floyd, badly.

A detachment, under command of gen. Claiborne, marched from Fort Claiborne, east bank of the Alabama, on the 13th of December, against the Indians residing on the Alabama, above the mouth of the Cahaba. After a march of more than 100 miles, principally through woods, without a track to guide them, they came in sight of a new town lately built by the Indians, on a ground called "holy." This town was established as a place of security for the inhabitants of several villages, and three of the prophets resided in it. The place was then occupied by a large body of the enemy, under the command of Wetherford, a bold and sanguinary chief, who was one of those who commanded the Indians at the massacre of the garrison and inhabitants at Fort Mims. About noon, on the 23d December, the right column of the army, composed of 12 months' volunteers, commanded by col. Joseph Carson, came in view of the town, and was immediately and vigorously attacked by the enemy, who, being ap-

prized of the approach of the troops, had chosen their field of action. Before the other troops or friendly Indians could come generally into action, the enemy were repulsed, and flying in all directions. Thirty of the enemy were killed, and many wounded. The loss to the army was one killed, and six wounded. A pursuit was attempted, but found to be impracticable, owing to the nature of the ground. The town, consisting of 200 houses, was burned, together with a large quantity of provisions, and immense property of various kinds, which the enemy could not carry away. The next day was employed in destroying a town consisting of sixty houses, eight miles higher up the river.

Notwithstanding these repeated defeats, the savages seemed yet bent on war. Before day, on the morning of the 27th January, a very large body of Indians attacked the troops at Camp-Defiance, 48 miles west of Chatahouchie. The onset was desperate, and the surprise as complete as possible. In 20 minutes after firing on the sentinels, the action became general, the enemy pressing close upon the front, right and left flanks of the army; but the savages were repelled at every point. The enemy rushed nearly to the cannon's mouth, and gained the rear of the picquet guards, commanded by capt. Broadnax: but the latter bravely cut their way through the savages, and joined the army. As soon as day dawned, and objects could be distinguished, a charge was ordered, and the enemy fled before the bayonet. The signal was given for the charge of the cavalry, who pursued and sabred 15 of the enemy, who left 37 dead on the field. From the effusion of blood, and the number of head-dresses and war-clubs found in various directions, their loss must have been considerable. The loss of the army, on this occasion, was 17 killed, and 152

wounded. Of the friendly Indians, 5 were killed, and 15 wounded.

Gen. Jackson having received information at his head-quarters, Fort Strother, from captain M'Alpin, who commanded at Fort Armstrong, in the absence of col. Snodgrass, that 14 or 15 towns of the enemy, situated on the waters of the Tallapoosa, were about uniting their forces, and attacking the fort, which was then in a feeble state of defence, the general resolved on an excursion into the enemy's country, further than had been hitherto attempted. He accordingly commenced his march on the 15th of January, with 930 men, exclusive of Indians. On the 18th, the army encamped at Talladega fort, where it was joined by about 200 friendly Creek Indians, and 65 Cherokees. Here the general received a letter from Colonel Snodgrass, who had returned to Fort Armstrong, informing him that an attack was soon to be made on that fort, by 900 of the enemy. It was further understood that the enemy was collecting in a bend of the Tallapoossee, near the mouth of a creek called Emuckfau, on an island below New Yorcan.

On the 20th at night, the army encamped at a small Hillabee village, about 12 miles from Emuckfau. On the 21st, the army marched in a direct line for the bend of the Tallapoossee. In the afternoon, the army halted, and the general determined to encamp for the night, that he might have time to reconnoitre, and make dispositions for attack, if he were in the neighbourhood of a large force, which, from appearances, he judged to be the case. Having chosen an eligible scite, the army encamped in a hollow square. Spies and piquets were sent out, the sentinels doubled, and the necessary arrangements were made to resist an attack, if it should be attempted during the night; or to make one, if the enemy could be

found at day-light the following morning. While the army was in this state of readiness, the enemy, about six o'clock in the morning, commenced a vigorous attack on the left flank, which was as vigorously met. The action raged for half an hour on the left flank, and on the left of the rear of the army. The brave general Coffee, with colonel Sittler, the adjutant general, and colonel Carroll, the inspector general, the moment the firing commenced, mounted their horses and repaired to the line, encouraging and animating the men to the performance of their duty. So soon as it became light enough to pursue, the left wing, having sustained the heat of the action, and being somewhat weakened, was reinforced by captain Ferrill's company of infantry, and was ordered and led on to the charge by general Coffee, who was well supported by colonel Higgins, and the inspector general, and by all the officers and privates who composed that line. The enemy was completely routed at every point, and the friendly Indians joining in the pursuit, they were chased about two miles, with considerable slaughter.

General Coffee, who was detached with 400 men to reconnoitre the enemy's encampment, returned with a view to bring up the artillery, which he deemed necessary to the attack. In half an hour after his return, a considerable force of the enemy opened a fire on a party of men who were then in search of Indians. General Coffee, with only 54 men, a part of 200 who were to have acted with him, commenced an attack on the left flank of the enemy; 200 friendly Indians were ordered at the same time to attack the enemy's right. At this moment it was discovered that the attack of the enemy was but a feint, having intended, by drawing off the general's attention from his left, to attack it.

with success: in this the enemy was disappointed. The whole line met the approach of the enemy with astonishing intrepidity, and having charged, forced the savages to retreat with precipitation. They were pursued to a considerable distance, and severely galled by a very destructive fire.

During this transaction, general Coffee was contending against a very superior force. As soon as possible a reinforcement was sent to his aid, which soon decided the contest in that quarter: the enemy was charged, routed and pursued for three miles. Nothing now remained but to destroy an empty camp, which did not seem of sufficient importance to delay a return to fort Strother, which was commenced on the following morning.

On the 24th, as the men were crossing the Enotachopoc creek, an alarm gun announced the advance of the enemy. General Jackson expected an attack, and had dispositions made to turn it to the disadvantage of the enemy. The right and left columns of the army were directed to turn on their pivots, recross the creek above and below, and fall on the enemy's flanks and rear. The manœuvre, if executed, would probably prove as destructive to the enemy as any thing hitherto attempted; but, at the moment when a few guns were fired, the right and left columns of the rear guard gave way; the greater part of the centre column followed the disastrous example, leaving not more than 25 men, who maintained their ground as long as possible. There was then left to repulse the enemy, but the few who remained in the rear guard, the artillery company, and Captain Russell's company of spies. Amidst a most galling fire from the enemy, this little band, not one-tenth of the number opposed to it, advanced to the attack. The artillery and a few others gained the top of a hill, drawing up with them a six-pounder, when

they poured on the enemy several discharges of grape, then charged, repulsed, and pursued him for two miles, leaving 26 of their warriors dead on the field. The loss in these several engagements, was 20 killed and 75 wounded. The loss of the enemy could not be exactly ascertained; 189 of their warriors were found dead; this undoubtedly formed but a part of the killed; the wounded must have been proportionably numerous.

All the effects intended by this excursion, seem to have been produced. If an attack was intended against Fort Armstrong, that was prevented; a diversion was made in favour of General Floyd, who was on the east side of the Tallapoossee; the number of the enemy was lessened, and their confidence in their leaders broken in on; the enemy's country was explored, and a road cut through an important part of it; and, on the whole, tended to, and hastened the termination of Indian hostilities, as much, if not more, than any previous expedition.

Hitherto the enemy was engaged either in open field, or in situations where he had little advantage from works of art, and not much from nature. One situation remained to be assailed, where a skilful display of art rendered a position naturally strong, so seemingly impregnable, that it required a great effort of courage to approach it, a consummate skill to direct the attack, and a persevering, undaunted resolution, to prosecute it to success.

In the bend of the Tallapoossee, two miles beyond where General Jackson engaged the Indians on the 22d January, the savages had fixed on a site for erecting a fortification. Nature furnished few places more eligible for defence, and it was improved by art, with a skill not discovered before in an Indian fortification. The bend resembles, in its curviture, a horse-shoe. Across the neck of land, which leads into it from the north, a breast-



work was erected, of the greatest compactness and strength, from 5 to 8 feet high, and prepared with double rows of port-holes, very artfully arranged; an army could not approach it, without being exposed to a double and cross fire from the enemy, who lay in perfect security behind it. General Jackson resolved on the attack of this important and doubly strong position. The Indian force amounted to about, or upwards of 1000 warriors. The army approached this formidable position on the 27th March, near enough to prepare for the attack. General Coffee, with the mounted men, and nearly the whole of the Indian force, crossed the river about two miles below the encampment, with a view to prevent the escape of the Indians; the infantry advanced slowly along the point of land which led to the front of the breastwork; a six and a three pound cannon were planted on an eminence, at a distance of 150 or 200 yards from it. A fire from rifles was directed against the enemy, whenever he showed himself beyond his defences. When this fire was kept up about two hours, a party crossed over in canoes, and fired a few of the buildings, and then advancing boldly up to the breastwork, commenced a fire on the enemy behind it. This proving insufficient to dislodge him, general Jackson resolved to take it by storm. The troops received the order with acclamation, and advanced with an ardent and zealous enthusiasm. "Having maintained," says general Jackson, in his letter to gov. Blount, "for a few minutes a very obstinate contest, muzzle to muzzle, through the port-holes, in which many of the enemy's balls were welded to the bayonets of our muskets, our troops succeeded in gaining possession of the opposite side of the works. The event could no longer be doubtful. The enemy, although many of them fought to the last with that kind of bravery which desperation

inspires, were at length routed and cut to pieces. The whole margin of the river which surrounded the peninsula, was strewed with the slain." The fighting continued with some severity about five hours. Five hundred and fifty seven of the enemy were left dead on the peninsula, and a great number were killed in attempting to cross the river; it was supposed that not more than 20 escaped; 250 women and children were taken prisoners. General Jackson's loss amounted to 43 white men killed, and 173 wounded; 23 friendly Indians killed, and 47 wounded.

This battle broke down the spirits, as it materially reduced the remaining strength of the savages. Wetherford surrendered himself to general Jackson. Six or seven towns followed the example of this chief. M'Queen, with 500 of his followers, retired to the Escambia river, near Pensacola. Peace was quickly restored. The militia were disbanded, and returned to their homes.

Wetherford, whose unconditional surrender has been just mentioned, had been the most active and sanguinary of all the Indian chiefs. He signalized himself in several actions: ever present where danger pressed, he was the constant advocate of murder and extermination. In a private interview with general Jackson, he delivered the following speech:

"I fought at Fort Mimms—I fought the Georgian army—I did you all the Injury I could—had I been supported as I was promised, I would have done you more. But my warriors are all killed—I can fight you no longer. I look back with sorrow, that I have brought destruction on my nation. I am now in your power—do with me as you please. I am a soldier."

The barbarous complexion which the enemy gave to the war, was not confined to the employment of Indians. We have already detailed barbarities in which Indians did not participate. Ma-

ny others must remain untold; our limits will not admit a full detail of this part of the subject. The treatment to prisoners of war was not merely unusual; it was, in the last degree, cruel, unprecedented, barbarous. The authenticated proofs, congressional records, affidavits, &c. are shockingly numerous.

The exercise, by Britain, of a presumed right to command, at all times, the services of native subjects, gave rise to one of the causes of war, to wit, the impressment of seamen out of neutral vessels on the high seas. This principle, it was intended, should govern the enemy in conducting the war.

The crew of the United States' brig *Nautilus*, which had been captured in the early part of the war, arrived at Boston in a cartel, the 11th September, 1812, except six men, who were put in irons; and were, as lieutenant Crane understood, to be tried for their lives as British subjects, found in arms against their king. Commodore Rodgers, on learning the circumstances, stopped a cartel which had got under way for Halifax, and took out twelve Englishmen as hostages for the six Americans.

On the 11th October, six of the crew of the private armed ship *Sarah-Ann*, which was captured and sent into Nassau, were taken out of jail, and sent to Jamaica, to be there tried as British subjects, found in arms against their king. It appears, that, on this occasion, the British officer fell into a mistake, similar to those which had been so commonly committed before the declaration of war; four of the persons thus detained were natives of the United States; the others were Irishmen by birth, but had been naturalized citizens of the United States. On the arrival of captain Moon (late commander of the *Sarah-Ann*,) at Charleston, 12 Englishmen, including a midshipman,

were put in close confinement, as hostages for the six men taken from captain Moon's crew.

By a letter from George S. Wise, purser of the United States' sloop of war *Wasp*, to the secretary of war, it appears that after the capture of that vessel, by the British ship *Poictiers*, 12 of the crew of the *Wasp* were detained by captain Beresford as British subjects.

That the enemy intended to deny to others the exercise of rights in the manner as claimed by himself is evident from the circumstance of the British admiral Warren having refused the liberation of Thomas Dunn, a native of the United States, because the said Dunn had been married in England, and had been eight years in his majesty's service. The application for his liberation was made by Mr. Mitchell, U. S. agent for the exchange of prisoners at Halifax, at the particular request of the father of said Dunn, then residing at Boston.

Twenty-three of the prisoners, taken by the enemy at Queenstown, were sent to England to be tried as British subjects, for appearing in arms against their king. The United States' government ordered 23 British soldiers into close confinement, as hostages for the safety of those so taken at Queenstown. In retaliation, the British government ordered 46 United States' officers and non-commissioned officers into close and rigorous confinement.

The system of retaliation, after this circumstance, bore a very serious aspect, and threatened to be as extensive as prisoners on either side were numerous.

The secretary of state transmitted to congress on the 16th April, 1814, a very important report on the subject matter which led to the practice of retaliation, in which it is stated, that the Bri-

tish government, among other pretexts for not discharging citizens of the United States impressed into their service, alleged that they were natives of Prussia, Sweden, &c. thus evincing that the recovery of their own native subjects was not the sole motive of impressment.—The secretary further reported,

“That all the nations of Europe naturalize foreigners.

“That they all employ in their service the subjects of each other, and frequently against their native countries, even when not regularly naturalized.

“That although examples may be found of the punishment of their native subjects taken in arms against them, the examples are few, and have either been marked by peculiar circumstances taking them out of the controverted principle, or have proceeded from the passions or policy of the occasion. Even in prosecutions and convictions having the latter origin, the final act of punishment has, with little exception, been prevented by a sense of equity and dread of retaliation. It is confidently believed that no instance can be found in which the alleged purposes of the enemy against the twenty-three prisoners in question, under all the circumstances which belong to their case, even though any of them may not have been regularly naturalized, are countenanced by the proceedings of any European nation.”

A publication, of which the following is a copy, appeared from the navy department of the United States the 28th July, 1814, and was understood to be a relinquishment of the system of retaliation, on the part of England and of the United States; the 23 American soldiers sent to England, and all other Americans held by the enemy as hostages, having been restored to the state of ordinary prisoners.

"All officers, seamen and marines of the United States' navy, captured by the troops or vessels, within the command of sir George Prevost, prior to the 15th day of April last, have been duly exchanged, and declared competent to serve against the enemy. They will therefore immediately report themselves to the commanding naval officer of the station on which they are or may arrive."

The time when the armies must be in winter quarters, and the officers less engaged than they would be at another season, was chosen for the trial of general Hull. A general court-martial assembled for that purpose at Albany, the 5th January, 1814, and proceeded in the trial, from time to time, until the 8th March.

Three charges were presented against him, to wit, treason against the United States; cowardice; and neglect of duty and unofficer-like conduct; to all which he pleaded not guilty.

The general, having protested against the competency of the court to try the first charge, the court declined making any formal decision on it; but yet gave an opinion that nothing appeared to them which could justify the charge.

The court acquitted him of that part of the third specification which charges him with having "forbidden the American artillery to fire on the enemy, on their march towards the said Fort Detroit," and found him guilty of the first, second part of the third, and the fourth specifications.

On the third charge the court found the accused guilty of neglect of duty, in omitting seasonably to inspect, train, exercise, and order the troops under his command, or cause them to be done. They also found him guilty of part of the fourth and fifth specifications, and the whole of the sixth and seventh; and acquitted him of the

second and third, and part of the fourth and fifth specifications.

The court sentenced "the said brigadier-general William Hull to be shot to death, two thirds of the court concurring in the sentence; but, in consideration of his revolutionary services, and his advanced age, recommended him to the mercy of the president of the United States."

The president of the United States approved the sentence, remitted the execution, and ordered the name of general Hull to be erased from the list of the army.

The general, in an address to the people of the United States, appealed to their decision against the verdict and sentence of the court, declaring himself innocent, notwithstanding the verdict, and charging the government with persecution and injustice to himself.

A circumstance of great interest, and which might have a great effect on the war between Great Britain and the United States, occurred in March, 1814. On the 31st of that month, the allied armies of Austria, Prussia, and Russia, headed by their respective sovereigns, triumphantly entered the French capital, overthrew the Bonapartean dynasty, sent its chief into exile, and replaced Louis XVIII. on the throne of his ancestors.

Hitherto the power of England was divided between making war on France and the United States of America; it was to be now entirely turned against the latter, at least so the British editors threatened. Indeed America would certainly be punished, overthrown, re-subjugated, and enslaved, if the editors' lead could be formed into balls instead of types, and these pressed into cannon, instead of being pressed on paper.

The new situation of affairs in Europe created much alarm, but no despondency in America.

The citizens saw the approach of a terrible conflict, but they resolved to meet it. The legions, which gained the character of "invincible," in Spain, Portugal, and France, were to be vomited on the shores of America; the thousand ships of Britain were to blockade the coast; British tars without number were to cover the lakes; and these myriads, by sea and by land, were to be directed by those commanders who swept the European navies from the ocean, and outrivaled the best generals of the first warrior in the world. Yet, notwithstanding these exterminating threats and gloomy prospects, America was destined to preserve her independence and honor; and to gather more laurels in 1814, than she did in any former year of this war.

A small quantity of stores, intended for the use of the army and fleet at Sackett's Harbor, were deposited at Fort Oswego; and a considerable quantity at the Falls, 10 miles in the rear of the fort. The enemy prepared an expedition to seize both. Lieutenant colonel Mitchell, of the artillery, arrived at Oswego on the 30th April, 1814, for the protection of that place, which he found in a very bad state of defence. Of cannon there were but five guns, 3 of which had lost their trunnions. What could be done in the way of repair, was effected; new platforms were laid, the gun-carriages put in order, and decayed pickets re-placed. At day-light, on the morning of the 5th May, a British naval force of 4 ships, 3 brigs, and a number of gun and other boats, were discovered at about 7 miles from the fort. The force at the fort consisted of 290 effectives. These were too few for the purpose of defence, It became necessary to disguise this weakness, and to keep the entire in one place; for this purpose, the tents were pitched on one side of the river, and the men were all ordered to the other.



At one o'clock, 15 large barges, crowded with men, moved towards the side opposite that on which the tents were pitched, and where there appeared the least show of resistance. These were preceded by gun-boats, to cover the landing. As soon as the boats got within the range of shot, a very successful fire was opened from the shore-battery, which compelled them to retire twice, when they stood off, and returned to their ships. Some boats, which had been deserted, were taken up by the militia, one of the boats was 60 feet long, and could accommodate 150 men.

At day-break, on the 6th, the fleet again approached the fort. The Wolfe, and other vessels, kept up a fire for three hours against the fort and batteries. Colonel Mitchell, finding that the enemy had landed about 2000 men, withdrew his small force into the rear of the fort, and with two companies, (Romaine and Melvin's) met their advancing columns, while the other companies engaged the flanks of the enemy.—With the aid of lieutenant Pierce, of the navy, and some seamen, the little American band maintained its ground for half an hour. Colonel Mitchell then marched his force, but not precipitately, to the falls, destroying the bridges in his rear. The enemy, although commanded by general Drummond, and commodore Yeo, did not think proper to pursue the colonel. They burned the old barracks, and evacuated the fort about three o'clock in the morning of the 7th.

The American loss amounted to 6 killed, 38 wounded, and 25 missing—total 69. Deserters from the enemy stated his loss to be 70 killed, 165 wounded, drowned and missing—total 235. Eight pieces of cannon, and some stores, worth about one hundred dollars, fell into the enemy's hands.

On no occasion did the Americans deserve better of their country; at no time before did the enemy buy victory with less advantage to himself, or at a dearer price. The companies under command of colonel Mitchell, consisted of Boyle's, Romaine's, McIntire's, and Pierce's, heavy artillery, and a few seamen; in all, less than 300 men. Twice they repulsed, and for nearly two days maintained a contest against seven times their number, and finally succeeded in preserving the stores at the falls, the loss of which would materially impede the operations of the army and navy. The enemy carried off 60 of the unarmed inhabitants of the village, who were stated in the British report as so many prisoners.

