

The ignorant man would insist upon a search or trial, while conscious guilt would involuntarily bring the hand of the other over his pocket, and make him anxious to hush up the affair. As an American, Mr. H. was anxious to have the matter definitively settled, and the character of the government vindicated, if the guilt was on the other side of the water. He contended, that all the blood, treasure and national character lost in this war, would have been saved, by the exhibition of the document, the concealment of which was imputed to Mr. Madison by the French minister, and was supported by strong presumptive evidence. Mr. H. said, from the time and manner of the promulgation of the French Decrees, and its being promulgated at all, there was cause to suspect that the French government knew the period or *interabsents*, when war would be declared. Certainly, it being the avowed object of France to involve us in a war with England, after so long denying us justice, and neglecting to repeal her decrees, she would do nothing that would be the means of accommodating our disputes with England. Upon the whole, she had pretty precise data furnished her to regulate her measures by. For instance, the Embargo of April 1st, 1812, was laid for ninety days, and was declared to be the prelude to war. From the 1st of April, to the 10th May, allowed ample time for the intelligence to be carried to France, and from the 10th May, the date of Bassano's communicating the repealing Decree to Mr. Barlow, to the 16th June, there was more than time enough, with the prevailing winds at that season, to bring the repealing Decree to this country. Now it never has been satisfactorily explained, why the war was declared before the ninety days, the limitation of the embargo, had expired. If the repealing Decree came to hand in time to prevent the war, this accounts for the haste, because the Wasp had been dispatched from France to England, and it was reasonable to expect, and it was expected, that a corresponding repeal would take place in England, and arrive here before the expiration of the Embargo, and thus would this war have been averted. But no, the measure was precipitated, when a few weeks at all events, would have brought us the repeal of the orders in council. Time alone can develop these things, though accident may give us earlier information, & exhibit the whole transaction, mysterious as it now is to the world.

Under all circumstances, Mr. H. wondered how the people were carried along by the party in power, who always contrived to drown the voice of reason, and to bear down their adversaries by clamor. His wonder somewhat ceased, when he heard that the people, in the section of the country from which came the gentleman who last addressed the house yesterday, never heard, until the last Spring, that there had been any such thing as Orders in Council. Such a mass of ignorance could be led by the nose any where, or moulded into any shape that their leaders pleased.

Mr. Hanson would return once more to the gentleman from Tennessee, (Mr. Grundy) whom he was not yet willing to leave.

He observed it was a remark made by one of the greatest, best and most consistent statesmen of this or any other age, that "if any one criterion more than all the rest, distinguished a wise and prudent government, from an administration weak and imprudent, it was this, *will to know, when and in what manner to surrender that which it was impossible to keep.*" Let this maxim be regarded in the present case. It applies to individuals as well as governments, and they may find their account respecting the experience of Edmund Burke. I know, said Mr. Hanson, a deaf ear will not only be turned to this advice, but it may be met with sneers and ridicule. I know sir, it is not in the nature of imbecility and its concomitant obstinacy to benefit by experience, or to acknowledge any other influences, or yield to any other impulses than the passion of the moment. They never draw lessons of wisdom from adversity; for folly is sure to be rendered obdurate by misfortune. You find in private life beings of this description, perverse and headstrong in proportion to the uniformity of their failures and disappointments. Like mules they plant their feet in the ground, and can neither be led nor driven. Once overreached and pursued by misfortune, they plunge deeper and deeper into difficulty—they will multiply their desperate

adventures from some ten, twenty, to an hundred fold. It is a most desperate gambling policy they pursue, a policy which can alone be likened unto gambling, where the unfortunate adventurer doubles & redoubles his risk, upon the plan of shooting another arrow in the same direction to bring back that which is lost.

