

Laid before the House of Representatives a report of the present strength of the army of the United States, with the distribution thereof among the several military posts which is designed to protect, together with any information which may be able to afford respecting the competency of such force to preserve and defend the fortifications among which it is distributed, and to aid in constructing and to defend such other military works, if any, as it may be in the contemplation of the government to erect for the more effectual security of the United States, and of the several territories thereof; the Secretary of War has the honour to make a return of the present strength of the army of the United States, with the distribution thereof among the several military posts.

The military establishment as it now stands is sufficiently extensive to keep the fortifications in a state of preservation, but is wholly inadequate to defend them against a regular attack by a force of sufficient strength or skill. To garrison the forts on the maritime frontier alone would require, according to the best information and estimates of this department, more than three our present number, to repel the assaults of such a force. The portion of the army stationed in the neighbourhood of fortifications now erecting, are employed to aid in constructing them; but only an inconsiderable number has yet been so engaged, owing to its dispersed situation. Though not immediately comprehended in the resolution of the house, it is but justice to the army to observe, that it has been employed to a considerable extent the last year in the construction of roads, arsenals and other public works connected with the defence of the country.

The existing fortifications are thought to be wholly insufficient in the event of a future war. As the declaration of war is the act of the whole community, justice, honour, and humanity require that every portion of the country should, as far as possible, be protected against its ravages. This is among the most sacred duties of the government; and impressed with its importance, a board of the most skilful officers in our service has been constituted to examine the whole line of our frontier, and to determine on the position and extent of works that may be necessary to the defence of the country. This great work is not yet completed; and in its present state, it is impossible to speak with any precision as to the extent to which our fortifications ought to be carried. The soldiers will be able to render important aid in constructing the works that may be determined on; but from the composition of the army, they can only come in aid of regular and professed workmen.

J. C. CALHOUN.

[The detailed and particular statement, accompanying the report from the adjutant-general's office, states the actual number of the present peace establishment at 8,221, including officers.]

The report was ordered to lie on the table.

SURVIVING REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

The remainder of this day's sitting was spent in a committee of the whole on the bill concerning the surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution. There was much debate, occasionally eloquent, but generally desultory, on amendments proposed to the bill, but involving also its principle. Messrs. Bloomfield, Walker, Garnett, Harrison, Strother, Comstock, Palmer, Livermore, Trimble and Rhea, successively joined in the debate.

The principal question before the committee of the whole, was on an amendment proposed by General Harrison; which was to strike out the two first sections of the present bill, and insert in lieu thereof other sections, providing that every Revolutionary Officer and Soldier, who formed a part of the military establishment of the United States at the close of the war, or who previously thereto served not less than three years, and received an honourable discharge, shall receive a pension, if an officer, of half pay; if a private, of five dollars per month, but no officer's pension to exceed the half pay of a lieutenant colonel, &c.

The question on this motion was not taken before the committee rose reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

A COUNTING-HOUSE CALENDAR, FOR THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1818.

MOON'S PHASES.			Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January—31 days							1	2	3
New	6	6 34 A	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
First	14	5 0 A	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Full	22	5 39 M	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Last	29	9 55 M	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
February—28 days							1	2	3
New	5	6 50 M	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
First	12	0 3 A	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Full	20	9 2 A	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Last	27	4 6 A							
March—31 days							1	2	3
New	6	8 27 A	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
First	14	6 38 A	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Full	22	9 31 M	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Last	29	5 29 M	29	30	31				
April—30 days							1	2	3
New	5	11 5 M	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
First	13	11 24 M	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Full	20	7 23 A	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Last	27	2 37 A	26	27	28	29	30		
May—31 days							1	2	3
New	5	2 19 M	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
First	13	1 30 M	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Full	20	3 22 M	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Last	27	0 10 M	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
June—30 days							1	2	3
New	3	56 A	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
First	11	0 55 A	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Full	18	10 18 M	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Last	25	10 55 M	28	29	30				
July—31 days							1	2	3
New	5	9 13 M	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
First	10	10 10 A	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Full	17	5 17 A	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Last	24	11 31 A	26	27	28	29	30	31	
August—31 days							1	2	3
New	1	11 28 A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
First	9	6 7 M	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Full	16	1 20 M	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Last	23	2 0 A	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
New	31	0 44 A	30	31					
September—30 days							1	2	3
First	7	1 53	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Full	14	11 25	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Last	22	6 33 M	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
New	29	0 55 M	27	28	29	30			
October—31 days							1	2	3
First	7	2 51 M	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Full	14	0 24 M	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Last	21	11 59 A	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
New	29	0 28 A	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
November—30 days							1	2	3
First	6	7 53 M	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Full	13	6 24 M	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Last	21	3 17 M	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
New	27	11 4 A	29	30					
December—31 days							1	2	3
First	4	6 26 A	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Full	12	11 4 M	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Last	20	9 14 M	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
New	27	9 49 M	27	28	29	30	31		

