

# THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

No. 17 of VOL. III.]

BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1812.

[WHOLE NO. 69.]

*Hec olim meminisse juvabit.*—<sup>V</sup>IRGIL.

Printed and published by H. NILES, South-st. next door to the Merchants' Coffee House, at \$ 5 per annum.

## Naval Establishment.

(CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 243.)

(D.)

*U. S. Frigate Constellation, Nov. 12, 1812.*

STR—I have received your letter of the 11th inst. in which you state “the desire of the naval committee to possess the most comprehensive information upon naval subjects, particularly the description of marine force best adapted to our defence, and the relative efficiency of vessels of different rates.” In compliance therewith, I have the honor to answer the questions you propound as follows:

*Question 1*—What, in your opinion, is the relative efficiency of ships of the line, say 74's and large frigates?

*Answer*—The relative efficiency or force of a 74 gun ship and large frigates is as one to three.

COMPARATIVE FORCE.

*A Frigate of fifty guns.*

Gun-deck	30	24 pounders
Quarter-deck	14	32 lb. carronades
Forecastle	6	32 do. do.
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Guns	50	—1360 lbs. shot each round.
Men	430	

480 guns and men

*A ship of the line, 74 guns.*

Lower gun deck	28	42 pounders
Upper do. do.	30	24 do.
Quarter-deck	16	42 do. carronades,
Forecastle	8	42 do. do.
Do.	2	24 do. do.
Poop	4	68 do. do.

Guns	88	—3224 lbs each round.
Men	650	

738 guns and men.

*Argument*—By the above comparison it appears, that a 74 gun ship discharges at one round 3224 lbs. of shot, and a frigate of the first class 2360 lbs.; it therefore clearly proves the position or relative force, in point of metal, to be one to three or thereabouts. When this circumstance is considered jointly with the following, it must appear to others, as it does to me, that as you increase the class of the ship you increase the proportion of one to three, and diminish, proportionally, the expense of building, equipping and supporting them in commission, which may easily be established by estimates from the department, and the experience of all other maritime nations.

Ships of the line are much stronger in scantling, thicker in the sides and bottom, less penetrable to the shot, and consequently less liable to be torn or battered to pieces, or sunk; the additional room being more than in proportion to the additional number of men, leaves greater space for water and provisions, and admits of her wings being kept clear, so that shot penetrating below the water, the holes can readily be plugged up from the insides, and her sinking thereby prevented; hence we have seen ships of the line capable of battering one another for several

hours, and if not too much crippled in the spars and rigging, enabled to renew an action on following days. I am aware that some are of opinion, that a more divided force is better calculated for action from the advantageous position that would be given to a part; suppose three frigates, of 50 guns, were to undertake to batter a 74 gun ship, and that two of them were to occupy the quarter and stern of the 74 (this is placing them in the most favorable position) the other frigate engaged abreast, every thing would then depend on the time the frigate abreast could maintain that position to enable the other two to act with effect on the stern and quarter. But if must appear evident to all acquainted with the two classes of ships, that the frigate abreast could not withstand the fire of so heavy and compact a battery many minutes; and in all probability would be dismantled or sunk the first or second broadside. This would decide the fate of the other two. Much might be said upon the superiority of ships of the line over frigates in the attack of batteries or their defence; on the security of valuable convoys of merchant ships, or troops sent on an expedition; but their advantages in these respects must be apparent to all, however unacquainted with nautical affairs.

*Question 2*—What, in your opinion, is the relative efficiency or force of large frigates and sloops of war?

*Answer*—The relative efficiency of large frigates and sloops of war is at least one to two.

COMPARATIVE FORCE.

*Sloop of War.*

Gun-deck	16	12 pounders
Quarter-deck	8	24 do. carronades,
Forecastle	4	24 do. do.
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Guns	28	—480 lbs. shot
Men	180	

208 guns and men

*Frigates.*

Gun-deck	30	24 pounders
Quarter-deck	14	32 do. carronades
Forecastle	6	32 do. do.
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Guns	50	—1360 lbs. shot
Men	430	

480 guns and men.

*Question 3*—What description of naval force do you think best adapted to the defence of our coast and commerce?

*Answer*—Ships of the line are best calculated for the defence of our coast, and for the protection of our inward and outward commerce, when engaged in war with a foreign maritime power.

*Argument*—It cannot be supposed, in a war with a foreign maritime power, that that power will only send to our coasts frigates and smaller cruisers, because we possess no other description of vessels. Their first object will be to restrain, by ships of the line, our frigates and other cruisers from departing and preying upon their commerce; their next object will be to send their smaller cruisers in pursuit of our commerce, and by having their ships of the

line parading on our coast, threatening our more exposed sea port towns, and preventing the departure of our small cruisers, they will be capturing what commerce may have escaped theirs, and recapturing what prizes may have fallen into our hands. Thirdly, they can at any time withdraw their ships of the line, should a more important object require it, without hazarding much on their part; and return in sufficient time to shut out our cruisers that may have departed during their absence. Fourthly, they can at all times consult their convenience in point of time and numbers; and will incur no expense and risk of transports, for provisions and water; but can go and procure their supplies at pleasure and return to their station ere their absence is known to us.

*Question 4.*—What description of force do you think best calculated to prosecute the present war, and any future war in which we may be engaged?

*Answer.*—For the prosecution of the present war with the most effect, a mixed naval force of the following description, is in my opinion the best calculated.

*Ships of the line, to rate, in honor of the year of our independence, seventy-sixers, to mount as follow:*

28 42 pounders on the lower gun deck,  
30 24 do. on the upper do.  
24 42 lb. carronades on quarter deck and forecastle,  
2 24 pounders on forecastle,  
4 68 pound carronades on poop.  
86 guns.

*Frigates to rate 40 guns to mount as follow:*

30 24 pounders on gun deck,  
20 32 lb. carronades on quarter-deck and forecastle  
50 guns.

*Frigates to rate 32 guns to mount as follow:*

26 18 pounders on gun deck  
16 24 lb. carronades on quarter deck and forecastle  
42 guns.

*Corvette ships to rate 16 guns to mount as follow:*

18 32 pound carronades  
2 12 pounders  
20 guns.

*Argument.*—By having a proportion of these classes of ships of war, the inner squadron, or *guarda costa*, may be composed of the ships of the line, and a few of the 32 gun ships, for repeaters and *look out ships*. Hence it would produce one of two results, either that the enemy would be obliged to abandon our coast, or bring on it a much greater force, at least double our number, out of which they will be obliged to keep on our coast a superiority at all the hazards of the sea; and at great additional expense and risk of transports, to provision and water them. But should they, from other circumstances, be unable to keep up this superiority on our coast, the door will be kept open for the ingress and egress of our cruisers and their prizes, while our other classes of ships may be sent in pursuit of their smaller cruisers and commerce. These observations will apply to all future wars in which we may be engaged with the maritime powers; but as we might more frequently be engaged with the Barbary powers, the frigates and 16 gun ships, would be better adapted to that species of warfare. They have no ships of the line. The ships of the line could then be laid up in ordinary, dismantled and preserved at a small expense.

*Question 5.*—Would not the erection of docks for the repairs of our vessels produce a great saving in

expense, labor and risk; and would not docks greatly expedite the refitting of our ships?

*Answer.*—A dry dock agreeable to a plan I furnished the department some time since, to be freed from water by pumps or drains, will be indispensable for the repair of ships of war, and will be the least expensive way of repairing the bottoms of our ships, and will expedite the outfits in point of time one to ten.

*Argument.*—A ship of war wanting repairs done to her bottom or coppering, must be turned down one side at a time to undergo that repair; therefore, to prepare a ship for that process requires that her upper masts should be taken down, and all her guns, stores, water casks, ballast, ammunition, &c. should be taken out—which leads to *great loss, waste and labor*: and the time occupied in the process will be from *two to three weeks, and as much more time will be required to re-rig, re-equip, and replace her guns, stores and other materials.* The preparation to dock a ship of war will not require *twelve hours.* All that is necessary to be done is to take out the guns, and pump the water out of the water casks, and when *in dock* the repairs of her bottom can progress *on both sides* of the same time. Should a ship of war require a thorough repair throughout, it can never be effectually done but in a dock; for instance, in repairing ships of war in the water, they are liable to have their fine bottoms spoiled, by hogging, spreading or warping, which will materially affect their sailing. Ships wanting thorough repairs require all the plank stripped off, *inside and outside, their beams, knees and clamps taken out*; therefore all they have to bind their frames together and thereby preserve their shape; but when stripped of the wood to make room for the new, they are liable to *hog* from the greatest weight and body of timber being in the *fore and after end*, at which places there is no pressure *upwards* caused by the water, as those ends are sharp; the two extremes of the ship are liable to sink in the water while the body or middle of the ship rises with the *upward pressure of the water.* The next consideration in repairing the bottoms in the water, though not of such vital importance, is not unworthy of serious attention; the bolting in the bottom ought to be driven from the *outside*; but when repaired afloat, they are under the necessity of driving them from the *inside*: hence the bottom will not be so strong nor so well secured.

The time for answering the several questions propounded to me in your letter of the 11th instant, being very short, and a great deal being required by my other avocations, will, I trust, be a sufficient apology for my not going more largely and minutely into the subject, as also for any inaccuracies I may have committed. I will therefore close this communication with an expression of my hopes that whatever may be proposed by the naval committee to congress on this subject, they will strongly recommend to their consideration the necessity of having what they propose for the increase of the navy of the best seasoned materials, which will be by far the cheapest, and be longer in a state for active service. I trust their past experience will prove to their satisfaction this position, that the best materials are always the cheapest, and that a slow increase is better than a hasty and temporary one.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES STEWART.

Honorable Paul Hamilton.

We agree with captain Stewart in the within state-ment, in all its parts.

ISAAC HULL,  
C. MORRIS.

*Ships of the United States' Navy, 1798, 1799.*

	Guns.	Years.
United States	44 commissioned and put in service	1778
Constitution	44 . . . . .	1798
Constellation	44 . . . . .	1798
Congress, early	36 commissioned and put in service	1799
President	44 . . . . .	1799
Chesapeake	44 . . . . .	1799
Philadelphia	44 . . . . .	1799
New-York	36 . . . . .	1799
Essex	32 . . . . .	1799
John Adams	32 . . . . .	1799
Adams	32 . . . . .	1799
Geo. Washington	32 . . . . .	1798
Boston	32 . . . . .	1798
General Greene	32 . . . . .	1798
Insurgent	36 . . . . .	1799
Ganges	32 . . . . .	1798
Portsmouth	24 } . . . . .	1798
Merrimack	24 } . . . . .	
Connecticut	24 } . . . . .	1799
Baltimore	20 } . . . . .	
Delaware	20 } . . . . .	1798
Maryland	20 } . . . . .	
Patapsco	20 } . . . . .	1799
Herald	18 } . . . . .	
Trumbull	20 } . . . . .	1798
Warren	20 } . . . . .	
Montezuma	20 } . . . . .	1798
Norfolk	18 } . . . . .	
Richmond	18 } . . . . .	1798
Agusta	13 } . . . . .	
Pickering	14 } . . . . .	1799
Experiment	14 } . . . . .	
Enterprise	14 } . . . . .	1799
And a number of smaller vessels,		
In service in 1798	20 } besides smaller ves-	1799
1799	30 } sels.	