On the 30th May, captain Woolsey of the navy, being on his return from Oswego, with 18 boats, carrying a number of cannon, and a quantity of rigging for the new vessels at Sackett's Harbor, put into Sandy Creek, about 16 miles from the Harbor. Fearing an attack from the enemy, major Apling was placed, with 120 riflemen, and a few of the Oneida Indians, in the woods, on each side of the creek; a few raw militia were sent forward to make a show of resistance. The plan succeeded; the militia, on the first fire from the enemy, retreated in apparent confusion, and were pursued until the entire passed the riflemen and Indians, who were in ambush. The enemy was attacked in the rear, while a battery of 4 field pieces opened on him in front. The contest was not of long duration. After ten minutes fighting, the enemy surrendered. The enemy lost 2 post-captains, 4 lieutenants of the royal navy, prisoners; 2 lieutenants of marines wounded and prisoners; 1 midshipman, and 13 sailors and marines killed; 28 sailors and marines wounded, and 133 sailors and marines prisoners—total 183;

2 gun-boats and 5 barges were taken. Only one of the American army was wounded.

On the 15th May, the enemy landed several hundred men at Pultneyville, (which is on the margin of Lake Ontario,) and took possession of 100 barrels damaged flour, which were in a store close by the lake. General Swift, on hearing of the advance of the enemy, reached Pultneyville with about 130 volunteers and militia; but, deeming this force too small to oppose a numerous enemy, within the range of the guns of his fleet, he did not dispute the possession of the damaged flour: but finding the enemy proceeding to other depredations, he commenced a fire on him from an adjacent wood, which wounded several, and compelled him to re-embark, when a cannonade commenced from the fleet on the town, without doing material injury. A large quantity of flour was deposited about a mile from the town, which the enemy chose to forego the plunder of, rather than trust himself in the woods with general Swift and his riflemen.

In this month, colonel Campbell, (19th infantry,) with a detachment of 5 or 600 men, and some seamen acting as artillerists, crossed from Erie to Long point. About 50 British dragoons, stationed there as an out-post, and guard to public stores, made their escape. The mills employed in manufacturing flour for the enemy, and some houses occupied as stores, were burned; when the party returned, without losing a man.

The following transaction with the enemy's fleet on lake Champlain, will be best explained by giving the following extract of a letter from major-general Izard, commanding the first, or division of the right, dated at his headquarters, May 17th:

“ On receiving notice of the enemy's proceeding

up the lake on the 13th inst. a detachment of light artillery, under the command of Capt. Thornton, of that corps, was dispatched in waggons from Burlington to Vergennes, where they manned the battery at the mouth of Otter creek. At day-break, on the 14th, the enemy attacked with his whole force, and after a severe cannonade of two hours and a half, during which they suffered very considerably, they withdrew to repair damages. Yesterday they departed this place, having some of their vessels in tow, and are gone to their own ports. Two of their galleys are said to be missing. No damage was done on our side, except dismounting one gun in the battery, by which two men were slightly wounded."

The Chesapeake bay was likely, and proved, to continue a theatre of the enemy's depredations. A number of boats, carrying heavy metal, were constructed in March, 1814, on the eastern shore of Maryland, for the protection of the bay, and the command of them given to that intrepid officer, commodore Barney. This flotilla proved a great annoyance to the enemy, was an object of his constant attention, and was finally destroyed, as will be hereafter particularly detailed.

The enemy had a skirmish on the 29th May, with the Accomack militia, which reflected the highest honour on the latter. Between 6 and 7 o'clock in the morning, the enemy entered the Pamgoteaque creek. They were at first most gallantly met by 2d. lieutenant Underhill, of the artillery, and 6 or 7 men, who stood the fire of their 18 pounders, grape, musketry and Congreve rockets, then within 60 yards, when lieutenant Underhill, finding all further resistance totally useless; and not having a sufficient force to remove the artillery, caused it to be spiked, and retreated. The piece fell into the hands of

the enemy, who also destroyed some trifling buildings, which had been occupied as barracks. Finding no resistance from the point which lieutenant Underhill had occupied, they commenced their landing, and in a few minutes had from 450 to 500 men, 200 of whom were negroes, all well armed, formed, and advancing from the shore, the negroes in front. From the place of their landing, they marched about three quarters of a mile into the country, where they were met by a party of militia, not more than 25 in number. This little band stood for two hours the whole force of the enemy. At this time the militia began to collect, which the enemy perceiving, retreated to his ships, and thus escaped being either killed or taken prisoners. During their stay on shore, the enemy committed several petty robberies and shameful excesses, carrying away bacon, poultry, &c.

Commodore Barney got under way on the 1st June, with his flotilla, in the Patuxent, with the intention to engage or chase away the enemy. On approaching them, he discovered two schooners one a full rigged, showing nine ports on a side. When off St. Jerome's, he discovered a large ship under way, and that she had despatched a number of boats to the aid of the schooners. The wind having veered so as to prove unfavourable to the flotilla, the commodore made signal for the Patuxent, and was followed by a 74, three schooners, and seven barges. After doubling round Cedar point, in the mouth of the river, he found that gun-boat No. 137 was so far astern, that she must be taken, or saved by an engagement. The commodore brought the Scorpion, and gun-boat No. 138, to anchor, sent men on board the boat 137, to row and tow her in, and signaled his other vessels to return and join him. The Scorpion, and boat

138, opened a fire on a large schooner, and a number of barges, which had got ahead of the boat 137. The commodore's barges, at this time, had returned, and rowing down on the enemy, gave them a number of shots, and then returned into port with all the flotilla. This bold exploit did great honour to Barney and his crews.

The enemy landed at Cedar point, in the evening of the 4th June, and carried off several negroes, and considerable stock, from the plantation of Mr. Sewal.

The enemy's squadron being reinforced by a razee and a sloop of war, the commodore moved his flotilla up to the mouth of St. Leonard's creek. At 5, P. M. the 8th June, he perceived a ship, a brig, 2 schooners, and 15 barges, coming up the Patuxent, whereupon the commodore moved his flotilla about two miles up the creek, and there moored them in line abreast across the channel, and prepared for action. At 8, A. M. the enemy's barges came up the creek, the ships, &c. were anchored at the mouth of the creek; a rocket barge was advanced on the flotilla. At this time, the commodore got his barges (13 in number) under way, leaving the Scorpion and gun-boats at anchor, and rowed down upon the enemy, when they precipitately sailed and rowed off, with all their means. The commodore pursued them until near their shipping, when his barges were brought back to their moorings. In the afternoon, the enemy came up the creek again, threw some rockets, and were again pursued and driven out of the creek by the flotilla.

The situation of commodore Barney and his flotilla in St. Leonard's creek, was really unpleasant and critical. He was, however, relieved by a bold

and successful attack on the enemy, on the morning of the 26th June.

The following is a copy of commodore Barney's report to the secretary of the navy :

SIR,

This morning, at 4, A. M. a combined attack of the artillery, marine corps and flotilla, was made upon the enemy's two frigates at the mouth of the creek. After two hours' engagement, they got under way and made sail down the river. They are now warping round point Patience, and I am moving up the Patuxent with my flotilla. My loss is acting midshipman Asquith, killed, and ten others, killed and wounded.

With respect, &c.

JOSHUA BARNEY.

In June, the enemy landed about 400 men, and burned the tobacco warehouses at Lower Marlborough, and Magruder's ferry, and also Cole's warehouse. It is impossible, in our present limits, to detail every petty and wanton act of an unprincipled and mean enemy; where he could remove the plundered property, he removed it; what he could not remove, he destroyed. In Calvert, near Lower Marlborough, they forced away with them some negroes, also took some cattle and poultry.

A person who repaired to the scene of depredation after the enemy had retired, wrote to his friend in Baltimore,—“It would have distressed you to see the tobacco at Magruder's, burning, as I did, this evening. Eleven hundred hogsheads, nearly all consumed, and about four hundred at Lower Marlborough, where they took a schooner, (captain David's) and loaded her.”

The enemy performed one exploit, which, if not tarnished by the barbarous use he made of

conquest, would have left him one instance of victory, not petty.

The enemy appeared in great force in the Chesapeake, about the middle of August, 1814. More than 50 of his vessels entered the Patuxent, and landed about 5000 troops and marines, chiefly about Benedict, 40 miles south east of the city of Washington. The force at the disposal of general Winder, who had been appointed to the command of this district, was unfortunately inadequate to defend the city, and it fell into the power of the enemy. The entire force of every description which could be collected to oppose the enemy, did not exceed 5000 men; these, however, would have been sufficient for the purpose, had they all acted with equal firmness. Of these, several hundreds arrived after the battle commenced, and many after the retreat had been ordered. The force actually engaged was less than 2000.

On the 20th, colonel Munroe, who proceeded the previous day with colonel Thornton's troop of horse, to reconnoitre the enemy, reported that he had landed in force. Captains Caldwell and Tilghman, with their commands of cavalry, were sent in the afternoon of this day to annoy the enemy in his advance, and remove such supplies of provisions as lay in his route. On the 22d, the British flankers approached the wood-yard, 12 miles from the city, where general Winder, with his main body, was posted. The line of battle was formed by the American troops, but the enemy filed off to the left. At 9 o'clock, Commodore Barney caused his flotilla to be destroyed, and he proceeded with his men to take post in front of the enemy.

On the evening of the 23d, general Winder's head quarters were at Battalion Fields, within 8 miles of the city, and a short distance from Bla-



densburg. At 1 o'clock, on the 24th, the army was posted on the right of Bladensburg, about half a mile distant from the village. The artillery, from Baltimore, supported by major Pinkney's rifle battalion, and a part of captain Doughty's, from the navy-yard, were in advance, to command the pass of the bridge at Bladensburg. Soon after 1 o'clock, the enemy appeared, advancing toward the bridge over the eastern branch. When they reached the bridge, which they did in solid column, the artillery opened a warm fire on them, and the riflemen, and a regiment of militia, were soon engaged. Before 2 o'clock, the enemy advanced so close on the Baltimore volunteers, as to force them to retreat, bringing with them their artillery and arms, except one piece, which was lost by the unruliness of the horses. The retreat was not the effect of cowardice, for no men could behave with more honour to themselves. While they fought, they made a galling impression on the enemy, and when forced to yield before numbers vastly superior, they would, no doubt, have yet sought a place from which to triumph in a contest so handsomely begun, but they were not properly supported. The right and centre of Stanbury's brigade, consisting of Lieutenant Colonel Ragan and Shuler's regiments, generally gave way, and fled in disorder, nor could they be rallied with the exception of about 40 men, and a part of captain Shower's company, both of whom, even thus deserted, made a gallant but ineffectual stand. Colonel Ragan, in his great efforts to rally his men, was wounded, and taken prisoner. The 5th Baltimore regiment, under lieutenant colonel Sterrett, being the left of general Stansbury's brigade, still stood their ground, and, except for a moment, when a part of them recoiled a few steps, remained firm until ordered to retreat.

The reserve, under general Smyth, of the District of Columbia, with the militia of the city of Georgetown, with the regulars, and some detachments of Maryland militia, flanked on their right by Com. Barney and his men, and Colonel Beal, maintained the contest with great effect, until overpowered by numbers. Barney and his gallant men had just gained the ground from a station near the navy yard, and opened from three 18 pounders, a fire, which, for the time it lasted, and considering the means, was perhaps the most destructive and active that has ever been experienced. The brave Barney fell, severely wounded, into the hands of the enemy. His men fought, under his orders, until the enemy reached nearly to the muzzles of the guns; nor did they retire, until ordered to do so, after every hope of victory vanished. The enemy treated the Commodore with that courtesy and attention, which his splendid merit could not fail to inspire.

The battle being now over, after continuing more than an hour. General Ross, who commanded the land force, and Admiral Cockburn, who commanded the seamen and marines, entered the city with a part of their forces. And now began a scene, which, in the opinion even of a savage, would disgrace the characters while living, and, after death, consign to eternal infamy, the names of these two commanders. Never will barbarism and the fate of Washington be coupled in history, without being accompanied by the names of Ross and Cockburn. The destruction of private property would be in character with the conduct which disgraced the British arms in the Chesapeake and elsewhere. The triumphant entry of the marauders into the capital of an infant republic, gave them an opportunity of proving the respect in which they held the arts, sciences, and literature. "They," to use the words of President

Madison's proclamation, "wantonly destroyed the public edifices, having no relation in their structure to operations of war, nor used at any time for military annoyance; some of these edifices being also costly monuments of taste and of the arts, and others, depositories of the public archives, not only precious to the nation, as the memorials of its origin, and its early transactions, but interesting to all nations, as contributions to the general stock of historical instruction and political science." With the public buildings, the national library was destroyed. Cockburn attended in person, to the destruction of the printing materials, in the office of the National Intelligencer. A few private buildings were burned. The navy-yard, with all its shipping and stores, including a new frigate and a sloop of war, were destroyed, previous to its occupation by the enemy. The British army retired in the night of the 25th, in prudent hurry, and with studied silence, leaving several of their wounded behind, and some of their dead unburied. The American loss was stated by General Winder, to be between 30 and 40 killed, from 50 to 60 wounded, and about 120 taken prisoners. "From the best intelligence," says the general, "there remains but little doubt, that the enemy lost, at least, 400 killed and wounded, and of these a very unusual portion killed."

Fort Warburton having been deserted by the United States' troops, commanded by Captain Dixon, and consequently destroyed by the enemy, the latter advanced towards Alexandria, the civil authority of which, submitted to the most disgraceful terms of capitulation, by which the city was given up to plunder. The enemy carried off 14 vessels, laden with flour, tobacco, cotton, groceries, and a variety of goods, taken from the private stores.

A series of the most daring exertions were made

by Commodore Rodgers, Porter and Perry, with their seamen, and some of the Virginia militia, to prevent the escape of the enemy with his booty, but he got off, with some loss, taking the plunder with him. Terms, similar to those accepted by Alexandria, were offered to Georgetown, which the latter indignantly rejected, and escaped being plundered.

The enemy attempted to justify his predatory warfare in the Chesapeake, and elsewhere, by professing, that he acted in retaliation of excesses, said, by him, to have been committed by the armies of the United States, in Canada.—Nothing, however, could be farther from truth. The conduct of the republican armies could, by no fair construction, justify the barbarities of the enemy, and it was well known, that the robberies and destruction of private property and buildings, particularly in the vicinity of the Chesapeake, and its tributary streams, had, in many instances, preceded those said to have been committed by the Americans.

The enemy, probably emboldened by his success at Washington, projected a descent on, and of course, the plundering and burning the city of Baltimore. The movements of the enemy having led to a suspicion of his design, General Samuel Smyth, the revolutionary hero and defender of Mud-fort, made some early dispositions to repel an invasion, if such should be attempted.

General Striker was detached, on the evening of the 11th September, with a portion of his brigade on the North-point-road. Major Randal, of the Baltimore county militia, having under his command, a light corps of riflemen, and musketry, taken from General Stansbury's brigade, and the Pennsylvania volunteers, was detached to the mouth of Bear creek, with orders to co-operate with General Striker, and to check any landing

which the enemy might attempt in that quarter.

On Monday, the 12th, the enemy landed between 8000 and 9000 men, at North-point, 14 miles from Baltimore, the land force under command of General Ross, the seamen under Admiral Cockburn. General Striker had, that morning, taken a good position at the junction of the roads, leading from Baltimore to the North-point, having his right flanked by the Bear-creek, and his left by a marsh. Here he waited the approach of the enemy, having sent on an advance corps, under the command of Major Heath, of the 5th regiment. "This advance," says General Smyth, in his report, "met the enemy, and after some skirmishing, it returned to the line, the main body of the enemy being at a short distance in the rear of their advance. Between 2 and 3 o'clock, the enemy's whole force came up and commenced the battle, by some discharges of rockets, which were succeeded by the cannon from both sides, and soon after the action became general along the line. General Striker gallantly maintained his ground against a great superiority of numbers, during the space of an hour and twenty minutes, when the regiment on his left (the 51st) giving way, he was under the necessity of retiring to the ground in his rear, where he had stationed one regiment as a reserve. He here formed his brigade: but the enemy not thinking it advisable to pursue, he, in compliance with arrangements, fell back and took post on the left of my entrenchments, and half a mile in advance of them."

The following extracts, from General Smyth's report, will best explain the further movements of the respective armies.

"About the time General Striker had taken the ground just mentioned, he was joined by Brig. Gen. Winder, who had been stationed on the west side of the city, but was now ordered to march with Gen.

Douglas' brigade of Virginia militia, and the United States' dragoons, under Captain Bird, and take post on the left of General Striker. During these movements, the brigades of General Stansbury and Foreman, the seamen and marines under Commodore Rodgers, the Pennsylvania volunteers under Colonels Cobean and Findley, the Baltimore artillery under Colonel Harris, and the maritime artillery under Captain Stiles, manned the trenches and the batteries—all prepared to receive the enemy. We remained in this situation during the night.

“On Tuesday, the enemy appeared in front of my entrenchments, at the distance of two miles, on the Philadelphia road, from whence he had a full view of our position. He manoeuvred during the morning towards our left, as if with the intention of making a circuitous march, and coming down on the Harford or York roads. Generals Winder and Striker were ordered to adapt their movement to those of the enemy, so as to baffle this supposed intention. They executed this order with great skill and judgment, by taking an advantageous position, stretching from my left across the country, when the enemy was likely to approach the quarter he seemed to threaten. This movement induced the enemy to concentrate his forces (between one and two o'clock,) in my front, pushing his advance to within a mile of us, driving in our videttes, and showing an intention of attacking us that evening. I immediately drew Gens. Winder and Striker nearer to the left of my entrenchments, and to the right of the enemy, with the intention of their falling on his right or rear, should he attack me: or, if he declined it, of attacking him in the morning. To this movement, and to the strength of my defence, which the enemy had the fairest opportunity of observing, I am induced to attribute his retreat, which was com-

menced at half past one o'clock on Wednesday morning. In this he was so favoured by the extreme darkness, and a continued rain, that we did not discover it until day-light.

“I have now the pleasure of calling your attention to the brave commander of Fort M<sup>c</sup>Henry, Major Armstead, and to the operations confined to that quarter. The enemy made his approach by water at the same time that his army was advancing on the land, and commenced a discharge of bombs and rockets at the fort, as soon as he got within range of it. The situation of Major Armstead was peculiarly trying—the enemy, having taken his position at such a distance, as to render offensive operations on the part of the fort entirely fruitless, whilst their bombs and rockets were every moment falling in and about it—the officers and men, at the same time, entirely exposed. The vessels, however, had the temerity to approach somewhat nearer—they were as soon compelled to withdraw. During the night, whilst the enemy on land was retreating, and whilst the bombardment was most severe, two or three rocket vessels and barges succeeded in getting up the Ferry Branch, but they were soon compelled to retire, by the forts in that quarter, commanded by Lieutenant Newcomb, of the navy, and Lieutenant Webster, of the flotilla. These forts also destroyed one of the barges, with all on board. The barges and battery at the Lazaretto, under the command of Lieut. Rutter, of the flotilla, kept up a brisk, and it is believed, a successful fire, during the hottest period of the bombardment.”

It was impossible for veteran, or the most experienced troops, to act with more firm discipline, or cool courage, than the citizens of Baltimore, and the troops engaged, did on this occasion, with the exception already mentioned. A pursuit of the enemy was attempted, without, however doing

him much injury. The troops were so exhausted, with three days and nights fatigue, that they could do little more than pick up a few stragglers. A line of defences thrown up by the Americans from Back River to Humphries' Creek, on the Patapsco, were used by the enemy to protect his embarkation.

As a measure necessary to the taking of Baltimore, Admiral Cockburn sent, what he relied on as a competent force to take Fort M'Henry, situated on a point of land about two miles from the city. The enemy's vessels were ranged on the 12th, at a respectable distance, in front of the works. At an early hour, on the 12th, six bombs and some rocket vessels, commenced the attack, but at such a distance as to have little effect. A vast many very heavy bombs and rockets were thrown from the shipping, and answered pro forma from the fort, the Lazaretto, battery, and barges. This noisy play lasted until near 3 P.M. when the enemy dropped nearer the battery. The firing now became more frequent, and soon became tremendous, but the enemy finding that the men in the fort could hit as well as fire, soon slipped their cables and drew off to their former distance, from which they continued the bombardment.

Favoured by a dark night, one or two of the enemy's bomb vessels, and several barges, with 1200 chosen men, passed the fort at about one o'clock, in the morning of the 14th, and proceeded up the Patapsco, to attack the town in the rear, and probably with a view to effect a landing. From their new station, they commenced a very warm throwing of bombs and rockets, but were repaid with such rigour and effect, that the screams of their wounded could be heard in the midst of a roar of arms, that made the houses in the city shake, for nearly an hour and a half. About 3 o'clock the enemy retired, much crippled, to his



former respectful distance, when he again commenced the bombardment, and continued it until daylight, when he finally withdrew. The entire duration of the bombardment was little short of 24 hours. The loss of the enemy, on board his vessels, cannot be ascertained, but was undoubtedly great; that in Fort M'Henry was astonishingly small, consisting of 4 killed, and about twenty wounded. Major Armistead commanded the fort. A party of Commodore Rodgers' crew was posted at Fort Covington; Barney's flotilla men were stationed at the city battery.