The gentleman from Tennessee, has said much of British influence, in connection with his doctrine of moral treason. Before he takes the mote from our eye, let him pluck the beam from his own. Let him judge not, lest he be judged. But, among the leading prominent causes of this war, that of particular foreign predilections and partialities—that of French influence is never adverted to, but an instant ferment, a flame is blown up in this house, threatening to devour all obnoxious to its fury. Why, truly, sir, (said Mr. H.) the wonder with me is, that any doubt or delicacy should be felt upon that subject. It is matter of historical record, the annals of all time show it, from the days of the Caesars down to those of your Napoleons, that all nations, *a concomitantibus, ex visceribus rei* have had their foreign partialities, their favorites, their allies. I know not that human nature has undergone any such changes as to forbid or refute the supposition of a particular foreign leaning in the councils of our country, for nothing is more natural or easier accounted for. Is not human nature the same in this hemisphere, that it is in Europe? and does not the gentleman know that Holland had her *Schimelpenninck*, Austria her *Cobentzel*, Sweden her old doating treacherous *Duke of Sudermania*, and Spain her Prince of Peace? At different periods, every nation of Europe, even England once during the Stuart dynasty, has avowed, has not pretended to deny or conceal an attachment and subserviency to France. And yet, sir, there can be no question, had any one presumed to suspect Godoy on the very day he sold his country, and the wages of treason were paid, his head would have been the forfeit for such suspicion, if within the traitor's reach. So sure is it that tyrants and wicked men, that the guilty, are always most cruel, most implacable, most relentless and sanguinary. They seek to cover their crimes by the effect of terror, rage and blood. No nation felt this French influence, or more candidly avowed it in her acts than immortal Russia. Some of her best citizens remained almost to the last under this fatal unnatural delusion. But she saw her error ere it was too late. She saw the abyss yawning before her, and perceived there was no salvation, but by breaking up her French connections. And the grateful acknowledgments of the good and wise of every clime have ascended to the throne of grace for her sudden and miraculous deliverance—that she has emancipated Europe, and rescued these states from the awful calamities impending over them from the grave dug for their independence. It is a reflection at which we may well weep, while the poor Cossack of the Daun on the borders of the "frightful climate," was pouring out his life's blood in the cause of humanity, American blood was streaming on the frontiers of Canada. While Napoleon was carrying on "a contest for the government in Spain," our restrictive energies were withholding from the betrayed patriots, our surplus produce.—[Mr. Hanson being completely exhausted, abruptly concluded finishing his course of argument.]

RICHMOND, JUNE 30.
OPERATIONS AT HAMPTON.
WANTON EXCESSES OF THE BRITISH.

At half past 7 o'clock last evening, the Governor received from Maj. Crutchfield, the following minute and satisfactory detail of the operations in the late attack of the British on Hampton. While we contemplate the overwhelming force, of the invaders, and admire the undaunted and obstinate defence made by our handful of troops, we must blush with indignation at the savage and brutal excesses of the enemy after getting possession of the town and neighbourhood. Who can read this faithful and exact narrative, without an eager desire to participate in the glory of expelling these monsters from our land?

York County, Half-way House,
June 28, 1813.

SIR,
Although I have given you by two communications, a partial ac-

count of the engagement with the enemy at Hampton, on the 25th instant, I will now having it more in my power, beg leave to communicate to your excellency a detail of the occurrences of the day.

