

As well known that the absent of congress to a declaration of war could not have been obtained. But the speedy revocation of the orders in council was expedited. The disturbances and riots among large bodies of British manufactures—the numerous petitions to parliament for the revocation of the orders—the vehement zeal of the opposition members of parliament in the same cause—With the doubts which seemed to be entertained by others of the utility of a longer continuance of the orders: These weighty considerations must have satisfied our administration that the orders in council would soon be revoked. But this idea does not rest on my conjecture only: Mr. Madison's agent in London, Mr. Russell (to whom, in eight days after the declaration of war, instructions were sent to propose an armistice, a suspension of war!) confirms its correctness, by the observations he made to the British minister, Lord Castlereagh. Mr. Russell's words are these: "As to the supposed ignorance in America of the revocation of the orders in council, at the time my instructions were dated, I observed, that if this ignorance did in fact exist, yet from certain expressions in these instructions, an expectation of such a measure seems to have been confidently entertained."

The motive for the precipitate declaration of war is now apparent.—The administration confidently expected a speedy revocation of the orders in council—which removing the main cause would prevent a war: therefore they rushed into it, unprovided with the essentials for commencing and prosecuting it with any rational prospect of success. Had they, like prudent and honest men, first made the necessary preparations, time would have been allowed for the arrival of the expected official act of the revocation of the orders in council—and then the project of war would have been defeated. But war being once declared, Mr. Madison was then prepared to say—"By that determination the relation between the two countries have been altogether changed, and it is only by a termination of the war or measures leading to it by consent of both governments, that its calamities can be closed or mitigated."

Which consent it was in Mr. Madison's power to withhold as long as he should please. To make a show his willingness to give such consent was easy—while the terms or conditions on which either in former substance would forbid consent on the part of Great Britain. Some alleged causes for continuing the war, but which would never have produced its declaration must be removed by improbable concessions on the part of Great Britain or its calamities cannot be closed. To Congress it exclusively belongs to make war; but the President alone can institute a negotiation for peace, and with the consent of the Senate conclude a treaty of peace. The staff is now in the President's hands, and if the means of carrying on the war should not be provided, he may avoid making peace; and thus accomplish substantially all the objects for which, by a train of unallowed measures, the U. States have been conducted to their present calamitous situation.

Some gentlemen not choosing to utter a direct charge of treachery or corruption—and others over charitable—have apologized for the conduct of the administration, by ascribing its errors and misconduct to the seductive arts of the French government. I know not whether Mr. Madison will thank them for this excuse, at the expense of his understanding. But a man of his discernment, and who for more than thirty years had been familiarly acquainted with French diplomacy, with all its arts of intrigue and finesse, has not been their dupe at this time. A sentiment which I quote from high authority, may in the opinion of others as well as in my own, much more satisfactorily account for the conduct of the American administration, for the last twelve years. "Every man is tempted (seduced) when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed." I do not know a well informed citizen, not a partisan of the administration, who does not believe with me—that the original embargo, and other consequent measures destructive of our commerce and best interests, and finally the

war against Great Britain, have been taken and declared in concert with and in subservience to the French government.

TIMOTHY PICKERING.
April 15, 1815.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, MAY 6.

The "Severn Planter," No. 2, was received at too late a period to be inserted this week.

When Buonaparte had cleverly fixed himself on the throne of the Bourbons, and organized, in some degree, his government, the first object of his attention was then to make provision for every member of his own family, as well as a numerous host of favorites. Such appears to have been the system adopted by Mr. Madison.—In many of his appointments merit has been entirely thrown aside, and, without any other recommendation than family connexion, or a total want of every quality which entitles public characters to confidence, he has livid his favours on them. Not so with the Immortal Washington, the political Saviour of his country! for he neglected his own family lest he might be reproached with partiality, and sought talents, integrity and worth, to fill the various departments of the government. But as "all old things are done away, and all things become new," under the reign of Madison, what would have been censurable in another, is thought by many to be highly meritorious in him.

The New-England elections show the feelings of the people respecting the war. In Massachusetts Gov. Strong has a majority of nearly 14,000 votes; and such was the increased majority in Rhode-Island, that a very feeble opposition only was made by the democrats. They retired from the polls, as it is stated, in sullen silence, at the unparalleled success of Federalism.

The honourable John Cotton Smith, has been elected governor of Connecticut, by an increased majority. This is the only state that has not at one time or other been overrun by democratic principles, and notwithstanding the violent assaults that have been made upon her, she has preserved her politics untainted by French Jacobinism, which generally has been mingled in our political institutions.

