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CHAPTER XVIII.

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Capture of Moose Island, in Passamaquoddy Bay—Expedition against Penobscot and Castine—Its success—Destruction of the United States' ship Adams—Capture and Destruction of several other vessels, also of a great quantity of ordnance—American militia—Chesapeake Bay—Commodore Barney's flotilla—Its progress against a
Force of the British force, commanded by captain Barrie, of the Dragon—Landing of the British at Benedict, on the Patuxent—Loss of five straggling marines. from the St. Lawrence schooner—American account of the behaviour and death of the serjeant, commanding the party—Barbarous circumstances under which, his life was taken—Landing of the British at Lower Marlborough—Intention of the American government to destroy commodore Barney's flotilla, in St. Leonard's Creek—Its prevention by a military enterprise—Repulse of the force, blockading the flotilla—Letters of commodore Barney and one of his officers—Arrival in the Potomac of rear-admiral Cockburn—His operations upon the shores of that, and other rivers

in the Chesapeake— Reception on board the British ships of American. refugee=slaves—American misrepresentation on the subject— Bounty to British deserters.

THE first military event we have to notice, after quitting the Canadas, is the occupation, on the 11th of July, 1814, by lieutenant-colonel Pilkington and captain sir Thomas Hardy, with a detachment of troops from Nova Scotia, of Moose island, near the mouth of Kobbeskook river, opposite to the province of New Brunswick, and on the western side of Passamaquoddy bay. The whole of this bay, as well as the island of Grand Manan in the bay of Fundy, was adjudged to be within the boundary of the British North-American provinces. The ceremony of taking possession of the town of Eastport, and of Fort-Sullivan, on Moose island and every other particular, connected with the expedition, will be found amply detailed in the British official accounts.* The American accounts offer nothing worthy notice; except that they make: the British force 2000, instead of about 600 troops. —

As connected with the capture of Passamaquoddy, we pass, at once, to an expedition fitted out at Halifax, Nova Scotia, against that part of the district of Maine, in the United States,

App. Nos. 98. 49. 50. 51. and 52.

lying to the eastward of the Penobscot river'; and which contains about 40 villages, and upwards of 30000 inhabitants. As to the probable object of taking possession of th's tract of country, we cannot better instruct the reader, than by referring him to a work published by Mr. Nathaniel Atcheson, in 1808, entitled :—

American Encroachments on British Rights." Our business is merely with the conduct of the expedition ; which, consisting of a 74, bearing the flag of rear-admiral Griffith, two frigates, a sloop of war, and 10 transports, having on board a company of royal artillery, two rifle-companies of the 60th, and the 29th, 62d, and 98th regiments, in all, about 1750 rank and file, under the command of lieutenant-general sir John Coape Sherbrooke, governor of Nova Scotia, sailed from Halifax on the 26th of August. The arrival of the expedition off the point of destination, its junction with other ships of war, and its further proceedings, resulting in the capture of Castine, Belfast, and Machias, the capture or destruction of 22 ships, brigs, and schooners, including the United States' frigate Adams ; also of (including those at Machias) 32 pieces of ordnance, will be found most fully detailed in the several official documents sent home upon the occasion.*

The Adams had been a 32 gun frigate, but

* App. Nos. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. and 61.

was afterwards lengthened, so as to rate a 36 ; and then, on account of some defect in her construction, cut down to a corvette : in which latter state she measured 725 tons American, or 783 English. She sailed upon her last cruize, with an armament of four long 18-pounders, 20 *Columbiad*, or short long-guns, * of the same caliber, and two long 12-pounders ; total 26 guns ; and with a complement, according to a prisoner who was some weeks on board of her, of 248 picked seamen ; chiefly masters and mates of merchantmen. The Adams was, therefore, one of the most formidable corvettes that cruized on the ocean. IN hile in the Irish channel, towards the end of July, she was chased by the Tigris, of 42 guns, captain Henderson ; and would probably have been caught, had not captain Morris thrown overboard his " quarter-guns." As the Adams was not to fight a frigate, and was an over-match for the heaviest sloop of war in the British navy, we cannot conceive what " glory" the American government expected to derive, from sending such a ship to sea ? Although the entire destruction of this fine ship, and the capture of 23 of her guns, were effected by the combined forces detached up the river for that purpose, yet Mr. Thomson concludes his account of our " blowing her up," with stating, that the British were " disappointed in

