

ST. LOUIS, (U. L.) MARCH 21.  
INDIAN MURDERS, &c.

Since Christmas last, the following murders have been committed by the Indians in this country: two persons near the mines on the Mississippi, nine in the district of Saint-Charles, within the settlements, supposed to be killed by the Kickapoo, one man at Fort Madison, on the 3d inst. by the Winnebago. There were several men who left Fort Madison for this part of the territory about the 17th inst. who are supposed to have fallen into the hands of the enemy, as they have not been heard of.

Main Poc, the Pottowatimie, is preparing a war party to proceed against the Osages; this fellow has been until lately at Fort Malden, and it is thought at the Peorias, that he intends to strike at the whites.

We received a few days ago, some account of governor Harrison's treating with some of the chiefs who were in the late action on the Wabash. This news may be correct, but we know from the most authentic channels, that those are only squads of bands, who either are amusing governor Harrison, to avert a merited retaliation, or wish to secure their individual families from an expected attack this spring. The officers of the garrisons of Chicago and Fort Madison, United States agents on the Mississippi, and Illinois traders, travellers and spies, all concur in the same story, that the Indians have no idea of making peace with us; that red wampum is passing through all the upper villages, from the Sioux of St. Peters, to the head of the Wabash; that at every council fire, the Americans are devoted and proscribed; and, in short, that a general combination is ripening fast. We should be sorry that gov. Harrison should be the dupe of a few rascals, or that he should lull our frontier people to a fatal security, by giving them a soporific from Vincennes. We know that we have a better opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of Indian movements than can possibly be attained on the Wabash, and therefore will sound the alarm when danger is apprehended.

It is a well known fact, that most if not all the Indians east of the Mississippi, have divided into smaller bands; some are for peace, while a band of the same nation are determined on war with the U. States; thus one party of each of the Pottowatomies, Kickapoo, Puanos, &c. are treating with governor Harrison—the others are butchering our frontier people; yet the pacific party will not scruple to engage for the whole nation, whom they know it is impossible to restrain as long as there is a British subject suffered to trade within the lines of our territories, or receive presents at Malden.

In consequence of the various & groundless rumours of the disaffection of the Louisiana, Delaware and Shawanoes, their chiefs lately addressed a letter to gen. Clark, expressive of the most acute mortification, in that their fidelity could be doubted, and demanding that the subject should be brought before court, in order to confront and punish their calumniators. We are sorry that the idle, the vicious and the talkative could not find some other topic to indulge their genius.

The new company of rangers, now doing duty in the district of St. Charles, are perhaps, as fine a body of hardy woodsmen as ever took the field; they cover by constant and rapid movements, that tract of country from Salt River, on the Mississippi, to the Missouri, near Loure.

The Cherokees, who were exploring that tract of country between the Arkansas and White River, have returned home, terrified by the repeated and violent shocks of earthquakes. We understand they intended to exchange with the U. States, their country on the east of the Mississippi, for a like quantity on the Arkansas.

The tremendous effects of Earthquakes in this territory has revived, an almost obsolete Indian rite, in the mode of imploring the Deity, and to avert the divine displeasure. Temples are erecting in the Indian villages, to make offerings to the Great Spirit. The Shawanoes of the Maramec, (40 miles from this place) have finished their religious devotions. The following authentic account of it may be interesting to our readers.

The Indian mode of worship, as happened in consequence of the late earthquake. This alarming phenomenon of nature struck with such consternation and dismay, those tribes of Indians, that live within and contiguous to that tract of country, on the Mississippi, where the severity of the earthquake appears to have been greatest, that they were induced to convene together in order to consult upon the necessity of having recourse to some method of relief, from so alarming an incident; when it was resolved to fall upon the following expedient to excite the pity of the Great Spirit.

After a general hunt had taken place to kill deer enough for the undertaking, a small hut was built to represent a temple or place of offering sacrifice.

