

that of any of his successors, and whose real regard for the rights of his countrymen was always evinced by his acts, never believed that "the rights and honours" of the U. S. required to be vindicated by a war against either of the two nations, to compel a relinquishment of the claim in question. And never did his affectionate countrymen of the great commercial and navigating states charge him with an abandonment of their rights; because he did not resort to war, in order to compel the formal renunciation of a principle, while the country could enjoy the benefit of a practical regard to the true interests of the sea-faring citizens.

In the year 1794, under his administration, the U. S. concluded a treaty with G. Britain; but so far were they from then demanding a relinquishment of the claim, that although the evils of impressment were sensibly felt by the U. S. no provision was made in that treaty on the subject.

In the year 1796 the government of the U. S. thought it expedient to make the law under which proceedings as they are usually called, were granted to American seamen; but this, in the end, afforded only a partial remedy for the mischief. The government of the U. S. however, having a conviction of the intrinsic difficulties of the subject, and placing confidence in the assurances of G. Britain, in the like manner as they required her to place confidence in theirs, of a sincere desire to remedy the evil, still avoided the alternative of war. With mutual explanations and mutual forbearance, our country still advanced in its prosperous career.

The practice of impressment still continued to be a subject of complaint and negotiation, and no arrangement was effected till the year 1805. This important measure demands a distinct consideration.

Your committee find, that in that year Messrs. Monroe and Pinkney, who had been appointed by president Jefferson, ministers to the court of G. Britain, commenced their negotiation on the subject of impressments, as well as the other subjects in controversy between the two countries. It was proposed by the British commissioners, that the treaty of 1794, should be made the basis of the negotiation; but this proposal was not accepted by our ministers. (See No. 53.)

It appears that in the conferences the British commissioners manifested the strongest repugnance to a formal renunciation of their claim; but proposed as a substitute, that our seamen should be furnished with documents, the nature and form of which should be settled by treaty, and that these documents should completely protect the seamen; but that subject to such protections, G. Britain should have the right to impress her own seamen. (See No. 53.)

It also appears by the correspondence of our ministers, that the "temper which the British commissioners brought into the negotiation corresponding with that which had been manifested towards our ministers by all who were in official stations, as well as by the public in general, was as friendly and respectful to our government and country, as could be desired." (See No. 54.)

The result of this negotiation was an adjustment of all the differences between the two countries. The important subject of impressments, in particular, was definitely arranged by a note signed by the British ministers, which is subjoined to this report. (See No. 55.)

By this paper, as it was distinctly understood and explained by the parties, Messrs. Monroe and Pinkney express their conviction that the subject of impressment is placed almost, if not altogether, on as good a footing as they should have done, had the project which they themselves had offered to the British government been adopted. (See No. 56.)

And they were further of opinion, that the ground on which the subject was thus placed, was both "honorable and advantageous to the U. S." and that it contained a concession never before made by G. Britain, which was highly favourable to our interests. (See No. 57.)

Such appears to have been the disposition of G. Britain and such was the arrangement made on this difficult and important subject. This adjustment however advantageous as it seems to have been in the opinion of our ministers, your committee find, was rejected by our government. Why it was thus reject-

ed, it is not the part of your committee to intimate; the enlightened people of this Commonwealth, happily, are able to judge, and will judge for themselves.

From this time the practice of impressment was not wholly abandoned by G. Britain; but from the year 1807, it appears to have been gradually lessening. So inconsiderable a grievance, indeed, did it appear to be in the year 1809, that when a settlement of our differences with G. Britain was made with the British minister, Mr. Erskine, the impressment of our seamen was not made a condition of the arrangement; but (the affair of the Chesapeake frigate being adjusted) upon the repeal of the orders in council only, the intercourse between the two countries was renewed.

This arrangement, it is well known was not carried into effect, and the intercourse with Great Britain was again terminated. Still, however, the government of the United States did not appear to consider the subject of impressments as an obstacle to a renewal of the intercourse, much less as a necessary cause of war.—For in the month of July, 1811, (about 11 months before the war) the Secretary of State informed the British minister (Mr. Foster) that should the revocation of the blockade of May, 1806, be followed by a revocation of the Orders in Council, he was authorized to say that it would produce an immediate renewal of the intercourse between the two countries—and the subject of impressments is not brought into view as a condition of such renewal.—(See No. 58.)