*Statement showing the proportions of able seamen, ordinary seamen and boys, required for a ship of the line, say a 76, and a 44 gun frigate.*  
Able Seamen. O-Seamen and boys.

A 76 requires	280	233
44	140	172

NOTE. 280 able seamen is considered by practical men as too great a proportion for a first rate 76. The whole number of able and ordinary seamen and boys is 513; and practical men say that they may be classed thus: able seamen 220, ordinary seamen, &c. 293. It is observed by those acquainted with ships of the line, that to manage their sails does not require more able seamen than are required to manage the sails of a large frigate.

A force in frigates equal to a 76 would then require 420 able seamen, a 76 would require 220, making a difference in this respect of 200 able seamen in favor of the 76.

In 1798 and 1799 no difficulty was experienced in procuring able seamen; we could frequently in one week man a frigate. One among other considerations, which induced able seamen to enter then with so much alacrity, was, because the enemy we were then contending with had not afloat (with very few exceptions) vessels superior in rate to frigates. The enemy we are fighting have ships of the line; and our sailors know the great difference between that class of vessels and frigates, and cannot but feel a degree of reluctance at entering the service from the evident disparity. Build ships of the line and you will man them with more ease than you now can a sloop of war.

In 1798, 9, and 1800, we had near 4000 able seamen in the navy, a number sufficient to man eighteen ships of the line.

Ordinary seamen can always be procured in abundance.

## Georgia Legislature.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Mr. Charlton, from the joint committee to whom was referred so much of his excellency's message as relates to East Florida, reported, That they have fully considered all the circumstances connected with the province of East Florida, as they relate to and affect the interest and safety of this state; and are of opinion, that immediate and decisive measures ought and must be adopted by the general or state government, for the possession and occupancy of said province.

Your committee will not pretend to analyze the motives which could have influenced the dissenting members of the senate of the U. States, in rejecting the bill of the house of representatives for the occupancy of this province. The policy which suggested this rejection will always appear inexplicable to your committee, as it must obviously then have appeared as it has since proven to have been, subversive of the safety and tranquility of this section of the United States. It is a policy which will bear the test of investigation upon any of those doctrines which usually regulate the morality of one nation in its conduct towards another—and cannot even find an apology in the strict, plain and honest principles which distinguish, or should ever distinguish, above all others, the government of a republic.

The safety of the people is the first consideration which presses itself upon the attention of all national councils. It is a principle as applicable to one form of political government as to another. Your committee then humbly conceive, it was only necessary to have ascertained whether the safety of this section of the union was or was not jeopardized, by suffering the neighboring province of East Florida to remain in the hands of an ally of Great Britain, [if not an ally in the war she is now waging against us] or in the possession of the local government of a Spanish colony, that could be easily seduced into any measures dictated by British power and influence.

Your committee would beg leave to ask, whether it could rationally have been supposed that the ministers of England would, under any of their impressions of justice or national law, permit the rigid neutrality of the local government of East Florida? And your committee would also beg leave further to inquire, whether it ought to have been expected, or is now to be expected, that British troops or auxiliaries will not be thrown into the garrison of St. Augustine—a fortress almost impregnable—offering an asylum and protection to all the outcasts of society, and disaffected of our own country—pouring out its ruffian bands and exciting the merciless savages, red and black, to their accustomed atrocious deeds of murder, rapine and desolation. This is the species of warfare encouraged by British influence and authority, antecedent to and during the present short period of hostilities in which our nation has been engaged; and can it for a moment be believed, that the fortress of St. Augustine will not be used for all the purposes enumerated by your committee? Upon the strong ground then of the *PRINCIPLE SAFETY* combined with a necessity urgent enough to confute all other considerations, and justified by every legitimate and universally recognized principle of the law of nations, the occupation of East Florida was, and

would now be a just measure of and most imperiously required from the general and state governments. Your committee, dreading the consequences which must inevitably result from the delay, if it is considered that the measure can only emanate from federal authority, have directed their attention to the section of the constitution of the United States in the following words: "No state shall, without the consent of congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another state, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay." According to this section, then, there are only two cases which would authorize the state sovereignty to engage in war. First, when "actually invaded;" secondly, when "in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay."

Your committee are not prepared to say there has been an actual invasion by a foreign force, in the manner which, perhaps, was contemplated by the constitution; but the facts are before the public, that a warfare has been commenced on the frontiers; that murders have been perpetrated under the sanction, or with the connivance of the governor of East-Florida, and that a savage warfare is still in operation under the sanction of the said authority, which surely places our fellow-citizens immediately exposed to its effects, in imminent danger, and a danger too, not admitting of delay.

If a danger of this complexion is admitted, [of which the general assembly will decide] your committee are then of opinion that the state is constitutionally vested with the power immediately to organize a sufficient force to march into the province of East-Florida, and to occupy it; the occupation to be relinquished by the state troops as soon as the national legislature shall have adopted efficient measures to relieve the people from the imminent danger with which they are now menaced.

## Yazoo Deposit.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA.

MILLEDGEVILLE, NOV. 20.

*Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the  
House of Representatives,*

In obedience to your resolution of the 16th inst. calling upon the executive for any official information relative to the *Yazoo Deposit*, which in his opinion may be conducive to the interest of the state—I beg leave to submit the following statement of facts and observations:

The Yazoo Deposit was originated by five hundred thousand dollars, and paid into our treasury by certain companies of men in consideration of grants which they received from the state for a large tract of our western territory, since ceded by Georgia to the U. States. This transaction took place in the winter of 1794. At the following session of the legislature, in the winter of 1795, the grants issued to the companies were declared null and void, and provision made for the repayment of the money to all those who should call at the treasury and produce sufficient evidence of the amount paid by them.

Under these laws many persons, as well original grantees as those called sub-share holders, claimed and received from our treasury, three hundred and ten thousand six hundred and ninety-five dollars, 13 10-12 cents, part of the original five hundred thousand, leaving a balance of one hundred and eighty-four thousand seven hundred and sixteen dollars fifty-seven and an half cents, which is the amount

now in our treasury, subject to some deduction for guard expenses, &c. Some time in the spring or summer of 1795, the then governor, general Matthews, did, by order of the legislature, purchase stock of the United States, to the amount of nine thousand four hundred and forty-five dollars and fifty cents. The purchase was made with the money paid into the treasury by the Yazoo companies, and the stock deposited with the rest of that fund, as part thereof, in lieu of the money with which it was purchased. The purchase, however, is in the name of the state.

The whole, or nearly the whole of the interest of this stock is still due, which being six per cent. amounts to at least a sum equal to the principal.

The state, in repaying to the different claimants, under our rescinding act, and others passed specially, providing for the re-payment of the fund, has never calculated upon any amount but the original five hundred thousand dollars, the interest never having been considered as any part of the fund. The balance now in the treasury consists of gold and silver, United States' bank notes, United States' funded stock, governor's, president's and speaker's warrants. The proportion of each is, however, distinctly shewn by an estimate of the treasurer, herewith presented.

In the 24th section of the first article of our constitution, we find the following provision: "Nor shall the monies paid for such purchases ever be deemed a part of the funds of this state or be liable to appropriation as such." This restriction applies to the five hundred thousand dollars paid by companies as the original purchase money.

Upon this statement of facts, I submit the following observations, viz.

1st. From the present situation of the affairs of the late United States' Bank, I should deem it proper that the bills of that bank, now making a part of the balance of the Yazoo deposit in our treasury, should be presented for payment before the final close of the business of that bank may render the payment of them doubtful.

2d. The United States' funded stock which is also a part of balance now in the treasury, ought to be exchanged for money. 1st. Because it was purchased in the name of the state, and as those who have in their possession evidence which would under our laws, have entitled them to draw the money from the treasury, would at the same time have a right to demand money, it would be optional with them whether they would receive stock in lieu of money, and in case of refusal the state was bound to return money, since it was money which was paid in. 2d. Because, the interest due upon this stock has never been considered and never can be considered any part of the Yazoo deposit, since it is no part of the monies paid for the original purchase and being due to the state can be claimed by her only. 3d. Because in all the repayments of this deposit no other sum has been taken into view or calculated upon but the five hundred thousand dollars, and if the law now admitted of the repayment of the balance of that fund, no other sum could be calculated upon or paid but the one hundred and eighty-four thousand seven hundred and sixteen dollars forty-seven and an half cents now in the treasury, otherwise the constitution would be violated and manifest injustice done to those who have long since drawn their money, and great partiality shewn to those who might do so now, since in the first instance, a proportion of five hundred thousand dollars was only paid, and in the latter instance, fifty thousand dollars would be added to a small remnant of the original amount, and delivered to a few

To this proposed exchange it is not perceived that any reasonable objection can be made. The amount of the deposit will remain the same, and be in money. The constitution contemplates that deposit as being in money, and if there was any serious bar to this exchange of paper for money, how would it be possible for the state to possess herself of her paper which has been paid in as a part of the deposit, and is now a part of the balance in the treasury? Any person entitled to receive this money might say, I am entitled to money and cannot take paper. It may be said, that our constitution provides, that "until such monies shall be drawn from the same?" and that, consequently, the state need not interfere to prevent any loss. This observation, if it had any force, would apply to the United States' bank bills, because they are the identical money which was paid into the treasury, but, it is at the same time to be observed, that the situation of the parties in this transaction has materially changed, and if they had not, it is reasonable to presume that no party would object to receive gold and silver for any amount he may be entitled to receive at our treasury. Upon the whole, without entering into an investigation of what must ultimately be the destination of the balance of this fund, now in our treasury, I will just observe, that the state nor any party interested in this fund, never contemplated a return of more than five hundred thousand dollars, and as that sum has all been drawn from the treasury except the balance of one hundred and eighty-four thousand seven hundred and sixteen dollars forty-seven and an half cents: so neither the state nor any other party ever contemplated that balance in any other light than as so much money; hence the exchange can neither disappoint nor injure any one.

DAVID B. MITCHELL.

Original amount of the deposit,	500,000	
Deduct amount of warrants drawn by the governor in favor of persons applying for a return of the deposit, viz: Amount of said warrants taken in by J. Berrien, while treasurer	63,423 87 1-3	
Ditto—E. Moninger, while treasurer	247,271 26 1-2	
	310,695 13 10-12	
Leaves dollars	189,304 86 2-12	
Deduct the deficit of John Berrien, former treasurer,	4,588 38 2-3	
Balance,	184,716 47 1-2	
Which balance is composed of the following, viz:		
Bank notes	89,233 13	
Gold,	5,850 24	
Crowns and dollars,	1,040 40	
	96,123 77	
Governor's warrants, 29,473 46 3-4		
President and speaker's warrants,	9,031 23	
President of the Convention's do.	68 00	
A joint and approved resolution,	574 60 3-4	
	39,147 20 1-2	
Stock of the U. States,	49,445 50	
	184,716 47 1-2	

## The Catacombs of Paris.

From the *Journal de l'Empire*, Monday, May 20.