The ceremony was introduced by a general cleansing of the body and face. The novelty of the occasion rendering it unusually awful and interesting. After neatly skinning

their deer, they suspended them by the forefeet, so that their heads might be directed to the heavens, before the temple, as an offering to the Great Spirit. In this attitude they remained for three days; which interval was devoted to such penance as consists in absolute fastings; at night lying upon the back upon fresh deerskins; turning their thoughts exclusively upon the happy prospect of immediate protection; that they may conceive dreams to that effect the only vehicle of intercourse between them and the Great Spirit; the old and young men observing a most rigorous abstinence from a cohabitation with the women, under the solemn persuasion, that for a failure thereof, instant death and condemnation awaited; and lastly, gravely and with much apparent piety, imploring the attention of the Great Spirit, to their helpless and distressed condition; acknowledging their absolute dependence on him; entreating his regard to their wives and children; declaring the fatal consequences that must inevitably ensue by withholding his notice; namely the loss of their wives and children; and their total disability to master their game, arising from their constant dread of his anger, and concluded in asserting their full assurance that their prayers are heard, their object is accomplished by a cessation of terrors and game becoming again plenty and easily overcome.

On the lapse of the three days, thus dedicated, believing themselves forgiven for every unwarrantable act, of which they were sensible that the offering was accepted; they finally begin with a mutual relation of their respective dreams, the scene is changed to joy and congratulation, by proceeding ravenously to devour the sacrificed deer, to allay their fast.

We are informed from a respectable source that the old road to the post of Arkansas, by Spring river is entirely destroyed, by the last violent shocks of earthquakes; chasms of great depth and considerable length cross the country in various directions, some swamps have become dry, others deep lakes, in some places hills have disappeared.

By letters from Fort Madison of the 9th inst. we learn that the Winnebagoes constantly hover about the garrison and fire on those who venture beyond the limits of the public ground. On the 3d a soldier (corporal Leonard) who was permitted to go out to hunt, was cut to pieces about 2 miles from the Fort. They have endeavoured to shoot the sentry but was discovered before they could obtain a proper distance. Friendly Indians say that the Winnebagoes, Pottowatomies and Kickapoo's, intend to storm the fort as soon as the ice breaks up.

Extract of letters from Chicago & Peorias, received in town a few days ago.

"The Indians who have committed the murders in Illinois territory are within a few miles of this place, but they will not be given up. Several attempts have been made to obtain from the Pottowatomies, an account of the number lost in the Wabash affair, they say there were only 40 or 50 killed, and a few wounded, who are getting well; they take the pains to hide the number they have lost. The Prophet is exerting himself to collect his forces; the Potowatomies are all for war and are forming plans to sack this garrison, and the Winabagoes are assembled at Millewakee, 90 miles N. W. from this place, to the amount of 500, and breathe nothing but war and revenge. From every village nothing is heard but the song of war, and it is expected to commence, as soon as a few chiefs return, who went to Vincennes to feel the pulse of Governor Harrison."

The company of Rangers raised in the Illinois, under the command of Capt. Whitesides have marched to the most exposed section of their frontier; report says that they are, as fine a company as ever trod the tented field.

BOSTON, APRIL 16.  
FRENCH "BURNING" & "LOVE."  
DEPOSITION.

We THOMAS LEFAVOUR, Master, & NATHAN COOK, Supercargo, of the late brig Three-Friends, of Salem, certify, that we sailed from Salem in said brig, on the eleventh October, for the Brazils, with a cargo consisting of nankeens and an assortment of other articles value about 35,000 dollars: That on the 14th of November we fell in with two French frigates, La Nymph & Medusa, bound to France, who, after boarding us, and taking the nankeens, &c. SET FIRE to the brig and remainder of the cargo, and BURNT them to the water's edge with the American flag flying. During the time we were on board the frigates they informed us that they had orders to destroy all American vessels bound to or from enemy's ports. We further certify that the Commodore gave back the brig's Bill of Health, on which is written in French (as interpreted by Mr. Taswell, of Norfolk) as follows:—

"On the 14th of November, 1811, I have caused to be BURNT the brig called the Three-Friends, of Salem, on account of her being bound to a port in possession of the enemy of France."

