

By letters received from New York, we learn that Lord Cathcart's dispatches to the 22d December had been received, containing Prince Kutusoff's official reports to the 14th December. He states, that 20,000 of Buonaparte's forces were captured at Beresina, and 7,000 between that place and Wilna. He further reports, that the remainder of the French army reached Wilna December 10th, where the Russians, arriving about the same time, took 14,000 prisoners, together with all the magazines. Buonaparte's own effects and several state papers were taken on the road to Wilna. Returns have been made to the Russian war-office at St. Petersburg, of 146,000 men prisoners, 1,600 officers, and 45 generals. From 700 to 1000 pieces of cannon have also been taken. The killed and wounded amount to 200,000. The total of the French forces destroyed by this campaign in Russia, is stated, from the same official authority to have been 400,000 men.

From the accounts which have reached this country from Europe, it can hardly be expected that Buonaparte will be able to collect a sufficient force to make a campaign in Russia the ensuing summer. If we were to judge from reports, we should rather suspect that instead of carrying desolation by fire and sword into other countries, he would soon be compelled to place himself in an attitude of defence.

From the last despatches of Cathcart, founded on the official returns of Kutusoff into the war office of St. Petersburg, the French army must have been totally destroyed; and rumours are afloat that the Prussians are now ready to make common cause with the Russians. If any reliance is to be placed on these reports, which we believe there is every reason to be, it is probable that the vassal kingdoms of Europe will soon shake off their fetters, and once more assume their independence. Guided by a narrow policy in the beginning, these nations saw the evils that were coming like a flood upon them, yet made no efforts for security, until all resistance was ineffectual. One after another was cut off and parcelled out to the tyrant's myrmidons, until the whole continent had well nigh fallen a prey to his insatiate rapacity. The sword suspended over their heads awed them to silence under the galling yoke of despotic slavery, and they had apparently become reconciled to their condition. But the redeeming spirit which has attended the Russian banners may again animate those subjugated powers to assert their sovereignty and independence. This may, perhaps, be looked upon as idle speculation—But it may be fairly presumed, that nothing less than the splendour of Buonaparte's power has kept them in subjection, and when this in any degree loses its charm, they will seize the first favourable opportunity to throw aside the yoke. What then should hinder at this time, when his veteran legions have been all destroyed, and his munitions of war fallen into other hands, that they should unite with the Russians and make a stand against that domination which threatened to become universal? That this will be their course is not at all improbable, for several reports seem to hint at a northern confederacy, and when once it is begun, there is no doubt it will spread with great rapidity.

Should this be the case, affairs in Europe would assume an interesting aspect, and conduce greatly to the advantage of this country.

If Mr. Madison had ever been accused of plagiarism, we should certainly suspect he had borrowed some considerable part of his late inaugural speech from the Duke of Bassano's report—When delineating the character of the British nation there appears such a congeniality of ideas, and similarity of style, between them, that one would almost think they had consulted each others opinion before writing. Mr.

Madison may have composed his speech at some very unhappy time, perhaps immediately after being apprised of Winchester's defeat, or he never could have been influenced by so *casual* a temper as evidently dictated this effusion. We publish it to day to gratify the curiosity of our readers, & not that we expect them to derive any instruction from it, for the whole is as uninteresting as a "twice told tale." His disciples profess to admire it for its *conciseness, perspicuity, and elegance of diction*, but it appears to possess but one quality which merits applause, and that is its *brevity*.