In the course of ten or a dozen centuries, the catacombs\* of Paris, may, like those of ancient Rome, give rise, without some record of their formation, to a multiplicity of vague conjectures, and elaborate disquisitions. Though the subject does not at present excite much interest or curiosity, yet I will venture to solicit the attention of my readers to an attempt at a description of the origin, progress,

\* Anciently the word *catacomb* was only understood of the tombs of St. PETER and St. PAUL, chambers.

and present state of these melancholy mansions, with a view to supplying the future historian and antiquary with facts, and sparing them the trouble of engaging in wild speculations and endless disputes.

The catacombs† of Rome are long subterraneous avenues formed in all probability by the extraction of the stone and sand for the construction of houses and public edifices. It is a well known fact that in the times of persecution those excavations afforded an asylum to the primitive christians. Vast collections of human bones, and the ruins of tombs, the production of much skill and labor, have been discovered in them. Many that had escaped the ravages of time, have been abstracted, and many yet remain. The church of Rome had its reasons for inculcating a belief that all the bones found in those receptacles were the reliques of saints and martyrs. The Protestants, on the contrary, affirm, that they are the profane remains of gladiators and criminals who had died an ignominious death; and some authors an intermediary theory.

The Protestants, in affirming that the catacombs were actually used for the sepulture of those for whom the community would not be at the expense of providing a faggot or a grave, such as slaves, gladiators, and wretches condemned, whether guilty or innocent, to die by the hands of the executioner, or to be devoured by wild beasts; admit at the same time that such was the state of things, that numerous instances may have occurred of martyrs having been interred in the same burial places with criminals and the outcasts of society, for the purpose of vilifying the christian character and profession, and branding the memory of such as had constancy enough to suffer martyrdom. Hence the veneration of christians for places previously abhorred and execrated—the habit they acquired of retiring thither in the times of relentless persecution, of celebrating in them the holy mysteries of their religion—of burying their dead in them with more or less pomp, as their confidence of security or their apprehension of danger predominated; and hence also so many reliques, which the Catholics consider as canonical, and which the Protestants deem apocryphal.

Our catacombs, like those of the Romans, are formed in the excavations of old quarries; and though they have not been used for the intended purpose till within these few months, they have remained nearly in their present state, upwards of five and twenty years. Much inconvenience had been, for ages, experienced at Paris, perhaps more than elsewhere, from the custom which had prevailed, from time immemorial, of burying the dead in the midst of the town, and even under the pavement of churches. The complaints on this, as upon many other subjects, were urged with redoubled force about the middle of the 18th century. Certainly nothing could be more deeply tinctured with barbarism—nothing more incompatible with a good police than the existence of such a practice; but in justice to our predecessors of the last century, it must be admitted that they did not establish the custom; they are blame worthy

† The learned lexicographer just quoted gives the following description of these excavations: "Catacombs are subterraneous cavities for the burial of the dead, of which there are a great number about 3 miles from Rome, supposed to be the caves and cells where the primitive christians hid and assembled themselves, and where they interred the martyrs, which are accordingly visited with devotion." And Annetson, in his *Travels*, "On the side of Naples are the catacombs, which must have been full of stench, if the dead bodies that lay in them were left to rot in open niches."

only inasmuch as they neglected, for a time, to set heartily about the abolition of it, knowing as they did, that it had been introduced, in some measure by accident. Indeed all the cemeteries that I have seen in Paris, had been at their institution purposely situated beyond the limits of the town. This wise custom, borrowed from the most ancient of the Roman laws, was so strictly observed in the early periods of the monarchy, that St. Eloi directed the church of St. Paul to be built on the right bank of the Seine, in the quarter of the suburbs which still bears his name, to be used as a place of interment for the religious of a monastery which that saint had founded within the city. The cemetery of the Innocents, the common burial place of the original Parisians, was in like manner situated in the country at the period when Philip Augustus caused it, to use a figurative expression, to come into the town, the limits of which he greatly enlarged, and in process of time, the rest of the cemeteries in the vicinity became incorporated with the city.

In order to check the evil, the Parliament of Paris, in 1763, promulgated a law, very salutary no doubt for the living, but, it must be acknowledged, highly indecent with reference to the dead. This arrest, which was not carried fully into effect at the time, enjoined, however, the immediate shutting up of the the Innocents, the oldest of all, the most used for interment, and against which the greatest clamor was raised, and the strongest remonstrances were deservedly made. This burial place continued shut up for many years. At length it was conceived that there could be no impropriety in offering the ground to sale, for a public market. But those who made the proposition had forgot that cemeteries were consecrated places, and that they could not be sold for a price, or converted into profane uses, without the special permission of the ecclesiastical authority.—The church required, as a preliminary step, that the bones which time had not wholly consumed should be taken up and deposited in ground which had undergone the ceremony of consecration. The remains of human bodies were still so considerable in the sepulture of the Innocents that no other places under the requisite qualification could be found sufficiently capacious for the reception of the bones, without being entirely filled, or greatly encumbered.—Mr. Lenoir, the then superintendent of the police, suggested the expedient of depositing the bones in an old quarry, situated between the barrier d'Enfer and that of St. Jacques, under an extensive plain called la Tombe Isoire.

The inspector general of the quarries was directed to arrange this new cemetery, or more properly, these catacombs, and the very reverend the grand Vicars of his grace the Archbishop of Paris accordingly attended to consecrate it on the 7th of April, 1785. This ceremony was solemnly performed in the presence of the lieutenant general of police, and an immense concourse of people; after which Messrs. Legendre and Molinos proceeded to the exhumation and removal of the bones—an operation of no small difficulty, and requiring great care and caution to preserve the twofold objects of health and decency.

Since that time the bones contained in several other sepultures, which had been previously suppressed by authority, have been removed to the new ossuary, as also a great quantity of those which had been deposited in the different churches, convents and cloisters, at the period of the almost general demolition of those edifices.

The persons employed in the conveyance and deposition of the bones in the catacombs, contented themselves, at first, without any regard to regularity,

except the formation of a distinct heap from the produce of each successive exhumation.

The prefect of the Seine has within these two years adopted a new and improved arrangement in those dark and dreary abodes. M. Hericart de Thury, engineer in chief to the imperial corps of miners, and inspector-general of quarries, and who is charged, in the latter capacity, with the planning and superintendance of the catacombs, has intimated his intention of publishing a detailed account of the alterations and improvements that have taken place since his appointment to that office.

The subjoined is a short description of the catacombs, which the public are permitted to visit, subject, however, to suitable rules and regulations:

You are conducted to the entrance of this immense charnel house, by an open stair-case in the area of the buildings contiguous to the barrier d'Enfer, on the west side of the road leading from Paris to Orleans. This stair-case is of the spiral form, commodious, and well constructed, and descends perpendicularly upwards of fourscore feet under the surface of the earth. You then wander with your guides a full quarter of an hour along the windings of a passage (*Gallerie*,) varying considerably in width and in height, but every where more spacious than the avenues of the Roman catacombs. The sides of the passages as well as the roofs are formed partly of rough hewn-stones and partly of the solid rock. At intervals, on the right and left, vast excavations present themselves. These quarries like those in which the vaults of the observatory are made, would communicate with an infinite number of others beneath Montrouge, and under the suburb of St. Jacques, if care had not been taken to cut off the various communications, which dark and intricate as they are, the smugglers contrived to use them as places of concealment for themselves and their contraband goods.

With respect to the catacombs, properly so called, they are comprehended in a vast inclosure separated from the ossuaries, and closely shut up. The principal entrance to them has a sort of vestibule in front, and is ornamented with two pilastres of the Tuscan order, on each of which you read a religious inscription, the same I think that was composed for the gate of the cemetery of St. Sulpice:

*Hæc ultra metas*

*Requiescunt,*

*Beatam spem expectantes.*

“Beyond these Columns,

They rest in Peace,

Waiting for a

Blessed Immortality.”

In the interior the long passages and innumerable recesses are lined (*tapissées*) with human bones; the larger such as skulls, spines and thigh-bones, being uniformly placed in front, and formed in compartments, support the smaller which are thrown behind, and constitute the melancholy walls. Such of my readers as have made an excursion into those provinces where the use of charnel-houses in burial places is still preserved, will be able to form a correct idea of the species of Mosaick to which I allude. It may be observed that in the dark and damp quarries the bones do not bleach.

The number of the dead, whose bones have been removed to the new receptacle, is estimated at more than *two millions* of individuals! The walk which I took among them seemed to exceed the fourth part of a league. Tablets are placed here and there to indicate the various places from which each particular mass of bones had been conveyed. In several of the recesses altars are formed, some of them resembling those that are used in churches, others of an oblique shape, and many uncouthly made of bones ce-

mented with mortar. In numberless places you find expressed in black characters on a white ground, epigrams, sentences in prose and rhyme, some of them religious, some moral, and others philosophical, and all in conformity to the tenets of some system of religion or other. Thus, after meeting at the entrance with the inscription above cited, expressive of the hope of a life to come, you read on returning from the subterranean cavities, this celebrated passage, extracted from the Georgics?

*Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas,*

*A que mutas omnia et inerrabile fatis*

*Subiecit pedibus streperuntque Acherontis exani!*

Happy the man, who, studying nature's laws,  
Though known effects can trace the secret cause;  
His mind possessing in a quiet state—  
Fearless of fortune, and resigned to fate!"

DRYDEN.

## Events of the War.

### MILITARY.

Accounts from Georgia mention that major-general Pickney had set off to take command of the troops destined for Florida, with a view to occupy it for the United States.

The United States 18th regiment of infantry are said to have been ordered to St. Mary's on the southern frontier, where our affairs are daily assuming a more important aspect.

We learn from Ohio, that general Winchester, with his detachment of troops, had moved from Fort Defiance to the rapids of the Miami of the lakes. The whole of the rest of the North-Western army were, it was expected, about to proceed to the same place. It is probable that they will soon see Detroit.

*Head-quarters, camp near Buffalo, Dec. 3.*

GENTLEMEN—Your letter of the 2d Dec. is before me, and I answer it in the following manner:

On the 26th October, I ordered that 20 scows should be prepared for the transportation of artillery and cavalry, and put the carpenters of the army upon that duty.

By the 26th of Nov. 10 scows were completed, and by bringing some boats from Lake Ontario, above the falls of Niagara, the number was increased to 70.

I had on the 12th Nov. issued an address to the men of New-York, and perhaps 300 had arrived at Buffalo. I presumed that the regular troops, and the volunteers under colonels Swift and McClure, would furnish 2360 men for duty; and of gen. Tannehill's brigade from Pennsylvania, reporting a total of 1650, as many as 412 had volunteered to cross into Canada. My orders were to "cross with 3000 men at once." I deemed myself ready to fulfil them.

Preparatory thereto, on the night of the 27th of Nov. I sent over two parties, one under lieutenant colonel Boerstler, the other under capt. King, with whom lieutenant Angus, of the navy, at the head of a body of seamen, united. The first was to capture a guard and destroy a bridge about 5 miles below Fort Erie: the second party were to take and render useless the cannon of the enemy's batteries, and some pieces of light artillery. The first party failed to destroy the bridge—the second, after rendering unserviceable the light artillery, separated by misapprehension. Lieutenant Angus, the seamen, and a part of the troops, returned, with all the boats, while capt. King, capt. Morgan, capt. Sproul, lieutenant Houston, and about 60 men, remained. The party thus reduced, attacked, took, and rendered unserviceable two of the enemy's

batteries, captured 34 prisoners, found two boats, which capt. King sent the prisoners and about half his party with the other officers; he himself remaining with 30 men, whom he would not abandon.