(Signed) "RAOUL, Commodore."

While on board the frigate the mate and people of the brig were obliged to do duty, or be upon an allowance of one bottle of water a small piece of pork and some rice, per day, having no bread or beef, excepting a piece of bread twice a week. We also give it as our opinion, as next to impossible, for a person to be on board a French frigate one day without knowing them to be such.

While we were on board the frigates we expressed a wish that we might fall in with an American bound home, that we might be put on board of: But the reply was, that unless they were from France they would meet the same fate of us: the Commodore observed, however, to Capt. Lefavour, that if he took an English vessel he would put him and crew on board of her to proceed home in, and the 21st of November fell in with ship Adventure, of Liverpool which he gave to us, on board of which we arrived in Norfolk, after having been on board seventy-two days, forty-five of which we were beating on our coast to N. and W. of Bermuda. On our arrival we had the mortification of having the ship seized under the Non-Importation Law, but there has not yet been any decision.

THOMAS LEFAVOUR,  
NATHAN COOK,

Plymouth, ss. April 2, 1812.

Personally appeared Thomas Lefavour and Nathan Cook, and subscribed to the foregoing narrative, and made oath to its truth before me.

ZACHEUS BARTLETT, Just. Peace.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1812.

HYMENEAL.

Married—on Sunday evening, by the Rev. Mr. Nind, Mr. John S. Stockett to Miss Ann Grayson.

The Vice President of the U. States, the venerable GEORGE CLINTON, died on Monday morning last about 8 o'clock.

MASSACHUSETTS ELECTION.

Strong Gerry  
453 Towns 51,775 49,785  
Federal net Gain 1,579.

Thirty-seven towns to hear from, says the Boston Palladium.

MELANCHOLY.

By the arrival of the schr. Independence, Betts, this morning from Laguayra, we learn that Caracas, Laguayra, and the adjacent villages were destroyed in a great measure by an Earthquake. Twenty-five hundred in Laguayra and about ten thousand in Caracas are said to have perished in the ruins. One American alone fell a victim to the catastrophe, a Mr. William Cromwell, of N. York. The first and the severest shock at Laguayra, &c. was felt at 4 P. M. on the 26th day of March; four shocks were felt on the night following, but not sufficiently severe to do any damage. On the 27th, all the survivors were employed in digging the dead from under the ruins, from whence they were put in lighters, carried outside of the shipping, and thrown into the sea. On the 28th, the sea was so rough as to prevent them taking the dead off, they then built a fire near the wharf, and commenced burning them, and burned about forty at a time in one fire. On the twenty-ninth, the stench had become so bad that they quit digging the dead from under the ruins. All the survivors pitched tents on the plains of Magetere. On the 4th of April, there was a very hard shock, which made the vessels tremble as if they had been on a reef of rocks in a heavy sea; and from on board the Independence, we could see the mountains move like a ship in a heavy sea, and large pieces scaling off them. At half past 5, the Independence sailed, so that could not tell what damage had been done [See.]

From the Federal Gazette.  
FRENCH DECREES.

The schr. Swift, capt. Catlin, from Gibraltar and Algeiras, arrived last evening. The editor of the Federal Gazette received from capt. Delille, a passenger, the following narrative, in substance, which proves beyond the possibility of doubt, that our vessels continue to be destroyed for attempting to trade with the British, Spanish, or Portuguese.