It appears that Congress has adjourned after a tedious session of four or five months, in which the most important measures have been laid over, not for further consideration, but from motives of the most pitiful policy, beneath the regard of statesmen or patriots. That the national legislature, at a time when the country is involved in a war with a most powerful nation, should idle away their time in doing worse than nothing, might strike us with wonder and astonishment, did we not know of what stuff the men were made to whose hands the destinies of the country are unhappily committed. What opinions must the people entertain of their rulers, when they discover them, in times of the most imminent danger and inquietude, disregarding the public necessities, and studious only of their continuance in power. We see an American Congress, composed of those very men who hypocritically style themselves the servants of the people, and profess such an unremitting attachment to their interests, wantonly sacrificing those very interests, and for what? To insure their own reelection. Does any man doubt it? Let him read the history of the last six months. Is any man so credulous as to believe that we are to depend on treasury bills and loans as permanent sources of finance? If he does, his credulity has its source in something worse than idolatry. An empty treasury, suspended commerce, impending invasion, wavering councils, and a feeble administration, are no evidences of public prosperity or public confidence. What then must such a state of things lead to?—Taxation and public distress. The exchequer bills will be waste paper; the loans must fail; the imposts are dried up, and money must be had.—To what then can we resort?—TAXES—TAXES—TAXES—and although the inordinate love of ill-acquired popularity may induce our state jugglers to keep them behind the curtain until the latest period, common sense tells us the time must arrive. Let the southern elections pass by and we shall see the fruits of a summer session.

In another part of our paper, it will be seen, that very serious apprehensions are entertained for the situation of our forces at Sackett's Harbour. It would not occasion surprize to hear, by the next mail, that the whole of our Fleet, together with the army, at that place, was either in the hands of the enemy or totally destroyed. No doubt Gen. Dearborn considered their situation as peculiarly critical, or he never would have sent an officer to the different editors of papers at Albany with a request that they would delay publishing any account of it for several days. We could sincerely wish there was no ground for alarm from this quarter, but they are of such a character that we expect the destruction of this place may soon be added to the catalogue of disasters which have attended an unnecessary and impolitic war.

COMMUNICATED.

Our Geneva Secretary of the Treasury, it appears, is again about to open his loan books. Our banks are the places at which the patriotic contributions of our good democrats will be received, if perchance they should be better disposed to aid the administration this year than they were the last. But Mr. Gallatin no doubt expects very considerable help from the Banks themselves; and perhaps some of the directors of those institutions may again be ready to apply funds committed to them for a different purpose, to the prosecution of this war. This subject may well deserve the seri-

ous consideration of stockholders.—Are they willing that their funds should be invested in a capital, which has already depreciated, and will no doubt depreciate still more?—For this conduct no apology is to be found in the wants of administration, or the patriotism of the board of Directors. With their own men may be as liberal and patriotic as they please, and after the solemn pledges which have been given to administration of a readiness to sacrifice property as well as life, in support of the war, it is not very clearly perceived how these men who have talked thus can refuse them money, tho' some loss may be the consequence of lending it. The directors of banks may if they choose it, be of the number of those who make sacrifices, provided that they take the money out of their private purses, and not out of the vaults of their banks. But the funds of the monied institutions are to be so managed as may best promote the interest of the stockholders; and if the directors consider themselves at liberty to deal in the public debt, they would be bound to purchase the stock already in market, and which may be bought at a discount, rather than to buy of the administration *par*; at least, one would suppose so, if the oath of a director means any thing. It is true, that the banks of this state, were by a law passed just before the war, authorized to loan to government. This law, however, amounts to nothing at all. The legislature had no right to give to the directors a power to employ the capital of the banking institutions in this way.—They were appointed by the stockholders, to employ their money in the way authorized by the original charter, and without the consent of the stockholders could no more lend it to the administration, than to pocket it themselves. If the legislature would have the goodness to pass a law authorizing them so to do.

A STOCKHOLDER.

For the Maryland Gazette.

Besides being authorized to borrow sixteen millions of dollars, upon whatever terms the president in his wisdom may think proper to offer, he has authority to issue paper money, by the name of exchequer bills, to the amount of five, possibly of ten millions of dollars. The large amount of this loan, at a time too, when our coffers are empty, and no revenue expected, may reasonably excite considerable alarm. At one single session, the administration is empowered to borrow dollars, in number three times as great as the whole people, men, women and children, in the United States. How much may be borrowed at future sessions, and to what amount the debt of the nation may be increased before the end of this ruinous and destructive war, it is impossible to conjecture. Still more let it be remembered, that the expenses of the war are not to be judged of by the sums of money authorized to be borrowed. Many of the soldiers in service have not received their pay—contracts have been entered into for articles necessary for the army, without funds to discharge them, and in addition to all the loans, there will remain a vast mass of debt for which no provision has been made, but which must ultimately be paid by the people. How near we already are to a depreciated paper currency, which may again be purchased at a few shillings in the pound, it is not for us to determine.

These exchequer bills, however, will be found a very convenient contrivance for a government whose credit is low. Men who will not lend money at any premium which the administration dare to give, may yet be induced to purchase those bills, as they may be sold at an enormous discount, and yet the people be never able to detect it. For example, in exchange for articles of clothing and provisions for the army, they may be taken at *par*, which will enable the administration to boast of the favorable terms upon which they have been disposed of, while the articles purchased may be fixed at double price, so that in truth, the bills which we are induced to believe sold at *par*, were disposed of at a discount of fifty per cent. This may enable us to account for this new mode of raising money. For if the administration was resolved not to pay more than six or eight per cent, why should the old and constitutional mode of borrowing money be departed from, in order to substitute this new, and in this country, unheard of contrivance, for propping the credit of administration.

It indeed, the mode was in no other respect exceptionable, it ought to have been rejected upon the ground of its unconstitutionality. The congress is authorized to borrow money because the power is expressly given. But what article confers the power of issuing paper money? Surely there is none which by the most tortured construction, can give such a power. Upon this subject we are not at liberty to indulge in conjecture. It cannot even be supposed that this was an undesigned omission. A proposition to give to congress this power, was made in the general convention, gave rise to a very warm and animated debate, and was ultimately rejected by a considerable majority. The power was refused expressly upon the ground, that it was a dangerous power, and why it was so, every man may determine who recollects the fate of the paper emissions by congress, during this revolutionary war. Mr. Madison was a member of the convention which rejected this proposition, and may be

able to recollect the vote which he gave upon it. And yet while the journals of this convention, are within the reach of our president, he gives his sanction to a bill in direct violation of the constitution.

Let it then be recollected, that the law being unconstitutional, the people are not bound to pay one cent of Mr. Gallatin's exchequer bills, and surely ought not to pay them, until it can be satisfactorily proved that the U. States received a full and valuable consideration for them. Is it to be imagined, that this paper will be taken at *par* by any man who recollects or has heard of the rapidity with which similar emissions depreciated during our revolution? Speculators may deal in them at the commencement, if in the manner before mentioned they can get them at a reduced price, because they may calculate upon being able afterwards, to impose them at their nominal value upon some credulous fools.

AN AMERICAN.

From the Essex Patriot.

Presidential power.—If ever an individual might be trusted with unlimited power, President WASHINGTON was the man. Yet so jealous were the people of their liberties, so tenacious of an exact conformity to the spirit and even the letter of the Constitution, and so fearful that the executive should acquire an undue weight in the body politic, that even WASHINGTON was watched with an eye of suspicion. Every thing which was not expressly authorized by the constitution or laws of the Union, was deemed an arbitrary assumption of power; and he who would attempt to extend the presidential prerogative, was looked upon as a *tory* or *royalist*.

What would have been said of the federal party if in the days of Washington's administration he had been empowered by law to borrow sixteen millions of dollars in one year, without limiting the interest, and to pay his agents for negotiating this loan forty thousand dollars? What would have been the feelings of *republicanism*, if an army of fifty five thousand men had been raised; twenty five thousand of whom were to be ordered by the commander in chief without the advice or consent of the Senate? And lastly, how would those who charged Washington with *peculation* of the public money, because he in one quarter of the year, anticipated a trifle of his salary, which fell due in the next quarter; how would they have been astonished and confounded, if one hundred thousand dollars had annually been placed at the disposal of the president for secret service money without being in any way responsible to the public for its application? Republicans of New-Jersey, stop a moment, and reflect upon this alarming growth of presidential power! and ask yourselves, what will be the end of these things? With such means of corruption; with an army of 55,000 men, and officers of his own creating, what might not an ambitious and enterprising President accomplish! We have declared war against G. Britain in order to repress her arbitrary power and rapacity; but remember our greatest danger may possibly arise from a *corrupt legislature, a standing army, and an ambitious President*.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 4, 1813.