Orders had been given, that all the troops in the neighborhood should march, at reveille, to the place of embarkation. A part of the detachment sent in the night returned and excited apprehensions for the residue, about 250 men, under the command of col. Winder, suddenly put off in boats for the opposite shore; a part of this force had landed, when a force deemed superior, with one piece of artillery, was discovered; a retreat was ordered, and col. Winder's detachment suffered a loss of 6 killed and 19 wounded, besides some officers.

The general embarkation commenced as the troops arrived—but this being a first embarkation, the whole of the scows were occupied by about one third of the artillery, while about 800 regular infantry, about 200 twelve month volunteers, under colonel Swift, and about 200 of the militia who had volunteered for a few days, occupied all the boats that were ready. The troops then embarked, moved up the stream to Black Rock without loss, they were ordered to disembark and dine.

I had received from my commanding general an instruction in the following words—"in all important movements you will, I presume, consider it advisable to consult some of your principal officers." I deemed this equivalent to an order; and the movement important. I called for the field officers of the regulars and twelve month volunteers embarked. Colonel Porter was not found at the moment. These questions were put—*Is it expedient now to cross? Is the force we have sufficient to conquer the opposite shore?*

The first question was decided in the negative by colonels Parker, Schuyler, Winder, lieutenant colonels Boerstler, Coles, and major Campbell, col. Swift alone gave an opinion for then crossing over.

The second question was not decided. Colonels Parker, Schuyler, lieutenant colonel Coles and major Campbell were decidedly of opinion that the force was insufficient. Colonels Winder, Swift, lieutenant colonel Boerstler, and captain Gilman, deemed the force sufficient.

I determined to postpone crossing over until more complete preparation would enable me to embark the whole force at once, the counsel prescribed by my orders. The next day was spent in such preparation, and the troops were ordered to be again at the place of embarkation at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 30th of November. On their arrival they were sent into the adjacent woods, there to kindle fires and remain until 3 o'clock, A. M. of the 1st of December, when it was intended to put off two hours before day-light, so as to avoid the enemy's cannon in passing the position which it was believed they occupied below, to land above Chippeway, assault that place, and, if successful, march through Queenston for Fort George. For this expedition the contractor was called on to furnish rations for 2500 men for four days, when it was found he could furnish the pork, but not the flour, the deputy quarter-master called for 60 barrels and got but 55.

The embarkation commenced, but was delayed by circumstances, so as not to be completed until after day-light, when it was found the regular infantry, 688 men, the artillery 177 men, Swift's volunteers, estimated at 236, companies of federal volunteers, under capt. Collins, Phillips, Adison, Moore, Maher and Marshall, amounting to 276 men, commanded by lieutenant col. McClure, 100 men of col. Dobbin's militia, and a few men in a boat with gen. P. B. Porter had embarked—the whole on board amounting, exclusive

of officers, to 1465 men, or thereabouts: and it was two hours later than had been contemplated.

There were some groups of men not yet embarked; they were applied to, requested and ordered by the brigade major to get into their boats—they did not. The number of these the brigade-major estimated at about 150. It was probably greater.

It then became a question whether it was expedient to invade Canada in open day-light, with 1500 men, at a point where no reinforcement could be expected for some days. I saw that the number of the regular troops was declining rapidly—I knew that on them chiefly I was to depend.

I called together the officers commanding corps of the regular army. Col. Parker being sick, those present were col. Porter of the artillery, col. Schuyler, col. Winder and lieut. col. Coles.

I put to them this question:—*Shall we proceed?* They *unanimously* decided that we ought not.

I foresaw that the volunteers who had come out for a few days, would disperse—several of them had on the evening of the 28th broke their muskets. I foresaw that the number of the regular troops would decrease; the measles and other diseases, being among them; and they were now in tents in the month of December. I informed the officers that the attempt to invade Canada would not be made until the army was reinforced; directed them to withdraw their troops, and cover them with huts immediately.

You say that on Saturday every obstruction was removed, and that a landing might have been effected "without the loss of a single man." This proves you unacquainted with the occurrences of the day. Col. Winder, in returning from the enemy's shore in the morning, lost a tenth part of his force, in killed and wounded. The enemy shewed no more than 5 or 600 men, as estimated by col. Parker, and one piece of artillery, supposed a nine pounder. That force, we no doubt might have overcome; but not without loss; and that, from the great advantage the enemy would have had, might have been considerable.

To recapitulate:—My orders were to pass into Canada with 3000 men *at once*. On the first day of embarkation not more than 1100 men were embarked, of whom 400, that is, half 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 days march; who, although they were on the sick report, were turned out by their ardent officers.

The affair at Queenston is a caution against relying on crowds who go to the bank of Niagara to look on a battle as on a theatrical exhibition; who if they are disappointed of the sights, break their muskets; or if they are without rations for a day desert.

I have made to you this frank disclosure without admitting your authority to require it, under the impression that you are patriotic and candid men; and that you will not censure me for following the cautious counsels of experience; nor join in the senseless clamor excited against me by an interested man.

I have some reasons to believe that the cautious counsel given by the superior officers of my command was good. From deserters we learn, that 2344

\*Six hundred of gen. Tannhill's brigade deserting in twenty four hours. A court martial of this brigade have fined a man *twelve and a half cents*, for the crime of desertion!

rations are issued daily on the frontiers, on the British side. Capt. King, prisoner at Fort George, writes to an officer thus—"tell our friends to take better care of themselves than it appears I have done."

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your most obedient,

ALEXANDER SMYTH,  
Brigadier-general.

To Messrs. Geo. M<sup>c</sup>Clure, Lewis Birdsall, }  
John Griffen and Wm. B. Rochester, a }  
committee from the patriotic citizens of the }  
western counties of New-York. }

P. S. It will be observed that the force ready could be no otherwise ascertained than by an actual embarkation—it being uncertain what portion of the volunteer force would embark.

BUFFALO, Dec. 8.

To the Editor of the Buffalo Gazette.

Sir—A friend has just handed me the proof-sheet of your paper of this morning, in which is contained what purports to be general Smyth's official account of the affairs of the 28th of November and 1st of December.

I beg that you will suspend the publication so long as to assure the public that in your next, I will give a true account of some of the most prominent transactions of those days.

When our lives, our property; when the precious and dear-bought gift of our ancestors—the sacred honor of our country; when every thing that we prize as men, or ought to hold dear as patriots, are falling and fading before us, it is time to speak out, whatever be the hazard.

In ascribing, as I shall not hesitate to do, the late disgrace on this frontier, to the cowardice of general Smyth, I beg to be understood as not intending to implicate the characters of the officers whose opinions he has brought forward to bolster up his conduct. Several of them I know to be as brave men as ever wielded a sword; and their advice, if indeed they gave the advice imputed to them, may be accounted for in the obvious consideration, with which every one who saw him must have been impressed, that any military attempt under such a leader, must, in all human probability, prove disgraceful. Your very humble servant,

PETER B. PORTER.

Copy of a letter from major-general Samuel Hopkins to his excellency governor Shelby.

"On Wabash, near the mouth of  
Pine Creek, Nov. 27, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR—By col. Richard Taylor, quartermaster general, who goes on as quick as possible to Frankfort, I have it in my power to give you general information of the movements of the army since my last.

On the 11th the army marched from Port Harrison on the road formerly made by governor Harrison's army, and the boats set out at the same time. The length of time the enemy had expected us made it necessary to guard ourselves in an especial manner. The rise of the waters, from the heavy fall of rain preceding our march, and some large creeks, left us no doubt of considerable difficulty and embarrassment; insomuch that not until the 14th did we pass Sugar creek, three miles above the road.

From every information, I had no hesitation in moving on the east side of the Wabash. The Vermillions, Pine creek, and other impediments on the west side, superadded to the presumption that we were expected, and might more easily be annoyed and ambuscaded on that rout, determined me in this measure. The boats too, with our provisions of rations, forage and military stores, could be more



easily covered and protected, as the line of march could be invariably nearer the river. Lieutenant-colonel Barbour, with one battalion of his regiment, had command of the 7 boats, and encamped with us on the bank of the river almost every night. Thus protracted our march that we did not reach the Prophet's town until the 19th. On the morning of this day I detached 300 men to surprize the Wincabago town lying on Ponce Passu creek, one mile from the Wabash and four below the Prophet's.—This party, commanded by general Butler, surrounded the place about break of day, but found it evacuated. There were in the main town about forty houses, many of them from 30 to 50 feet in length, besides many temporary huts in the surrounding prairie, in which they had cultivated a good deal of corn. On the 20th, 21st and 22d we were embarked in the complete destruction of the Prophet's town which had about 40 cabins and huts, and the large Kickapoo village adjoining below it on the west side of the river, consisting of about 160 cabins and huts; finding and destroying their corn, reconnoitring the circumjacent country, and constructing works for the defence of our boats and army. Seven miles east of us, on the Ponce Passu creek, a party of Indians were discovered; they had fired on a small party of ours on the 21st and killed a man by the name of Dunn, a gallant soldier in captain Duval's company. On the 22d upwards of 60 horsemen, under the command of lieutenant-colonels Miller and Wilcox, anxious to bury their comrade as well as gain a more complete knowledge of the ground, went on to a point near the Indian encampment, fell into an ambuscade, and 18 of our party killed, wounded and missing. Among these are three hopeful young officers and one private from the 8th (Wilcox's) regiment, viz. Mars, Edwards, Murray, and the private Webb, presumed to be killed; the other 14 were of the rangers. On the return of this party, and the information of a large assemblage of the enemy, who, encouraged by the strength of their camp, appeared to be waiting for us, every preparation was made to march early and engage the enemy at every risqué; when, from the most violent storm and fall of snow, attended with the coldest weather I ever saw or felt at this season of the year, and which did not subside until the evening of the 23d, we were delayed until the 24th. Upon arriving on the ground, we found the enemy had deserted their camp before the fall of the snow, and passed the Ponce Passu. I have no doubt but their ground was the strongest I ever have seen—the deep rapid creek spoken of was in their rear, running in a semicircle, and fronted by a bluff 100 feet high, almost perpendicular and only to be penetrated by three steep ravines. If the enemy would not defend themselves here, it was evident they did not intend fighting at all. After reconnoitring sufficiently, we returned to camp, and found the ice so accumulated as to alarm us for the return of the boats. I had fully intended to have spent one more week in endeavoring to find the Indian camps; but the shoeless, shirtless state of the troops, now clad in the remnants of their summer dress; a river full of ice; the hills covered with snow; a rigid climate, and no certain point to which we could further direct our operations; under the influence of the advice of every staff and field officer, orders were given and measures pursued for our return on the 25th.

We are now progressing to Fort Harrison through ice and snow where we expect to arrive on the last day of this month. From Vincennes I shall have the honor of addressing your excellency again; but before I close this, I cannot forbear expressing the merits of the officers and soldiers of this command.