Arrived schr. Swift, Catlin, 60 days from Algeiras, wine to Cornthwait and Carey. March 25, lat. 29, 9, long. 61, 31, was brought to by the French brig of war Mameluke, forming part of a squadron of two frigates and self, who left France beginning of January last; parted from her companions in the night of the 19th in a heavy gale. They came on board the Swift, examined her papers, and took the register off, declaring her a good prize. After taking out three casks of wine, they gave an instrument of writing, purporting to be a condemnation under their orders "to capture and destroy all vessels to or from enemies ports;" and giving one half the vessel to capt. Catlin and crew, the other half to capt. Delille and crew of the late schr. Polly, from Newburyport bound to St. Barts. (which they had captured and burnt); they put on board 12 souls, capt. Delille and all his crew, the mate and two hands belonging to the brig Alonzo, from Porto Rico of and bound to Portsmouth (N. H.) Robert Ramsay, and Robt. Shew, passengers in the British brig Briton, from Liverpool bound to Tortola, & 5 Portuguese belonging to a large richly laden

ship from Brazil, bound to Lisbon, all which they had destroyed; they had taken and burnt 14 sail of different nations four of which were Americans. On the 8th of April he &c. made a sail about 12 or 14 miles distant, standing to the westward, being calm, 5 of the persons put on board by the Frenchmen, and one of the Swift's crew; determined upon taking the long boat, and left the schr. against the entreaties of the captain and others on board, in quest of the sail and provisions. They were Mr. Moody, mate of the Alonzo, Mr. Francis mate of the Polly, two of the Polly's and Alonzo's crews and 1 of the Swift's. They were out of sight of the schr. an hour after they left her, but expected they reached the sail; a breeze sprung up in the night, but the next morning saw nothing of the sail or boat; cruised some time for them. On the 9th in lat. 34 25, long. 72 30, spoke schr. Packet Murphy, from Baltimore for Jamaica, who generously supplied us with provisions. On the 2d April, lat. 29 20, fell in with the wreck of a vessel, bottom up, about 150 tons burthen, red ochre bottom and quite clean, the sea running high was unable to make further observations.

Capt. Delille, of the Polly, was on the 21st March, in lat. 17 26, long. 59 30. During the time he was on board the brig, they boarded three or four vessels which they let pass, one a sloop from the U. S. for Jamaica, the others not recollected. The Lt. Commandant Galabert, told capt. D. that he was induced to present him with half of the Swift and cargo, in consequence of his being captured bound to a friendly port—that his vessel was destroyed fearing that some of his people might give information of their being out. Capt. D. was otherwise well treated by the French, who seemed reluctantly to execute the destructive orders of the Emperor.

CERTIFICATE.

Lt. Galabert, commanding the brig of war Mameluke, belonging to the Emperor of France, having, on the 27th of March, 1812, lat. 30, long. 64, stopped the American schr. Swift of N. York, bound from Gibraltar to Baltimore, which had touched at Algeiras, (Spain) and considering that this vessel is a legal prize, agreeably to the orders of his Imperial Majesty, which include all vessels bound to or from the ports of the enemies of France—I have arrested said schooner, which however, I release, (for peculiar reasons) on condition that one half the vessel and cargo shall belong to the captain and crew, and the other half to Mr. Delille, capt. of the American schr. Polly, (lately captured by the Mameluke) bound from the U. S. to St. Bartholomews, whose vessel we burnt—and said capt. Delille hereby entitled, as before mentioned, to half interest and benefit from said vessel; for the performance of which, I have received their words of honour.

J. M. GALABERT.

CONGRESSIONAL.  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, April 15.

Mr. Bacon from the committee of ways & means, reported a bill making additional appropriations for the support of government for the year 1812. Twice read and referred to a committee of the whole house for Wednesday next.

Mr. Wright, from the committee on military affairs, made a report on the letter of Edward Clark, relative to his new and cheap invention for city defence by means of floating batteries, in which they recommend making an experiment, under the direction of the secretary of the navy, to ascertain their utility, and the appropriation of a sum not exceeding \$1000 for that purpose. Referred to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Blackledge, from the select committee reported a bill relating to appeals from the district and circuit courts of the U. S. Read twice, & referred to a committee of the whole house.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from the secy of the treasury, covering a report of the comptroller relative to the mint of the U. S.

Mr. McKim offered a resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, making the judges of the supreme and inferior courts removable by a joint vote of the two houses of Congress—laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Pitkin, the papers laid on the table some days since, relative to the burning of the ship Asia and brig Genham were referred to the Secretary of State.