From that period to the declaration of war, on the 17th June 1812, your committee feel warranted in saying, that impressments had not frequently occurred—the British government had continued to give the strictest orders to commanders, not to molest American seamen; and the British minister, Mr. Foster, had requested our government to furnish him with the names of the impressed Americans, that measures might be taken for their immediate discharge. And at the period of the declaration of war, so far was it from being the case, "that forbearance could no longer be justified," that only a fortnight before the war, the British minister had again informed the Secretary of State, that the government of Great Britain would continue to give the most positive orders against the detentions of American citizens.—(See Mr. Foster's letter of June 1, 1812, to Mr. Monroe—No. 59.)

Under such extraordinary circumstances has the present occasion been seized upon to involve the United States in war. But though our natural resources are abundant, though our people are brave and virtuous, and their spirit unbroken," yet unless they know it to be a war in which they can confidently rely upon the aid of Heaven," they will not think it necessary to embark their lives and fortunes in the prosecution of it.

Your committee, therefore, upon the whole view of the subject, in discharge of their commission, beg leave to submit the following Resolution:—

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. In the House of Representatives, Feb. 23, 1813.

RESOLVED, that the Selectmen and Assessors of the several towns, districts and plantations in this Commonwealth, be and they hereby are required, forthwith to ascertain the number of seamen of their respective towns, districts and plantations, who have been or are now impressed, or detained by Great Britain, France or any foreign power, and forthwith to make returns thereof to the Secretary of this Commonwealth, in order that the same may be laid before the General Court at their next session, to be holden on the last Wednesday of May next. And the said returns shall contain the names of all such Seamen, and shall state whether they are native or naturalized citizens of the United States, or foreign subjects; and in the cases of native citizens shall designate the town, county and state in which they were born; and in the cases of naturalized citizens, shall designate the court or county, in which, and the time when, they were naturalized, and of what foreign power they were then the subjects; and in the cases of foreign subjects, shall designate the foreign power whose subjects they are. And in all the cases aforesaid, the said returns shall, so far as the same may be ascertained, state the time when and the vessels and their masters, from which such sea-

men were impressed or taken, and the ports to which such vessels belonged; and also the vessels and their commanders, by which they were impressed or taken, and also the names of the foreign power to which such vessel belonged. And the said returns shall also state whether such seamen had protections with them, when impressed or taken, and whether any, and what application has been made for their discharge, and the result of such application, and also in case of the death of any seaman, shall state whether he died in the service of the nation that impressed or detained him. And in those towns, districts and plantations from which no seamen have been impressed or taken, the selectmen and assessors shall in like manner make return of that fact.

And the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall forthwith transmit copies of this Resolve together with forms of returns, prepared in conformity thereto, to the selectmen and assessors aforesaid, who are hereby directed to publish this resolve in the several newspapers printed in their respective towns, districts and plantations.

[Here follow the names of 51 persons who gave testimony before the committee, which for want of room, were obliged to omit. The dispositions were ordered to be printed for the information of the public. We shall at a future day publish as many of them as we can find room for.]

The above resolve passed the House by a very large majority, but was rejected in the Senate. Of course the design of getting further information on this interesting subject is defeated.]

FIFTH NAVAL VICTORY.

NEW YORK, March 25—noon. The United States sloop of war Hornet, Captain Lawrence, has just arrived at the Navy-Yard, from a cruise on the coast of Brazil. On her return to the United States he fell in with, and engaged off Demerara, the British sloop of war PEACOCK, Captain Peake, rated in Steel's List at 18 guns, but mounting sixteen thirty-two pound carronades and four long nines, and 2 swivels in her tops—and after an action of FIFTEEN MINUTES, compelled her to strike her colours with the loss of NINE MEN KILLED and THIRTY-TWO WOUNDED.

So destructive was the fire from the Hornet, that the enemy went down shortly after striking her flag. Those of her crew who survived the action were saved from sinking in her, (with the exception of nine men) who were rescued by the indefatigable exertions of the crew of the Hornet.

The loss on the part of the Americans, was one man killed and two slightly wounded. A British brig was in sight during the engagement, but was fearful of joining with her countrymen in the unprofitable contest.