It is highly probable that this will be made a defensive rather than offensive war, before it is brought to a close. The late movements of the enemy evince a determination on their part to create, if possible, a diversion of our troops from Canada. Their ships have been stationed off the harbour of Boston, Rhode-Island, New-London, Montaug Point, New-York, the Delaware and Chesapeake. Thus they have at least cut off all communication, and excited a degree of alarm, that has called into service great numbers of militia. Block-Island, little south of the mouth of Narragansett Bay, has lately been visited by them, where they took as much provisions and water as their necessities demanded. We certainly have great reason to expect, that much damage will be done by their attacks along the borders of the Chesapeake.

A Conjecture.

Suppose any distinguished Federalist, for instance a governor, counsellor, or senator, had taken protection for himself and property as a certain Jacob Gibson, Esquire, has done, and had gone immediately after to Baltimore, what treatment is it likely he would have received from the patriotic gentry of that place? If we might judge from the temper and disposition that have been manifested on former occasions, there are good grounds to believe they would have inflicted punishment on him, without waiting the slow formalities of law to decide upon his guilt or innocence. We would not wish to see any violence exercised towards his person, but if he has been guilty of any infraction of the laws of his country, which there is but

too much reason to believe, let a court of justice affix to his crime a penalty which the law requires. His fault, if perchance he has been guilty of any, may perhaps be extenuated by circumstances; if so let him be brought before a tribunal of his country, and exculpate himself from the unfavourable suspicions which now rest upon him. It is rather surprising how so many of the furious advocates for war should in some way or other have backslided since its commencement.—All is not right.

Effects of the war on our large Commercial Cities, and particularly on Baltimore.

In places which have grown into importance by means of commerce and navigation, there are great numbers of persons who depend for subsistence on the general prosperity, yet are no ways connected in trade themselves. The internal improvements of such places usually advanced in a ratio proportionate to their success in commerce and mercantile speculations:—Hence mechanics, tradesmen, and labourers of every description, meet with lucrative employment. But this continues no longer than trade remains free and unshackled, for as soon as commerce, which gives motion to every art and profession, loses its powers, the whole system of industry which depended on it, ceases its operations.—A city which has risen into consequence by means of commerce, is something like the body in a state of lethargy, when deprived of it. It is commerce which animates and cultivates, which gives energy and nerve to every species of business. This we see particularly exemplified in the situation of Baltimore, whose increase of population, and rapidity in improvement, has no parallel in this, or perhaps in any other country. Its local advantages, as well as the enterprise of its citizens, induced emigrations, not only from Europe but from every part of America, and here fortunes were accumulated with astonishing rapidity. No place more abounded in desperate and enterprising speculators.—The streets, in these times, were crowded with wagons from the country; the wharves with ships from foreign parts; and the produce of the state was conveyed here, in small vessels, as to a general depot, and one scene of industry universally displayed itself over the face of the city. With those of extensive capital, every grade of artificer, tradesman, and labourer, found active and profitable employment. Provisions, coal and wood, being plenty and cheap, enabled every man, with a proper share of economy, to realize something at the year's end, after paying his unavoidable expenses. The reverse of this must now be the case—and should a strict blockade be kept up by the enemy, until they are driven from the bay by inclemency of weather, a scene of indescribable distress will there be exhibited. A total annihilation of trade, succeeded by a general state of alarm, must throw out of employment the brick-maker, bricklayer, carpenter, as well as many others; and such being the exorbitant price which most of the necessary articles of life command, that to procure them will soon be placed beyond the reach of their power. Under such circumstances, many will be compelled to resort either to the cold heart of charity, plunder, or emigration.—Should they migrate, it might be asked to what place they could flee where the scene would be materially changed? The country could afford them no asylum, unless their habits, their modes, their occupations in life, were relinquished for others. Other commercial cities could not afford them employ, because the uncertain events of war have put a stop to all improvement. Misfortunes, which they did not foresee, nor even dream of, will drive them to acts which, but from necessity, they would otherwise abhor and shudder to commit. A sad resort will be left them in this calamitous situation, when they have neither home, food or business. Then will they see, that they have erred by

placing confidence in the suburbs of their own, as well as the nation's disasters.

From a moderate calculation it is estimated, that the militia now in the service of this state, will be an expense of \$7000 per day, \$210,000 per month, and \$2,520,000 per annum. A very pretty sum for Maryland to pay for her own defence, so early in the war!!

Exchange of Prisoners.