The enemy's retreat was attended with mortification and disappointment. Gen. Ross, the destroyer of Washington, was killed; and, at least 800 men killed, wounded, and missing.—The entire American loss did not exceed 20 killed, 90 wounded, and 47 missing.

The enemy was at Chaptico in October. The following particulars of the excesses committed at that place, appeared in the Alexandria Herald, signed Robert Wright.

"I passed through Chaptico shortly after the enemy left it, and I am sorry to say, that their conduct would have disgraced Cannibals; the houses were torn to pieces, the well, which afforded water for the inhabitants, was filled up, and, what is still worse, the church and the ashes of the dead, shared equally bad or worse fate. Will you believe me, when I tell you, that the sunken graves were converted into barbacue holes!!! The remaining glass of the church windows broken, the communion table used as a dinner table, and then broken to pieces! Bad as the above may appear, it dwindles into insignificance, when compared with what follows: the vault was entered, and the remains of the dead disturbed. Yes, my friend, the winding sheet was torn from the body of a lady of the first respectability, and the whole contents of the vault entirely deranged!!!

Soon after leaving Chaptico, the enemy visited St. Inigoes, in St. Mary's county, Maryland. This was the habitation of a missionary, and the scite of a Roman Catholic church. Nothing could be expected but the furniture of the priest, and plate of the church. Both were taken; featherbeds, sheets, blankets, curtains, spoons, knives, forks, &c. were taken away or destroyed; the sacred vestments were thrown about, the vessels, consecrated to the service of God, profaned, the altar stript naked, the tabernacle carried off, and the blessed sacrament borne away in the hands of those sacrilegious wretches. Some few articles were restored at the instance of the British officer, who would probably wish to see the entire restored, but he could not command them; "they are," said he, "a set of ruffians." Some other articles, belonging to the church, were restored in a few days afterwards.

The following circumstance proves how dearly the enemy gains a victory, when opposed by a force, however small.

On the evening of the 5th November, Captain Gordon, naval commander at Norfolk, despatched 2 tenders, and 4 boats, off Black River, for the purpose of conveying several craft, then lying in that river, and bound to Norfolk. The vessels were, unfortunately separated, during the night; the boats, owing to a rough sea, returned to Norfolk. The two tenders, Franklin and Despatch, were separated from each other.

The commander of the Despatch, finding, in the morning, that he had drifted in a calm, near the enemy's ships in Lynnhaven, and that they were manning their boats, to attack him, made signal to the Franklin, and the boats lying under Old Point. The boats joined the Despatch; and the enemy's boats, after exchanging a few shots, and a breeze having sprung up, gave over the

chase, and directed their attention to the Franklin, that lay nearly becalmed up the bay. The enemy came up with the Franklin, about 10 A.M. when the firing commenced. During an hour and a half, the Franklin's crew, consisting of Mr. Hammersley, master's mate, who commanded; one midshipman, (Mr. Cook;) two master's mates and pilots, and 31 men, maintained a gallant defence against a tender and 14 barges and boats of the enemy. The tender and two heavy launches, made several attempts to board, but were as often beaten off. At length, at half past 11, the Franklin was carried, being boarded at the same moment by the crews of 5 heavy boats.

The peace in Europe having relieved the ships and seamen of England from any other engagement, except the war against the United States, it was supposed, that an American ship would not dare longer to venture on the ocean, or sail on the lakes. Every American port was to be blockaded, every sea-port town to be burned or destroyed; the frames of frigates were to be transported from England, and suddenly put together, and launched on the lakes. The violent threats were heard, the expected legions looked for, with a coolness, on the part of the Americans, which evinced courage; but with a preparation that evinced a determination to defend their homes, their families, their country, and liberty.

Two armed launches and four barges of the enemy carrying about 220 men, entered Connecticut river, in the evening of the 7th April, and arrived at Pettipaug-Point, about four o'clock in the morning of the 8th. It was quite a surprise on the few inhabitants, who had no means of resistance. They immediately landed and burned all the vessels at the wharves, and on the stocks, except a brig, a schooner, and two sloops, which they carried down the river, on their retiring.

after 10 o'clock; but the wind shifting, they burned all except the schooner, and not being able to proceed, they came to anchor a short distance below Pettipaug, where they lay until night, then burned the schooner, and departed, without interruption, or any attempt to annoy them, except that a few guns were fired on them after they had passed the mouth of the river, to which they returned three cheers, and passed off.

During the 8th, the militia collected to the number of about 1000, with six field pieces; an officer, with 150 sailors and soldiers, from New-London, had also arrived. General Williams, under authority of the state of Connecticut, assumed the command. Nothing seemed more easy than to capture the enemy, yet no attempt was made to do so, unless a summons to surrender can be so considered. Much censure was then attributed to the general for his dilatory conduct, and it seems not to have been hitherto accounted for. About 25 vessels were destroyed, many of them large and valuable.

Commodore Hardy of the *Ramilies* 74, addressed a letter in May, to the British agent for prisoners of war in Boston, stating that he had arrived in the bay, with an adequate force to carry the blockade into effect, and requesting him to make it known to the neutral consuls and agents in that town and state, that the blockade would be rigorously enforced, agreeably to the proclamation for the same.

The following copy of a letter from Commodore Lewis, commanding the United States' flotilla at New-York, to the secretary of the navy, dated May 29, 1814, will show that the Yankees determined to have some trade, notwithstanding the mighty force of the enemy on the ocean.

“SIR—I have the honour to inform you, that on

the 19th I discovered the enemy in pursuit of a brig under American colours, standing for Sandy-Hook.— I ordered a detachment of 11 gun-boats to proceed to sea, and pass between the chase and the enemy, by which means to bring him to action, and give opportunity to the chase to escape, all which was effected; the enemy, after receiving my fire, bore away, and the brig in question entered the harbour, and proves to be the brig Regent, from France, with a very valuable cargo. And on Monday, the 23d, I engaged the enemy before New-London, and opened a passage for 40 sail of coasting vessels; the action lasted three hours, in which the flotilla suffered very little. No. 6 received a shot under water, and others through the sails. We have reason to believe that the enemy suffered very great injury, as he appeared unwilling to renew the action the following morning; my object was accomplished, which was to force a passage for the convoy. There are before New London 3 seventy-fours, 4 frigates, and several small vessels, the latter doing great injury, from their disguised character and superior sailing. I have the honour to assure you of my high respect,

J. LEWIS."

As soon as the engagement ceased, the flotilla came to anchor before the harbour of New London, within gun-shot of the enemy, with a view of renewing the action in the morning, when we found that the enemy had collected all his force, in number seven ships and several small vessels, in consequence of which great accession of force, the project of renewing the action was abandoned, and signal was made to proceed up Sound, whether the enemy pursued as far as Faulkner's island.

Captain Sawyer, of the smack Resolution, from Stonington, informed, that in the gun-boat battle, one shot passed through the mainsail of the Sylph, and another cut away her ensign; that one shot passed through the bow of the Maid-

stone, one through her foremast, and one into her hull; and that on the day after the engagement, a number of men from these vessels were buried on Fisher's island:

A British squadron, consisting of a 74 gun ship, several frigates, and smaller vessels, with numerous launches, spread terror along the coast of Massachusetts, and succeeded in doing considerable injury to coasting vessels. About 200 men landed on the 13th May, at Wareham, in Massachusetts, and burned 12 or 13 vessels, valued at about 20,000 dollars. They also set fire to a stocking-factory, which was extinguished by the citizens, before much injury was done.

Captain Allen, of the schooner William and John, of Sedgwick, Maine, was bound to Boston with a cargo of lumber. Captain Allen put into Dyer's creek, on the 20th May, but finding himself chased by the barge of the British schooner Bream, he hailed the barge, when she reached within about 50 yards, but received no answer. Captain Allen then ordered the barge to keep off. The captain, discovering the men in the barge about to fire a swivel in her bow, ordered his men to fire, and take good aim. Four shots were fired in succession, and the captain had taken his aim, when one of the enemy cried out, "I'll give up to you;" and the barge was instantly surrendered to captain Allen. Of seven men who were in the barge, two were killed and two wounded.

After the capture of the barge, the British commodore sent a flag of truce to captain Allen, with propositions, which were rejected. After, however, the exchange of four flags, it was agreed, that in consideration of captain Allen's giving up the British prisoners on parole, the commander of the Bream was to give captain Allen 90 dollars

in cash, return two American prisoners belonging to Goldsborough, give up a Chebacco boat, with the property on board of her, valued at 700 dollars, and captain Allen to retain the 12 oared barge, with all her armament, consisting of one swivel, six muskets, five cutlasses, six cartridge-boxes, some blue lights, a compass, one trumpet, and a quantity of cannister and grape shot, all of which captain Allen values at 300 dollars.

Soon after this transaction, a boat captured by the Bream schooner, was sent into Mount-Desert, with seven Englishmen on board, to cut out a vessel, the crew of which, on their approach, fled to the shore, and were joined by several of the inhabitants, armed. Having concealed themselves among the rocks or bushes, they opened a fire on the enemy, killed three of them, wounded two, and compelled the others to surrender.

The enemy entered the harbour of Scituate, (Mas.) in June, in consequence, as he stated, of having been fired at from a signal-piece of cannon, near the light-house, and set fire to several vessels.

Two barges, from the British frigate *Nymph*, went into Squam, and destroyed the schooner *Diligence*, laden with lime. The crews threatened that if the captain attempted to extinguish the flames of the *Diligence*, they would destroy the house on the point; which being attempted, they fired a twelve pound shot through it, and returned and effected the destruction of the schooner.

On the 11th July, Eastport was taken possession of by the enemy, in the name of his Britannic majesty, as afterwards appeared, was claimed as being part of the British territory, by the terms of the treaty of 1783. The British force consisted of 2000 men. The American garrison of 59 men, including 11 sick, was commanded by major Putnam. The inhabitants were offered the

alternative to take an oath of allegiance to the king, or to depart within seven days. A great proportion, perhaps more than two thirds, took the oath. This place remained in the enemy's possession till the end of the war; and, as will appear by reference to the treaty of peace, was to continue in possession of the British until the dispute relative to territory could be settled by commissioners to be appointed for that purpose.

Eastport is on an island called Moose, on the west side of Passamaquoddy-bay; the island is about five miles long, and one mile broad, containing about 1000 inhabitants.

On the 9th August, at 5 P. M. the *Ramilies* 74, *Pactolus* 38, a bomb-ship, and a heavy brig, arrived off Stonington; and a flag was sent on shore, with a note, of which the following is a copy:

“ TO THE MAGISTRATES OF STONINGTON.

“ Gentlemen—One hour is allowed you, from the receipt of this communication, for the removal of the unoffending inhabitants.

THOMAS M. HARDY.”

Stonington was in no state of defence adequate to resist the enemy. The few men in the place hastened to collect ammunition, some ran to the battery, which consisted of two 18 pounders and a four pounder, with a slight breast-work; expresses were sent to New-London and other places. At eight o'clock, the attack was commenced, by a discharge of shells, from the bomb-ship, and Congreve rockets from several barges. This fire was continued until midnight, without injuring a single building or inhabitant.

During the night the volunteers and militia had assembled in considerable numbers, and were disposed of in the manner best calculated to re-



sist any attempt of the enemy to land. At dawn of day, the enemy began to throw rockets from vessels which had taken stations on the east side of the town, out of range of the battery. An 18 and a 4 pounder were drawn to a point of land from which the enemy could be reached, and, in a few minutes, the barges were compelled to move off. During this time, the brig worked up, and came to anchor within less than half a mile of the battery. The ammunition on shore being expended, the few men who were at the battery were compelled to retire, having first spiked the guns.

For an hour and a half the enemy continued to fire on the town, without the least opposition being attempted or practicable. A fresh supply of ammunition being by this time obtained, the vent of the 18 pounder was drilled, when a fire was opened on the enemy's brig, until at three o'clock she slipped her cable, and hauled off, being evidently much injured in her hull and spars.

Soon after this time a considerable body of militia arrived, and general Isham had taken the command.

A flag was sent from the inhabitants (without the concurrence of general Isham) to the British officer, informing him that the "unoffending inhabitants" had been removed, and wishing to know if he meant to complete the destruction of the town. The deputation received from captain Hardy a written reply, that "the bombardment should cease, in case the inhabitants would engage that no torpedoes should be fitted out at Stonington, and that the family of Mr. Stewart, late British consul at New-London, would be sent on board."

These terms could not be complied with.—The proposal respecting torpedoes was consider-

ed degrading, nothing of the kind having ever been attempted at Stonington; the second, respecting Mrs. Stewart and children, was referred to the proper authority.

The enemy continued to negotiate, for the purpose of getting Mrs. Stewart on board, until 3 o'clock on the 11th, when the bombardment again commenced, and was continued until night. On Friday morning the attack was commenced, and continued with great warmth, from nearly all the enemy's ships and launches, until near noon, when it ceased; and about four o'clock P.M. the enemy, finding that a great force was assembled for the protection of the town, finally withdrew; and on Saturday morning weighed anchor, and proceeded up Fisher's Sound.

During the several attacks, not a man was killed, and but five or six wounded. Two or three houses were destroyed, eight or ten much damaged, and about forty partially injured. More than 300 shells and carcasses were thrown into the village.

The additional disposable military and naval force which the peace in Europe left at the command of the enemy, the use which he threatened to make, and did actually commence, or prepare to make of it, produced a union of action and sentiment among the people of America, some discontented or rather traitorous persons excepted, and these so comparatively few that they excited but a sentiment of contempt, and owed their personal safety to their utter inability to do material injury. The citizens of New-York, the first commercial city in the union, gave an example of political forbearance toward each other, and of attachment to their country, which had a salutary influence on every other part of the nation.

At a general meeting held in the park in that city, the 10th August, 1814, the following, together with several other patriotic resolutions, were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, that the citizens here assembled will, to the last extremity, defend their city.

"Resolved, that we will unite ourselves in arms with our brethren of the country, and, on the first approach of the enemy, make it a common cause.

"Resolved, that it be recommended to the citizens generally, to meet as soon as may be practicable with convenience, in their respective wards, for the purpose of electing discreet and sufficient committees to promote the execution of the following objects.

"1. To complete the voluntary enrolment of persons exempted by law from military service.

"2. To encourage the enrolment of sea-faring citizens, for service in the harbour, or as artillerists.

"3. The enrolment of citizens for voluntary labour on the public works

"Resolved, that we will endeavour to promote concord and harmony, and will discountenance all attempts to weaken the patriotic efforts of good citizens."

From this moment, party feuds were, in a great measure, suspended; newspaper editors excluded all acrimonious political discussions; the committee appointed to carry into effect the resolutions of the general meeting, was selected from the most respectable of the citizens, without the least respect to the political party to which the persons selected belonged.

The plan of the enemy was to dismember the union. A command of the North River would tend much to this end. The possession of the city of New-York was a desirable object, in whatever point it might be viewed. The measures of defence and precaution taken at New-York,

probably prevented the intended attack on that city; the subsequent attempt to gain possession of the posts near lake Champlain, leaves little room to doubt the enemy's intention. Had that invasion succeeded, we should have soon heard of an invasion on the sea-board, either at New-York, or some place to the eastward of it, and an attempt to form a junction of the two invading armies.

For several months, the citizens of New-York supplied more than 1000 men daily, who laboured voluntarily and without pay, at the fortifications; and several thousands from the adjacent counties, and from the state of New-Jersey, contributed their aid, until a line of fortifications were raised on the heights of Brooklyn and Harlem, sufficient to oppose any probable force that could be employed by the enemy. It would be impossible to do justice to the zeal that animated the citizens, and it cannot be expected to copy, or even notice, the many editorial observations which appeared in the public prints; zeal overflowed, so that it became necessary to limit the offered services to a certain number daily, and it often happened, that services could not be received until several days after being tendered. The following, from the Richmond Compiler, is given, because its shortness does not actually render its insertion incompatible with our limits.

“To a patriotic mind it is truly exhilarating to read the New York papers, and see the generous, ardent zeal that actuates the inhabitants of that great emporium of American commerce. At the first signal of breaking ground for the defence of the city, the whole population seem to have caught the spark of patriotic energy, to have burst the shackles of apathy, and set to the continent an example

of social and public spirit, which we trust may be emulated through every part of our land. By wards and sections of the city, by tribes and centuries, by constituted bodies and private companies, by trades, by professions, and by domestic parties, offers of personal service, and contributions in money, have been made and accepted; and that great mart of commercial wealth and enterprize, on which the enemy have so long kept a longing eye, is already inaccessible, invulnerable; the pride, and glory, and palladium of the continent. Who would not be a citizen of New-York?"

On the 1st September, the British entered the Penobscot river, with about 40 sail of vessels, and several thousand men, and took possession of Castine, the small garrison of which fled, after blowing up the fort. They next sent 600 men to Belfast, which submitted. The following day they proceeded up the river to Hamden, where the Adams frigate lay. Captain Morris made every possible disposition to resist the enemy, but finding his limited force inadequate to that end, he spiked his guns, burned his stores, blew up the ship, and, with his crew, escaped. The British governor immediately announced that the country between the Penobscot river and Passamaquoddy bay, would be considered as a part of the British territory. Measures were also taken to fortify Castine, and establish permanent commercial regulations. It was estimated that 120 vessels were taken in the Penobscot.

While the enemy was coupling petty conquest with cowardice and cruelty, along the sea-board, the American army of the interior was plucking from the brows of imported invincibles the laurels won on the theatre of late European conflicts.

The brave general Jacob Brown, who had in the last year signalized himself by the defence of

Sackett's Harbour, was appointed to the command of the army on the Niagara frontier.

On the 2d July, General Brown made dispositions for an intended attack on the British Fort Erie, and issued orders to the troops for crossing the river. The army passed the Niagara river on the morning of the 3d. The enemy was perfectly unapprized of the intended attack; general Scott, who led the van, was on shore before the enemy's picket discovered the approach. The fort being approached on the right and left, and the Indians in the woods, in the rear, general Brown summoned the garrison to surrender, which, after a short time allowed for consideration, was agreed to. At six o'clock the garrison marched and stacked their arms. 170 regulars, including seven officers, were sent across the river.

On the morning of the 4th July, general Scott, with his brigade, and a corps of artillery, advanced towards Chippawa. After some skirmishing with the enemy, he selected a judicious position for the night, his right resting on the river, and a ravine in front. At 11 at night, general Brown joined him with the reserve under general Ripley, and a corps of artillery, under major Hindman. A field and battering train were also brought up. General Porter arrived in the morning, with a part of the New-York and Pennsylvania volunteers, and some of the warriors of the six nations.

Early in the morning of the 5th, the enemy attacked the picquets; by noon he showed himself on the left of the army, and attacked one of the picquets, as it was returning to camp.— Captain Treat, who commanded the picquet, retired, leaving a wounded man on the ground. Captain Biddle, of the artillery, promptly assumed the command of this picquet, led it back

to the wounded man, and brought him off the field.

General Brown instantly ordered captain Treat to retire from the army; and advised that his name, and that of another officer, should be struck from the roll of the army. This circumstance was noticed in a note to the first edition of this work, without the following necessary addition, which did not, and could not have, then come to the knowledge of the compiler.

Captain Treat demanded a court of inquiry; it was not granted; but a court martial was ordered at Fort Erie. The left division of the army marched to Sackett's harbour soon after, and the court was dissolved.

Captain Treat immediately proceeded to Sackett's harbour, by permission from major-general Izard, and requested another court martial. Major-general Brown, on the 5th April, 1815, after the repeated solicitations of captain Treat, issued an order, organizing a court, consisting of col. M'Feely, president; lieut. col. Smith, maj. Croker, major Boyle, maj. Mullany, maj. Chane, capt. White, members; capt. Seymour, supernumerary; lieut. Anderson, 13th regiment, judge advocate.

The court met, and proceeded on the trial, the 6th April, 1815, at Sackett's harbour. They closed the investigation on the 8th May, when captain Treat was honourably acquitted.

The following is a copy of the decision of the court:

"After mature deliberation on the testimony adduced, the court do find the accused JOSEPH TREAT, of the 21st infantry, not guilty of the charge or specifications preferred against him, and do honourably acquit him."