Upper Marlborough,

November 3d, 1817.

Agreeably to public notice by the Census, a meeting of the Members of the Faculty was held at Major Bowling's Tavern, Upper Marlborough; when Dr. Samuel Franklin was called to the chair, and Dr. J. B. Semmes appointed secretary; and the following resolutions were submitted and unanimously carried:

- 1st. Resolved, That in the opinion of the Members of the Faculty present, that it is expedient to organize a Medical Society for Prince George's county.
- 2d. Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to draft a Constitution for the government of said Society, and that they report at the next meeting of the Faculty.
- 3d. Resolved, That Doctors B. J. Semmes, Samuel Franklin, and J. D. Barrette, be the committee.
- 4th. Resolved, That the next Meeting of the Faculty be held at Major Bowling's Tavern, Upper Marlborough, the second Monday in May next.
- 5th. Resolved, That the proceedings of this Meeting be published; for the information of the Faculty, and that they are hereby invited to attend the next meeting.

Samuel Franklin, Chairman.
B. J. Semmes, Secretary.
Dec. 4, 1817. L.D.J.F.M.S.A.

State of Maryland, &c.

Anne-Arundel County, Orphans Court,
December 23, 1817.

On application by petition of Benjamin Thomas, administrator with the will annexed, of Ebenezer Thomas, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, it is ordered that he give the notice required by law for creditors to exhibit their claims against the said deceased, and that the same be published once in each week, for the space of six successive weeks, in the Maryland Gazette and Political Intelligencer.

John Gassaway, Reg. Wills,
A. A. County.

Notice is hereby given,

That the subscriber of Anne-Arundel county, hath obtained from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, in Maryland, letters of administration with the will annexed on the estate of Ebenezer Thomas, late of A. A. County, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at or before the first day of March next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 23d day of December, 1817.

Benjamin Thomas, adm'r. W. A.
January 1.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Annapolis, Thursday, Jan. 1.

On Monday last, the tobacco-house of Thomas H. Dorsey, esq. of this county, was, together with about five hogheads of tobacco, consumed by fire.

The House of Delegates of this state formed a quorum yesterday, and proceeded to business.

NAVAL DEPOT.

From the National Register.

Being equally interested with the rest of my fellow citizens in the honour, safety and welfare of our common country, I have regarded the subject of a NAVAL DEPOT with the most lively solicitude. Our marine engines, equipments and means as weapons offensive and defensive, are important in themselves, but much more important as they may be rendered efficient and manageable, disposable and beneficial from a good position; or comparatively useless and inefficient from a disadvantageous location. Such confidence had Archimedes in the combination and application of the mechanical powers, that he only wanted a proper place for his lever to enable him to raise the globe.—Admitting the efficiency of our naval means and machinery, let us dispassionately inquire where they may be most advantageously concentrated for the promotion of the public good. To make choice of an unfavourable site, from self interest, or sectional preference, I deprecate from the recesses of my heart. It is unworthy of any son of the Republic to indulge in such partiality—for it were as reasonable to deprive a lever of its fulcrum and still expect its full powers as to place our naval energies in an eccentric or unsuitable position, and yet look for the most favourable results.—We have all read of a celebrated army of antiquity, which perished in the great desert overwhelmed with waves of sand. Another recently sunk beneath polar frosts and snows. Yet nobody doubts the capability of either force; and their very enemies have generously deplored the fate of gallant men sent to contend against the elements: but we have extended our prefatory remarks too far, let us fairly and promptly enter on a discussion of the question.