After leaving Fort Harrison all unfit for duty, we had in privates of every corps about one thousand—in the total twelve hundred and fifty or thereabout. At the Prophet's town, upwards of one hundred of these were on the sick report. Yet, sir, have we progressed in such order as to menace our enemy, free from any annoyance; seven large keel-boats have been covered and protected to a point heretofore unknown in Indian expeditions; three large Indian establishments have been burnt and destroyed, with near three miles of fence, (and all the corn, &c. we could find) besides many smaller ones; the enemy have been sought in their strong holds, and every opportunity afforded them to attack or alarm us; a march on the east side of the Wabash, without road or cognizance of the country, fully one hundred miles perfected; and this has been done with a naked army of infantry, aided by only about fifty rangers and spies. All this was done in twenty days—no sigh, no murmur, no complaint.

I certainly feel particular obligations to my friends general Butler and colonel Taylor, for their effectual and ready aid in their line; as also to captain Z. Taylor, of the seventh United States regiment; Messrs. Gist and Richeson, my aids-de-camp, and major J. C. Breckenridge, my secretary, for a prompt and effectual support in every instance. The firm and almost unparalleled defence of Fort Harrison, by captain Z. Taylor, has raised for him a fabric of character not to be effaced by my eulogy. To colonel Barbour, for his officer-like management, in conducting and commanding the boats, my thanks are due, as also to colonels Miller and Wilcox, and to majors Hughes and Shacklet, and to the captains and subalterns of the army generally. From lieutenant Richeson, Hawkins and Sullivan of the United States troops, I have to acknowledge my obligations for their steady and uniform conduct, as well as captain Beckers, of the rangers, captain Washburn, of the spies, and the staff generally.

Let me refer your excellency to colonel Taylor for more minute information; and believe me with high regard and consideration, to be, your most obedient servant,  
SAMUEL HOPKINS.

*From the London Gazette Extraordinary.*

DOWNING-STREET, Oct. 6th, 1812.

Captain Goore, aid-de-camp to lieutenant-general sir George Prevost, governor in chief of his majesty's provinces in North America, arrived this morning with dispatches from the lieutenant-general, addressed to earl Bathurst, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, of which the following is an extract and a copy.

MONTREAL, Aug. 26.

MY LORD—I feel the greatest satisfaction in transmitting to your lordship a letter which I have this day received by express from major-general Brock, announcing to me the surrender of Fort Detroit, on the 16th inst. by brigadier-general Hull with the army under his command, exceeding two thousand five hundred men, together with twenty-five pieces of ordnance.

In my dispatches of the 17th and 24th instant, I had the honor of detailing to your lordship the operations which had taken place in Upper Canada, in consequence of the invasion of that province by the army of the United States. Brigadier-general Hull, having crossed the Detroit river on the 12th of last month, with two thousand three hundred men, consisting of regular cavalry and infantry, and militia, bringing with him several field pieces; and having driven in the militia towards Amherstburg, first advanced to Sandwich, and afterwards approached Amherstburg, with a part of his army to the river

Canard, about five miles from the fort, where he was foiled in three attempts to cross that river, and suffered a considerable loss. The garrison of Amherstburg consisted at that time of a subaltern's detachment of the royal artillery, commanded by lieutenant Troughton; of a detachment of three hundred men of the forty-first regiment, under the command of captain Muir; and of about as many of the militia, the whole under the command of lieutenant-colonel St. George, inspecting field officer of militia in the district.

General Brock relying upon the strong assurances I had given him, of a reinforcement, as prompt and as effectual as the circumstances under which I was placed, by this new war, would permit me to send, adopted the most vigorous measures for the safety of that part of the frontier which had been attacked.—In these measures he was most opportunely aided by the fortunate surrender of Fort Michilimacinae, which giving spirit and confidence to the Indian tribes in its neighborhood, part of whom assisted in its capture, determined them to advance upon the rear and flanks of the American army, as soon as they heard that it had entered the province.

The certainty of the expected reinforcements, and the weakness of the enemy on the Niagara frontier, had in the mean time, induced general Brock to detach from the garrison of Fort George, fifty men of the forty-first regiment under captain Chambers, into the interior of the country for the purpose of collecting such of the Indians and militia as might be ready to join him, and of afterwards advancing upon the left flank of the enemy. Sixty men of the same regiment were also detached from the garrison to Amherstburg, and forty to Long Point to collect the militia in that quarter. Having made these dispositions, and having previously sent forward colonel Proctor, of the forty-first regiment to Amherstburg—where he arrived and assumed the command on the 26th of last month—general Brock proceeded himself from York on the 5th inst. for Fort St. George and Long Point on lake Erie, which last place he left on the 8th following for Amherstburg, with forty rank and file of the forty-first regiment, and two hundred and sixty militia forces.

Whilst general Brock was thus hastening his preparations for the relief of Amherstburg, the prospects of the American army under general Hull were becoming every day more unfavorable, and their situation more critical. The intelligence of the fall of Michilimacinae had reached them, which they knew must expose them to an attack of the Indians in the one quarter, at the same time that they were threatened in another by the force approaching under capt. Chambers. An Indian tribe of the Wyandotts, whom they had in vain attempted to bribe, aided by a detachment of the 41st regiment from Amherstburg, had succeeded in cutting off their supplies on the opposite side of the river, and intercepting their dispatches, which described in very strong terms their apprehensions and despondency. The losses they had sustained in their different actions upon the Canard river, as well as those for protecting their supplies, together with the mode of warfare pursued by the Indians, had greatly discouraged and dispirited them, and had convinced gen. Hull how hopeless any attempt would be to storm Fort Amherstburg, without great reinforcements and a battering train.

It was under these circumstances at this critical period when the enemy were beginning to consult their security by entrenching themselves, that gen. Brock entered Amherstburg with a reinforcement, which he was fortunately enabled to do on the 12th inst. without the smallest molestation, in conse-

quence of our decided naval superiority on the lakes. To his active and intelligent mind the advantages which his enemy's situation afforded him over them, even with his very inferior force, became immediately apparent; and that he has not failed most effectually to avail himself of those favorable circumstances, your lordship will, I trust, be satisfied, from the letter which I have the honor of transmitting.

Having thus brought to your lordship's view, the different circumstances which have led to the successful termination of the campaign on the western frontier of Upper Canada, I cannot withhold from major-general Brock the tribute of applause so justly due to him for his distinguished conduct on this occasion, or omit to recommend him, through your lordship, to the favorable consideration of his royal highness the prince regent, for the great ability and judgment with which he has planned, and the promptitude, energy and fortitude with which he has effected, the preservation of Upper Canada, with the sacrifice of so little British blood in accomplishing so important a service.

My aid-de-camp, capt. Coore, will have the honor of delivering to your lordship this dispatch; and as he is well qualified to give your lordship information respecting the military resources of this command, I shall beg to leave to refer your lordship to him for farther particulars. I have the honor, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE PREVOST.

*Head-quarters, Montreal, Sept. 1, 1812.*

MY LORD—Since I had the honor of transmitting to your lordship my letter of the 26th ult. in charge of my aid-de-camp, captain Coore, I have received from major-general Brock a dispatch, of which the inclosed is a copy, containing the particulars of brig. gen. Hull's invasion of Upper Canada, which has terminated most gloriously to his majesty's arms, in that officer's defeat and surrender as a prisoner of war, with the whole of the north-western army, together with the fort Detroit, and 33 pieces of ordnance.

I forward this dispatch express, in the expectation of its reaching capt. Coore previously to his leaving Canada, which, with the colors of the 4th U. States regiment accompanying it, I trust that officer will have the honor of delivering to your lordship. I have the honor to be, &c.

GEORGE PREVOST.

*To the right honorable Earl Bathurst.*

*Head-quarters, Detroit, August 7.*

SIR—I have had the honor of informing your excellency, that the enemy effected his passage across the Detroit river on the 12th ult. without opposition, and that after establishing himself at Sandwich, he had ravaged the country as far as the Moravia town. Some skirmishes occurred between the troops under lieutenant-colonel St. George and the enemy upon the river Canard, which uniformly terminated in his being repulsed with loss. I had judged it proper to detach a force down the river Thames, capable of acting in conjunction with the garrison of Amherstburg offensively; but captain Chambers, whom I had appointed to direct this detachment, experienced difficulties that frustrated my intentions. The intelligence received from that quarter admitting of no delay, colonel Proctor was directed to assume the command, and his force was soon after increased with 60 rank and file of the 41st regiment.

In the mean time the most strenuous measures were adopted to counteract the machinations of the evil-disposed; and I soon experienced the gratification of receiving voluntary offers of service from that portion of the embodied militia the most easily col-

lected. In the attainment of this important point, gentlemen of the first character and influence shewed an example highly creditable to them; and I cannot on this occasion avoid mentioning the essential assistance I derived from John McDonnell, esq. his majesty's attorney-general, who, from the beginning of the war has honored me with his services as my provincial aid-de-camp. A sufficiency of boats being collected at Long Point for the conveyance of 300 men, the embarkation took place on the 8th inst. and in 5 days arrived in safety at Amherstburg. I found that the judicious arrangement which had been adopted immediately upon the arrival of col. Proctor, had compelled the enemy to retreat and take shelter under the guns of his fort: that officer commenced operations by sending strong detachments across the river, with a view of cutting off the enemy's communication with his reserve. This produced two smart skirmishes on the 5th and 9th inst. in both of which the enemy's loss was very considerable, whilst our's amounted to 3 killed and 13 wounded; amongst the latter I have particularly to regret capt. Muir and lieut. Sutherland, of the 41st regiment; the former, an officer of great experience, and both ardent in his majesty's service. Batteries had likewise been commenced opposite Fort Detroit, for one 18 pounder, two 12's, and two 5 1-2 half inch mortars; all of which opened on the evening of the 15th (having previously summoned brigadier-general Hull to surrender;) and although opposed by a well directed fire from seven 24 pounders, such was their construction, under the able directions of captain Dixon of the royal engineers, that no injury was sustained from its effect.

The force at my disposal being collected in the course of the 5th, in the neighborhood of Sandwich, the embarkation took place a little after day-light on the following morning, and by the able arrangements of lieut. Bessar of the quarter-master-general's department, the whole was in a short time landed without the smallest confusion, at Spring Well, a good position, 3 miles west of Detroit. The Indians who had in the mean time effected their landing 2 miles below, moved forwards and occupied the woods, about a mile and an half on our left.

The force which I instantly directed to march against the enemy consisted of 30 royal artillery, 250 41st regiment, 50 royal Newfoundland regiment, 400 militia, and about 600 Indians, to which were attached 3 six-pounders and 2 three-pounders. The services of lieut. Troughton, commanding the royal artillery, an active and intelligent officer being required in the field, the direction of the batteries was intrusted to captain Hall, of the marine department; and I cannot withhold my entire approbation of their conduct on that occasion.