The sentence of the court was approved by ma-

for general Brown, and promulgated on the 28th June, at Sackett's harbour.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, general Porter advanced with the volunteers and Indians, in order to induce the enemy to come forth.—General Porter's command met the light parties of the enemy in the woods. The enemy was driven, and Porter pursued until near Chippawa, where he met their whole column in order of battle. The heavy firing induced a belief that the entire force of the enemy was in motion, and prepared for action. General Scott was ordered to advance with his brigade, and Towson's artillery. The general advanced in the most prompt and officer-like manner, and in a few minutes was in close action with a superior force of the enemy. By this time General Porter's command had given way, and fled in disorder, notwithstanding the great exertions of the general to rally them. This retreat left the left flank of general Scott's brigade greatly exposed. Captain Harris was directed, with his dragoons, to stop the fugitives behind the ravine, fronting the American camp. General Ripley, with the 21st regiment, which formed part of the reserve, passed to the left of the camp, under cover of the wood, to relieve General Scott, by falling on the enemy's right flank; but, before the 21st could come into its position, the line commanded by general Scott closed with the enemy. Major Jessup, commanding the left flank battalion, finding himself pressed in front and flank, and his men falling fast around him, ordered his battalion to support arms, and advance. The order was promptly obeyed, amidst the most deadly and destructive fire. Having gained a better position, he poured on the enemy a fire so galling, as caused him to retire. The enemy's entire line now fell back, and continued to retreat, until at the sloping



ground, descending towards Chippawa, when they broke, and fled to their works.

General Brown finding the pursuit of the troops checked by the batteries of the enemy, ordered up his ordnance, in order to force the place by a direct attack, but was induced, by the report of major Wood and captain Austin, who reconnoitred the enemy's works, the lateness of the hour, and the advice of his officers, to order the forces to retire to camp. The American troops, on no occasion, behaved with more gallantry than on the present. The British regulars suffered defeat from a number of men, principally volunteers and militia, inferior in every thing but courage to the vanquished enemy; and the gallant Brown, a woodsman, "a soldier of yesterday," put at defiance the military tactics of the experienced major-general Riall.

The following is a copy of a letter written by general Brown on the field of battle, directed to the secretary of war.

"Sir,—Excuse my silence. I have been much engaged. Fort Erie did not, as I assured you it should not, detain me a single day. At eleven o'clock, on the night of the 4th, I arrived at this place with the reserve, general Scott having taken the position about noon, with the van. My arrangements for turning and taking in the rear the enemy's position east of Chippawa, was made, when major-general Riall, suspecting our intention, and adhering to the rule, that it is better to give than to receive an attack, came from behind his works about five o'clock in the afternoon of the 5th, in order of battle. We did not baulk him. Before six o'clock his line was broken, and his forces defeated, leaving on the field four hundred killed and wounded. He was closely pressed, and would have been utterly ruined, but for the proximity of his works, whither he fled for shel-

ter. The wounded of the enemy, and those of our own army, must be attended to. They will be removed to Buffalo. This, with my limited means for transportation, will take a day or two, after which I shall advance, not doubting but that the gallant and accomplished troops I lead, will break down all opposition between me and Lake Ontario, when, if met by the fleet, all is well—if not, under the favour of Heaven, we shall behave in a way to avoid disgrace.”

The battle of Bridgwater, fought on the 25th July, was bloody, and well contested on both sides. The enemy was composed of 5000 men, of the best troops, commanded by general Riall, and others, the best British officers. It is due to them to record that they fought well, but they fought against freemen, and were defeated. Opposed to the bravest slaves in the world, of equal force, this British army would have conquered. The Americans were fewer in number than the enemy; they were men, most of whom had yet to learn military tactics, but who had a COUNTRY, now staked in a contest which the present battle might materially affect, or, in its consequence, decide.

On the 25th general Brown's army was encamped above Chippawa, near the battle-ground of the 5th. The brigade under general Scott moved past Chippawa, and halted at Bridgwater, in view of Niagara falls. At half past four, P.M. the battle was commenced by the enemy. The enemy, being numerically superior to the Americans, he was able to extend his line so as to attempt to flank. In order to counteract the apparent view of general Riall, he was fought in detachments—he was charged in column, general Scott being at the head of his troops in almost every charge. General Scott maintained his ground for more than an hour, before the re-

serve, under general Ripley, and the volunteers, under general Porter, were brought fully into action. The ground was obstinately contested until nine o'clock in the evening, when general Brown decided to storm a battery, which the enemy had on a commanding eminence. Colonel Miller commanded on this enterprize, which was so resolutely entered on, that the enemy, unable to withstand the charge, retired to the bottom of the hill, and abandoned his cannon. The enemy now gave way, and was pursued some distance. The American army then betook itself to the securing of prisoners, and bringing off the wounded.

While the army was thus employed, general Drummond arrived with a reinforcement to the enemy, when he, unexpectedly to the Americans, renewed the battle, with a view to recover his cannon. The army, having quickly formed, resisted the attack with courage; and, after a close engagement, the enemy was repulsed, as he was in two other similar attempts. The American army having effected the removal of nearly all the wounded, retired from the ground a little before midnight, and returned to camp.

The warmth and zeal with which this action was maintained, was the most obstinate and determined. For two hours, the discharge of musketry was so constant, as to produce almost an uninterrupted blaze of fire; nor was it in any period of the action much less warm. Wellington's "invincibles" had just arrived from Europe, and Drummond resolved that they should not only maintain their character, but maintain it in a manner that would make the most depressing impression on the brave, but raw recruits of the republic. The Americans not only withstood the onset, but repelled and punished

it. A fine moon-light night favoured equally the operations of both armies; they fought too near to render cannon generally serviceable, being often within half pistol shot of each other, and sometimes mingled together.—The charge of colonel Miller exceeded any thing experienced by the British soldiers, even in Europe. Thrice his men were repulsed with great slaughter. For a time he was deserted by a regiment of infantry; they were rallied; a fourth charge was made, and succeeded. The Americans could not be driven, nor withstood; determined not to be overthrown, even by superior numbers, they seemed resolved to crush whatever foe opposed them. Had they been conquered, they would yet deserve honour; as victors they covered themselves with glory.—They lost a howitzer; the rider being shot off, the horses carried it full gallop into the ranks of the enemy; they also lost a piece of cannon, which was too much advanced, and from which the men, except two, were shot. For want of horses they were compelled to leave to the enemy most of the cannon which were taken from him with such bravery, and at such expense.

On the morning after the battle, the Americans, under generals Ripley and Porter, reconnoitred the enemy, who did not show any disposition to renew the contest, and then burned the enemy's barracks and bridge at Chippawa, after which they returned to Fort Erie.

The enemy was believed to have lost between 1200 and 1300 men, including major-general Riall, who was wounded, and with 18 other officers, and 150 non-commissioned officers and privates, taken prisoners. The Americans lost 1 major, 1 adjutant, 5 captains, 4 subalterns, 10 sergeants, 10 corporals, 140 privates—total killed, 171.—1 major-general, 1 brigadier-general,

2 aids-de-camp, 1 brigade-major, 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 4 majors, 1 adjutant, 3 quarter-masters, 1 pay-master, 7 captains, 32 sub-alterns, 517 non-commissioned officers and privates...total wounded, 572; missing, 117—total, 850.

The British force engaged amounted, by their own confession, to 4500 men, mostly or wholly regulars, beside a host of Indians; the American force did not exceed 2800 men, consisting in a great proportion of the militia of Pennsylvania and New-York. General Brown, in his official report, particularly notices the brave and prudent conduct of generals Ripley, Porter and Scott; colonels Miller, Dobbin, of New-York, Wilcox, and Gardener; majors M'Farland, Hindman, Jessup, Wood, of the Pennsylvania militia, Jones, M'Kee, and Wood, of the engineers; captains Towson, Ketchum, Biddle, and Ritchie; lieutenant E. B. Randolph; aids-de-camp Worth, Smith, Austin, and Spencer. Some of these brave men fell in action, and nearly all of them were covered with wounds.

General Brown received two wounds, but continued to command until the action ended. The general was obliged, by the severity of his wounds, to retire from the command, which devolved on General Ripley, General Scott being also disabled, by a wound, from continuing in command.

The army continued on the Canada side, seemingly resolved to maintain itself against an enemy which was receiving frequent reinforcements, and had, after a little time, become formidable in numbers and equipments.

The enemy, after recovering the effects of the battle of Bridgwater, moved up toward the American army, at Fort Erie; and frequent skirmishes ensued, in which the enemy was general-

ly worsted. On the 3d August, about 500 regulars, under colonel Tucker, crossed below Black Rock, but were met by 200 riflemen, and a party of volunteers, under major Morgan, and after a long contest, were defeated, and compelled to re-cross the river. Brigadier-general Gaines arrived at Erie the 4th August, and assumed the command, during general Brown's illness.

On the 15th August, the enemy, under the immediate command of general Drummond, attempted to storm Fort Erie; the result was communicated in a letter from general Gaines to the secretary of war, of which the following is a copy.

“Head-Quarters, Fort Erie, U.C.  
Aug. 15, 7 A.M. 1814.

“Dear Sir,—My heart is gladdened with gratitude to Heaven, and joy to my country, to have it in my power to inform you, that the gallant army under my command has this morning beaten the enemy, commanded by lieutenant-general Drummond, after a severe conflict of three hours, commencing at two o'clock, A.M. They attacked us on each flank—got possession of the salient bastion of the old Fort Erie, which was regained at the point of the bayonet, with a dreadful slaughter. The enemy's loss, in killed and prisoners, is about 600; near 300 killed. Our loss is considerable, but I think not one-tenth as great as that of the enemy. I will not detain the express to give you the particulars. I am preparing my force to follow up the blow.”

The assault was of that desperate nature that was calculated to rub away the stains of former defeats, to resuscitate the sinking charms of an assumed invincibility, and save the British general from contempt, and perhaps disgrace. The projection was grand; the means of accomplish-

ing it great, and relied on for its efficiency; the attempt to execute was supported with an enthusiasm in the officers, and a mechanical obedience in the men, which promised, and almost secured success. The invincibles, were, however, destined to experience another defeat; and the Americans added another wreath to the laurels with which they were already so plentifully blessed. The enemy was largely supplied with the means generally used on such occasions, pikes, bayonets, spears, scaling-ladders, &c. Repulsed and repulsed, he rallied and returned to the attack; he carried a bastion, and by his conduct evinced what was to be the fate of the republicans, if vanquished. Lieutenant M'Dougal being severely wounded in defending the bastion, demanded quarter; it was refused, general Drummond crying out, "give the damned Yankees no quarter." M'Dougal defended himself until shot down by a pistol. The bastion was re-taken by the greatest display of courage and exertion.

This assault was preceded by a cannonade and bombardment, which commenced at sun-rise on the morning of the 13th, and continued until 8 o'clock P.M.; was re-commenced on the 14th, at day-light, and continued until night—the assault was commenced at half past two on the morning of the 15th. The result was the defeat of the assailants, accompanied with a loss of 222 men killed, 174 wounded, and 186 prisoners—total 582, exclusive of a number (supposed 200) killed in the water, and carried off by the current. The Americans lost 26 killed, 91 wounded, and 11 missing—total 128.

The enemy continued in the neighbourhood of Fort Erie, strengthening and extending his works and calling in reinforcements, with a view to the ultimate occupation of the fort, and the

capture or destruction of the garrison. The enemy's works were constructed in a field surrounded by woods. Their infantry was formed into three brigades of about 1500 men each. One of these brigades, with a detail from their artillery, was stationed at their works (these being but 500 yards distant from Old Fort Erie, and the right of general Brown's line.) The Americans had already suffered much from two of the enemy's batteries; and a third was about to be opened. General Brown, having recovered of his wounds, resumed the command on the 2d September. The situation of the army was extremely critical. As the only mode of relieving himself, he determined to storm the batteries, destroy the cannons, and roughly handle the enemy's brigade on duty, before those in reserve would be brought into action.

The enemy's works were very strong, regular, and executed with a studied intricacy, consisting of a breast-work connecting their batteries, and of successive lines of entrenchments in the rear, covering the batteries and enfilading each other; and the whole obstructed by abattis, brush, and felled timber. It was calculated to resist, and throw into confusion, the most experienced assailants, and led to many severe contests with the bayonet.

Directions were given by general Brown to march at noon, on the 17th September, to the intended assault. General Porter commanded a detachment of volunteers, riflemen, regular infantry, and a few dragoons. These moved from the extreme left of the American position upon the enemy's right, by a passage opened through the woods for the occasion. General Miller stationed his command in the ravine between Fort Erie and the enemy's batteries, by passing them by detachments through the skirts of the wood.—



The 21st infantry, under general Ripley, was posted, as a corps of reserve, between the new bastions of fort Erie. "About 20 minutes past 3, P. M." says general Brown, in his official report, "I found the left column, under the command of general Porter, which were destined to turn the enemy's right, within a few rods of the British intrenchments. They were ordered to advance and commence the action. Passing down the ravine, I judged, from the report of the musketry, that the action had commenced on our left; I now hastened to general Miller, and directed him to seize the moment, and pierce the enemy's intrenchments, between batteries No. 2 and 3.—My orders were promptly and ably executed. Within 30 minutes after the first gun was fired, batteries No. 2 and 3, the enemy's line of intrenchments, and his two block-houses, were in our possession. Soon after, battery No. 1 was abandoned by the British. The guns in each were spiked by us, or otherwise destroyed, and the magazine of No. 3 was blown up."

The enemy's loss exceeded, from the most probable account, 1000 men, including 2 majors, 4 captains, 4 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 1 assistant surgeon, 4 staff sergeants, 19 sergeants, 17 corporals, 1 drummer, and 332 privates. The American loss in killed, wounded and missing, 511. General Davis, of the militia, was killed. The action lasted more than two hours, and was warmly contested for about one hour. In the course of the battle, the entire of the enemy's force was brought into action, consisting principally of regulars, under command of lieutenant-general Drummond. So satisfied was the British general of his inability to contend, even aided by his veterans, against the raw soldiers that formed the American army, that he broke up his camp during the night of the 21st, and re-

tired to his intrenchments behind the Chippawa. "Thus," says general Brown, "one thousand regulars, and an equal portion of militia, in one hour of close action, blasted the hopes of the enemy, destroyed the fruits of 50 days' labour, and diminished his effective force, one thousand men at least."

An expedition, under the command of lieutenant-col. G. Croghan, was set on foot in July, 1814; the chief object of which was the reduction of fort Mackinac, which had been taken by the enemy in the early part of the war. The expedition left fort Gatriot, (head of straits St. Clair) on the 12th. Owing to a want of pilots acquainted with the unfrequented part of the bay, the intended course of the vessels was somewhat altered; they anchored at St. Joseph's on the 20th. After setting fire to the fort of St. Joseph, which seemed not to have been recently occupied, a detachment of infantry and artillery, under major Holmes, was ordered to Sault, St. Mary's, for the purpose of breaking up the enemy's establishment at that place. A few hours before the arrival of major Holmes at the Sault, St. Mary's, the north-west agent was apprized of his approach, and succeeded in escaping with a large quantity of goods. A large quantity were, however, found secreted in the woods, on the American side.—These were claimed by the agent of John Johnson, an Indian trader; but major Holmes declined giving them to Mr. Johnson, "because" as major Holmes observed in his letter to lieutenant-col. Croghan, "it was good prize by the maritime law of nations, as recognized in the English courts, (witness the case of admiral Rodney, adjudged by lord Mansfield.) Further, because Johnson has acted the infamous part of a traitor, having been a citizen and a magistrate of the Michigan territory, before the war, and at

its commencement, and now discharging the functions of magistrate under the British government. Because his agents armed the Indians from his store-house at our approach ; and lastly, because those goods, or a considerable part, were designed to be taken to Michilimackinac."

The expedition reached Michilimackinac on the 26th, where the enemy was found so strongly posted on a height overlooking the old fort, that his reduction by storm, with the small force under col. Croghan, seemed very doubtful. It was the colonel's wish, at all hazards, to disembark in some favourable position, from which he might be able to annoy the enemy by gradual and slow approaches, under cover of his artillery, and where, by fortifying himself, he might force the enemy to attack him in his strong position ; or draw his Indians and Canadians (his most efficient and only disposable force) from the island.

Being informed by old residents of the island, where a favourable position might be obtained, he effected a landing on the 4th August, and advanced to the field where an encampment was intended, when he received intelligence that the enemy was ahead, of which he was soon convinced by a discharge of shot and shells from a battery of 4 guns. The colonel hereon changed his position, (which was then two lines, the militia forming the front,) by advancing major Holmes' battalion on the right of the militia, thus to outflank him, and, by a vigorous effort, to gain his rear. Before this movement could be executed, a fire from some Indians, posted in a thick wood, proved fatal to major Holmes, and severely wounded captain Desha, the next in rank. This misfortune threw that part of the line into confusion, from which it was found impossible to recover it. As the only method left

of annoying the enemy, colonel Croghan ordered a charge to be made on his front by the regulars. The enemy was thus driven back into the woods, from which an annoying fire was kept up by the Indians. Lieut. Morgan brought up a light piece to relieve the left, which was suffering from a galling fire; the excellent practice of this piece brought the enemy to fire at a longer distance.

Colonel Croghan, finding the position from which the enemy was driven not tenable, he determined not to continue to expose his men to a danger, from which no good result could be expected. He therefore ordered a retreat to the shipping.

Sailing-master Champlin, whose vessel, the *Tigress*, fell into the hands of the enemy, and who, with his crew, were prisoners at Michilimackinac, arrived at Erie in November. Captain Arthur Sinclair, commanding the United States' naval force on the upper lakes, states, in a letter to the secretary of the navy, on the authority of sailing-master Champlin, that "the conduct of the enemy to our prisoners, (the crew of the *Tigress*) thus captured, and the inhuman butchery of those who fell into their hands, at the attack of Mackinack, has been barbarous beyond a parallel. The former have been plundered of almost every article of clothing they possessed; the latter had their hearts and livers taken out, which were actually cooked and feasted on by the savages, and that too in the quarters of the British officers, sanctioned by colonel M'Dougall"

The British army, under general Drummond, being considerably reinforced, there appeared an absolute necessity to strengthen that under general Brown, and to make such a diversion or co-operation, as would draw off the enemy from

the neighbourhood of Fort Erie, or compel him to surrender. A vigorous attack on Kingston must, if made, produce the first of these effects; the throwing of a large force into the rear of general Drummond, might have the latter effect. General Izard marched from Plattsburgh, about the 1st September, with a large force, which formed a junction with general Brown, about the 12th October; thus having unfortunately occupied more than 40 days in performing a journey of 253 miles by land, and a voyage of 90 miles by water;—total distance from Plattsburgh to Black Rock, 343 miles.

The slow movement of general Izard's army, gave to the enemy the time necessary to equip the new ship *St. Lawrence*, of 90 guns, lately built at Kingston. The British fleet, with this big ship, appeared off Niagara the 2d November, and gave to the enemy the command of lake Ontario, by which general Drummond could be reinforced, or taken off, if necessary. It also enabled the enemy to threaten Sackett's harbour; and general Brown was ordered to the defence of the harbour, leaving general Izard in command at Erie.

The campaign in the neighbourhood of Niagara must, from the lateness of the season, be drawing to a close; it appeared to general Izard, that his army could not remain in safety at Erie; the fort was therefore destroyed, and the army crossed to Buffalo, where it took up winter quarters.

The army left at Plattsburgh, after the march of general Izard, was very weak; the command devolved on general Macomb. The enemy embraced this opportunity for making an incursion into the state of New York, on the side of lake Champlain, with a view to secure a strong position at Crown point, or Ticonderoga, previous

to going into winter quarters; and ultimately to co-operate with an army that was to invade the state of New-York, or Connecticut, on the sea-board; and thus effect the great object of the British government, the political separation of the eastern from the southern states.

General Sir George Prevost commanded the British land forces, destined for this service, consisting of four brigades, each commanded by a major general of experience; a light squadron of dragoons, and an immense train of artillery, and all the engines of war; the entire amounting to 14000 men. While the troops advanced by land, the fleet, apparently superior to the American, advanced by water. To resist this overwhelming force, general Macomb had but 1500 effectives. In aid of this small force, the militia was hastily assembled.

The British governor general entered the territory of the United States, on the 1st September, 1814, and fixed his head-quarters at the village of Champlain; from which he commenced an attack, by promises and threats, on the citizens of the United States, previous to the more serious attacks, which were to be simultaneous by land and water, and were effectually to overthrow all opposition on both.