It is now nearly a year since the reports of the navy commissioners were published in the National Register, (see vol. 3, page 87.) I have lately given them another perusal; and I am pleased to find that although those able practical officers do not precisely agree on any specific plan or particular spot, they yet afford a choice of many eligible sites on the waters of the Chesapeake. It is reported that the President has since despatched generals SWIFT and BERNARD and col. M'RAY, (eminent engineers of the army) with Captains SINCLAIR and ELLIOTT of the navy, to re-examine all the points embraced in the navy commissioners' reports, &c. &c. and to return their opinion on the same. From such professional skill we may justly anticipate a masterly and decisive report. For it is to be hoped and expected, that these officers have been authorized and required to inspect every conspicuous place along the waters of the Chesapeake, from Annapolis to Norfolk, and the middle ground, &c. inclusive—taking a view of every thing in their range. It is highly probable that they may select a situation entirely unobjectionable. I hope too that the result of their surveys and investigation will soon be submitted to the public, that Congress may, without delay, legislate on the subject, with a full possession of all the facts before them. Peace is certainly the proper season to prepare for war; and as we cannot always predict the exact duration of the former, it is an imperious duty to waste as little time as possible in making ready for the latter. On this account I sincerely regret that so much procrastination which is well termed the "thief of time" has already taken place. But much as I am concerned at this delay, I would prefer waiting still longer for more accurate information, to the premature adoption of a preposterous plan, or site, for sake of despatch and decision. "He" says the Spanish proverb "who decides in haste will have time to repent at leisure." The multitude of fine sites on the Chesapeake naturally occasion a difference of opinion; but ought we

therefore to transfer our view to a remote or inland place, as described, and less temperate point of climate, than any other on the Chesapeake Bay? Surely, that would be like making for a sovereign arbiter in the public disputes of wisdom, the prosperity and safety to Rhode Island, like other parts of the Union they are entitled to protection, but when we are selecting the best place for a naval depot and dry dock, we must choose with reference to the general good of the Union—Neither can it in the contemplation of this question be expected of human liberality, even if it were politic so to do, that the national legislature should altogether lose sight of the different principles avowed and opposite conduct pursued by the citizens and public authorities during the late war in different sections of the Union. In the course of those conflicts which must be expected hereafter to arise for oceanic supremacy between us and other nations, our great naval depots will assuredly be the primary objects of attack; and beyond the intrinsic strength of their position, they must also rely on the patriotic spirit of the adjacent population which can alone be organized and put in motion by means of a friendly and co-operating disposition in the local authorities.—It is for the wisdom of congress to decide how far in such emergencies those might be safely depended upon, who are deemed it not compatible with morality and religion to rejoice at our naval successes and who arrogated the right to disobey at pleasure a call by the constitutional "commander in chief" for the services of those who have been justly denominated the natural defenders of the country. The question then is, which, under all circumstances is the most eligible place for a naval depot?

The extent of our line of coast, the seat of government, the interests to be protected, the extent and accessibility of our leading waters, must be taken into consideration in deciding the question. Nature, indeed, has scarcely left "a loop hole hang a doubt upon." To place our reliance on means of offence or defence, situated at the extremity of our line of sea-coast, or beyond the practice attributed by an enterprising author to the first Dutch settlers, who preferred building at Communipaw, to founding cities on the terra firma of Manhattan island, because, in the former place, they could drive piles into the marshes and the solidity of the latter, would not admit of that favourite figure of comparison beyond its just limits, I must declare, that between Georgetown & St. Mary's, the Chesapeake or Rhode Island, Boston or Portsmouth, it is an easy matter to choose aright; for it seems impossible for common sense to go against Nature and reason indicate the Chesapeake as the most proper situation for a Naval Depot. The geographical position of this bay, and the length it penetrates the bowels of the country—the immense commerce to be easily prevented, we (ceteris paribus) prefer it to its vicinity to Washington, to which it is the natural route to Baltimore, and to the consideration that its site would be identified with that of the capital of the state, in section, or in disaster, are seducing and powerful recommendations, to be added as a considerable little moment the excellence of the water and the prosperity of the place.