At an early period of the morning of the 25th inst. our Mill Creek patrol gave information, that from 30 to 40 British barges filled with men, were approaching the mouth of Hampton Creek, by the minor channel, from the direction of Newport's Neuse. Our troops were immediately formed on their encampment, on Little England plantation, south west of, and divided from Hampton by a narrow creek, over which a slight foot bridge had been erected. In a very short time after our Celey's patrol reported the landing and approach of a number of the enemy's troops in our rear. A little after 5 o'clock several barges were seen approaching Black Beard's Point, the headmost of which commenced a firing of round shot, which was immediately returned from our battery of 4 long 12 pounders. The enemy intimidated by the quick and direct fire of our cannon, drew back and sheltered himself behind the point; and from thence continued to throw his round twelve and 18 pound shots accompanied by a great number of rockets, charged with combustible matter, which with very few exceptions, and those without injurious effect upon our detachment or encampment, either fell short or over-reached their object. For the space of three quarters of an hour or more, during which time an exchange of discharges took place without the enemy's doing any damage; our infantry troops were posted under cover of a high ditch, immediately in front of our camp. During this period, many rockets and large shells fell within our encampment. At this time our rifle company, upon the earliest information of the enemy's approach by land, had been dispatched to conceal themselves in the woods near the road by which it was supposed the enemy was approaching, commenced a well directed and destructive fire on the head of the invading columns. Being now well satisfied as to the point of attack on us from the land side, and discovering from the timidity of the enemy in his barges, that no landing was intended to be made on our water position, and knowing that our rifle corps, from its great inferiority to the enemy, was in a very critical situation, I marched with the infantry under my command, to the point of attack in order to support it, as well as to annoy the enemy in his approach, and prevent his making an attack on our rear, advantageous to his views, and in aid of his intention, to surround and cut us off from retreat.

We advanced in columns of platoons through a lane and open cornfield which led from our encampment to the enemy, and to the Main and Celey's roads—and when in the field within 200 yards of the gate opening into the Celey road and a thicket of pines, we were fired upon by the enemy's musketry, from a thick wood at the upper end of a field immediately bordering on the road. Upon this discharge, orders were given to wheel to the left into line, and march upon the enemy. In this position we had marched not more than 50 yards, when the enemy opened upon us 2 6 pound field pieces loaded with grape and canister shot, and his machines filled with rockets of a small size. Upon this sudden, and to our whole detachment, unexpected attack with ordnance, I deemed it necessary to wheel again into column, and gain if possible, a passage through the gate defile, with a position in the woods immediately behind the ground occupied by the rifle corps, which kept the enemy in check in that quarter, by its deadly discharges under the direction of Capt. Servant, who with his brave officers and soldiers, acted in a manner worthy of veterans. At this time Capt. Cooper a most skilful, brave and vigilant officer, with his brave troop, altho' much worn down with the fatigue of patrolling and other duties, were closely engaged in annoying the enemy's left flank, and would have been cut off, but for his superior judgment. The column was formed with all the celerity that the nature of the ground, (a soft and newly plowed field) the advantageous situation of the enemy aided by his sheltered position, and the partly disciplined experience of our troops would admit. During the time occupied by the change of position in our detachment, and its march through

the defile, a continued fire on us was kept up by the enemy. On our reaching and passing the road, into the wood, the grape-shot from a third field piece commenced its fire on us, which together with that from the two former, threw the platoons of our column into confusion and retreat. A few of our leading platoons, headed by Maj. Corbin and myself, wheeled promptly into the wood, and formed on the flanks of our riflemen, under a heavy and continued discharge of the enemy's cannon, musketry and rockets. The action was now for a short time kept up with warmth and spirit both on the part of the enemy and our riflemen and leading infantry platoons, commanded by Captains Shield and Herndon, with their subalterns in the first division of the battalion. Capts. Ashby, Brown, Miller and Carey, with Capt. Goodall of the U. S. regiment of artillery, who volunteered on this occasion, commanded the remaining divisions of the detachment, and acted with great courage and coolness.

In this sharp and trying contest, Maj. Corbin received in his left arm and leg two severe wounds, with a musket ball in the neck of his horse. My efforts aided by the brave adjutant Robert Anderson and Lieut. John P. Armistead, (both of whom notwithstanding their exposed situation in exerting themselves to rally the troops escaped beyond expectation, and who for their skill and undaunted firmness, deserve much of their country.) were directed to rallying the rear and retreating platoons of the detachment which were dispersing in every direction, while a large body of the enemy made an effort to outflank, and cut off our retreat. It now became indispensably necessary for all our troops to retire, which they did under a continued but ill directed fire from the enemy, who pursued for two miles with little loss on our part, while our men occasionally stooping at a fence or ditch, at every fire brought down one of the pursuing foe.

Capt. Prior with his Lieutenants Lively and Jones, and his brave, active matrosses, after slaughtering many of the enemy with his field-pieces, remained on the ground till surrounded—and when the enemy was within 60 or 70 yards of the fort, they spiked their guns broke through the enemy's rear, and by swimming a creek made good their retreat without losing a man, taking with them their carbines and hiding them in the woods. Too much praise cannot be given to this band of heroes.

From accounts which can be relied upon, the enemy landed and had drawn up in battle array, at least 2500 men. Their loss cannot be less than 200 and is believed to be half as many more. Our little force was 349 infantry and riflemen, 62 artillery and 25 cavalry. The loss on our part is 7 killed, 12 wounded, 1 prisoner and 11 missing, who are believed to be in the neighbourhood with their families.

To give you sir, an idea of the savage-like disposition of the enemy on their getting possession of the neighbourhood, would be a vain attempt. Although Sir Sidney Beckwith assured me that no uneasiness need be felt in relation to the unfortunate Americans; the fact is, that on yesterday there were several dead bodies lying unburied, and the wounded not even assisted into town, altho' observed to be crawling through the fields towards a cold and inhospitable protection.

The unfortunate females of Hampton who could not leave the town, were suffered to be abused in the most shameful manner, not only by the venal savage foe, but by the unfortunate and infatuated blacks who were encouraged in their excesses. They pillaged and encouraged every act of rapine and murder, killing a poor man by the name of Kirby who had been lying on his bed at the point of death for more than six weeks, shooting his wife in the hip at the same time, and killing his faithful dog lying under his feet. The murdered Kirby was lying last night weltering in his blood.

I shall return to Hampton this evening or in the morning with the troops under my command and such reinforcements as may reach me, where we will endeavour to make another stand. The enemy evacuated the town at 3 o'clock yesterday morning.

I am very respectfully, &c.
STA. CRUTCHFIELD.
His Ex. Gov. Barbour.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 1.

A bill from the senate to prohibit the citizens of the United States from carrying on any trade or traffic with the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland and their dependencies, was read a first and second time and referred to a committee of the whole house for to-morrow.

A bill from the senate to authorize the President of the U. States to cause to be built barges for the defence of the ports and harbours of the U. S. was twice read and referred to the committee on naval affairs.

TAX BILLS.

An engrossed bill for the assessment and collection of direct taxes and internal duties was read a third time.

The question on this passage was decided by yeas and nays and were yeas 95, nays 63.

The house in committee of the whole Mr. Nelson in the chair, on the bill laying duties on licences to distillers of spirituous liquors.

Mr. Taylor moved to strike out the 2d section of the bill. Negated, 65 to 81.

Mr. Fisk of N. York moved to amend the 3d section by striking out nine cents, the duty proposed to be laid on the capacity of the still for using it two weeks, and inserting 12 cents, with a view should this amendment prevail of moving an addition of 33 1/3 per cent. on all the rates fixed by the committee of ways and means. Negated 70 to 78.

Two amendments were proposed by Mr. Potter and Mr. King of Massachusetts, which were calculated to equalize the duties of stills employed in distilling foreign and domestic materials, which were negated.

After this bill was gone through, the committee took up the bill for laying a direct tax, and having made progress, the committee rose and reported progress; and the house adjourned.

Friday, July 2.

The reports of the naval committee agreeing to the amendment of the bill for rewarding the officers and crew of the Hornet, and the bill authorizing the building of barges, were referred to the committee of the whole.

BARGES OR ROW GALLIES.

The house then, on motion of Mr. Nelson, resolved itself into a committee of the whole. Mr. Alston in the chair, on the bill last mentioned.

After a short but animated debate on the bill the committee rose, and reported the bill to the house, which was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading in the following words:

"Be it enacted, &c. That for the protection of the ports and harbours of the U. S. the President shall cause to be built, without delay, such number of barges as he may deem necessary, to be armed, equipped and manned, as he may direct, a size not less than 45 feet long and capable of carrying heavy guns."