An engrossed bill to authorise the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase or lease the Old City Hall in N. Y. was read a third time and passed.

The amendments of the Senate to the bill for establishing a corps of artificers were read and with the bill committed to the committee on military affairs.

The house in committee of the whole, Mr. Basset in the chair on a bill incorporating Moses Austin and others into a lead company.

Before the clerk had read the bill through a confidential message was announced from the Senate, the Speaker resumed the chair, the galleries were cleared and doors closed & remained so about half an hour, when the doors were opened and the consideration of the bill again resumed.

Mr. Roberts and Mr. Troup were opposed to the bill on constitutional grounds, and Mr. Troup moved to strike out the first section. Carried—43 yeas, 35 noes.

The committee rose and reported the bill amended. And the House took up the report of the committee of the whole house & carried—46 yeas, 43 noes.

Adjourned at half past 2.

Tuesday, April 14.

Mr. McKim presented the memorial of the merchants of Baltimore praying a suspension or modification of the non-importation law so that they may be enabled to withdraw from England and her dependencies, the large amount of property which had been accumulated there in consequence of the low rate of Exchange & immense shipments made to Spain and Portugal. Referred to the committee of the whole house who have under consideration a bill on that subject.

Mr. Wright, from the committee on military affairs, reported the bill for establishing a Corps of Artificers, with the amendments of the Senate thereto. The committee recommended a concurrence. Ordered to lie on the table.

The amendments were subsequently taken up and agreed to.

Mr. Calhoun from the committee on foreign relations reported a bill making further provision for the army of the U. States.—Referred to committee of the whole house for to-morrow.

This bill provides for the appointment of Paymasters, &c. two additional Major-Generals, and four additional Brig. Generals, &c.

A confidential communication was announced, and the galleries cleared and the doors closed a few minutes.

The house in committee of the whole, Mr. Tilmadge in the chair, on a bill continuing in force an act fixing for a limited time the salaries of certain officers of government.

A new section was added, making further appropriations of money to carry into effect the provisions of the law.

The committee rose, reported the bill and amendment, and the house concurred and ordered the bill to a third reading.

The house in committee of the whole, Mr. Nelson in the chair, on a bill for the relief of Aaron Greely.

The committee rose, reported the bill and the house ordered it to a third reading.

The Post Road bill was agreed to and ordered to a third reading.

Adjourned.

Wednesday, April 15.

Mr. Mitchell presented a petition, praying permission to import goods purchased prior to the President's proclamation of November 1810. Referred to the committee of the whole house, who have that subject under consideration.

Mr. Seybert presented the memorial of 145 merchants of Philadelphia praying permission to import goods, wares, and merchandise from Great Britain in payment of debts due them in that country. Referred to the same committee.

Mr. Lewis from the committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill authorising an addition to the Capital Stock of the Bank of Washington, to the amount of 500,000 dollars, which was read, and on the question shall the bill now have a second reading? Mr. Bassett moved to reject the bill, some debate took place on this motion. Mr. Roberts moved that the bill lie on the table. Motion lost.

The question again recurred on rejecting the bill. Lost.

The bill was then read a second time and committed to a committee of the whole house for Friday next.

Mr. Calhoun from the committee of Foreign Relations, reported a bill authorising the departure of ships and vessels from the ports and harbors of the United States in certain cases. Read twice and referred to the committee of the whole house.

Mr. Wright from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill supplementary to an act more effectually to provide for the organization of the militia of the district of Columbia. Read twice and referred to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Tagget had leave of absence from the 27th instant, & Mr. Rodman from Monday next till the end of the session.

The house took up the unfinished business of yesterday, the report of the committee of the whole house, on a bill altering and establishing certain post offices at 8 o'clock, with amendments. The house concurred and ordered the bill to a third reading.

The doors were closed about half past 2 o'clock, and remained closed till past 3 o'clock when they were again opened, and it appeared the injunction of secrecy was taken from the following law: