

NILES' WEEKLY REGISTER.

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BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1815.

[WHOLE NO. 181.]

Hec olim meminisse juvabit.—VIRGIL.

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Glorious News!

Orleans saved and peace concluded.

"The star spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

The matters detailed and recorded in the present number of the REGISTER, are of incalculable importance. The enemy has retired in disgrace from New-Orleans, and peace was signed at Ghent on the 24th December, on honorable terms: At least, so we believe from the *dolefuls* of the British ministerialists. For particulars, see the several heads.

In our next paper, as we hope by that time to be a little more composed under those joyful tidings, we shall endeavor to arrange a great mass of interesting matter that lies over for insertion.

Who would not be an American? Long live the republic! All hail! last asylum of oppressed humanity! Peace is signed in the arms of victory!

✂ The present number was held back on the hope of obtaining a copy of the TREATY. See page 397.

New Orleans preserved.

Copy of a letter from major-general Jackson to the secretary of war, dated

Head-quarters, 7th military district,
Camp 4 miles below New-Orleans, 19th Jan. 1815.

Last night at 12 o'clock, the enemy precipitately decamped and returned to their boats, leaving behind him, under medical attendance, eighty of his wounded including two officers, 14 pieces of his heavy artillery, and a quantity of shot, having destroyed much of his powder. Such was the situation of the ground which he abandoned, and of that through which he retired, protected by canals, redoubts, entrenchments and swamps on his right, and the river on his left, that I could not without encountering a risk, which true policy did not seem to require, or to authorize, attempt to annoy him on his retreat. We took only eight prisoners.

Whether it is the purpose of the enemy to abandon the expedition altogether, or renew his efforts at some other point, I do not pretend to determine with positiveness. In my own mind, however, there is but little doubt that his last exertions have been made in this quarter, at any rate for the present season, and by the next I hope we shall be fully prepared for him. In this belief I am strengthened not only by the prodigious loss he has sustained at the position he had just quitted, but by the failure of his fleet to pass fort St. Philip.

His loss on this ground, since the debarkation of his troops, as stated by the last prisoners and deserters, and as confirmed by many additional circumstances, must have exceeded four thousand; and was greater in the action of the 8th than was estimated, from the most correct data then in his possession, by the inspector-general, whose report has been forwarded to you. We succeeded, on the 8th, in getting from the enemy about 1000 stand of arms of various descriptions.

Since the action of the 8th, the enemy have been allowed very little respite—my artillery from both sides of the river being constantly employed, till the night, and indeed until the hour of their retreat, in annoying them. No doubt they thought it quite time to quit a position in which so little rest could be found.

I am advised by major Overton, who commands at fort St. Philip, in a letter of the 18th, that the enemy having bombarded his fort for 8 or 9 days from 13 inch mortars without effect, had, on the morning of that day, retired. I have little doubt that he would have been able to have sunk their vessels had they attempted to run by.

Giving the proper weight to all these considerations, I believe you will not think me too sanguine in the belief that Louisiana is now clear of its enemy. I hope, however, I need not assure you, that wherever I command, such a belief shall never occasion any relaxation in the measures for resistance. I am but too sensible that the moment when the enemy is opposing us, is not the most proper to provide for them.

I have the honor to be, &c.

ANDREW JACKSON,
Maj. gen. com'd'g.

P. S. On the 18th our prisoners on shore were delivered us, an exchange having been previously agreed to. Those who are on board the fleet will be delivered at Petit Coquille—after which I shall still have in my hands an excess of several hundred.

20th—Mr. Shields,* purser in the navy, has to-day taken 54 prisoners; among them are four officers.

A. J.

*I have the honor to claim the gallant Shields as one of my most respected friends. I have letters from him of the 16th and 17th ult. He says, "the day after the gun-boats were taken I was sent down under a flag of truce to ascertain the fate of our officers and men, with power to negotiate an exchange, especially for the wounded. But the enemy would make no terms—they treated the flag with contempt, and myself and the surgeon, who was with me, as prisoners, until the 17th inst. He has now lowered his tone, and begs the exchange that we offered. Defeat has humbled the arrogance of the enemy, WHO HAD PROMISED HIS SOLDIERS FORTY-EIGHT HOURS PILLAGE AND RAPINE OF THE CITY OF NEW-ORLEANS!"

Our beloved Jackson deserves immortality. He was always in the hottest and thickest of the fight; and although his health is much impaired he still sticks to his post. We pray the Almighty to spare him.

*Every movement of the enemy indicates a retreat. I am just starting on a secret business to avenge myself. If I succeed, the affair will be creditable to me—if I fail, the world, at least, shall say "there lived a man."

We have not yet the particulars of Mr. Shields' successful enterprise; but I flatter myself if when they come to hand, they will redound no little to the honor of my generous high-minded friend, and perhaps add a ray of glory to the blaze that envelopes the American navy. Mr. S. was a volunteer.

He states that our five gun-boats had a complement of 200 men—they were attacked by forty-five boats carrying 1000 men. The fight against such fearful odds lasted one hour and fifty minutes—we had only five killed and thirty wounded; the enemy acknowledge a loss of 100; and Mr. Shields adds "we may with perfect safety double that number."

[25, &c.]