The bill was subsequently read a third time and passed, without a division.

DEFENCE OF MARITIME FRONTIERS.

On motion of Mr. Troup, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole. Mr. Nelson in the chair, on the bill to amend the act in addition to the act for raising an additional military force.

The 1st section of the bill authorizes the enlistment (at the discretion of the executive) of 5 of the regiments of what are usually called the 12 months men (authorized by an act of last session) to be for and during the war, instead of 12 months, to be limited, as to services to the defence of the seaboard of the U. S. or of such part thereof as the president may select and determine.

This section having been read, Mr. Troup explained the views of the military committee in recommending the passage of this bill. Mr. Troup wished so to modify the bill as that the destination of this force should be subject to be changed by act of congress, if congress should hereafter deem it expedient; and he moved an amendment to that effect.

After a desultory debate, in which Messrs. Troup, Gholson, Wright, Clay, Grosvenor, Bradley and Taylor took part, principally turning on the propriety of enlisting men for a particular service or destination—this amendment was negated yeas 58 to 52.

The bill as amended was engrossed for a third reading.

MARYLAND GAZETTE
Baltimore, Thursday, July 3, 1813.

It cannot have escaped the recollection of any one acquainted with the political character of Maryland, only a few years past, how extremely elated the democrats were to have such a man as Col. Mercier attached to their party, and what flattering court was paid him. The scene is now entirely changed; instead of that reverence, that unqualified applause, with which they professed to honour him, every manial of the party who can wield a pen, or is fruitful in verbosity, is employed to vilify his character; and for what? For no other reason, but because his good sense would not suffer him to appropriate all the virtues which have so eminently distinguished our administration, and yield his willing support to all their visionary schemes, which seemed to have no other object than the ruin of his country. He was guided by principle and had sufficient foresight to see the tendency of that course of policy, which has not only precipitated this government from the lofty eminence which she held in the eyes of most nations, but has brought thousands to poverty, and a flood of evils upon all. The most terrible imprecations are now fulminated against him by these retailers of scandal. Every puppy in human shape who can yelp "tory" and "apostate," has taken himself at liberty to hunt him down, and gorge their appetites in the vocabulary of his character; but a character like his has nothing to fear from their pursuits; for as often as these attacks are made, so much more brilliant will his virtue appear. Few, stand higher in the estimation of virtuous and enlightened men than V. Maxey esq.—we find that his integrity and undiminished reputation, are insufficient to shield him against the attacks and vile base of these Harpies of democracy. Were his character to pass through the ordeal of the strictest scrutiny, it would suffer nothing by the examination. Such men, however, are peculiarly obnoxious to factionists, therefore it was not to be expected that he would escape the indiscriminate slaughter which malignant spirits have long been planning against virtuous men. But there is this consolation left to those who fondly incur their displeasure that their praise is censure, and their censure is praise.

It is generally reported in Washington, that Mr. Secretary Munroe is to be placed at the head of the army, with Lieutenant-General's command, and that the Kentucky Cicero, Mr. Speaker, is to succeed him in the office of secretary of State. This will be something better than to place him at the head of the treasury department, altho' should calculate upon no great deal of good resulting to the country from there. It would require a genius and popularity different from what Mr. Munroe can lay claim to, to revive an office that has been so much diminished. Should this arrangement take place, and the treasury be declared vacant, there will then be an appointment of some other disciple of the Jefferson school.

"Agitation of mind" with which Dearborn has been so much troubled of late, has lost him many democratic friends. That unbounded confidence which they at first placed in his peace and military skill, has given place to bitter invective and distrust. One who dislikes the smell of gunpowder, and the whizzing of balls, as he does, should never be selected to lead an army to the field, or conduct any of its operations. No man ever more unfortunate in the appointment of his general officers than Madison has been; and this must be attributed to a wish to extend his name to his own political friends, rather than to any other cause. He might have found generals qualified, both by command and experience, to command an army, but in making his selections, Madison always appeared to have a superior to that of merit.