I crossed the river with an intention of waiting in a strong position the effect of our force upon the enemy's camp, and in the hope of compelling him to meet us in the field; but receiving information upon landing that colonel M'Arthur, an officer of high reputation, had left the garrison 3 days before with a detachment of 500 men, and hearing soon afterwards that his cavalry had been seen that morning 3 miles in our rear, I decided on an immediate attack. Accordingly the troops advanced to within 1 mile of the fort, and having ascertained that the enemy had taken little or no precaution towards the land side, I resolved on an assault, whilst the Indians penetrated his camp. Brig. gen. Hull, however, prevented this movement by proposing a cessation of hostilities, for the purpose of preparing terms of capitulation. Lieut. col. John McDonnell and capt. Glegg were accordingly deputed by me on this mission, and returned within an hour with the condi-

tions which I have the honor herewith to transmit. Certain considerations afterwards induced me to agree to the two supplementary articles.

The force thus surrendered to his majesty's arms cannot be estimated at less than 2500 men. In this estimate col. M'Arthur's detachment is included, as he surrendered, agreeably to the terms of capitulation, in the course of the evening, with the exception of two hundred men, whom he left escorting a valuable convoy at some little distance in his rear; but there can be no doubt the officer commanding will consider himself equally bound by the capitulation.

The enemy's aggregate force was divided into two troops of cavalry; one company of artillery regulars; the fourth U. S. regiment; detachments of the first and third U. S. regiment, volunteers; three regiments of the Ohio militia; one regiment of the Michigan territory.

Thirty-three pieces of brass and iron ordnance have already been secured.

When this contest commenced many of the Indian nations were engaged in active warfare with the U. States, notwithstanding the constant endeavors of this government to dissuade them from it. Some of the principal chiefs happened to be at Amherstburg, trying to procure a supply of arms and ammunition, which for years had been withheld, agreeably to the instructions received from Sir James Craig, and since repeated by your excellency.

From that moment they took a most active part, and appeared foremost on every occasion; they were led yesterday by col. Elliott and capt. M'Kee, and nothing could exceed their order and steadiness. A few prisoners were taken by them during the advance, whom they treated with every humanity; and it affords me much pleasure in assuring your excellency, that such was their forbearance and attention to what was required of them, that the enemy sustained no other loss of men than what was occasioned by the fire of our batteries.

The high sense I entertain of the abilities and judgment of lieut. col. Myers, induced me to appoint him to the important command at Niagara; it was with reluctance that I deprived myself of his assistance, but had no other expedient; his duties as head of the quarter-master-general's department were performed to my satisfaction by lieut. col. Nicholls, quarter-master-general of the militia.

Captain Glegg, my aid-de-camp, will have the honor of delivering this dispatch to your excellency; he is charged with the colors taken at the capture of fort Detroit, and those of the 4th U. S. regiment.

Captain Glegg is capable of giving your excellency every information respecting the state of this province; and I shall esteem myself highly indebted to your excellency to afford him that protection, to which his merit and length of service give him a powerful claim.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) ISAAC BROCK, Major-Gen.

P. S. I have the honor to enclose a copy of a proclamation, which I issued immediately on taking possession of this country.

I should have mentioned in the body of my dispatch the capture of the *Adams*; she is a fine vessel, and recently repaired, but without arms.

*Knoxville, December 7, 1812.*

EAST TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS.—Agreeably to the plan proposed by col. John Williams, to raise a corps of volunteers to be employed on the Southern frontier, about forty or fifty active and enterprising men assembled at this place on Tuesday last, and pitched their camp about half a mile from town, preferring at once to enter on the character of soldiers, though the weather was bad, to accepting the invitations

which every citizen was solicitous to offer. They were visited at their encampment by the farmers of the neighborhood, with tenders of provision and forage for themselves and horses. On Friday morning, their number having increased to one hundred and fifty, they took up their line of march by the Warm Springs and Buncombe Court-house, N.C. for St. Mary's Geo.; where it is their intention to offer their services to the commanding officer. It is ascertained that their number will exceed 200 before they pass the bounds of the state, as many are hastening preparations to follow and join the detachment. A finer looking company of men, or a company better armed, equipped and mounted, we have never seen. It is composed principally of the most conspicuous citizens of this section of the country—militia officers from the major-general of this division down to subalterns of companies, members of the legislature, attorneys at the head of their profession, merchants, and citizens of the first respectability and wealth, are in the ranks.

When it is known that the requisition from this state of 1500 militiamen, for the defence of the lower country, and two regiments for the northern territories, has been by the governor ordered from West Tennessee, and consequently the probability of a call for men from this quarter being done away, a proper estimate may be made of the patriotism of those composing this detachment, who have preferred thus to encounter the privations of a winter campaign, at the end of a journey of several hundred miles, on their own expense, in search of dangers in the service of their country, to remaining at home in the enjoyment of their families and friends, and the pursuit of their profitable business.

Upon the suggestion that the few enrolled in this corps, who were not men of wealth, might suffer from the want of funds, the citizens of Knoxville, with their characteristic liberality, subscribed and paid into the hands of one of the company, 300 dollars, to be used for the relief of such as may not have made proper provision for the expense of the campaign.

RALEIGH, (N. C.) December 15.

The following is a tender of the services of the Patriotic Fathers of Mecklenburg county to his excellency the governor:

Charlotte, Nov. 25.

SIR—By the unanimous resolution on yesterday, of the patriotic fathers of Mecklenburg county, it becomes my duty to present to you a tender of their services in defence of our much injured and insulted country, to any part of the state where you may deem it expedient; or when and wheresoever their services may be necessary in avenging the wrongs persisted in by our enemy.

Party spirit in politics, with these, my fellow-soldiers, is enveloped by the cloud of injuries and injustice pressed upon us by our proud, implacable and declared enemy.

They with one voice declare, that though they have scolded with one another, they will fight only against their enemies. Our hopes of an accommodation are nearly at an end, and do not feel in a temper of mind any longer to indulge them.

I am your obedient servant,

JAMES PORTER, Colonel.

Charlotte, (Mecklenburg county) Nov. 24.—The unexpected perseverance of our enemy, and the late misfortune of our van guards in the north-west, have swelled the number of veteran fathers to about four hundred men, in this county, whose second ardor threatens to rise in proportion to the pressure upon our beloved country, and the government which their services had eminently assisted to procure.

Of these patriotic old men, six companies are composed under captains James Porter, John Harris, Thomas Downs, John Secrest, S. Harris and Joseph Faires, who appeared in Charlotte this day with their men, on muster, organized themselves into a regiment of silver locks, and proceeded to elect their field officers, who are James Porter, col. William Hutchison and John Foster, majors.

#### NAVAL.

We have the daily satisfaction to observe the public tribute of *Englishmen* to the generous liberality that has marked the conduct of our seamen, as well in the public as in the private armed vessels. We are sorry that this commendable deportment is not reciprocated by the enemy, and are as often incensed at the harsh treatment of our people, unfortunate enough to fall into their hands. To put them into irons, to deny them a reasonable quantity of food, to rob them of their clothes and money, and all the little articles necessary to their comfort in a strange land, is the common practice (with a few honorable exceptions) of the *magnanimous* English. Captain *Decatur* in the most polite manner, refused the sword, but took the hand of captain *Carden*, late of the *Macedonian*—But sir *James Yeo* is desirous of breaking *Porter's* sword over his head—and the gallant captain *Jones*, late of the *Wasp*, was treated in the most haughty and contumelious manner by captain *Beresford*, of the *Poictiers*. His officers, in general, were plundered of every thing—and many of them returned to New-York without having changed any part of the dress they had on when they beat the *Frolic*. Captain *Dacres*, late of the *Guerriere*, in his official letter says:—

"I feel it my duty to state the conduct of captain Hull and his officers to our men, has been that of a brave enemy, the greatest care being taken to prevent our men's losing the smallest trifle, and the greatest attention being paid to the wounded."

In battle, and after battle, we are proud of our tars—for they beat the *English* as well in bravery as in generosity. In war, they have the hearts of lions—but the contest ended, and the *foe* subdued, they have the disposition of lambs—as the song says:

"In war, rugged war, have the heart of a lion,  
"But the battle once ended, the soul of a lamb."

We are pleased to learn that a permanent arrangement has been made with the British at Halifax for the regular and immediate exchange of prisoners.

Twenty-nine men from the Bona privateer of Baltimore, boarded and carried a British ship of 800 tons and 22 guns, from Madeira. It is feared, however, the prize has been re-taken.

The privateer Blockade of New-York of 8 guns [we believe] has been captured by the British sloop of war *Charybdis* of 18 thirty-two pounders, after a dreadful action of one hour and twenty minutes, during which eight men were killed on board the privateer, and twenty-eight of the officers and crew of the *Charybdis* slain—many were wounded on both sides.

By the law of March last four new frigates to supply the places of the Philadelphia, New-York, Gen. Greene and Boston, were directed to build; and, we believe, some progress has been made in the work.

The common council of New-York have resolved that the freedom of the city be presented so com. *Decatur* in a gold box—that his portrait be procured to set up in the gallery belonging to the city, and that a public dinner be given to *Hull*, *Jones* and *Decatur*.

A resolution has been adopted by the house of delegates of Virginia, to present the thanks of the general assembly in the name of the commonwealth, with appropriate swords, to commodore *Decatur* and

Lieutenants *Allen* and *Nicholson*, of the frigate *United States*, in honor of their late gallant exploit.

Capt. *Jones*, late of the *Wasp*, and the greater part of his officers and crew have arrived at Washington. It is understood they will be transferred to the late British frigate *Macedonian*.

It is stated that on board the *Macedonian* frigate were many impressed American seamen. One of these unfortunate men, named *Carr*, was killed in the engagement.

It appears that sir James Yeo of the Southhampton has completely stocked Jamaica with flour proceeding to Lisbon and Cadiz, under *Portuguese* and *Spanish* flags, and in licensed ships. So much was the market glutted that it had fallen from 35 to \$3 per barrel.

C. pt. *Nash*, from Halifax, has furnished a list of American vessels, armed and unarmed, captured and sent into Halifax since the commencement of the war. There are 24 of the former and 35 of the latter.

*A secret*—The British frigate *Hyperion* of 36 guns, lately boarded the cartel ship *George Washington*, from Liverpool, previous to which, however, she had torn down all her cabins, cleared her decks, manned her tops, &c. supposing it might be the *Essex*; the captain of the *Hyperion* observing "that it would not do to run alongside of an American frigate as he would a French one."

SEA FENCIBLES.—We are happy to learn (says the New-York Columbian) that a valuable and powerful body of volunteers under this title, composed of sailors and boatmen, is raising in this city, for the protection of the port for the term of one year, to be under the command of capt. *Jacob Lewis* (commonly called commodore Lewis.) The U. S. gunboats, of which there are about 40 on this station, are to be detached from the navy, and put under the command of the commodore, or colonel, the whole under the direction of gen. Armstrong. The warrant officers now attached to the boats, we understand, will retain their places, and receive additional pay from the state during the time they are in actual service. The recruiting for this marine militia goes on briskly, and we have the fullest confidence in the bravery, skill and efficiency of this corps, when completed in their numbers and discipline, in defence of this important section of the country.

The British brig *Plumper*, went a-shore and was totally lost, on Point Lacro, thirty miles from Eastport, on the 5th instant. She was from Halifax for St. Johns, with about \$150,000 on board, none of which was saved. Of one hundred men that composed her crew, all were lost, the captain and eleven others, excepted.