On the 2d, the British army marched from Champlain: on the 5th, it appeared in full force before the village of Plattsburgh. No sooner was the intention of the enemy discovered, than the militia were called out. Those of the county of Clinton assembled on the 2d September, near the village of Chazy, where they took a position under command of lieutenant colonel Miller. On the following day, general Wright took a position, with his brigade, seven miles in advance of Plattsburgh. On the advance of the enemy, colonel Apling, who was placed with

his command on the lake road, fell back to Dead creek, where he posted himself, and impeded the approach of the pursuers so much by blocking up the passage, that the enemy was compelled to alter his course toward the Beekmantown road. On the morning of the 6th, the advance of the enemy attacked the militia, about 700, under general Mooers, and a small detachment of regulars commanded by major Wool. Unfortunately a part of the militia broke and fled; the remainder, together with the regulars, made a bold and masterly opposition, retiring slowly and regularly before a large force for six miles, when they were reinforced within a mile of Plattsburgh by a captain Leonard and a few men, with two pieces of artillery. This force, by taking advantage of the cover of a stone wall, made a stand, and checked the progress of the enemy, until overpowered by superior numbers, it retired as before, slowly, dealing death among the enemy, until it reached the south bank of the Saranac, where the pursuit of the enemy was effectually checked, and he forced to retire. From this time until the morning that was to decide the fate of Plattsburgh, and perhaps of Albany, continual skirmishing was kept up, each party preparing itself for the bloody conflict. The enemy occupied an extent of about three miles; he erected seven heavy batteries, and fully supplied himself with all the usual means of attack. The Americans were engaged in annoying the enemy and strengthening their own works. The 11th was fixed on for the attack by land and water. At 9 o'clock in the morning of that day, the enemy's flotilla on Lake Champlain, passed Cumberland-head. It consisted of 1 frigate of 32 guns, 1 brig of 22 guns, 2 sloops of 10 guns each, and several galleys. The American fleet lay in Cumberland-bay, opposite Plattsburgh. The enemy,

superior in vessels, guns, and number of men, advanced, with that confidence which his superiority of force inspired; and the bloody conflict began. Commodore Thomas Macdonough commanded the American flotilla. Undaunted, he waited the attack, trusting in the heroism of a little band, which seemed determined to conquer or die. For two hours and fifteen minutes the contest was maintained with an obstinacy, which, while it added to, or rather perfected the renown already acquired by the American seamen, did not disgrace the vanquished. Modesty seems to be a quality highly possessed by the naval commanders in the United States.—The following laconic letter, written to the secretary of the navy by commodore Macdonough, is at once a proof of modesty, and a notice of success.

“The Almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal victory on Lake Champlain, in the capture of one frigate, one brig, and two sloops of war, of the enemy.”

The American galleys were about pursuing those of the enemy, that were making their escape, but it being discovered that all the vessels were in a sinking state, it became necessary to annul the signal to chase, and order the men from the galleys to the pumps. “I could only,” observed commodore Macdonough, “look at the enemy’s galleys going off in a shattered condition, for there was not a mast in either squadron that could stand to make sail on; the lower rigging being nearly all shot away, hung down as though it had been just placed over their mast-heads.—The *Saratoga*,” continued the commodore, “had fifty-five round shot in her hull; the *Confiance* (enemy’s vessel) one hundred and five.”



The following is a comparative view of the number and strength of the vessels engaged, and the loss on board them.

## AMERICAN.

	Guns.	Men.	Killed.	Wounded.
Ship Saratoga	26	210	23	29
Brig Eagle	20	120	13	20
Schooner Ticonderoga	17	110	6	6
Sloop Preble	7	30	2	0
Ten Gun-boats	16	350	3	3
	—	—	—	—
Total	86	820	52	58

## BRITISH.

Frigate Confiance	39	300	50	60
Brig Linnet	16	120	20	30
Chub (formerly Growler)	11	40	6	10
Finch (formerly Eagle)	11	40	8	10
Thirteen Gun-boats	18	550	0	0
	—	—	—	—
Total	95	1050	18	110

At the same hour that the fleets engaged, the enemy opened his batteries on the American forts, throwing hundreds of shells, balls and rockets; and attempted, at the same time, to cross the Saranac river, at three different points, to assault the American works. At the upper ford he was met by the Vermont volunteers and New-York militia. Here a most interesting conflict took place; on the one side the best troops of Britain, led on by her most consummate officers, men and officers selected from those soldiers, who, under command of the duke of Wellington, had acquired the character of "invincible;" men who had conquered in Portugal, Spain, France, and the Indies; on the other side, men not reared to arms, not used to bat-

tle; most of them born since their sires had immortalized themselves in combat: on this same ground, the descendants of the "Green Mountain-boys," and of those heroes who conquered at Saratoga, &c. The object of contest was great; on it was, probably, to hang every future event of the war. The enemy fought for the recovery of a territory which would make his king the most powerful prince in the world; the officers looked to places of emolument, pensions, grants of land, titles of nobility, stars, garters, ribbands, plunder; honours and riches in a thousand shapes and forms: the honest American yeomen sought neither pay nor pecuniary reward, beyond the daily stipend of a soldier. But yesterday they were at their ploughs, to-day they grasped their rifles, and hurried to the threshold of their country—their ultimate reward was to be a confirmation of the liberties entailed on them by their sires, a continuance of that independence they were determined to preserve, or not to survive. The conflict was influenced by feelings which drew forth the utmost exertions of both parties, and substituted desperation on one side, and unbending patriotism on the other, in place of that indifference or cowardice, which so often leads to disaster and disgrace. Several times were the enemy repulsed, several times did he return to the ford; astonished at this obstinate resistance from woodsmen, suddenly assembled on the occasion, the enemy yet believed they must give way; again he advances, again he is repulsed; astonished, confounded, dismayed, he retires: no longer invincible, he acknowledges defeat—defeat from whom? Let Wellington's men answer; or let them send for a reply to the mountains of Vermont, or the wilderness of New-York. At the bridge near the village he was repulsed by the piquets, and the

brave riflemen, under captain Grosvenor, and lieutenants Hamilton and Riley: and at the bridge in the town he was foiled by the guards, block-houses, and the artillery of the forts, served by captains Alexander Brooks, Richards, and Smith, and lieutenants Munford, Smith, and Cromwell. The enemy's fire was returned with effect from the batteries; by sun-set seven of his newly raised batteries were silenced, and he was seen retiring to his camp. Beaten by land and water, the British governor-general withdrew his artillery; and raised the siege. Under favour of a dark night, he sent off his heavy baggage, and retreated with his whole army towards Canada, leaving his wounded in the field, and a vast quantity of provisions and munitions of war, which he had not time to destroy. The light troops, volunteers and militia, pursued him on the following day, capturing several soldiers, and covering the escape of a great number of deserters: bad weather prevented the pursuit to be continued beyond Chazy. Thus have 14,000 regulars, with the best British officers, and the best military equipment, been beaten by a regular force of only 1500 men, and 2500 militia and volunteers; the militia commanded by general Mooers, and the volunteers by general Strong. The enemy having retired from republican ground, the militia and volunteers were dismissed.

The official return of the loss of the American regulars, amounted to 1 subaltern, 1 serjeant, 1 musician, and 34 privates killed,—total 37; 2 subalterns, 1 serjeant-major, 4 serjeants, 2 corporals, 4 musicians, and 49 privates, wounded—total 62; total killed, wounded, and missing, 119.

General M'Comb states the loss of the enemy, on the land and lake, at not less than 2500 men.

While glory and victory attended the armies of the United States, the navy continued increasing its number of victories; and private armed vessels carried destruction to the enemy in every sea. Even in the British channel the enemy felt that his thousand ships of war could not bring safety to his traders. Insurance to cross the channel rose from a few shillings to five guineas per cent.

In lat. 27, 47 N. lon. 80, 9, on the 29th April, 1814, the U. S. sloop of war Peacock, fell in with his Britannic majesty's brig Epervier, rating and mounting 18 32 pound carronades, with 128 men. The Epervier struck her colours after an action of 42 minutes, and the loss of 8 men killed, and 15 wounded. Two men were slightly wounded on board the Peacock. Both vessels arrived at Savannah, the prize being with difficulty kept above water. The damage suffered by the two vessels will be seen by the following extract from the official report of captain Warrington.

"This, (the disabling of a fore-yard) with a few top-masts, and top-gallant back stays cut away, a few shot through our sails, is the only injury the Peacock has sustained. Not a round shot touched our hull; our masts and spars are as sound as ever.—When the enemy struck, he had five feet water in his hold, his main top-mast was over the side, his main boom shot away, his foremast cut nearly in two, and tottering, his fore rigging and stays shot away, his bowsprit badly wounded, and 45 shot holes in his hull, 20 of which were within a foot of his water line."

The Epervier had 120,000 dollars in specie on board.

The United States' sloop of war Frolic, Joseph Bainbridge, commander, was captured, af-

ter a chase by H. B. M. frigate *Orpheus*, of 26 guns, on the 20th April. A court of inquiry, held on-board the U. S. frigate *Constitution*, at New-York, the 20th April, 1815, gave their opinion, "that the same was not lost, through the fault, inattention, or negligence, of captain Bainbridge. The court also reported favourably on the conduct of the officers and crew of the *Frolic*."

His Britannic majesty's sloop of war *Reindeer*, was captured the 28th June, 1814, in lat. 48, 36 N. and lon. 11, 15 W. by the U. S. sloop of war *Wasp*, captain J. Blakely. The action commenced at 26 minutes after 3 P. M.; at 45 minutes past 3, the enemy was carried by boarding. The action, for the short time it lasted, was severe, and both vessels and crews suffered considerably. The loss on board the *Wasp*, was principally occasioned by repelling the enemy, in two attempts which he made to board. The *Reindeer* mounted 16 24-pound carronades, 2 long 6 or 9-pounders, and a shifting 12-pound carronade, with a complement of 118 picked men, called from their appearance, "the pride of Plymouth." The *Reindeer* was literally cut to pieces, and so complete a wreck, in both hull and rigging, that it was found necessary to destroy her. Her commander, (William Manners, esq.) and 22 petty officers and seamen, were killed; wounded dangerously, 10; severely, 17; slightly, 15—total killed and wounded, 75.

On board the *Wasp* there were five killed, and 21 wounded. Six round shot struck the hull of the *Wasp*; a 24-pound shot passed through the fore mast, and a considerable number of grape struck, but did not penetrate her sides. The *Wasp* arrived at L'Orient the 8th July.

The *Wasp* sailed from L'Orient on the 27th August. At half past 9 o'clock, P.M. the 1st

September, engaged a vessel, supposed to be a large brig of war, and forced her to strike her flag, at 12 minutes past 10. In a few minutes, captain Blakely discovered another brig, and prepared for action; at 36 minutes past 10, 2 brigs in sight, when the Wasp was compelled to relinquish her prize. The Wasp lost 2 men killed, and had 1 man wounded. The enemy, after his surrender, was heard asking assistance, and said he was sinking. The enemy's vessel proved afterwards to be the Avon. By the British details, it was acknowledged that the two vessels which came in aid of the Avon, were the Castilian and Tartarus, each of them of force equal to the Wasp. The Avon went to the bottom, after the surviving part of her crew was removed on board the other British vessels. The Avon was in the Delaware in 1810; she then carried 18·32 pound carronades, besides bow and stern guns.

The Essex, captain Porter, the smallest frigate in the American navy, was destined to prove immensely injurious to the enemy. Her cruise in the Pacific ocean has supplied ample materials for an interesting volume. Captain Porter not only protected the American shipping against the numerous letters of marque, which the enemy had sent into those seas, but rendered these very letters of marque tributary to his plan of destroying the enemy's trade, particularly in the fisheries.

Capt. Porter sailed from the Delaware, the 27th October, 1812. On his passage to Rio de Janeiro, he captured the British packet Norton, and took out of her 11,000 pounds sterling, in specie. He arrived at Valparaiso on the 14th March, 1813, where he obtained a full supply of provisions. He then ran down along the coast of Chili and Peru, fell in with a Peruvian corsair,

which had on board 24 Americans, the crews of two whale ships she had captured on the coast. He threw the guns and ammunition of the corsair into the sea, liberated the Americans, and afterwards recaptured one of the vessels as she was entering the port of Lima.

From Lima, captain Porter proceeded for the Gallipagos islands. While among this groupe of islands, he captured the following British ships, (letters of marque,) employed chiefly in the Spermaceti whale fishery.

	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Pierced for</i>
Montezuma	270	21	2	
Policy	175	26	10	18
Georgiana	280	25	6	18
Greenwich	388	25	10	20
Atlantic	355	24	8	20
Rose	220	21	8	20
Hector	270	25	11	20
Catherine	270	29	8	18
Seringapatam	357	31	14	26
Charlton	274	21	10	18
New-Zealander	259	23	8	18
Sir A. Hammond	301	31	12	18

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3456 302 107

The Atlantic received the new name of the Essex-Junior, was equipped with 20 guns, and her command given to lieutenant Downs.

Lieutenant Downs conveyed some of the prizes to Valparaiso; and Capt. Porter, on the return of lieutenant Downs, proceeded with the other prizes to the island of Nooaheevah, where he overhauled his ship, took on board a supply of provisions, and sailed for the coast of Chili, on the 12th December, 1813.

Previous to sailing from Nooaheevah, he secured his prizes under the guns of a battery, which he erected for their protection, and left

the battery in charge of lieut. Gamble and 21 marines, with orders to repair to Valparaiso, after a certain period. A friendly intercourse was established with the natives, and the island taken possession of, in the name of the United States. He arrived on the coast of Chili, the 12th January, 1814.

The captain detailed his success in the following words:

“ I had completely broke up the British navigation in the Pacific; the vessels which had not been captured, were laid up, and dared not venture out. The valuable whale fishery there is entirely destroyed; and the actual injury we have done them, may be estimated at two and a half millions of dollars, independent of expenses of vessels in search of me. They have furnished me amply with sails, cordage, cables, anchors, provisions, medicines, and stores of every description: and the slops on board them have furnished clothing for the seamen. We had, in fact, lived on the enemy since I had been in that sea, every prize having proved a well found storeship for me. I had not been under the necessity of drawing bills on the department for any object; and had been enabled to make considerable advances to my officers and crew on account of pay.”

After arriving at Valparaiso, he found himself blockaded by two British ships; the *Phœbe*, commodore Hillyar, carrying 30 long 18 pounders, 16 32 pound carronades, 1 howitzer, and 6 3 pounders in the tops, and a complement of 320 men; and the *Cherub*, mounting 28 guns, and having a complement of 180 men; making, together, 81 guns, and 500 men. The force of the *Essex* was 46 guns—40 32 pound carronades, and 6 long 12s; her crew amounted to 255 men. The *Essex-Junior* mounted 20 guns—10 18 pound.



carronades, and 10 short 6s, with only 60 men on board.

Captain Porter having sought in vain to bring on an action, with any one of the enemy, had resolved on putting to sea, in the hope of outsailing them. On the 28th of March, 1814, during a fresh blow of wind, the *Essex* parted her larboard cable, and dragged the starboard anchor directly to sea. Finding himself in this situation, he hoisted sail, and got under way.—On rounding a point of land, a heavy squall struck the ship, and carried away her main topmast, precipitating the men, who were aloft, into the sea. Being chased by the two enemy's ships, and unable to gain his former anchorage, he ran close into a small bay, about three quarters of a mile to leeward of the battery, on the east side of the harbour, and let go his anchor within pistol shot of the shore.

It was in this situation that his crippled ship and reduced crew were attacked in a neutral port, contrary to the laws of nations, by two ships of the enemy. The *Essex* was carried—but a prize has never been bought at a dearer rate. The action lasted nearly two hours and a half. The *Cherub*, from her crippled state, was compelled to haul off, but continued to fire at a distance, from her long guns. The *Phoebe* also chose, after suffering considerably, to fire from a distance with her long guns, while the *Essex* could not reach him with her carronades. There never was a ship more cut up than the *Essex*, nor that suffered more in men. Seventy men, including officers, were all that remained after the action, capable of doing duty, and many of these severely wounded.

The enemy continued firing for several minutes, and killed and wounded many of the crew of the *Essex*, after her colours were struck,

and an opposite gun fired, to show that resistance had ceased. Captain Porter conceiving it was intended to refuse quarter, was on the point of hoisting his colours, and selling his life as dear as possible, when the fire of the enemy ceased. The *Phoebe* was so cut up, that she was with great difficulty worked into Valparaiso, and it seemed doubtful, even after she came to anchor, whether she could be repaired so as to enable her to double Cape Horn. She had eighteen twelve pound shot through her, below her water line. Nothing but the smoothness of the water saved her from sinking. Had the *Phoebe* and *Cherub* dared to come boldly into close action they would undoubtedly have been defeated.

The enemy's loss in men cannot be ascertained, but must have been very severe. That of the *Essex* was—

Killed and have since died of their wounds,	58
Severely wounded,                   -   -   -   -   -	39
Slightly wounded,                   -   -   -   -   -	26
Missing,                               -   -   -   -   -	31
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Total,	154

It was agreed between captain Porter and commodore Hillyar, that the *Essex-Junior* should be disarmed, and employed as a cartel, to bring captain Porter and his men to the United States, to be there exchanged for an equal number of British prisoners, of equal rank. On the 5th July, the *Essex-Junior* arrived off New-York, and was overhauled by the British ship *Saturn*. Captain Porter, judging from the conduct of the British officer, that he would violate the terms under which the *Essex-Junior* had sailed, took

to his boat, and after rowing and sailing 40 miles, reached Long Island.

The winter season, rendering it difficult and dangerous for an enemy's fleet to remain on the American coast, to the northward of Virginia, it was conjectured that his blockading squadron would be moved to the southward; nor was the conjecture ill founded. It was his intention to effect something more permanently useful, than the robbing of private property. A general alarm prevailed among the inhabitants, particularly in the cities along the sea-coast. It was also ascertained that great preparations were making and several thousand men collected in the West Indies, with the avowed intention of invading some of the southern states.

At 4 o'clock, P. M. on the 15th of September, 1814, Fort Bowyer, on Mobile Point, was attacked by a superior British naval and land force. The naval force was under command of Sir H. W. Percy, and consisted of 2 ships, from 24 to 23 guns, mounting 32 pound carronades; two brigs from 16 to 18 guns, mounting 24 pound carronades, and 3 tenders. The land forces consisted of 100 marines under command of colonel Nichols, a body of Indians under command of captain Woodbine, and a battery of a 12 pounder and a howitzer, under direction of an officer of the artillery. The American effective force was about 120 men, of whom not more than 90 were engaged.

At 4, P. M. the enemy's leading ship, called the *Hermes*, having approached sufficiently near, the guns of the battery opened on her; at 20 minutes past 4, the engagement became general. Soon after this time, the British land forces were put to flight by discharges of grape and cannister from a 9 pounder. At 5, P. M. the guns of the *Hermes* were silenced and she drifted out, and

grounded within 600 yards of the battery, where she continued to be fired on, until night. At sun-set, the other vessels cut their cables, and stood off, under a tremendous fire from the battery. At a quarter past 7, the *Hermes* appeared to be on fire; at 10, her magazine blew up. It was learned from deserters, that 150 of the crew of the *Hermes* were lost, that 85 were killed or wounded on board the other ship, and several on board the other vessels. The American loss was 4 killed and 5 wounded. Major William Lawrence commanded at the fort. On the 16th, the enemy's fleet stood out to sea.

The appearance of 50 or 60 vessels of the enemy in the mouth of the Mississippi, rendered it almost certain that the city of New Orleans would be an object of attack. The advance of the enemy was announced, in general orders, on the 14th December, 1814, by governor Claiborne; and on the 18th, general Jackson reviewed the militia, preparatory to meeting the enemy. Martial law was declared on the 16th. The woodsmen from Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi territory, and Kentucky, hastened to the scene of honour and of glory; and men of different languages and manners prepared to emulate each other in defence of a common country, and a liberty in which they alike participated.

On the 13th December, the enemy's flotilla gained the Pass Christian, and was proceeding, evidently, against the U. S. gun vessels, then at anchor off bay St. Louis. The gun-boats retreated during the night, to the Malhereaux islands, Lake Borgne, where the wind and tide forced them to remain. At day-light, on the 15th, the enemy advanced with 42 heavy launches and gun barges, mounting 42 guns, of 12, 18, and

24 caliber, and 3 light gigs, with 1200 men, commanded by captain Lockyer.

At ten minutes before 11, A. M. he commenced an attack on the flotilla, consisting of gun-boat No. 5, 5 guns, 36 men, sailing master Ferris; gun boat No. 23, 5 guns, 39 men, lieutenant M'Keever; gun boat No. 156, 5 guns, 41 men, lieutenant Jones; gun boat No. 162, 5 guns, 35 men, lieutenant Spedden; and gun-boat No. 163, 3 guns, 31 men, sailing-master Ulrick;—total 23 guns, and 182 men, the whole under command of lieutenant Thomas Ap-Catespy Jones, of boat 156.

The sloop Alligator, (tender) of one 4 pounder and 8 men, not being able to join the flotilla, was captured before the action with the gun-boats commenced.

The gunboats were taken in succession, and each boat, when taken, added to the enemy's line of attack. The action continued until 40 minutes past 12, when the last of the gun boats was surrendered.

Considering the immense disproportion of the parties, the action was sustained, on the part of the Americans, with a skill, bravery, and perseverance, unexampled, even in the most spirited of the actions which distinguished the American seamen in the early part of the war. Five small vessels, and a few men, maintaining a contest for an hour and a half, against a swarm of heavy barges and gun boats, which closed and nearly surrounded them, was a sight unparalleled in the annals of naval heroism. The loss of the enemy, in killed and wounded, was estimated by lieutenant Jones to exceed 300, among whom were an unusual quantity of officers.