At 12 o'clock this day, JAMES MADISON, the President of the United States died having attended at the Capitol for the purpose of taking the Oath of Office, delivered to the vast concourse of people assembled on the occasion the following SPEECH.

About to add the solemnity of an oath to the obligations imposed by a second call to the station, in which my country, hitherto placed me, I find, in the presence of this respectable assembly, an opportunity of publicly repeating my profound sense of so distinguished a confidence, and of the responsibility united with it.—The impressions on me are strengthened by such an evidence, that my faithful endeavours to discharge my arduous duties have been favourably estimated; and by a consideration of the momentous period at which the trust has been renewed. From the weight and magnitude now belonging to it, I should be compelled to shrink, if I had less reliance on the support of an enlightened and generous people, and feel less deeply a conviction, that the war with a powerful nation, which forms so prominent a feature in our situation, is stamped with that justice, which invites the smiles of heaven on the means of conducting it to a successful termination.

May we not cherish this sentiment without presumption, when we reflect on the characteristics by which this war is distinguished?

It was not declared on the part of the U. States, until it had been long made on them, in reality though not in name; until arguments and expostulations had been exhausted; until a positive declaration had been received, that the wrongs provoking it would not be discontinued; nor until this appeal could no

longer be delayed, without breaking down the spirit of the nation, destroying all confidence in itself and its political institutions; and either perpetuating a state of disgraceful suffering, or regaining, by more costly sacrifices and more severe struggles, our lost rank and respect among independent powers.

On the issue of the war are staked our national sovereignty on the high seas, and security of an important class of citizens, whose occupations give the proper value to those of every other class. Not to contend for such a stake, is to surrender our equality with other powers, on the element common to all; and to violate the sacred title, which every member of the society has to its protection. I need not call into view the unlawfulness of the practice, by which our mariners are forced, at the will of every cruising officer, from their own vessels into foreign ones, nor paint the outrages inseparable from it. The proofs are in the records of each successive administration of our government, and the cruel sufferings of that portion of the American people have found their way to every honest mind, and to the sympathies of human nature. As the war was just in its origin and necessary and noble in its objects, we can reflect with a proud satisfaction, that in carrying it on, no principle of justice or honor, no usage of civilized nations, no precept of courtesy or humanity have been infringed. The war has been waged on our part, with scrupulous regard to all these nations, and in a spirit of liberality which was never surpassed.

How little has been the effect of this example on the conduct of the enemy?

They have retained as prisoners of war citizens of the United States, not liable to be so considered under the usages of war. They have refused to consider as prisoners of war, and threatened to punish as traitors and deserters, persons emigrating without restraint to the United States; incorporated by naturalization into our political family, and fighting under the authority of their adopted country, in open and honorable war, for the maintenance of its rights and safety. Such is the avowed purpose of a government, which is in the practice of naturalizing, by thousands, citizens of other countries, and not only of permitting but compelling them to fight its battles against their native country.

They have not, it is true, taken into their own hands the hatchet and the knife, devoted to indiscriminate massacre, but they have let loose the savages armed with these cruel instruments; have allured them into their service, and carried them to battle by their sides, eager to glut their savage thirst with the blood of the vanquished, and to finish the work of torture and death on maimed and defenceless captives. And what was never before seen, British commanders have extorted victory over the unconquerable valor of our troops, by presenting to the sympathy of their savage associates.

And now we find them in further contempt of the modes of honorable warfare supplying the place of a conquering force, by attempts to disorganize our political society, to dismember our confederated Republic. Happily, like others these will recoil on the authors; but they mark the degenerate councils from which they emanate; and if they did not belong to a series of unexampled inconsistencies, might excite the greater wonder as proceeding from a government which founded the very war, which it has been so long engaged against the disorganizing and insurrectional policy of its adversary.