This being made a port for the exchange of prisoners, it is unquestionably the duty of government to make arrangements for their reception when brought here. During the last week nearly 500 were landed from Admiral Warren's squadron; and had it not been for the executive of the state, and some of the citizens of this place, who took compassion on their situation, they would have been left to grope their way to their families and homes destitute of the means to defray their expenses, or even to procure themselves a morsel of food; for no provision had been made by government to do either.—Neither the citizens of the state, nor of this place, should feel themselves under any great obligations to Mr. Madison for bringing here so great a number of prisoners when it must be attended with such repeated and heavy claims on their charity. It is his duty to direct his agents to furnish hospitals and attendance for the sick and wounded, and provisions for those destitute of the means of procuring them. If such directions have been given, and funds furnished sufficient for this object, then the officer must have been highly culpable in a neglect of his duty, but there is every reason to believe that the fault lies in the principal rather than the agent.

The Meditated Invasion.

While Mr. Madison is endeavouring to make preparations for a grand expedition into the cold and sterile regions of the North, he leaves the sea coast with all its productive and valuable islands, to the depredations and ravages of the enemy. Of islands they have taken possession of many, which furnish them with provisions and water, sufficient to prevent the necessity of their leaving the coast for a moment in pursuit of either. These will be of great utility to them during a continuance of the war, and they may even cultivate them without fear of being molested by any power within our reach. Such are the advantages of a maritime or a land force, to carry on war with a great naval power, that if we had a navy, such as we might and ought before this to have had, these depredations would have been prevented. But according to our wise system of policy, nothing is equal to militia for the protection of maritime rights; and with a few cavalry and infantry, the whole united fleet of any belligerent might easily be chased from our waters. The glitter of swords, or display of muskets, in the hands of undisciplined men, according to our great theorists, are calculated to excite more terror than the broad mouthed thunder of cannon, and be a surer safeguard than line of battle ships. If they are not yet convinced of the fallacy of this doctrine, the operations of the summer will fully evince it. Many valuable towns, many productive islands and defenceless points, are at the mercy of our enemy, and we may see them laid in ashes, or destroyed, without being able to afford them any protection. That this will be the inevitable consequence of the war few will pretend to doubt, and before it is concluded we shall exhibit to the world a nation ready to make any sacrifices to gratify the silliest whim and caprice.

It is stated by a passenger who arrived in yesterday's stage that after the destruction of Harre de-C ace, the enemy proceeded on to Col. Lughes's Cannon Foundry and succeeded in destroying it with the loss of 4 killed.—One American only was killed.

The Enemy's Squadron.
The *Blatina*, and one other frigate, are the only vessels of the enemy now lying off our harbour.—Three frigates passed up the Bay on Tuesday evening, apparently frigates.

COMMUNICATION.

As the guards for the night in the city of Annapolis are not present, they do not prevent disorderly persons from knocking at our doors at the most unseasonable hours, and alarming our families to a serious degree. We do not, by saying this, intend to impute any fault or blame either to the officers or men; we understand that at present sentries are placed at particular points, and the remainder of the guard are patrole. This communication is intended to call the attention of the commanding officers to the fact, that the disorderly persons do knock at the doors of some of our citizens, long after they have retired for the night, and of several occasions a considerable alarm to the male part of their families, who naturally suppose that an alarm is given on account of the enemy. We therefore suggest for consideration, the propriety of sending a patrol of the guard into the Town, every one or two hours, after 10 o'clock each night, with directions to take up, and carry to the guard house, every disorderly person they find rambling about the streets after that hour.

A NUMBER.

HAVRE-DE-GRACE DESTROYED.

By several passengers in the stage which arrived last evening, information is received that about the dawn of yesterday morning, a considerable number of the enemy came up as high as Havre-de-Grace, and commenced the bombardment of that place with shells and rockets. It lasted almost 24 hours. The destruction was general, even the baggage of the stage passengers was destroyed. Mr. Mallory, who effected his retreat under cover of the tavern to Pringle's, states that a considerable division of the enemy pressed towards the latter place; that they were sent out; that they then passed without molesting it; and it is supposed that their intention was to proceed to Hughes's furnace, to destroy the works and cannon about it. The garrison near Havre-de-Grace, consisting of a few men only, opposed no difficulties to the progress of the enemy, the precise number of whom we have not learned. As the stages were destroyed, and a part of the enemy remained at Havre-de-Grace, it is probable that some will arrive from the north this morning. [Balt. Coffee House Dock]

Copy of a letter from J. Sewell, esq. President of the Bank at Elk-Landing, to Jacob Gibson, esq. in Baltimore, dated 30th April.

"I received your note this morning, and regret it is out of my power to supply you with the shot requested.

"The British made an attack yesterday, and after being repulsed twice at French-Town, succeeded in taking possession of a small fortification erected there—they burnt the ware-houses at the place with considerable quantity of goods—then landed at White Hall and marched over opposite the battery erected at Elk-Landing, and after receiving two or three shot retired and embarked immediately.