Had the ready size to insert even on any of the tributary streams of the Chesapeake, instead of a miserable flotilla of row-boats, a pursuit of which served only to close the defenceless approaches to the Capitol, and ultimately to prove for its destruction the British raiders would have had reason to boast of. Their victorious legions could never have met the metropolis of the Union. But it is useless to argue, in every one must, at a glance, perceive the prodigious importance of preserving, during a state of hostilities, the uninterrupted enjoyment of the waters of the Chesapeake, and eye that connect the two sections of the continent, the occupation of them by an enemy, never stops as to means of which would enable it again to contend with more success, to destroy

the entrance of the bay, the water is 52 or 60 feet deep, for 2 1/2 miles, and gradually decreases, and passes two projecting points at its sides, within which the water is about 24 feet deep from point to point, half a mile wide. From this point, about two miles further up, the water is by two or three feet diminished to about 500 yards wide, presenting above those a beautiful basin in which the entrance inside 20 feet at low water.

"This river above whose banks are perfectly susceptible of defence a naval force, presents in a respects, the most seducing for its selection as a naval depot rendezvous."

Commodore Porter says of St. Mary's, "In point of health situation, security from maritime attack, and (I am informed) ice, excellence of harbour, easy egress and ingress, to an inner harbour, at all times of war drawing not more than 1-2 feet of water; the advantage it offers by means of stream water for labour-saving purposes and its convenience for fine timber, St. Mary's is in my opinion superior to any other place which I have a knowledge of Chesapeake for a naval depot."

It may be here suggested that a safe shelter near the mouth of the Chesapeake would be of great importance, as it would afford a resting point to her numerous sailing privateers, which made immense havoc during the late war on the commerce of the more, perhaps, than those from the United States besides. The Pataasco with a northerly wind they would reach the Point in eight or ten hours. They would run to sea with great advantage under cover of one night, as a strong northerly wind, as they ten did even from above the of Patuxent last war, eluding vigilance or laughing at the of the enemy who were wont to "whizzed by us like ducks."

It is to be regretted that the mind has been so long indistinctly divided on a subject intimately connected with the safety of this portion of the union—we need not be reminded of the provoking aggressions of the mining enemy (in possessing the Chesapeake) during the of the late war "laying waste devastating" its shores, nor is necessary for a ghost to inform us of the establishment of a naval depot on its waters is the only way by which we can collect in readiness the means of fighting against a similar vexation after.

Had a central camp been pitched in season between this city and Washington, as was suggested some worthy and patriotic citizens, whence an army have marched on either with celerity, Troy had not fallen, and it cannot be denied that St. Mary's as a naval rendezvous, possesses eminent central advantages. A military force co-operating with a naval one from that point, would be equally efficient in defence of Norfolk, Washington or Baltimore. However I am not a specialist for section although pointing the superior advantages of a particular site.—The navy is a property and no section, isolation has any exclusive right to services.

CAUPOLIC.
Baltimore, 16th Dec. 1817.

New-
A letter received on the morning, announces that "LIA-ISLAND is in possession of the United States."

A census lately taken in G estimates the number of whites, 175,981; blacks, 134,459.—309,440.

Milledgeville Dec.
IMPORTANT INDIAN NEWS.
The editor of the Reflective last night the following important letter from his attorney and obliging correspondent officer of the staff dated "Fort Hawkins, Dec. 1817. The firing, which was intended to be an attack upon Colonel Buckle's camp, was a cannon from Fort Scott in return of fires which the Indians made the night which were built the river. Nothing material