

To captain Hull and lieutenant Morris, late of the United States' frigate Constitution, in the attack and capture of the British frigate Guerriere, unprecedented in the annals of naval history;

To captain Jones, and lieutenants Rodgers and Biddle, of the late United States sloop of war Wasp, in the capture of the British sloop of war Frolic, of superior force;

To captain Decatur of the United States' frigate United States, in the victory obtained over, and capture of the British frigate Macedonian.

Mr. Dorsey from the committee of grievances and courts of justice, delivers a bill entitled, an act to provide for the administration of justice in cases of crimes and misdemeanors in the city and county of Baltimore; which was read. And the following report:

The committee of grievances and courts of justice, to whom the following order of the house of delegates, of November 18th, 1812, was referred:

"Ordered, That the committee of grievances and courts of justice be, and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the late riots and mobs in the city of Baltimore, and the causes thereof, with a view to ascertain whether there has been any culpable inertness or neglect of duty on the part of any of the civil or military officers of the state, or whether the defect is in the law, in order that proper remedy in either case may be applied."

Beg leave to report, in part—That in compliance with the order of the house of delegates, and under the exercise of a general power with which the committee of grievances are invested, they have inquired into the recent disturbances which have so agitated the city of Baltimore, and depressed the reputation of our state in the eyes of our sister republics, "the causes thereof, and the conduct of the civil and military officers in relation thereto." They find, from the testimony collected by your committee, and which accompanies the report, that the city of Baltimore has for a long time been considered the ardent advocate of every measure of the general government leading to the war in which the nation is now engaged.

That the Federal Republican, edited by Messrs. Hanson and Wagner, exercising a constitutional right of reviewing the measures of the national cabinet, arraigned, in glowing colors, the integrity and policy of the system which was to plunge the nation into hostilities: That the exercise of this right produced a general spirit of intolerance against that establishment, and that leading and distinguished advocates of the administration, were so far forgetful of the spirit of our constitution, of the sacred protection which the freedom of the press required from their hands, and of their obedience to the sovereignty of the law, as to indulge in denunciations against the establishment, and to circulate the horrible impression, that the same course of strictures upon the measures of the cabinet, would, after a declaration of war, merit and receive the summary application of popular vengeance. The fitness and correctness of this doctrine were inculcated by the instrumentality of the democratic presses, having an extensive circulation amongst that description of persons the most likely to be impelled to excess, and the fit instruments of outrage. That under the influence of the feelings excited by the above improper expressions of distinguished characters, and publications in the democratic papers, committees were organized by men of daring character, (only one of whom has been named to your committee,) to obtain subscribers to a plan, having for its undisguised object, the demolition of the office of the Federal Republican. In this effervescence of the public feeling, and state of preparation, the congress of the United States declared war on the eighteenth of June. The editorial remarks in the Federal Republican of the ensuing day, reprobated the motives and inexpediency of the measure. The ministerial papers replied to those remarks in a style of bitterness and acerbity, well calculated to direct and secure the consummation of the promised threat of revenge. On Sunday, rumors were afloat, and a belief entertained, that public meetings at Pamphilon's hotel, the Apollo, and Stewart's gardens, had determined to silence the press. On Monday, the paper appeared without remarks on the attitude which the congress had assumed; but still, well grounded apprehensions were entertained by Mr. Wagner, that his establishment and his person were both endangered, and he took the precautionary measure of removing his book of accounts from the office. In the evening the plan of lawless outrage was commenced by a parcel of boys and a few men. The assemblage quickly augmented, bringing with them fire hooks, and every apparatus requisite for the destruction of the building. The operations of the mob were conducted with a regularity and subordination inducing a belief that the whole was the result of a digested system of operations, and terminated in a loss to the proprietors of three or four thousand dollars.

In this work of destruction, a Frenchman was the most conspicuous and vociferous against the establishment, upon account of the general tone of its politics. A portion of the rioters, under a belief that Mr. Wagner was concealed in the old Office of Discount and Deposit, attempted to enter the same; from this they were diverted by the zeal of two democratic gentlemen, who gave them assurances that Mr. Wagner was not there. The destruction of the house cost much labor and time; during which many stood by, and contributed nothing to the protection of the rights guaranteed to the citizens by our form of government. From the force of this remark, your committee with pleasure except the names of Edward Johnson (the mayor of the city) and judge Scott, who used every persuasive suggestion to divert the mob from their outrages; but who omitted to attempt a resort to the protection created by the vigilance of the legislature, in procuring a requisition for a military force, when they saw the civil authority inadequate to the security of Mr. Wagner and his property. From the Office of Discount and Deposit, a part of the mob proceeded to the house of Mrs. Wagner's father; and a committee, appointed by themselves, searched every apartment of the house; there an Irishman was the most noted for his savage threats. They next visited Mr. Wagner's own house, and used every stratagem which rage suggested, to hunt out the contemplated victim of their revenge. No efficient measures being adopted the ensuing morning by the constituted authorities of the city, to arrest the rioters, and to cause them to enter into the customary recognizance to keep the peace, they were emboldened, and sought for new victims; they collected in the evening, with a force almost incredible, at the house of one Hutchens, charged by them with using expressions derogatory to the character of General Washington. They demanded him, with expressions of rage evidencing a determination to sacrifice him. The mayor had prevailed on him to escape. To prevent any violence to his house, and to cause