"Thirteen barges came up full men. We are all under arms here and expect another attack hourly.

From the Hudson Whig.

THE FATE OF OUR CONSCRIPTS.

One day last week the front of the county gaol in this city, exhibited the novel spectacle of 4 persons breaking out of it, in open defiance in the presence of a number of citizens, and none disposed to prevent them from effecting their escape. These men were the few who remained in gaol of the great number who had been confined there the past winter, by the court martial which sat in this city for the trial of conscripts or drafted militia from this county, who neglected to join their regiment, when it was ordered to march last fall. A part of the gaol we understand, was reserved to this court-martial as a prison, where delinquents in conscript service as they were frequently confined, unless they would enlist into the regular service of the U. States; on which condition, we are also informed, it was stipulated with them to forego, and every penalty to which they were subjected by their delinquency as conscripts. Under these circumstances, it will be readily conceived, that the proceedings of this court-martial, have been to the great recruiting parties in this city, the most fruitful source of enlistment, the hearts of many of these young

men misgave them on their first being ordered to prison, and were hurried into an enlistment as the only means of avoiding the dungeons of prison; others suffered themselves to be dragged thither and confined some a week, some a fortnight, and others longer, before they could prevail upon to enlist:—and the perseverance and fortitude of the four only which we have mentioned held out to the last. The court martial adjourned, and left these four men in prison, without passing sentence upon them; and when the gaol was recently transferred by the former into the hands of the present sheriff, he having no legal authority over these men, they were not included in the transfer; they therefore remained there upon sufferance, without any person to provide for them, and subsisting solely upon the charity of the citizens. The gaoler when he discovered them breaking out of gaol, immediately made the proper enquiries to ascertain if any person in the place was entrusted with their care; and unable to find any such person, he preferred to let them escape rather than see them starve to death in prison. These young men remained about the city the greater part of the day, and have since returned to their friends and parents in different parts of the county. Yet this war is called a blessed thing—and our rulers a blessed set of men.

HARRISON SAFE.

We are indebted to the politeness of the editor of the Weekly Register for the following gratifying intelligence, which announces the safe arrival of general Harrison at Fort Meigs. The report of his capture was destitute of foundation, Mr. Granger received no such letter as was stated in the Alexandria paper. [American.]

From a proof sheet of the Utica Patriot, April 13.

The RIGHTS of the citizens of the State of New-York trampled under foot, and the CONSTITUTION violated by the military officers of the U. S.

Several of the respectable citizens of the county of St. Lawrence were forcibly seized by lieut. Loring Austin, of the 1st regiment of U. S. dragoons, and about 30 mounted rymyrons under his command, on the 9th April inst. by virtue of an order of Lt. col. Pike, the commandant at Sackett's Harbour, and forthwith forced from their families at the point of the bayonet, and marched off to the Harbour, to be tried by a court martial for reasonable practices, in trading to Canada, (as suspected.)

The following memorandum was delivered by lieut. Austin, to his authority for this arbitrary proceeding: "I have arrested and detained in my custody, by virtue of instructions from col. Pike commandant at Sackett's Harbour, (of which the following is a true copy and of a list of names furnished me by Alexander Richards, Esq.) the following persons: Willard Seaton, Thomas Steadman, Asa Day, Uriel H. Orvis, David Coffeen, — Goddard, John Phillips."

Dated April 8, 1815.

"This (relating to other orders) is one principal object of your march—another is—for you to repair to Massena, 42 miles below Ogdensburg, and deliver the letter herewith to Mr. Richards, the collector, and to seize and make prisoners of any persons whom he charges with having engaged in treasonable practices and bring to this place—and do any other acts which he may deem conducive to the good of the public service."

LORING AUSTIN.

Lt. 1st reg. U. S. dragoons commanding.

The following affidavit was made within this village, yesterday, on application for a habeas corpus to col. Pike (to bring the said persons to Utica to be discharged) which was granted by the commissioner. Nathan Williams, Esq. of Utica, and Mr. Burrows, started off immediately on his return to Sackett's Harbour.

Oneida County, ss.

David Burrows, of Ogdensburg, being duly sworn, deposeseth and saith, that he received the copy of the foregoing order and certificate from the friends of the persons seized, therein mentioned, at Ogdensburg, on the 9th day of April inst. who employed this deponent to go to Utica and obtain a habeas corpus for the discharge of said persons. This deponent heard the said Lt. Austin

Letter to Monroe purporting to have been written in London the 17th Sept. 1812, but handed by Russell him self to Monroe, at Washington, in November following.
Monroe's letter to Russell, dated Aug. 21, 1812.