To render the justice of the war on our part, the more conspicuous, the reluctance to commence it was followed by the earliest and strongest manifestations of a disposition to arrest its progress.—The sword was scarcely out of the scabbard, before the enemy was apprized of the reasonable terms on which it would be re-sheathed. Still more precise advances were repeated, and have been received in a spirit forbidding every reliance, not placed on the military resources of the nation.

These resources are amply sufficient to bring the war to an honorable issue. Our nation is in number more than half that of the British isle. It is composed of a brave, free, a virtuous, and an intelligent people. Our country abounds in the necessities, the arts, and the comforts of life. A general prosperity

visible in the public countenance. The means employed by the British cabinet to undermine it, have recoiled on themselves; have given to our national faculties a more rapid development; and driving or diverting the precious metals from British circulation and British vaults, have poured them into those of the United States. It is a propitious constellation, that an unavoidable war should have found this seasonable facility for the contributions required to support it. When the public voice called for war, all knew, and still know that, without them, it could not be carried on, though the period which it might last; and the patriotism, the good sense, and the manly spirit, of our fellow citizens, are pledges for their cheerfulness with which they will bear each his share of the common burden. To repel the war shots, and its success, animated and systematic exertions alone are necessary; and the success of our arms may long preserve our country from the necessity of another resort to them. Already have the gallant exploits of our naval heroes proved to the world our inherent capacity to maintain our rights on one element. If the reputation of our arms has been thrown under clouds by the other, presaging flashes of heroic enterprise assure us that nothing is wanting to correspondent triumphs there also, but the discipline and habits which are in daily progress.

NEW-YORK, MARCH 4.

The captain of the Swedish ship Ann, arrived from Gottenburg, via the Downs, informs, that on the 27th Feb. was boarded by an officer from a British fleet of 7 sail of the line and one frig. under command of adm'l Cockburn, bound to the Chesapeake. By this arrival we have a London paper of the 5th January, one day later than before received; but it contains nothing new.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

Albany, Saturday Feb. 28.

A Dragoon, at Greenbush, escaped from his quarters last night, and being pressed by a sentinel killed him on the spot.

Albany is all in confusion. An express has arrived from Col. Pike, but I cannot ascertain its contents. This morning Gen. Dearborn started for Sackett's Harbour in a coach and four, and the troops stationed at Greenbush, amounting to about 300, commence their march to that place to-morrow morning. Governor Prevost has adjourned the legislature of Canada, and has marched with his force to Kingston. Something moment is certainly about transpiring.

This moment forty sailors have arrived in stages from Newport, on their way to Sackett's Harbour.

Extract of another letter, same date.

Two expresses arrived here this morning from Plattsburg and Sackett's Harbour; and at twelve o'clock General Dearborn set off for the latter place—he gave orders for about 300 men at Greenbush to follow him immediately. It is said Sir Geo. Prevost is at Kingston and it is expected that he will make an attempt to burn our vessels. The camp have carried off or destroyed all the public stores at Ogdensburg.

MARCH 4.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

The latestness of the hour at which we received the Lordor papers and political intelligence brought by captain Terry on Thursday evening, prevented us not only from giving more than a brief abstract of the Russian success, but obliged us to omit the whole of his marine news. He informs us, that the voice of British cannon is to be heard in the American ports the ensuing summer. "That in six months the American flag will disappear from the seas!"

There were lying in Portsmouth, ready for sea, 19 sail of the line, which are to be joined by several rates, sloops of war and gun-brigs, well provided with the necessaries of war, for the purpose of blockading the American coast. It was said they had taken on board a great quantity of shells for bombarding, and that an attack on New York was contemplated as soon as the water season would permit. Several 74 gun ships were cutting out for frigates, and several large sailing buildings. These are intended to go alongside our frigates. There are also several large vessels ready to sail, each carrying 32 guns, and called privateers.

It was believed in England that an attempt to destroy our harbours and support towns would take place before the American troops were sent into Canada.

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