The British privateer *Liverpool Packet* has again made her appearance on our eastern coast, and captured several vessels. An armed sloop has gone in search of her.

An American privateer has made her appearance in the British channel to the great annoyance of the enemy. They may expect many visits from our enterprising tars in the very mouths of their harbors.

The house of representatives of Pennsylvania, have voted the building of a frigate for the use of the United States—yeas 70, nays 20.

#### PLEASING INCIDENT.

We are informed that a few days since, on its being made known to the secretary of the navy that the crew of the United States ship *Wasp* had arrived at the navy yard in this city, he, accompanied by their gallant commander capt. *Jones*, the commandant of the yard and other navy officers, had these brave fellows assembled, and after a short but pertinent address, in which he assured them of the approbation and protection of their country, the secre-

tary observed that as all of them were brave, he must be allowed to take each one by the hand. This was done most readily, and while these honest fellows extended the salute to every officer present, it was easily to be discovered on their approaching their commander capt. *Jones*, that they not merely respected but loved him.

Captain *Jones* was then required by the secretary to allow to these brave men every reasonable indulgence as to money and time, having regard to proper discipline. This has been conformed; and while these worthy tars have been recreating, not an instance of disorderly conduct has occurred; for the brave are always prudent and circumspect.

#### Nat. Int.

*New-London, Dec. 16.*—Captain *Carden* speaks in equal terms of approbation of the conduct of commodore *Decatur*, and his officers, [alluding to *Dreces* official report.] All the private property of the officers and men, on board the *Macedonian* was given up; that claimed by captain *Carden* including a band of music, and several casks of wine, was valued at about \$800, which the commodore (whose soul is as liberal as brave) paid him for. Generosity could not have been more properly applied. Capt. *Carden* has been distinguished for his civilities to such Americans as he met at sea before the war.—His noble liberality, and consoling attention to captain *Bolles* and crew, of this place (who were driven from the coast last winter, and in danger of perishing) gives him a title to all the respect and attention the requirements of war will admit.

#### CHARLESTON, Dec. 5.

*Extract of a letter from Columbia, dated December 2.*

The committee who have had under consideration the subject of building a frigate, have reported that is expedient to build a ship of the line, and present the same to the United States. It is expected that this generous example of South Carolina will not be set in vain. We are disposed to shew the Eastern section of the Union, what is our opinion upon the subject of a navy. It can be but conjecture to hazard an opinion what may be the sense of the house on the subject. The committee upon the subject, were nearly unanimous, there being but one dissenting voice.

"*St. Barts, Dec. 1, 1812.*—Two days ago his Britannic majesty's schooner *Subtle*, in chase of the American privateer *Favorite*, Miller, upset in a squall, and before the privateer could get to her assistance not a vestige was to be seen except a few hammocks."

#### NAVAL PROMOTIONS.

[When we inserted a little notice of Captain *Morris*, in page 222, we were not apprised that his promotion had given offence to, or wounded the feelings of any other officer. The following statement and remonstrance of *James Lawrence*, Esq. master and commandant of the sloop of war *Hornet*, as good an officer as any in the service, is full of interest.]

*United States' ship Hornet, Oct. 10, 1812.*

SIR—I am much gratified by a report of your return to Washington, and hasten to address you, as guardian of our rights, on a subject that nearly concerns me, as well as others of my grade in service. It has for some time been curiously reported in this city (and in fact I have seen letters from Mr. Gubbinsborough that strengthen the report) that lieutenant *Morris* was to be promoted to the rank of captain in the navy, in consequence of his conduct on board the *Constitution*, in the late action with the *Guerriers*. I have the most exalted opinion of lieutenant *Morris*, of course can have no wish to detract from his merits; but after the most mature consideration, I cannot discover wherein his exertions, as first lieutenant, entitle him to the rank to which he is, I understand, about to be promoted. The appointment of master and commander, would, in my opinion, amply compensate him; and, as far as I can judge, give universal satisfaction. I have consulted with commodore *Rodgers*, who fully agrees with me in my opinion, and has authorized me to make use of his name in my communication to you on the subject. Commodore *Bainbridge's* sentiments on the occasion I presume you are acquainted with, as he informs me that he has written you. I am fearful you will consider my remonstrance as improper, but trust, on taking my feelings into consideration, you will make every allowance when I tell you that my friends coincide with me in thinking

that the promotion of lieutenant Morris to the grade I first mentioned, bears peculiarly hard on me, as I was first lieutenant with the now commodore Decatur at the time he destroyed the frigate Philadelphia, at that time if not now, thought as much of as the capture of the Guerriere, for which exploit he was promoted to the rank of post-captain, and I was rewarded with the offer of two months pay. After devoting nearly fifteen years of the prime of my life faithfully to the service of my country, without a furlough (excepting one for six weeks) you must not think hard of my having remonstrated thus plainly on lieutenant Morris' promotion over me. I assure you that I should regret extremely leaving the service at any period, particularly at this; but if outranked by an officer, who has not greater claims than myself to promotion, I have no alternative. Trusting to the impartiality of your decision, I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant.

(Signed)

JAMES LAWRENCE.

The Hon. Paul Hamilton.

Navy Department, October 17, 1812.

SIR—Your letter of the 10th instant, has reached me. The suggestions with which that letter concludes, prevents an answer in detail, and confines me to the single observation, that if (without envious) you leave the service of our country, there will still remain heroes and patriots to support the honor of his flag.

I am, sir, yours,

PAUL HAMILTON.

Capt. Lawrence, U. S. ship Hornet.

To the honorable the Senate of the United States of America, in Congress assembled.

James Lawrence of New-York, master and commandant of the sloop-of-war Hornet, respectfully presents this memorial to the honorable senate of the United States, upon the nomination of lieutenant Charles Morris, late first officer of the frigate Constitution, to the grade of post-captain in the navy of the United States.

Your memorialist respectfully represents, that he entered the service, as midshipman, September the 14th, 1798.

That he continued in that capacity, attached to sundry vessels, upwards of two years, when he was promoted to an acting lieutenant on board the frigate Adams, commanded by capt. Robinson; in which capacity he continued until the reduction of the navy, in consequence of which this appointment was not confirmed, and of course he remained in the grade of midshipman:

That when the war with Tripoli was declared, he was promoted to a lieutenancy, and attached to the Enterprize as first officer; from which he was removed to the frigate John Adams, and acted in the same capacity:

That this service continued three years and a half, when he returned to the United States with commodore Preble, and was again dispatched to the Mediterranean as commander of gunboat No. 6, in which service he was engaged sixteen months:

That while attached to the Enterprize, he sailed as first lieutenant with about seventy volunteers, in the ketch Intrepid, of four guns, under the present commodore Decatur, then commander of the Enterprize, to destroy the frigate Philadelphia of 44 guns, lying in the harbor of Tripoli:

That lieutenant Morris volunteered as a midshipman in this expedition, which was so completely successful, that the Philadelphia was destroyed without the loss of a single man on the part of the Americans:

That for this exploit commodore Decatur was made post-captain—and the rest of the officers and crew of the Intrepid, voted by congress two months extra pay, which was declined by your memorialist:

That since the Mediterranean service was completed, your memorialist has been constantly engaged in the service, having been attached to the Constitution as first lieutenant; and to the Vixen, Wasp, Argus and Hornet, commander; during which commands he has been twice to Europe with despatches:

That he was in the Hornet when war was declared, and was attached to commodore Rodgers' squadron and cruized with him until the commodore's return to Boston, and is now attached to commodore Bainbridge's squadron.

Under these circumstances your memorialist respectfully presents this memorial to the honorable senate, against the ratification of the nomination of lieutenant Charles Morris, to the grade of post-captain; but at the same time would bear testimony to the military distinguished merit of that accomplished gentleman and gallant officer:

Your memorialist would respectfully suggest that no achievement within his knowledge, however gallant, has been rewarded with a promotion of more than one grade; and that such is the invariable usage of maritime nations, particularly the British, whose navy has arrived to its greatest perfection:

That the unexampled promotion of a single officer on board of any frigate in a successful engagement, when all did their duty, with signal but equal brilliancy, must necessarily be detrimental, if not destructive to the service, inasmuch as it is a bad reflection upon the conduct of those officers who are overlooked:

That the masters and commanders appointed to the smaller vessels of the navy, are generally attached to frigates, and consequently are placed by their superior grade, in a more unfavorable situation for promotion than officers of an inferior grade attached to frigates; thereby rendering the grade which they had previously acquired by good conduct an obstacle to future promotion, a part from etiquette, the impolicy and injustice of such promotions cannot be made more obvious by argument:

That your memorialist is confirmed in these sentiments by the opinions of some of the oldest and most respectable officers in the service, and by all the gentlemen of the navy of the same grade with your memorialist, with whom he has communicated, many of whom think they cannot recollect it in their honors to continue in the service, if so unprecedented a nomination should be ratified by the Senate.

JAMES LAWRENCE.

U. S. ship Hornet, October 22, 1812.

## American Prizes.

WEEKLY LIST—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 256.

"The winds and seas are Britain's wide domain.

"And not a sail without permission spreads!"

British Naval Register.

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

285. Brig Venus, from Brazil and London, 10 guns, richly laden with 562 bales of cotton, fustic, &c. sent into Savannah by the privateer Polly of Salem.

286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 592, 293, 294—nine British vessels, sunk, burnt and destroyed by the Patriot of New-York, during a cruise of 56 days.

595. Packet Townsend, from Falmouth for Barbadoes, heavily armed, captured by the Tom, of Baltimore, after a severe engagement in which the captain of the Townsend and four of her men were killed and several wounded. The Tom was but little injured, and had only two men wounded. The mail was thrown overboard, but recovered by the Bona and brought to Baltimore, on Saturday last.

296, Brig Burchall, a packet from Barbadoes for Demarara, with an English commissary and his lady on board, captured by the High-Flyer of Baltimore, and sent into that port. The High-Flyer has captured a number of drogers plying between the islands—she released one of them with the commissary and 72 prisoners, and sent her as a flag of truce into Demarara; and governor Carmichael returned a complimentary letter to her capt. for his kind treatment of them.

297. Brig Criterion, sent into New-York.

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

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

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

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

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

303. Brig Devonshire, laden with codfish, sent into France, by the Decatur privateer. This vessel was captured not far from our own coast, but the "yankees" thinking that the cargo would do better in France than at home, manned and sent the prize on a trading voyage, without ceremony.

304. Schooner ———, from Quebec, sent into New York by the Retaliation of that port.

305. Ship ——— of 22 guns and full of men, after an engagement of 35 minutes, driven on shore at the mouth of the Demarara river, by the General Armstrong of New York. This privateer has returned to port after a brilliant cruise; having captured, among others, three heavy armed and very valuable vessels; neither of which have yet arrived. She also seized and gave up several of small value.