The capture of this flotilla gave to the enemy a free entrance into lake Ponchartrain, except what resistance they might meet from a

small fort commanding the passage of the Re-golettes.

The enemy, having gained the command of the lakes, was enabled to effect a passage to the Mississippi, at a point about nine miles from New-Orleans. General Jackson advanced against him, determined to attack him in his first position. The attack was made in the night of the 23d December, at half past seven o'clock. It was commenced by a fire from the schooner *Caroline*, which dropped down the river, in order to open on the rear of the camp. This was the signal for Gen. Coffee to fall on the right, while Gen. Jackson attacked the left near the river.—It resulted honorably to the American arms; but produced nothing decisive. The enemy's force amounted to about 3000 men; that of Gen. Jackson did not exceed 1500. The conflict lasted an hour, and was supported with great firmness. Gen. Jackson remained on the field until four o'clock in the morning, when he took a new position two miles nearer the city; having lost in this affair 24 killed, 115 wounded, and 74 missing—total 213.

The enemy succeeded, on the 27th, in blowing up the *Caroline*, (she being becalmed,) by means of hot shot from a land battery, erected in the night. On the 28th he advanced with his whole force, against general Jackson, in the hope of driving him from his position, and with this view opened a fire with bombs and rockets, at the distance of about half a mile. The enemy was repulsed with a loss of about 120 men. The Americans lost 7 killed and had 8 wounded.

On Sunday morning, the 1st January, 1815, the enemy had advanced within 600 yards of the American breast works, under cover of night and a heavy fog; and had erected the preceding night three different batteries, mounting in all

15 guns, from 6's to 32's. About eight o'clock, when the fog cleared off, they commenced a most tremendous fire upon the Americans, but it was amply returned by them, and a heavy cannonading was kept up, without the least interval on either side, except that occasioned by the explosion of a magazine in the rear of one of the American batteries, and another magazine in the night, owing to the enemy's Congreve rockets. By four o'clock in the afternoon, the Americans had dismounted all the enemy's guns, except two. They retreated, during the night, to their strong hold, about a mile and a quarter from the American camp. Twice did the enemy attempt to storm and carry the American batteries, but were as often deceived. On new-year's day, the loss of the Americans was 11 killed, and 23 badly wounded. That of the enemy, from the accounts of two prisoners taken on that day, and three deserters afterwards, must have been much greater.

According as the woodsmen arrived to the aid of general Jackson's army, they were disposed of to the best advantage, for the purpose of defence; but these forces not being of a very efficient nature, especially as the men could not be all provided with the necessary arms, the general could not attempt any thing against an enemy, who was thus left to pursue, undisturbed, his laborious operations.

During the days of the 6th and 7th, the enemy had been actively employed in making preparations for an attack on Jackson's lines.— With infinite labour they had succeeded on the night of the 7th, in getting their boats across from the lake to the river, by widening and deepening the canal, on which they had effected their disembarkation.

General Jackson was on the left side of the ri-

ver, patiently waiting the attack. General Morgan, with the New Orleans contingent; the Louisiana militia, and a detachment of Kentucky troops, occupied an entrenched camp on the opposite side of the river, protected by strong batteries on the bank, superintended by commodore Patterson.

On Sunday, the 8th, at 6 1-2 o'clock, A.M. the enemy began a very heavy cannonade upon the American lines, from his batteries of 18 and 12-pounders, supported by the musketry of 2500 men, who marched in close columns, and advanced nearer than musket shot distance to the entrenchments, armed with rockets, obuses and facines, to storm the batteries; they directed their principal attack against the head of the line, flanked by the river, and upon the left resting upon the cipress swamp, as well as against the tirailleurs and riflemen, placed above the said swamp; the roaring of the guns, and firing of the musketry, lasted two hours and a quarter; the enemy's mortars, although directed against the centre, did no harm to the troops; the bursting of their bombs in the works was of no effect. Two British officers, and one French engineer, of the name of Rennie, who had gained the summit of the American parapet, was killed or wounded, and made prisoners; (the engineer and one colonel was killed;) after this terrible affair, the field, in front of the works, was strewed with British wounded and killed.

General Jackson thus briefly details the particulars of attack.

"In my encampment every thing was ready for action; when early on the morning of the 8th, the enemy, after throwing a shower of bombs and Congreve rockets, advanced their columns at my right:



and left, to storm my entrenchments. I cannot speak sufficiently in praise of the firmness and deliberation with which my whole line received their approach. More could not have been expected from veterans inured to war. For an hour the fire of small arms was as incessant and severe as can be imagined.—The artillery, too, directed by officers who displayed equal skill and courage, did great execution. Yet the columns of the enemy continued to advance, with a firmness which reflects upon them the greatest credit. Twice the column which approached me on my left was repulsed by the troops of general Carrol, those of general Coffee, and a division of the Kentucky militia, and twice they formed again, and renewed the assault. At length, however, cut to pieces, they fled in confusion from the field, leaving it covered with their dead and wounded."

Simultaneously with the attack on general Jackson's lines, an attack was made on the works of general Morgan. Had the enemy been met with resolution in this attack, it must have produced his entire destruction; but, unfortunately, the Kentucky reinforcements ingloriously fled, drawing after them, by their example, the remainder of the forces, and leaving the batteries to the enemy; not, however, until after the guns were spiked. While general Jackson was preparing to dislodge the enemy from the captured battery, the British troops were withdrawn, and the post re-occupied by the Americans.

The return of the killed, wounded, and prisoners, taken at the battle of Mac Prardie's plantation, on the left bank of the Mississippi, on the morning of the 8th January, 1815, and five miles below the city of New-Orleans, consisted of—killed, 700; wounded, 1400; prisoners 500—total 2600.

Among the slain were general sir Edward

Packenham, the chief, and general Gibbs, the third in command; general Keane, the second in command, was severely wounded. General Lambert succeeded to the command.

His total loss, in the different engagements, was not probably less than 3500; and was, by many, supposed to exceed 4000. The loss to the Americans, on the 8th, on both sides of the river, was 13 killed, 39 wounded, and 19 missing; total killed, wounded, and missing, this day, 71; of this number there were but 6 killed, and 7 wounded, in the action of the line.

The enemy intended to pass Fort Philip, in order to co-operate with the land forces in the attack on New-Orleans. On the 9th January, at half past 3 P.M. the enemy's bomb-vessels opened their fire against the fort, from 4 sea-mortars, 2 of them 13 inches, and 2 of 10, at so great a distance, that the shot from the fort could not reach him. The enemy's fire continued with little intermission, and with little interruption from the fort, during the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th. On the evening of the 17th, a heavy mortar was got in readiness, and opened on the enemy with great effect. At day light on the 18th, the enemy retired, after having thrown upwards of 1000 heavy shells, besides small shells from the howitzers, round shot and grape, which he discharged from boats, under cover of the night. Scarcely ten feet of the garrison remained untouched; yet the loss of men was small, consisting of 2 killed, and 7 wounded. This saving of men was owing to the great pains taken by the officers to keep their men under cover.

All the enemy's movements, after the action of the 8th of January, were calculated to secure his retreat, should such prove necessary, as appearances then indicated that it would. Their in-

tention was, however, masked by a menacing attitude, as if preparing for a renewal of the attack on Jackson's line. They had erected batteries to cover their retreat, in advantageous positions, from their original encampment to the Bayou, through which they entered lake Bourgne. The cannon placed on these batteries could have raked a pursuing army in every direction. The situation of the ground through which they retired was protected by canals, redoubts, entrenchments, and swamps, on the right; and the river on the left.

In this state of things, Jackson had an opportunity of showing his prudence, as he before proved his courage, and by uniting both qualities perfected the general. Since the action of the 8th, the artillery on both sides of the river was constantly employed in annoying the enemy. An attempt to storm his batteries would have produced great slaughter among the Americans, been doubtful of success, and might possibly have induced the enemy to delay his departure. It was therefore resolved by general Jackson to secure the advantage obtained, with the least possible loss or hazard.

All hope which the enemy had of reducing fort Philip vanished; and on the night of the 18th, they precipitately decamped, and returned to their shipping, leaving behind them 80 of their wounded, 14 pieces of heavy artillery, and an immense number of ball, having destroyed much of their powder.

Mr. Shields, purser in the navy, wrote letters on the 16th and 17th of January, to Mr. Niles of Baltimore, containing much information, from which the following is extracted.

“The day after the gun-boats were taken, I was sent down under a flag of truce to ascertain the fate

of our officers and men, with power to negotiate an exchange, especially for the wounded. But the enemy would make no terms—they treated the flag with contempt, and myself, and the surgeon who was with me, as prisoners, until the 18th instant. He has now lowered his tone, and begs the exchange that we offered. Defeat has humbled the arrogance of the enemy, who had promised his soldiers forty-eight hours pillage and rapine of the city of New-Orleans!”

On the authority of judge Poindexter, it is stated, that “the watch-word and countersign of the enemy, on the morning of the 8th, was ‘*BEAUTY AND BOOTY!*’ Comment is unnecessary on these significant allusions held out to a licentious soldiery. Had victory declared on their side, the scenes of Havre de Grace, of Hampton, of Alexandria, and of St. Sebastians, would, without doubt, have been re-acted at New Orleans, with all the unfeeling and brutal inhumanity of the savage foe with whom we are contending.”

Thus ended, in disgrace and discomfiture to the enemy, an expedition which occupied several months in its preparation, and was composed of at least 10,000 troops, drawn from almost every part of the world, where the British had garrisons or soldiers. Nothing was left undone to secure the occupation of an immense province, and the command of a river extending thousands of miles through the most fertile countries in the world; and on which several of the United States depended as an outlet and market for their produce.

That a permanent occupation of New-Orleans and the state of Louisiana was intended, can scarcely be doubted. The fact that revenue and other civil officers, to reside at New-Orleans,

were on board the fleet, is a sufficient evidence of this fact, as well as it is of the certainty with which victory was counted on; nor is this rendered doubtful by the circumstance that the battle was fought after the treaty of peace was ratified by the British government. The expedition against New-Orleans was planned long before the signing of peace, and at a time when the wavering and quibbling policy of England induced the American commissioners at Ghent to write to their government, "that no hopes of peace, as likely to result from it, (the negociation) could be entertained."

From an official account, it appeared that the number of men under command of general Jackson, and actually engaged against the enemy on the 8th January, amounted to 4,698.—The enemy's force, by his own account, exceeded 10,000.

By an article in a Jamaica paper, of the 3d December, it was stated that the expedition then prepared to go against the United States, under command of sir Alexander Cochrane, and major-general Keane, (the same that afterwards entered the Mississippi,) consisted of 1 ship of 80 guns, 5 of 74, 3 of 50, 1 of 44, 6 of 38, 2 of 36, 3 of 32, 3 of 16, 2 of 14, and 3 of 6 guns—total 28; carrying 1084 guns, besides a great number of cutters, transports, &c.

On the 21st Jan. general Jackson directed an address to be publicly read at the head of each of the corps composing the lines near New-Orleans. It must have been a difficult and delicate task to do justice to individuals, where all acted so well, proving, in the general's words, "that a rampart of high minded men is a better defence than the most regular fortification."

This address contained the following emphatical paragraph.

“Reasoning always from false principles, they (the enemy) expected little opposition from men whose officers even were not in uniform, who were ignorant of the rules of dress, and who had never been *caned* into discipline—fatal mistake! a fire incessantly kept up, directed with calmness, and with unerring aim, strewed the field with the brave officers and men of the column, which slowly advanced, according to the most approved rules of European tactics, and was cut down by the untutored courage of the American militia. Unable to sustain this galling and unceasing fire, some hundreds nearest the intrenchments called for quarters, which was granted—the rest, retreating, were rallied at some distance, but only to make them a surer mark for the grape and cannister shot of our artillery, which, without exaggeration, mowed down whole ranks at every discharge; and at length they precipitately retreated from the field.”

The following officers and volunteers are particularly noticed by the general; generals Coffee, Carroll, Adair, de Flanjac, Villere, Morgan, Humbert, (acting as a volunteer) Mexican; field marshal Don Juan de Anavar, (volunteer); colonels Ross, Dyer, Gibson, Elliott, M'Rea, Perry, de la Ronde, Haynes, Platt, Anderson, (killed) and adj. gen. col. Butler; lieut. col. Lauderdale, (killed;) majors Hinds, Blanche, Carmac, St. Geme, Nicks, Chotard, Davis, Hampton, Tatum, Lacalliere de la Tour, and la Caste and Dagnin, commanding two corps of coloured men; captains Baker, Humphreys, Savary, Beal, Ogden, Lewis, Livingston, Lefebvre, Planchard, Smith, Griffin, Mahon, (killed) Pace, (killed) and the brothers Lafitte and Dominique, and Beluche, (Baratarians;) lieutenants M'Clellan, (killed,) Dupy, Spotts, Kerr, Alexis, Crawford, (killed,) and Leach; commodore Patterson, captain

Henley, lieutenants Norris and Growly, and midshipman Erasmus Watkins, of the navy; aids-de-camp Thos. D. Butler, John Reed, Livingston, Duncan, Grymes, Duplessis and de Castera; doctors Keer and Flood; judge Lewis, (volunteer;) and Messrs. Chaveau, Hiriart, Latrobe, Gilbert, Bosquet, and Decoin.

Several desperate characters, citizens of the United States, as well as foreigners, natives of different countries, had associated themselves into a band of pirates, under the chief Lafitte, and had taken up their residence in the island of Barataria, near the mouth of the Mississippi. The government of the United States caused this unlawful establishment to be broken up. The expedition against the Baratarians, took possession of all the piratical vessels, their prizes, and a considerable quantity of arms and property, without opposition, on the 16th September, 1814. The vessels thus taken consisted of six schooners, and one felucca, cruizers and prizes of the pirates one brig, a prize, and two armed schooners, both in line of battle with the armed vessels of the pirates. The establishment on shore, which was also taken possession of, consisted of about 40 houses. The pirates had mounted on their vessels 20 pieces of cannon, of different calibres, and their number consisted of between 800 and 1000 men, of all nations and colours. The expedition against the pirates was commanded by com. Patterson, of the navy, having on board a detachment of land troops, under command of colonel Ross.

The Baratarian pirates took part in the defence of New-Orleans against the British, and were both active and serviceable. It was also satisfactorily ascertained that they had, previous to their dispersion, refused an alliance with the British, rejecting the most seducing terms of invitation.

Induced by these considerations, and at the recommendation of the general assembly of the state of Louisiana, the president of the United States granted to such of them as aided in defence of New-Orleans, a full pardon for all offences against the laws of the United States, committed previous to the 8th January, 1815.

The enemy, after being defeated near New-Orleans, turned his attention to the state of Georgia; and, from appearances, intended a visit to Savannah. The unprepared state of Georgia, and the dreadful character of the enemy, caused a great alarm among the inhabitants of the state.

On the 11th January, 1815, the enemy, to the number of 1500 or 2000 men, effected a landing on Cumberland island. On the 13th, Point-Petre was carried by storm; and on the following day, St. Mary's capitulated, in consequence of a flag sent from the inhabitants of the town. The enemy evacuated Point-Petre and St. Mary's, the 21st January, after burning the barracks and blowing up the fort. Had the enemy attempted Savannah, he would have met a reception similar to that experienced at New-Orleans. No people ever turned out more generally, or with greater alacrity, than the men of Georgia. The militia, in every part of the state, were in motion, when the news of peace, and retreat of the enemy, reached them. While the enemy was marching against Point-Petre, capt. Massias, of the 1st U. S. rifle corps, at the head of 60 men, attempted to oppose 1000, committed considerable havoc among the enemy, and retreated, with the loss of 1 killed, 4 wounded, and 9 missing.

The fortress of Mobile, within the limits of the purchase of Louisiana, had been retained by the Spaniards, notwithstanding its purchase by the United States. The war between Great Britain and the United States rendered it necessary



to occupy this place, lest it should fall into the possession of the enemy. On the 15th April, 1813, general Wilkinson appeared before it, at the head of a respectable force; when, the garrison being summoned to surrender, the Spanish troops were immediately embarked for Pensacola, and Mobile taken possession of by the United States' troops.

Pensacola, although a Spanish post, was not properly entitled to the character of neutral. The conduct of the Spanish governor left no doubt as to his attachment to the British, and his hostile disposition toward the United States.

Pensacola was an asylum for hostile Indians; at Pensacola they were armed, provisioned, and paid. Pensacola was a depot of British arms, a home for traitors to the United States, and a place of rendezvous for every ally of the enemy, whether white, black, or red.

As soon as the war in Europe was likely to end, and Britain at liberty to direct her whole force against the United States, the understanding with the governor of Florida became less masked, and the British officers boldly dated their public acts from "Head-Quarters, Pensacola!"

It was, under these circumstances, determined to attack the British at their "head-quarters," and to storm the town, although defended by strong batteries, and supported by seven armed British vessels in the bay. On the 7th November, 1814, the assault was made, under the command and direction of general Jackson. The following animated report of the assault was made by general Jackson, in a letter to governor Early:

"I entered sword in hand, with about 3000 brave followers, in the face of Spanish batteries, and a British fleet of 7 sail, anchored abreast and op-

posite the town. The English, by intrigue and base falsehood, induced the Spaniards to abandon the works commanding the harbour, entered them, and blew them up, otherwise they would have fallen a sacrifice to their own plans. When this took place, the fleet being at liberty to go out, did so; and I evacuated the town, leaving the Spaniards favourably impressed with our conduct, and disgusted with their British friends."

Fort Bowyer was closely besieged by land and water, on the 8th February, 1815, by a very large force of the enemy. The garrison consisted of about 360 men, including officers, commanded by Lieut. Col. W. Lawrence. The enemy advanced by regular approaches, and was "within certain musket shot of the parapets of the fort, on the land side, when the garrison was surrendered, on the 12th, by capitulation. There were but few lives lost on either side.

On the 24th February, 6 barges of the enemy proceeded up the river St. Mary's, with a view to burn the mills belonging to Mr. A. Clarke.— They were opposed by a few patriots from the Florida shore, when the boats tacked about to retreat; at this moment, about 30 men attacked them from an ambush on the opposite shore. The enemy was thus placed between two fires, which continued to gall him until he reached a part of the river, where, by keeping the centre, he was beyond the reach of the fire from both shores. The enemy lost upwards of 100 men. The Americans had only one man wounded.

The U. S. ship *President*, com. Decatur, sailed on a cruise from New-York, the 14th January, 1815. The ship, in going over the bar, grounded, and suffered so much in consequence, as evidently to affect her sailing; and was the cause of her subsequent capture, by a superior force of the enemy. At 5, A. M. on the 15th, the *President*

fell in with the enemy's squadron, consisting of the *Majestic*, *razee*, *Endymion*, *Pomone*, *Tenedos*, and *Despatch*, brig. The injury done to the *President*, when she grounded off the *Hook*, prevented her outsailing the enemy's fleet. The *Endymion* (mounting fifty guns, 24 pounders, on the main-deck) having approached within gun-shot, commenced a firing at 5, P. M. more with a view to delay than to try strength with the *President*. The latter, however, was enabled to bring her guns so far to bear, as to silence the *Endymion*, and to put her, by 8 o'clock, fully out of combat, so much crippled, that she could with great difficulty be worked, or kept afloat. The near approach of the other ships obliged the *President* to abandon a vessel, that must, if not supported by her consorts, have surrendered. The *Pomone* and *Tenedos* came up and engaged the *President* at the same time, the *Majestic* being also within gun-shot. It being useless and imprudent to engage so overpowering a force, commodore Decatur struck his flag, and went on board the *Majestic*, where he delivered his sword to captain Hays, the senior officer of the squadron, who politely returned it. The written parole granted to commodore Decatur, specified his having surrendered the *President* to a "British squadron;" thus silencing those who wished to have it understood, that the commodore struck his flag to a single ship. The prize-money arising from the capture of the *President*, was divided among the crews of the squadron by which she was captured.

The loss on board the enemy could not be ascertained; that of the *President* consisted of 24 killed, and 50 wounded. Among the killed were lieutenants Babbitt, Hamilton, and Howell.

Commodore Decatur, in his official report, wrote that "a considerable number of his killed and wounded was from the fire of the *Pomone*; and

that the *Endymion* had on board, in addition to her own crew, 1 lieutenant, 1 master's mate, and 50 seamen, belonging to the *Saturn*; and when the action ceased, was left motionless and unmanageable, until she bent new sails, rove new rigging, and fished her spars; nor did she join the squadron until six hours after the action, and 3 hours after the surrender of the *President*."

The U. S. frigate *Constitution*, captain Stewart, sailed from Boston in December, 1814. When off Madeira, on the evening of the 20th February, 1815, she fell in with his Britannic majesty's ships *Cyane* and *Levant*, which she captured, after an action of 40 minutes.