Extract from the Log Book of the Hornet.

25th February, 1-2 past 3 o'clock, off Demerara discovered a strange sail bearing down for us. Tacked to the Southward and Eastward; at 20 minutes past four the strange sail hoisted English colours; at 30 minutes past four beat to quarters, cleared ship for action, and hauled close by the wind in order to get the weather gauge; at 10 minutes after 5, hoisted American colours, tacked and stood for the enemy; at 23 minutes past 5, in passing each other, exchanged broadsides within half pistol shot.—The enemy then wore and gave us his starboard broadside and kept before the wind, bore up and ran close on his starboard quarter, and kept up such a heavy and well directed fire, that in less than 15 minutes he made the signal of submission, being cut to pieces. A few minutes after his mainmast went by the board. Sent Lieut. Shubrick on board, who soon after returned with the first Lieutenant, who reported her to be his B. M.'s brig Peacock, mounting 19 guns: that her commander, Captain Peake, was killed in the action; that a great number of his men were killed and wounded, and that the brig was sinking fast. Despatched the boat immediately; which brought off the wounded, amounting to 33; the number of killed not ascertained, supposed to be 8 or 10, among whom was captain Peake. About midnight the Peacock sunk, carrying down 13 of her crew and 3 of the Hornet's, who were on board. Our loss was 1 killed and 2 slightly wounded.

The Hornet had previously captured a brig from Montevideo, took out 23,000 dollars in specie, and burnt her.—The Hornet has 106 prisoners on board. Passed a Flag of Truce-ship yesterday, going into New-London.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, APRIL 1.

For Mr. Pickering's Second Letter we refer our readers to the last page of this paper.

To speak of the brilliant achievements of our naval heroes, is at the same time pronouncing an eulogium on the federal administration who planned the naval establishment. The plan originated in wisdom, and notwithstanding all the clamours which ignorance raised against it, the successive victories which have been obtained is a convincing proof of its utility. While nothing but disaster has accompanied our army, glory has been a constant attendant upon the navy. There is not, perhaps, recorded, an engagement, where more execution was effected in so short a time, and with such a disparity of loss, as in the late action between the Hornet and Peacock. Among the names of those of our countrymen who have so nobly distinguished themselves, that of Lawrence is not the least conspicuous. This victory deservedly ranks with any that has yet preceded it, and he, together with his brave officers and crew, are justly entitled to the warmest gratitude of their fellow-citizens. This splendid exploit will add lustre to another page in our history, and be corroborative of the wisdom of that policy which, in the infancy of our republic, gave a spring to enterprise, and diffused a general appearance of prosperity over the country. The paralyzing arm of a theoretic administration had not then been stretched out to destroy, but the measures of government co-operated to acquire for America a name that was honoured and respected by every nation on the globe. She maintained her independence, free from the shackles of foreign politics, for a man watched over her destinies who never descended to court popularity at the expense of his integrity.—He had only the interest of his country at heart—he was a federalist, and in favour of a navy. Those naval triumphs which are to us so honourable, have all been obtained by federalists, men brought up in the school of Washington.

Much has been said upon the impolicy and injustice of the present war. By many of the wisest politicians of the country, it is thought to be not only impolitic, but destitute of even a shadow of justice. But without offering any farther comments on the subject we beg leave to subjoin a short extract from Vattel, to show what a mountainous load of evils that sovereign or ruler is accountable for, who declares an unjust war.

"All the right of a power to make war is derived from the justice of his cause. The unjust party who attacks or threatens him, or withholds what belongs to him, in a word, who does him an injury, lays him under a necessity of defending himself, or doing himself justice, sword in hand; he authorizes him in all acts of hostility necessary for procuring a complete satisfaction. Whoever, therefore, takes arms without a lawful cause, can absolutely have no kind of right; all the hostilities he commits are unjust—He is chargeable with all the evils, all the horrors, of the war; all the effusion of blood, the desolation of families, the rapine, the violence, the ravages, the burnings, are his works, and his crimes.—He is guilty towards the enemy, of attacking, oppressing, massacring them, without cause; guilty towards his people, of drawing them into acts of injustice, exposing their lives without necessity, without reason; towards that part of his subjects who are his ruins or who are great sufferers by it, of losing their lives, their fortunes or their health. Lastly he is guilty towards all mankind, of disturbing their quiet and setting a pernicious example. Shocking catalogue of miseries and crimes! dreadful account to be given to the King of Kings, to the common Father of men! May this light sketch strike the eyes of the conductors of nations, princes, and their ministers. Why may not we expect some benefit from it: are the great lost to all sentiments of humanity and honour of duty and religion? And should our weak voice throughout the whole succession of ages prevent a single war only, how gloriously our labour would be rewarded!"