## Our Gallant Tars.

It was properly observe in a London paper when the news of our declaration of war reached that city, that the British would have an enemy very different from the French to contend with, at sea. The

naval history of *Great Britain* for a whole century past, presents no incidents so destructive of her seamen and ships as the little *brulles* we have had with them—over and four *British* vessels, of the same force, under any circumstances, lose, by battle, so many men as the *Little Belt*, *Guerriere*, *Frolic* and *Macedonian*—total loss in killed and wounded 518, and the ships *torn to pieces!*—though our vessels were so little damaged that, in ten minutes after battle, either of them could have engaged, and would have defeated, a new enemy of the same strength: nay, from the comparative effect of their fire, they would have fought two such ships as were opposed to them at the same time, with every prospect of success.

In the terrible fight off *Trafalgar*, the fame of which has resounded to the uttermost parts of the earth—where 33 ships, *French* and *Spanish*, of the line, many of them among the largest in the world, contended for several hours, with twenty-seven *British* ships of the like force, and some smaller vessels, the whole *British* loss, in killed and wounded, was only 1587 men. Almost one fourth as many have been destroyed on board the four little vessels mentioned above, in a few minutes fighting. These facts are calculated to excite our wonder, and redouble our zeal, to give the tars of *Columbia* the long desired opportunity of avenging their wrongs. At *Trafalgar*, no more *British* ships lost as many men as the four we have beaten, the *Victory*, *Royal George*, *Temeraire*, *Bellerophon*, *Bellisle*, *Colossus* and *Jehille* excepted, which were in the very hottest of the fight and suffered a great deal the most; and though these seven ships had between 5 and 6000 men on board, they had only 863 killed and wounded;—at this rate, the *Little Belt*, *Guerriere*, *Frolic* and *Macedonian* ought to have had but 130 men injured, comparing their force with that of the great ships above mentioned, and admitting that each battle was as hot as the hottest part of the engagement at *Trafalgar*; but they had 318 men killed and wounded. Now, by the rule of three, what would have been the number of *English* killed at *Trafalgar*, if *Nelson* had engaged thirty-three *American* ships of the line, instead of as many *French* and *Spanish*.

The *British* have gained their greatest naval victories with very little comparative loss. Sir *Richard J. Strachan*, with the *Cesar*, of 80 guns, and the *Hero*, *Courageux* and *Namur*, of 74 guns each, in a battle, of three hours and a half, with four *French* ships of the line (all which he captured) had only 135 men, in the whole, killed and wounded; though, he says, "the enemy fought to admiration!" Well might the late captain of the *Macedonian*, judging from the service he had seen, have supposed our irigate on fire. The *British* will compel us to build ships of the line; and when, we have them, we guess that four of them will not be taken by four *British* vessels, with the loss of no more than 155 men.

### Our "fir-built Frigates."

The following singular article is extracted from the *London Evening Star*. It is a curious text—the officers and crews of our "fir-built frigates" have made an excellent comment upon it.

"We have received letters and papers from *New-York* to the 14th, and from *Washington* to the 9th ult. We are not surprised to find from these, that the repeal of the orders in council, ample and unconditional as it was, has not satisfied the demagogues of *America*. The *American* government has now thrown off the mask, even of moderation, which its members have assumed in their negociations with this country, and has made common cause with *France* in her

attempt to subjugate the world. The tone of the "National Intelligencer," the organ of Mr. *Madison's* government, previous to the arrival in *America* of the formal repeal of the orders in council, was moderate if not pacific, but now that *Great Britain* has receded from her high and commanding attitude, as mistress of the seas, and dictator of the maritime law of nations, *America*, like an ungrateful and malignant man, turns upon her benefactor, and demands still further concessions—the *American* flag is now to secure "all that sails under it." This is precisely the language of the *French* government—"free ships make free goods," has been eternally echoed in our ears, since the commencement of the war; and but yesterday we were told by *France*, that the treaty of *Utrecht* was the line of demarcation of our maritime rights. This is bold language to utter to a nation whose seamen have successively beaten every power in *Europe* into a confession of their superiority—a nation whose fleets have annihilated, in succession, those of *Spain*, *Holland*, *France*, *Russia* and *Denmark*. Our maritime superiority is, in fact, part of the law of nations. It has been the right of the conqueror, since men associated together in civilization, to give laws to the conquered; and is *Great Britain* to be driven from the proud eminence, which the blood and treasures of her sons have attained for her among the nations, by a piece of striped bunting flying at the mast-heads of a few fir-built frigates, manned by a handful of bastards and outlaws."

### The Constitution and Guerriere.

FROM THE LONDON "TIMES."

[The "Times" is a high ministerial paper. What will the folks think, when they hear of Jones' *Frolic*, and Decatur's easy conquest of the *Macedonian*? "PELION UPON OSSA!"

The naval glory of *Britain* is indeliably tarnished: and her "thousand ships of war," with which we were told that she would "bridge the main" will never obliterate from the pages of faithful history the glorious facts we have had the high gratification to record in this work. The sceptre of the sea has left her; an infant *Hercules*, reposing in his cradle, but disturbed by fer jealousies and crimes, has boldly seized upon it; and, when maturity arrives, will invincibly wield it for "Free Trade and Sailors Rights," and purge the world of man-stealers and robbers:]

"We have been accused of sentiments unworthy of *Englishmen*, because we desecrated what we saw and felt on the occasion of the capture of the *Guerriere*. We witnessed the gloom which that event cast over high and honorable minds; we participated in the vexation and regret; and it is the first time that we have ever heard that the striking of the *English* flag on the high seas to any thing like an equal force, should be regarded by *Englishmen* with complacency or satisfaction. If it be a fault to cherish among our countrymen "that chastity of honor which feels a stain like a wound;" if it be an error to consider the reputation of our navy as tenderly and delicately alive to reproach—that fault, that error, we are likely often to commit; and we cannot but consider the sophistry, which would render us insensible to the dishonor of our flag as peculiarly noxious at the present conjuncture. It is not merely that an *English* frigate has been taken, after what we are free to confess, may be called a brave resistance, but that it has been taken by a new enemy, an enemy unaccustomed to such triumphs, and likely to be rendered insolent and confident by them. He must be a weak politician, who does not see how in-

portant the first triumph is in giving a tone and character to the war. *Never before, in the history of the world, did an English frigate strike to an American, and though we cannot say that captain Dacres, under all circumstances, is punishable for this act; yet we do say, there are commanders in the English navy, who would a thousand times rather have gone down with their colors flying, than have set their fellow sailors so fatal an example.*"

## Proceedings of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*Thursday, Dec. 17.* The bill to increase the navy being under consideration in committee of the whole, a motion to strike out the provision for building ships of the line was negatived: but the same subject being taken up the next day was carried 56 to 53—with a view to increase the number of frigates. The principle, however, is not considered as settled, except that it appears the navy will be increased.

On *Monday*, after other business in a preparative state, the house resumed in committee of the whole, the bill to increase the navy. The motion to strike out the ships of the line was reconsidered, and, after argument, rejected 52 to 58. So far the principle is established that ships of the line shall be built. In the house, the motion to strike out the ships of the line was renewed—but an adjournment took place before a decision was had. On *Tuesday*, a message from the President of the United States, which was received yesterday, was read covering a report from the secretary of state on the subject of the seizure and detention of persons, found on board American public armed ships, claiming them as British subjects. Referred to the committee of foreign relations.

After which, the unfinished business of yesterday recurring, the house negatived the motion, 65 to 57 to strike out the ships of the line. And the bill was ordered to a third reading. The bill respecting the *merchants bonds* was also ordered to a third reading [which we shall insert at length, when passed.]

The bill from the Senate to increase the navy, by building four ships of the line, and six large frigates, has passed the House of Representatives and wants nothing but the signature of the President to become a law.

## THE CHRONICLE.

In our last was inserted an article respecting the forgery of *British licenses*. The maker of them has been caught in New-York, with a large stock on hand. They are about to try him on several accounts—and probably, will send him to the Penitentiary for life. How different the practice in England! There, forged *American papers* were publicly exposed for sale, under the very eye of the government.

*John Gailard, esq.* has been re-elected a senator in congress from South Carolina.

*David Stone, esq.* has been elected a senator of the United States from North Carolina, vice Mr. Franklin, who was not a candidate.

The legislature of Kentucky met at *Frankfort* on Monday the 7th inst.

In the senate Richard Hickman, lt. gov. appeared and took his seat, and Joseph H. Hawkins was elected speaker of the house of representatives. On the following day a patriotic message was received from gov. *Shelby*.

Gen. Alston has been elected governor of South Carolina. The votes were, for Mr. Alston 82, for Mr. Geddes 76, scattering 4.

Since our last we have late accounts from France and England. A series of bulletins of the grand ar-

my of the former in Russia, down to No. 23, dated at Moscow, Oct. 9, details only partial actions and skirmishes. It appears that the inhabitants of Moscow were returning in search of their homes, and that Bonaparte was exerting himself to render them comfortable. The ministers in England are very wroth at the *perverness* of the American government, and have decided (so the news-papers say) on a war of extermination, till one or the other power shall fall—of this Britain may be assured, that, as the question is brought to issue, sooner will the *Allegiances* be prostrated, than America consent to the *impressment of her tars*. It is said they have issued a proclamation declaring that all British born subjects found on board our vessels, shall be treated as traitors, though naturalized by our laws. *There is a fearful corrective of this.* The Russian fleet is to be sent to England for safety—preparations to receive it have been made at Portsmouth—another account denies this. The merchants in all the sea-ports are shipping off their effects. On the whole, it would appear that the Russian war was nearly closed at our last accounts. *Burgos* still held out against lord Wellington, and no event of importance has lately occurred in Spain or Portugal.

There is reason to expect that the emperor of France will afford all the facilities in his power to the American trade.

Jedediah K. Smith (rep.) has been elected a senator in congress, by the legislature of N. Hampshire.

The legislature of Georgia have authorized the governor of that state to direct colonel Hawkins to demand of the chiefs of the Upper Creek nation to deliver up all of their warriors who, it was ascertained were engaged with the Seminoles in the late battles against the Americans under colonel Newnan, in order that retributive justice should be awarded them.

They have also strongly recommended to their senators and representatives in congress to use their best endeavors to procure the passage of a law inhibiting the exportation of provisions and grain to Spain and Portugal.

Letters from France state that Mr. Barlow, our minister at Paris, has left that capital, for Wilna, at the request of Bonaparte, to enter into some arrangements.

*London, Oct. 27.*—Yesterday at 3 o'clock his royal highness the prince regent held a privy council at Carlton-house.

Four proclamations were directed to be issued—one respecting American prizes and prize money; another declaring English sailors traitors who are found on board American vessels. The third, respecting the distillation from grain and sugar; and the fourth prohibiting the making starch from corn.

Orders, we understand, were last week sent to the Tower, to prepare 80,000 stand of arms, which are to be shipped with the utmost expedition for the Baltic.

In the house of Representatives, on Tuesday, the bill from the senate remitting the forfeitures incurred by the importation of goods, bona fide American property, shipped prior to the 15th of September last from Great Britain, was ordered to a third reading, and has probably passed into a law by this time. Goods brought from Canada and the other British dependencies will be forfeited.

A letter from Natchitoches, Louisiana, of the 31st of October, mentions that the Mexican republicans were in possession of Mexico. The volunteers under colonel M'Gee, one thousand strong, were on their way to St. Antonio, where they would make only a short stay, but would proceed on the river Grand, to aid the Spanish revolutionary patriots.