The *Cyane* is a frigate built ship, mounting 34 carriage guns, viz. 22 32-pound carronades on the gun deck, 8 32-pound carronades on the quarter deck, 2 18-pound carronades, and 2 long 9s on the forecastle, with a complement of 175 men. The *Levant* mounted 21 carriage guns, viz. 18 24 pound carronades, 2 long 9s, and a shifting 12-pounder on the top-gallant forecastle, with a complement of 150 men.—The enemy's vessels suffered severely in spars, rigging, and sails. The *Constitution* received little injury, having but 4 men killed, and 10 wounded. The *Cyane* had 7 killed and 17 wounded; the *Levant*, 9 killed and 17 wounded.

On the 12th March, the *Constitution* and her prizes fell in with three British frigates. The frigates kept together in chase of the *Constitution*, lest, by separating, they might be captured in succession. The *Constitution* outsailed and escaped the enemy's squadron; the *Cyane* arrived at New-York; and the *Levant* was attacked and taken by the British squadron, in the harbor of Porto Praya, in the island of St. Jago, in violation of the neutrality of the port, and contrary to the laws of

nations. The Constitution arrived safely in the United States.

On the 19th July, 1813, the U. S. brig of war Syren, of 16 guns, was captured, after a chase of 11 hours, by his Britannic majesty's frigate Medway. During the chase, the Syren threw overboard all her guns, boats, anchors, cables, and spars.

On the 25th May, 1813, the president of the United States informed congress that his majesty the emperor of Russia had offered his mediation in order to facilitate a peace between Great-Britain and the United States; that the offer was accepted by the president, and that three citizens had been commissioned to treat accordingly.

On the meeting of congress in December following, the president, in his message to both houses, informed them that Great-Britain had declined negotiating under the mediation of Russia.

Notwithstanding this refusal of the British government to accept the Russian mediation, the British ambassador at the court of St. Petersburg, directed a letter, in September, to the Russian government, intimating a desire to treat immediately with the American plenipotentiaries.

Lord Castlereagh, secretary of state to his Britannic majesty, enclosed a copy of the above note, in a letter of the 4th November, to the secretary of state of the United States, at the city of Washington, proposing that the two governments would enter into direct negotiation for a termination of the war, on terms that would be mutually advantageous; and that the negotiations would be entered into at Gottenburg or London. The proposition was promptly acceded to by the American government, fixing on Gottenburg as the place of negotiation.

The senate confirmed, on the 19th January, 1814, the nomination by the president of John

Quincy Adams, James A. Bayard, Henry Clay, and Jonathan Russel, as ministers to treat for peace with British commissioners at Gottenburgh. It was afterwards agreed that the treaty should be held at Ghent.

So indecisive and equivocating was the conduct of British ministers, that many persons doubted whether any commissioners would be appointed on the part of Britain; and, when appointed, it was pretty generally believed that the appointment was merely *pro forma*, without any intention to agree to reasonable terms of peace.

The British government appointed, as their commissioners, lord Gambier, Henry Goulburn, esq. and William Adams, esq. These personages arrived at Ghent the 6th August.

At the first meeting with the American commissioners terms were offered on the part of England, so degrading and offensive to the United States, that it was impossible to accept them; and as some of them were offered in the form of a *sine qua non*, there remained not a hope of a speedy negociation of hostilities.

The news, when arrived in the United States, roused at once the pride and the energy of the nation; and produced a union of sentiment that presaged future glory and success.

It was now evident, that the negotiations at Ghent hung on those then pending before a congress of the ministers of several potentates assembled at Vienna, for settling a general peace in Europe.

It is easy to conceive that the task to be performed by the congress at Vienna was difficult. Wrapped up in state secrecy, and influenced by state intrigues, the course of negociation at Vienna was in a great degree withheld from the public eye. The continued armaments of European

powers, and the military parade with which the duke of Wellington appeared in Belgium, even before the emperor of Elba ceased to be a pensioner of Louis XVIII. led to the suspicion that the rights of European sovereigns must be settled by a new effusion of the blood of their subjects.

Whatever motive may have influenced the British government, it is certain, that a very sudden change of tone was produced on their part. The consequence was, that a treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States was signed at Ghent, the 24th December, 1814, lord Gambier, Henry Goulburn, and William Adams, as commissioners on the part of England; and by John Quincy Adams, J. A. Bayard, Henry Clay, Jonathan Russel, and Albert Gallatin, as commissioners on the part of the United States; ratified at London the 28th of the same month, and ratified at the city of Washington on the 17th February, 1815.

On the 18th February, 1815, the president of the United States caused a proclamation to be published, of which the following is a copy; together with the treaty of peace.

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JAMES MADISON,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

*To all and singular to whom these presents shall come, greeting,*

WHEREAS, a treaty of peace and amity between the United States of America, and his Britannic majesty, was signed at Ghent, on twenty-fourth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, by the plenipotentiaries respectively appointed for that purpose; and the said treaty having been, by and with the advice and consent of the senate of the United States, duly accepted, ratified, and confirmed, on the

seventeenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen; and ratified copies thereof having been exchanged agreeably to the tenor of the said treaty, which is in the words following, to wit:

*Treaty of peace and amity between his Britannic majesty and the United States of America.*

His Britannic majesty and the United States of America, desirous of terminating the war which has unhappily subsisted between the two countries, and of restoring, upon principles of perfect reciprocity, peace, friendship, and good understanding between them, have, for that purpose, appointed their respective plenipotentiaries, that is to say: his Britannic majesty, on his part, has appointed the right honourable James lord Gambier, late admiral of the white, now admiral of the red squadron of his majesty's fleet, Henry Goulburn, esquire, a member of the imperial parliament, and under secretary of state, and William Adams, esquire, doctor of civil laws:—and the president of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the senate thereof, has appointed John Quincy Adams, James A. Bayard, Henry Clay, Jonathan Russel, and Albert Gallatin, citizens of the United States, who, after a reciprocal communication of their respective full powers, have agreed upon the following articles.

ARTICLE THE FIRST.

There shall be a firm and universal peace between his Britannic majesty and the United States, and between their respective countries, territories, cities, towns, and people, of every degree, without exception of places or persons. All hostilities, both by sea and land, shall cease as soon as this treaty shall have been ratified by both parties, as hereinafter mentioned. All territory, places, and possessions whatsoever, taken from either party by the other, during the war, or which may be taken after the signing of this treaty, excepting only the islands hereinafter mentioned, shall be restored without delay, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any of the artillery or other public property originally captured in the said forts or places, and which shall remain therein upon the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty, or any slaves or other private property. And all archives, records, deeds, and papers, either of a public nature, or belonging to private persons, which, in the course of the war, may have fallen into the hands of the officers of either party, shall be, as far as may be practicable, forthwith restored and delivered to the proper authorities and persons to whom they respectively belong. Such of the islands in the bay of Passamaquoddy as are claimed by both parties, shall remain in



the possession of the party in whose occupation they may be at the time of the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty, until the decision respecting the title to the said islands shall have been made in conformity with the fourth article of this treaty. No disposition made by this treaty, as to such possessions of the islands and territories claimed by both parties, shall, in any manner whatever, be construed to affect the right of either.

#### ARTICLE THE SECOND.

Immediately after the ratifications of this treaty by both parties, as hereinafter mentioned, orders shall be sent to the armies, squadrons, officers, subjects and citizens, of the two powers to cease from all hostilities: and to prevent all cause of complaint which might arise on account of the prizes which may be taken at sea after the said ratifications of this treaty, it is reciprocally agreed, that all vessels and effects which may be taken after the space of twelve days from the said ratifications, upon all parts of the coast of North America, from the latitude of twenty-three degrees north, to the latitude of fifty degrees north, and as far eastward in the Atlantic ocean, as the thirty-sixth degree of west longitude from the meridian of Greenwich, shall be restored to each side: that the time shall be thirty days in all other parts of the Atlantic ocean, north of the equinoctial line or equator, and the same time for the British and Irish channels, for the gulf of Mexico, and all parts of the West Indies: forty days for the North seas, for the Baltic, and for all parts of the Mediterranean: sixty days for the Atlantic ocean, south of the equator, as far as the latitude of the cape of Good Hope: ninety days for every part of the world south of the equator: and one hundred and twenty days for all other parts of the world, without exception.

#### ARTICLE THE THIRD.

All prisoners of war taken on either side, as well by land as by sea, shall be restored as soon as practicable after the ratification of this treaty, as hereinafter mentioned, on their paying the debts which they may have contracted during their captivity. The two contracting parties respectively engage to discharge in specie, the advances which may have been made by the other, for the sustenance and maintenance of such prisoners.

#### ARTICLE THE FOURTH.

Whereas it was stipulated by the second article in the treaty of peace of one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, between his Britannic majesty and the United States of America, that the boundary of the United States should comprehend all islands within twenty leagues of any part of the shores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due east from the points where the aforesaid boundaries, between No-

va Scotia on the one part, and East Florida on the other, shall respectively touch the bay of Fundy, and the Atlantic ocean, excepting such islands as now are, or heretofore have been, within the limits of Nova Scotia; and whereas the several islands in the bay of Passamaquoddy, which is part of the bay of Fundy, and the island of Grand Menan in the said bay of Fundy, are claimed by the United States as being comprehended within their aforesaid boundaries, which said islands are claimed as belonging to his Britannic majesty, as having been at the time of, and previous to, the aforesaid treaty of one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three within the limits of the province of Nova Scotia. In order, therefore, finally to decide upon these claims, it is agreed that they shall be referred to two commissioners, to be appointed in the following manner, viz. one commissioner shall be appointed by his Britannic majesty, and one by the president of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the senate thereof, and the said two commissioners so appointed shall be sworn impartially to examine and decide upon the said claims according to such evidence as shall be laid before them on the part of his Britannic majesty and of the United States respectively. The said commissioners shall meet at St. Andrews, in the province of New Brunswick, and shall have power to adjourn to such other place or places as they shall think fit. The said commissioners shall, by a declaration or report under their hands and seals, decide to which of the two contracting parties the several islands aforesaid do respectively belong, in conformity with the true intent of the said treaty of peace of one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three. And if the said commissioners shall agree in their decision, both parties shall consider such decision as final and conclusive. It is further agreed, that in the event of the two commissioners differing upon all or any of the matters so referred to them, or in the event of both or either of the said commissioners refusing, or declining, or wilfully omitting, to act as such, they shall make, jointly or separately, a report or reports, as well to the government of his Britannic majesty as to that of the United States, stating in detail the points on which they differ, and the grounds upon which their respective opinions have been formed, or the grounds upon which they, or either of them, have so refused, declined, or omitted to act. And his Britannic majesty, and the government of the United States hereby agree to refer the report or reports of the said commissioners to some friendly sovereign or state, to be then named for that purpose, and who shall be requested to decide on the differences which may be stated in the said report or reports, or upon the report of one commissioner, together with the grounds upon which the other commissioner shall have refused, declined, or omitted to act, as the case may be. And if the commissioner so refusing, declining, or omitting to

act, shall also wilfully omit to state the grounds upon which he has so done, in such manner that the said statement may be referred to such friendly sovereign or state, together with the report of such other commissioner, then such sovereign or state shall decide *ex parte* upon the said report alone. And his Britannic majesty and the government of the United States, engage to consider the decision of some friendly sovereign or state, to be such and conclusive on all the matters so referred.

#### ARTICLE THE FIFTH.

Whereas neither that point of the high lands lying due north from the source of the river St. Croix, and designated, in the former treaty of peace between the two powers, as the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, nor the northwesternmost head of Connecticut river, has yet been ascertained; and whereas that part of the boundary line between the dominion of the two powers, which extends from the source of the river St. Croix, directly north to the above-mentioned north-west angle of Nova Scotia, thence along the said highlands which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence, from those which fall into the Atlantic ocean, to the northwesternmost head of Connecticut river; thence down along the middle of the river to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude; thence by a line due west on said latitude until it strikes the river Iroquois, or Cataraguy, has not been surveyed: It is agreed that for these several purposes two commissioners shall be appointed, sworn, and authorized, to act exactly in the manner directed with respect to those mentioned in the next preceding article, unless otherwise specified in the present article. The said commissioners shall meet at St. Andrews, in the province of New-Brunswick, and shall have power to adjourn to such other place or places as they shall think fit. The said commissioners shall have power to ascertain and determine the points abovementioned, in conformity with the provisions of the said treaty of peace of one thousand seven hundred and eighty three; and shall cause the boundary aforesaid, from the source of the river St. Croix, to the river Iroquois or Cataraguy, to be surveyed and marked according to the said provisions. The said commissioners shall make a map of the said boundary, and annex to it a declaration under their hands and seals, certifying it to be the true map of the said boundary, and particularizing the latitude and longitude of the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, of the northwesternmost head of Connecticut river, and of such other points of the same boundary as they may deem proper. And both parties agree to consider such map and declaration as finally and conclusively fixing the said boundary. And in the event of the said two commissioners differing, or both or either of them refusing, declining, or wilfully omitting to act, such reports, de-

clarations, or statements, shall be made by them, or either of them, and such reference to a friendly sovereign or state shall be made, in all respects, as in the latter part of the fourth article is contained, and in as full a manner as if the same was herein repeated.

## ARTICLE THE SIXTH.

Whereas, by the former treaty of peace, that portion of the boundary of the United States, from the point where the forty-fifth degree of north latitude strikes the river Iroquois, or Cataraguy, to the lake Superior, was declared to be "along the middle of said river into lake Ontario; through the middle of said lake until it strikes the communication by water between that lake and lake Erie; thence along the middle of said communication into lake Erie; through the middle of that lake until it arrives at the water communication into the lake Huron; thence through the middle of said lake to the water communication between that lake and lake Superior;"—and whereas doubts have arisen, what was the middle of said river, lakes and water communications, and whether certain islands lying in the same were within the dominions of his Britannic majesty or of the United States: In order, therefore, finally to decide these doubts, they shall be referred to two commissioners, to be appointed, sworn, and authorized to act, exactly in the manner directed with respect to those mentioned in the next preceding article, unless otherwise specified in this present article.—The said commissioners shall meet, in the first instance, at Albany, in the state of New-York, and shall have power to adjourn to such other place or places as they shall think fit. The said commissioners shall, by a report or declaration, under their hands and seals, designate the boundary through the said river, lakes, and water communications, and decide to which of the two contracting parties the several islands lying within the said river, lakes, and water communications, do respectively belong, in conformity with the true intent of the said treaty of one thousand seven hundred and eighty three. And both parties agree to consider such designation and decision as final and conclusive. And in the event of the said two commissioners differing, or both or either of them refusing, declining, or wilfully omitting to act, such reports, declarations or statements shall be made by them, or either of them, and such reference to a friendly sovereign or state, shall be made, in all respects, as in the latter part of the fourth article is contained, and in as full a manner as if the same was herein repeated.

## ARTICLE THE SEVENTH.

It is further agreed, that the said two last mentioned commissioners, after they shall have executed the duties assigned to them in the preceding article, shall be, and they are hereby authorized, upon their oaths, impartially to fix and determine,

according to the true intent of the said treaty of peace, of one thousand seven hundred and eighty three, that part of the boundary between the dominions of the two powers, which extends from the water communication between lake Huron and lake Superior, to the most north-western point of the lake of the Woods; to decide to which of the two parties the several islands lying in the lakes, water communications, and rivers, forming the said boundary, do respectively belong, in conformity with the true intent of the said treaty of peace, of one thousand seven hundred and eighty three; and to cause such parts of the said boundary as require it, to be surveyed and marked. The said commissioners shall, by a report or declaration under their hands and seals, designate the boundary aforesaid, state their decision on the points thus referred to them, and particularize the latitude and longitude of the most north-western point of the lake of the Woods, and of such other parts of the said boundary as they may deem proper. And both parties agree to consider such designation and decision as final and conclusive. And in the event of the said two commissioners differing, or both or either of them refusing, declining, or wilfully omitting to act, such reports, declarations, or statements, shall be made by them, or either of them, and such reference to a friendly sovereign or state, shall be made in all respects, as in the latter part of the fourth article is contained, and in as full a manner as if the same was herein repeated.

#### ARTICLE THE EIGHTH.

The several boards of two commissioners, mentioned in the four preceding articles, shall respectively have power to appoint a secretary, and to employ such surveyor, or other persons, as they shall judge necessary. Duplicates of all their respective reports, declarations, statements and decisions, and of their accounts, and of the journal of their proceedings, shall be delivered by them to the agents of his Britannic majesty, and to the agents of the United States, who may be respectively appointed, and authorized to manage the business on behalf of their respective governments. The said commissioners shall be respectively paid in such manner as shall be agreed between the two contracting parties; such agreement being to be settled at the time of the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty.—And all other expences attending the said commissioners shall be defrayed equally by the two parties. And in case of death, sickness, resignation, or necessary absence, the place of every such commissioner respectively shall be supplied in the same manner as such commissioner was first appointed; and the new commissioner shall take the same oath or affirmation, and do the same duties. It is further agreed between the two contracting parties, that in case any of the islands mentioned in any of the preceding articles, which were

in the possession of one of the parties prior to the commencement of the present war between the two countries, should, by the decision of any of the boards of commissioners aforesaid, or of the sovereign or state so referred to, as in the four next preceding articles contained, fall within the dominions of the other party, all grants of land made previous to the commencement of the war by the party having had such possession, shall be as valid as if such island or islands had, by such decision or decisions, been adjudged to be within the dominions of the party having had such possession.

## ARTICLE THE NINTH.

The United States of America engage to put an end, immediately after the ratification of the present treaty, to hostilities with all the tribes or nations of Indians, with whom they may be at war at the time of such ratification; and forthwith to restore to such tribes or nations respectively, all the possessions, rights, and privileges, which they may have enjoyed, or been entitled to, in one thousand eight hundred and eleven, previous to such hostilities; provided always, that such tribes or nations shall agree to desist from all hostilities against the United States of America, their citizens and subjects, upon the ratification of the present treaty being notified to such tribes or nations, and shall so desist accordingly. And his Britannic majesty engages on his part, to put an end, immediately after the ratification of the present treaty, to hostilities with all the tribes or nations of Indians with whom he may be at war at the time of such ratification; and forthwith to restore to such tribes or nations respectively, all the possessions, rights, and privileges, which they may have enjoyed, or been entitled to, in one thousand eight hundred and eleven, previous to such hostilities; provided always, that such tribes or nations shall agree to desist from all hostilities against his Britannic majesty and his subjects, upon the ratification of the present treaty being notified to such tribes or nations, and shall so desist accordingly.

## ARTICLE THE TENTH.

Whereas the traffic in slaves is irreconcilable with the principles of humanity and justice, and whereas both his majesty and the United States are desirous of continuing their efforts to promote its entire abolition; it is hereby agreed, that both the contracting parties shall use their best endeavours to accomplish so desirable an object.

## ARTICLE THE ELEVENTH.

This treaty, when the same shall have been ratified on both sides, without alteration by either of the contracting parties, and the ratifications mutually exchanged, shall be binding on both parties; and the ratifications shall be exchanged at

Washington, in the space of four months from this day, or sooner if practicable.

In faith whereof, we, the respective plenipotentiaries, have signed this treaty, and have thereunto affixed our seals.

Done in triplicate, at Ghent, the twenty-fourth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen.

(L. s.)

GAMBIER,

(L. s.)

HENRY GOULBURN,

(L. s.)

WILLIAM ADAMS,

(L. s.)

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,

(L. s.)

J. A. BAYARD,

(L. s.)

H. CLAY,

(L. s.)

JONA. RUSSELL,

(L. s.)

ALBERT GALLATIN.

Now, therefore, to the end that the said treaty of peace and amity may be observed with good faith on the part of the United States, I, James Madison, president as aforesaid, have caused the premises to be made public; and I do hereby enjoin all persons bearing office, civil or military, within the United States, and all others, citizens or inhabitants thereof, or being within the same, faithfully to observe and fulfil the said treaty, and every clause and article thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the  
(L. s.) United States to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand.

Done at the city of Washington, this eighteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and of the sovereignty and independence of the United States, the thirty ninth.

JAMES MADISON.

By the President,

JAMES MONROE, Acting Secretary of State.

The terms of the treaty being considered honourable to the country, and satisfactory to the citizens, their ratification was followed by the most general and enthusiastic joy, accompanied by illuminations, &c. &c. in every part of the union.

Reference being had in this treaty to that of 1783, it is thought proper, for the better understanding of the whole, to print, in this place, the following copy of the said treaty.

DEFINITIVE TREATY OF PEACE,  
BETWEEN THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HIS BRITANNIC  
MAJESTY.

In the name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity.