The Requisition.

We always have deemed it a correct and sound principle, that when the chief magistrate of any nation has thought proper to declare war against another, it was a part of his duty to put that nation, over which he presides, in a proper state of defence. What preparations have been made by the president of the United States for meeting an enemy, is very well known by those who live upon the seaboard; for there is scarcely a place from N. Orleans the most southern point of our country, to the District of Maine the most northern, whose fortifications are sufficient to protect it from any attack which the enemy has in his power to make. This place, with all others situated on the Chesapeake, may be said to have been in danger ever since the blockading squadron entered the mouth of the bay—yet they are all in so defenceless a state, that scarcely any resistance could be made in the

event of an attack. The president will not, it is thought, have made a requisition for the executive of Maryland of five hundred of its drafted militia of the state, to be stationed in this city, for its protection. The example considering that one of the exigencies which exist that are specified in the constitution, which the president may legally make, such requisition, have not hesitated to comply with his orders. They conceive that the state is at this time, factually invaded, and as no appropriation of the regular force have been made by the president for its security, its only dependence is now on the militia. Under these circumstances, the same objections to calling upon the militia could not with propriety be made, which were at the commencement of the war, when the invasion, to suppress insurrection, nor to enforce the laws of the country, made their services necessary. When such requisition was made by the president it is to be understood that the expenses incurred by them are to be defrayed by the United States. When the nation, or any section of it, is invaded, the power given him in the constitution, and by subsequent laws of congress, commands its resources to repel it; but when any local emergency arises which comes within the scope and jurisdiction of the governor, and makes a call of a military force requisite, the state upon which the call is made, must disburse all the expenses arising from it. Not only has the governor power to call out the militia upon any sudden and momentous occasion, but according to a law passed at the November session of 1811, the same power is vested in a Brigadier-general, a Colonel, or a Major, without waiting the orders of the executive.—Should any exigency, therefore, arise in any remote part of the state, where no provision had been made by the general government, or its own executive, to meet it, the law has specified a mode that should be adopted. It is not that the principle has been agreed to in the extensive latitude which many have contended for (that the president possesses the power of calling into actual service the militia of the country to assist in carrying on a war) that the executive have at this time yielded a compliance to his orders, but because from our exposed situation, the necessities of the state, and particularly this city, seemed earnestly to call for the requisition.

The executive have therefore, issued this order in conformity to the peremptory demand of the general government, for the force before mentioned, and we may soon expect to see it at this place.

Something rather Curious!

Not long since a letter was written by the Governor of Maryland to the Secretary of War, acquainting him with the defenceless situation of this city, and the apprehensions that prevailed of an attack upon it. The letter was deposited in the office by Mr. Pinkney, clerk of the council, and forwarded, as the post-master of this place declares, in the Washington mail, to the department to which it was directed. Why it had not been answered remained doubtful, until a communication which had been deposited by some of the citizens of this place, returned from their mission to the general government, who brought back intelligence that this executive communication had never been received. How a letter addressed to gen. Armstrong should have miscarried, when all the rest of the mail arrived perfectly safe, is something extraordinary; for the letters and packages taken out at the intermediate offices, are usually made up in parcels by themselves, and therefore it is highly improbable that this said letter should have been taken from the mail before it reached Washington. When these circumstances are known every one will be at liberty to form his own conjectures respecting the mysterious manner in which this letter should have so suddenly disappeared, or been lost. What has become of the letter seems to be altogether unknown—but the circumstances which have accompanied its loss, have created and confirmed many unfavorable suspicions.

For the Maryland Gazette.

If it be not deemed high treason, or something a-kin to it, we would venture to ask the good people of this country if they know what this war has already cost, and yet more, is likely to cost them? The people of these United States (including persons of all sexes, sizes and colours, I amount to about seven millions. By a law of the session of congress just closed, the president is to borrow twenty-one millions of dollars. Now, it is not known upon what terms this money may be borrowed.—The president being authorised to sell the paper money at a very reduced value, he may, under this loan bill, contract a much larger debt than twenty-one millions of dollars. But admit that this is the amount of the debt, then in one single session, we have a debt three times the amount of our whole population; or in other words, shall owe three dollars for every man, woman and child, whether white, black or yellow, in the nation. But this debt is not to be paid off immediately, so that each man, woman and child, will not be compelled to pay three dollars this year. It will be remembered, however,

though we do not pay this year, we are to pay the interest, at three per cent. Now we have not ascertained what interest will be for this money, and of course calculation cannot be correct. No doubt, doubts that it will be at least; and let us suppose that it is borrowed at this interest; follows, that for the loan authorized in one session, we shall have to pay a rate of twenty-one cents every year for every man, woman and child in the country, and this forever, until we will pay off the debt, which will be at once three dollars for every man, woman and child, as before served. Are the people willing to do this, and to pay in the same proportion for the loans of the last year and future years. If they be, let them vote for men who will support the war and its expenses; and let us also be ready to pay the taxes, and to be laid at the next May session of congress; that is a tax upon land, stills, upon stamps, carriages, &c.

A FARMER.

For the Maryland Gazette.

More than a year ago Congress determined that they must lay an income tax, and the bills were prepared and reported. But the election of Mr. Madison, the postponed, and were to have been held at the commencement of the session of Congress, which was postponed. Mr. Gallatin was consulted and consented to a postponement of them upon the express provision that they were adopted so soon as to meet the last fall; and to enable them to get them into operation in the month of April. Mr. Madison's objection was, that the naughty people were found to be dissatisfied with the war and men, and changes every where were taking place. In Massachusetts a war man could get elected to congress; and in N. York well as other states, the result of elections was almost as unfavorable. If other states changed as fast, the majority in the next congress might be devoted to the administration, could be wished; and it was feared the imposition of all these taxes would place many of the good friends of administration—Accordingly, the bill was postponed. Why? Because as people would tell us, congress had time to pass the laws. What! no between the first Monday of November and the fourth day of March twelve months? Believe this who will. No! the elections were not over the states, and until they were the tax must be kept as much out of us as possible. The taxes were postponed for the want of time to pass laws, (which might have been passed any one week of this long session) to get the elections over; and elections would not be over till congress had to adjourn, they adjourned again immediately after the adjournment. To meet—for what? Expect to pass these very tax bills which determined to pass the session of the last—which they might have done then, or at the last session, and now must be passed at the next one; for Mr. Gallatin tells them it is possible to postpone them longer. That all the expense of this extra session of congress, allowance to members travelling expenses, &c. &c. must be incurred, merely to give Mr. Madison a chance of securing a majority of next house of representatives. Upon a time our administration borrows of its economy, and how unwilling was to spend the people's money.

CORNPLANTE

For the Maryland Gazette.

It is true, Mr. Editor, that the office is removed from Annapolis to Baltimore? I understood that it was to be prevented by the influence of a few influential characters, were such favourites at court, Mr. Madison dared not to refuse them any thing they might chuse to ask for. But it seems, that your influential citizens have not as much influence as was supposed, and they are only to be obliged—while the great folks at Washington let poor Annapolis have nothing Baltimore wants! It must, however, some comfort to your citizens, that the general government has nothing left Annapolis to take away from it, a few people in Baltimore wish to

For the Maryland Gazette.

Cunning, sometimes succeeds where wisdom would fail, and often, indeed achieves more than the combined efforts of more honorable qualities—the engine of little minds—the wheels of the feeble. In a happy state of society, where public reason is sound and well informed, this talent becomes an engine of little importance—its efforts are foiled, and it sinks into contempt when the simplicity of nature is unobscured, and the light of reason is unobscured by the metaphysics; absurd political madmen, temporary expedients, the offspring of narrow-mindedness, may better answer their end, than a wise, liberal, and practical one. When the mind is fascinated