IT having pleased the Divine Providence to dispose the hearts of the most serene and most potent prince George the third, by the grace of God king of Great Britain, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, Arch-treasurer and Prince elector of the most holy Roman empire, &c. and of the United States of America, to forget all past misunderstandings and differences that have unhappily interrupted the good correspondence and friendship which they mutually wish to restore, and to establish such a beneficial and satisfactory intercourse between the two countries, upon the ground of reciprocal advantages and mutual convenience, as may promote and secure to both perpetual peace and harmony: and having, for this desirable end, already laid the foundation of peace and reconciliation, by the provisional articles signed at Paris, on the thirtieth of November, one thousand seven hundred and eighty two, by the commissioners empowered on each part, which articles were agreed to be inserted in; and to constitute the treaty of peace proposed to be concluded between the crown of Great Britain and the said United States, but which treaty was not to be concluded until terms of peace should be agreed upon between Great Britain and France, and his Britannic majesty should be ready to conclude such treaty accordingly: and the treaty between Great Britain and France having since been concluded, his Britannic majesty and the United States of America, in order to carry into full effect the provisional articles abovementioned, according to the tenor thereof, have constituted and appointed, that is to say, his Britannic majesty on his part, David Hartley, esquire, member of the Parliament of Great Britain; and the said United States on their part, John Adams, esquire, late a commissioner of the United States of America at the court of Versailles, late delegate in Congress from the state of Massachusetts, and Chief Justice of the said state, and Minister plenipotentiary of the said United States to their high mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands; Benjamin Franklin, esq. late delegate in Congress from the state of Pennsylvania, President of the Convention of the said state, and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America at the court of Versailles; John Jay, esquire,



late President of Congress, and Chief Justice of the state of New York, and Minister Plenipotentiary from the said United States at the court of Madrid, to be the Plenipotentiaries for the concluding and signing the present definitive treaty; who after having reciprocally communicated their respective full powers, have agreed upon and confirmed the following articles:

## ARTICLE I.

His Britannic majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz. New-Hampshire, Massachussets Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, to be free, sovereign, and independent states; that he treats with them as such; and for himself, his heirs and successors, relinquishes all claims to the government, propriety and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof.

## ARTICLE II.

And that all disputes which might arise in future, on the subject of the boundaries of the said United States may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are, and shall be their boundaries, viz. from the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, viz. that angle which is formed by a line, drawn due north from the source of St. Croix river to the Highlands; along the said Highlands which divide those rivers, that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence, from those which fall into the Atlantic ocean, to the north-westernmost head of Connecticut river, thence down along the middle of that river to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude; from thence, by a line due west on said latitude, until it strikes the river Iroquois or Cataraquy; thence along the middle of said river into lake Ontario, through the middle of said lake until it strikes the communication by water between that lake and lake Erie; thence along the middle of said communication into lake Erie, through the middle of said lake until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and lake Huron; thence along the middle of said water communication into the lake Huron; thence through the middle of said lake to the water communication between that lake and lake Superior; thence through lake Superior northward of the isles Royal and Philipeaux, to the Long Lake; thence through the middle of said Long Lake, and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said Lake of the Woods; thence through the said lake to the most north-western point thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the river Mississippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river Mississippi, until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the thirty-first degree of north latitude. South by a line to be drawn due east from the determination of the line last mentioned, in the latitude of thirty-one de-

gress north of the equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola or Catahouche; thence along the middle thereof to its junction with the Flint river; thence straight to the head of St. Mary's river; and thence down along the middle of St. Mary's river to the Atlantic ocean. East by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix, from its mouth in the bay of Fundy to its source, and from its source directly north to the aforesaid Highlands which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic ocean, from those which fall into the river St. Lawrence: comprehending all islands within twenty leagues of any part of the shores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due east from the points where the aforesaid boundaries between Nova Scotia on the one part, and East-Florida on the other, shall respectively touch the bay of Fundy and the Atlantic ocean; excepting such islands as now are, or heretofore have been within the limits of the said province of Nova Scotia.

## ARTICLE III.

It is agreed that the people of the United States shall continue to enjoy unmolested the right to take fish of every kind on the Grand Bank; and on all the other banks of Newfoundland; also in the gulf of St. Lawrence, and at all other places in the sea where the inhabitants of both countries used at any time heretofore to fish; and also that the inhabitants of the United States shall have liberty to take fish of every kind on such part of the coast of Newfoundland as British fishermen use, but not to dry or cure the same on that island; and also on the coasts, bays, and creeks, of all other of his Britannic majesty's dominions in America; and that the American fishermen shall have liberty to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbors and creeks of Nova Scotia, Magdalen islands, and Labrador, so long as the same shall remain unsettled; but so soon as the same, or either of them, shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such settlement, without a previous agreement for that purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors or possessors of the ground.

## ARTICLE IV.

It is agreed that creditors on either side shall meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value in sterling money, of all bona fide debts heretofore contracted.

## ARTICLE V.

It is agreed that the congress shall earnestly recommend it to the legislatures of the respective states to provide for the restitution of all estates, rights and properties, which have been confiscated, belonging to real British subjects, and also of the estates, rights and properties of persons resident in districts in the possession of his majesty's arms, and who have not borne arms against the said United States. And that persons of any other description shall have free liberty to go to any part

of the thirteen United States, and therein to remain twelve months, unmolested in their endeavors to obtain the restitution of such of their estates, rights and properties, as may have been confiscated; and that congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states, a re-consideration and revision of all acts or laws regarding the premises, so as to render the said laws or acts perfectly consistent, not only with justice and equity, but with that spirit of conciliation, which, on the return of the blessings of peace, should universally prevail. And that congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states, that the estates, rights and properties of such last mentioned persons, shall be restored to them, they refunding to any persons who may be now in possession, the bona fide price (where any has been given) which such persons may have paid on purchasing any of the said lands, rights or properties, since the confiscation. And it is agreed, that all persons who have any interest in confiscated lands, either by debt, marriage settlements, or otherwise, shall meet with no lawful impediment in the prosecution of their just rights.

## ARTICLE VI.

That there shall be no future confiscations made, nor any prosecutions commenced against any person or persons for, or by reason of the part which he or they may have taken in the present war; and that no person shall, on that account, suffer any future loss or damage, either in his person, liberty, or property; and that those who may be in confinement on such charges, at the time of the ratification of the treaty in America, shall be immediately set at liberty, and the prosecutions so commenced be discontinued.

## ARTICLE VII.

There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between his Britannic majesty and the said States, and between the subjects of the one and the citizens of the other, wherefore all hostilities, both by sea and land, shall from henceforth cease; all prisoners on both sides shall be set at liberty, and his Britannic majesty shall, with all convenient speed, and without causing destruction, or carrying away any negroes, or other property of the Americans inhabitants, withdraw all his armies, garrisons and fleets from the said United States, and from every post, place and harbor within the same, leaving in all fortifications the American artillery that may be therein; and shall also order, and cause all archives, records, deeds and papers, belonging to any of the said states, or their citizens, which in the course of the war may have fallen into the hands of his officers, to be forthwith restored and delivered to the proper states and persons to whom they belong.

## ARTICLE VIII.

The navigation of the river Mississippi, from its source to the ocean, shall for ever remain free and open to the

subjects of Great Britain, and the citizens of the United States.

## ARTICLE IX.

In case it should so happen, that any place or territory belonging to Great Britain or to the United States, should have been conquered by the arms of either from the other, before the arrival of the said provisional articles in America, it is agreed, that the same shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring any compensation.

## ARTICLE X.

The solemn ratification of the present treaty, expedited in good and due form, shall be exchanged between the contracting parties, in the space of six months, or sooner, if possible, to be computed from the day of the signature of the present treaty. In witness whereof, we, the undersigned, their ministers plenipotentiary, have, in their name, and in virtue of our full powers, signed with our hands the present definitive treaty, and caused the seals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

Done at Paris, this third day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three.

D. HARTLEY,	(L. s.)
JOHN ADAMS,	(L. s.)
B. FRANKLIN,	(L. s.)
JOHN JAY,	(L. s.)

Having given in page 36 the list of the American navy as it stood at the commencement of the war, it may be considered interesting to know how the Lilliputian navy withstood an enemy which was to have "blown it out of the water." The following is the naval list of shipping, in June, 1815. Those vessels whose names are marked (\*) are such as remain of the naval force before the war. Those marked (§) are building. Those marked in *Italic* are such as were captured from the British, during the war. The rest have been built or purchased during the war. Those that are blank have no armament at present.

<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Names of Vessels.</i>	<i>Commanders.</i>	<i>Stations &amp;c.</i>
74	Ship Independence	Com. Bainbridge	Boston
74	Washington	Chauncey	Portsmouth, N. H.

<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Names of Vessels.</i>	<i>Commanders.</i>	<i>Stations, &amp;c.</i>
74	Franklin\$	Smith	Philadelphia
74	New Orleans\$		Sacket's Harbor
74	Chippewa\$		Do. do.
44	<i>Guerriere</i>	Com. S. Decatur	At sea
44	<i>Java</i>	O. H. Perry	Baltimore.
44	United States*	J. Shaw	Boston
44	Constitution*	C. Stewart	At Boston
44	Plattsburg\$		Sacket's Harbor
44	Superior		Do. do.
36	Constellation*	C. Gordon	At sea
36	Congress*	C. Morris	At Boston
36	<i>Macedonian</i>	J. Jones	At sea
32	Mohawk		Sacket's Harbor
32	<i>Confiance</i>		White Hall, N. Y.
28	<i>Egyane</i>		N. York
24	Saratoga		White Hall, N. Y.
24	John Adams*	S. Angus	New-York
24	General Pike	W. W. Crane	Sacket's Harbor
20	Madison	E. Trenchard	Do. do.
20	<i>Aleret</i>	S. M. Cooper	Washington, D. C.
18	Hornet*	J. Biddle	Cruizing
18	Wasp	J. Blakeley	Do.
18	Peacock	L. Warrington	Do.
18	Ontario	J. D. Elliot	At sea
18	Erie	C. G. Ridgely	New York
18	Louisiana*	C. C. B. Thompson	New Orleans
18	Brig Jefferson		Sacket's Harbor
18	Jones	M. T. Woolsey	Do. do.
18	<i>Epervier</i>	J. Downs	At sea
18	Niagara		Erie, Penn.
18	Lawrence		Do. do.
18	<i>Detroit</i>		Do. do.
18	Eagle		White Hall, N. Y.
16	Sylph		Sacket's Harbor
16	Chippewa		
16	<i>Queen Charlotte</i>		Erie, Penn.
16	Saranac		
16	<i>Linnet</i>		White Hall, N. Y.
16	Boxer		
16	Troup		Savannah
14	Oneida	T. Brown	Sacket's Harbor
14	Enterprize*	L. Kearney	Boston
12	Flambeau	J. B. Nicholson	At sea
12	Spark	T. Gamble	Do.
12	Fire Fly	G. W. Rodgers	Do.
9	Prometheus	J. J. Nicholson	Arrived at Norfolk
	Etna (bomb)	L. Alexis	New Orleans

<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Names of Vessels.</i>	<i>Commanders.</i>	<i>Stations, &amp;c.</i>
2	<i>Caledonia</i>		Erie, Penn.
5	<i>Ghent</i>		Do. do.
	<i>Hunter</i>		Do. do.
14	Schr. <i>Nonsuch</i>	E. Haddaway	Charleston, S. C.
17	<i>Ticonderoga</i>		White Hall, N. Y.
11	<i>Spitfire</i>	A. J. Dallas	At sea
10	<i>Torch</i>	W. Chauncey	Do.
10	<i>Lady Prevost</i>		Erie. Penn.
	<i>Tom Bowline</i>		At sea
9	<i>Alligator</i>		New York
7	<i>Roanoke</i>	B. D. Conkley	Wilmington, N.C.
5	<i>Hornet</i>	F. Forrest	Washington, D.C.
5	<i>Lynx</i>	T. Dukehart	Do. do.
7	<i>Firebrand</i>		New Orleans
7	<i>Surprise</i>		Do.
3	<i>Despatch</i>		Norfolk
3	<i>Asp</i>	W. Atkinson	Baltimore
4	<i>Helen</i>		New Castle, Del.
5	<i>Porcupine</i>		Erie, Penn.
2	<i>Gov. Tomkins</i>		Sacket's Harbor
2	<i>Conquest</i>		Do. do.
1	<i>Ranger</i>		Baltimore
1	<i>Lady of the Lake</i>		Sacket's Harbor
1	<i>Amelia</i>		Erie, Penn.
	<i>Ontario</i>		Sacket's Harbor
	<i>Fair American</i>		Do. do.
	<i>Pert</i>		Do. do.
	<i>Asp</i>		Do. do.
	<i>Raven</i>		Do. do.
11	Sloop <i>Chub</i>		White Hall, N.Y.
11	<i>Finch</i>		Do. do.
7	<i>Preble</i>		Do. do.
6	<i>Montgomery</i>		Do. do.
5	<i>Buffalo</i>		Off Reedy Island
5	<i>Camel</i>		Do. do.
	<i>Tickler</i>		New Orleans
	<i>President</i>		White Hall, N. Y.
	Ketch <i>Spitfire</i>		Norfolk
	<i>Vesuvius*</i>		New York
	<i>Vengeance</i>		Do.
2	Galley <i>Allen</i>		White Hall, N. Y.
2	<i>Burrows</i>		Do. do.
	<i>Borer</i>		Do. do.
2	<i>Nettle</i>		Do. do.
2	<i>Viper</i>		Do. do.
2	<i>Centipede</i>		Do. do.
1	<i>Ludlow</i>		Do. do.

<i>Rate.</i>	<i>Names of Vessels.</i>	<i>Commanders.</i>	<i>Stations, &amp;c.</i>	
1	Wilmer		Do.	do.
1	Alwyn		Do.	do.
1	Ballard		Do.	do.

Barges from No. 1 to 15, inclusive, on Lake Ontario, mounting each — guns, and now at Sacket's Harbor.

The old gun-boats have been chiefly sold.

It would be a curious question in political arithmetic, to determine, what number of American ships and their rates, would be sufficient to destroy the British navy, taking the naval events of the late war as a scale by which to calculate; and how long it would take to provide the necessary number of vessels, taking the increase of the navy, during the war, as a ratio.

### LIST OF AMERICAN PRIZES.

With the name of the Privateers, &c. and the number captured by each vessel, during the War.

(From Niles's Register.)

Adams, U. S. ship	9	Champlain Privateer	1
Alert, boat, of Burlington,		Charles Stewart of Boston	1
lake Champlain	1	Chasseur of Baltimore	26
Alexander of Salem	3	Chauncey's squadron on lake	
Alfred of Salem	5	Ontario	22
Amelia of Baltimore	21	Chesapeake U. S. frigate	4
America of Salem	30	Comet	29
Anaconda of New-York	3	Congress U. S. frigate	4
Argus of Boston	4	Constitution, U. S. frigate	12
Argus, U. S. brig	5	Dart	9
Argo of Baltimore	1	Dash of Portland	9
Atlas of Philadelphia	2	David Porter of N. York	8
Avon of Boston	1	David Porter of Boston	5
Baltimore of Baltimore	2	Decatur of Newburyport	15
Bellona of Philadelphia	2	Decatur of Charleston	2
Black Joke	2	Delisle of Baltimore	2
Boats from Buffaloe	3	Diamond of Baltimore	1
Brutus of Boston	2	Diomedes of Salem	11
Buckskin of Salem	4	Divided we fall	6
Bunkerhill of New-York	6	Dolphin of Salem	22
Cadet of Salem	2	Dromo of Boston	1
Caroline of Baltimore	29	Eagle	3
Catharine of Boston	1		

Eliza	1 Hunter	1
Enterprise, U. S. brig	8 Ida of Baltimore	1
Essex, U. S. frigate	13 Industry of Lynn	1
Essex Junior	3 Industry of Marblehead	1
Expedition of Baltimore	4 Industry of Salem	1
Fair Trader of Salem	7 Ino of Boston	2
Fairy of Baltimore	2 Invincible of New-York	5
Fame of Salem	10 Invincible of Salem	3
Fame of Thomastown	1 Jack's Favorite	6
Flirt of New-York	1 Jacob Jones of Boston	1
Fly	1 James Munroe	1
Fox of Salem	4 Jefferson	6
Fox of Baltimore	2 Joel Barlow	2
Fox of Portsmouth	28 Jonquil of New-York	5
Franklin of New-York	9 John of Salem	12
Frolic, U. S. sloop of war	1 John and George	1
Frolic of Salem	11 Kemp of Baltimore	16
Full-blooded Yankee	1 Lake Superior on	2
Galloway of New-York	1 Lake Huron on	1
General Armstrong of New-York	1 Lake Champlain on	8
General Stark of Salem	18 Lark	1
General Putnam of Salem	4 Lawrence of Baltimore	12
Globe of Baltimore	1 Leach of Salem	2
Gossamer	9 Leader	1
Governor Tompkins of New-York	1 Leander of Providence	1
Governor M'Kean of Philadelphia,	Leo of Baltimore	18
Governor Plumer of Portsmouth	21 Liberty of Baltimore	7
Grampus of Baltimore	Little George of Boston	1
Grand Turk of Salem	2 Lovely Cordelia of Charleston	20
Growler	Lovely Lass	1
Gun-boats	3 Lyon of Marblehead	4
Harpy of Baltimore	7 Macedonian of Baltimore	1
Harrison of Baltimore	18 Macedonian of Portsmouth	4
Hawk of Washington, N. C.	4 Madison of Salem	9
Hazard	20 Marengo of New-York	7
Henry Guilden of N. York	13 Mammoth of Baltimore	25
Herald of New-York	8 M'Donough of Rhode-Island	1
Hero of New-York	1 Mars of Norfolk	5
Hero of Newbern	1 Mars of N. York	4
Hero of Stonington	1 Mars of New-London	2
High Flyer of Baltimore	4 Mary Ann of Charleston	5
Holkar of New-York	4 Matilda	1
Holkar, boat	2 Midas of Baltimore	10
Hope	1 Mobile bay, on	2
Hornet, U. S. sloop of war	7 Mergiana of New-York	5
	6 Montgomery of Salem	5
	1 Nancy	1
	1 Ned of Baltimore	1
	5 Nonpareil	1



Nonsuch of Baltimore	4	Sparrow of Baltimore	2
Nonsuch U. S. schooner	1	Spark of New-York	3
Orders in Council	5	Spy	1
Orlando of Gloucester	3	Surprise of Baltimore	36
Patriot of New-York	9	Surprise and Swiftsure boats	3
Paul Jones of N. York	10	Spencer of Philadelphia	1
Perry of Baltimore	24	Syren, U. S. brig	2
Perry's squadron	6	Syren of Baltimore	4
Peacock U.S. sloop of w.	19	St. Lawrence, on the	1
Patapasco of Baltimore	3	Teazer of New-York	15
Pike of Baltimore	13	Terrible, boat	5
Pilot	3	Thomas of Portsmouth	5
Polly of Salem	7	Thorn of Marblehead	1
Portsmouth of Portsmouth	9	Thresher	2
Poor Sailor	1	Timothy Pickering	1
Rambler of Bristol	2	Tom of Baltimore	2
Rambler of Boston	3	True blooded Yankee	25
Ranger of Boston	3	Two brothers of N. Orleans	1
Rapid of Boston	7	Two friends of Massachusetts	1
Rapid of Charleston	2	Tuckahoe of Baltimore	2
Rattlesnake U. S. brig	4	United States U. S. frigate	1
Rattlesnake Philadelphia	24	Utor of Baltimore	17
Regulators	1	United we stand	1
Reindeer of Boston	4	Upton, a prize ship	1
Resolution of Boston	1	Viper of N. York	3
Retaliation	1	Viper of Salem	1
Revenge of Baltimore	19	Warrior of New-York	3
Roger of Norfolk	4	Wasp U. S. ship of war	16
Roger of Baltimore	3	Wasp of Baltimore	2
Rolla	5	Wasp of Philadelphia	2
Rogers' squadron (com.)	19	Wasp of Salem	1
Rosamond	3	Washington of Portsmouth	1
Rossy of Baltimore	14	Waterwitch of Bristol	1
Rover of New-York	1	Whig of Baltimore	14
Row-boat privateer	2	Wilsey Renard of Boston	4
Sabine of Baltimore	5	Whale boat	1
Sandy creek, at, by riflemen	5	Yankee of Bristol	36
Sarah Ann of Baltimore	1	Yankee [smack]	1
Saratoga of New-York	19	Yorktown of New-York	5
Scourge of New-York	28	York of Baltimore	6
Saucy Jack of Charleston	27	Young Eagle of New-York	2
Shark of New-York	1	Young Teazer of N. York	6
Sine-qua-non of Boston	1	Young Wasp of Philadelphia	9
Scorpion of Salem	5	Sundry vessels, names not	
Siro of Baltimore	1	ascertained	133
Snapdragon of Newbern	23		
Snowbird	2		
		Total,	1551