• James's *Nay*. Occur. p. 5.

the object of their expedition."* He does not; however, attempt to conceal the behaviour of the American militia ; who, he says, notwithstanding captain Morris's judicious arrangements, could not be brought to oppose an " inferior number of British regulars," and fled precipitately.* Captain Barrie's account of the very people who had stood up, though for a few minutes only, as militia, at Hamden, appearing (with, it may be supposed, scarcely breath to speak, after their well-run race) " as magistrates, select men, &c."† at Bangor, affords a tolerable specimen of the real character, of Mr. Munro's " unarmed inhabitants.":

The operations in the Chesapeake, during the summer of 1814, now claim our attention. The American editors have, as usual, by their happy talent for amplification, given importance to many events that occurred in the rivers and creeks of that capacious bay, which we should otherwise have deemed too insignificant to notice. The chief of these consist of the daring exploits and hair-breadth escapes of commodore Barney (an Irishman), and his flotilla of gun-boats. The commodore himself, we must do him the justice to say, is a truly brave man; and, no doubt, feels highly indignant at the numerous ridiculous tales that have been told of him,

* Sketches of the War, p. 235.

+ App. No. 59.

A pp. No. 69.

by even the most moderate of the American editors. Previous to our entering upon any of the operations of the flotilla, it becomes us to apprise the reader of what its force consisted.

The first account we have of the flotilla is, that " a number of boats, carrying heavy metal, were constructed in March, 1814, on the eastern shore of Maryland, for the protection of the bay ; and the command of them was given to that intrepid officer, commodore Barney."* Doctor Smith tells us that " a flotilla of small schooners and barges, was fitted out at Baltimore, to scour the bay, and protect its shores, numerous creeks and, inlets, from the enemy."† Thomson says:—" At that period," (end of May, 1814,) " a flotilla, consisting of a cutter, two gun-boats, a galley,, and nine large barges, sailed from Baltimore."‡-t. Another American account numbers the barges, when subsequently blown up, at 13 ; and a Boston newspaper augments commodore Barney's flotilla, when it left Baltimore, to 36 gun-boats, and 10 or 15 barges." The commodore's cutter or sloop was the Scorpion, mounting eight ,, carronades,, and a heavy long-gun upon a traversing carriage;,, and two of the gun-boats, we find, were No:). 137. and 138.

11' hether commodore ,,parney's,, flotilla • con-

*Hist. of the War: 'P.' 224. 11 a

Hist. of the United States, Vol. III. p. 286.

Sketches of the War, p. 332:

sisted of gun-boats, gallies, "small schooners," or "large barges," it indisputably carried "heavy metal;" as, indeed, it well might, considering that it was expressly fitted out "to scour the bay and protect its shores from the enemy." Rear-admiral Cockburn says Vach vessel had a lung-gun in the bow, and a carronade in the stern; the calibers of the guns, and the number of the crew, in each, varying, in proportion to the size of the boat, from 32-pounders and 60 men, to 18-pounders and 40 men.* It appears, also, from the American accounts, that most, if not all, of the vessels had on board furnaces for heating shot. In his estimate of the crews the rear-admiral cannot be much out of the way; for, although he mentions having taken some of the flotillamen as prisoners, an American work states the number of seamen and marines that accompanied commodore Barney to the field at Bladensburg, after the loss of his flotilla, at 6004 Upon adding to this number, such as may not have chosen to follow the commodore, and such as were taken prisoners by lieutenant Scott,* the Americans surely will not charge us with over-rating, if we estimate commodore Barney's original command at 700 men. A flotilla, so armed, manned, and equipped, cruising in waters known only to itself, and able,

* James's Nay. Occurr. his App. No. 81.

+ list. of the United States,.Vol. III. p. 297.

almost at any time, to seek protection under batteries and formidable positions on shore, within gun-shot of which nothing larger than a boat could approach, was able to cope with any force that two 74-gun ships, or four 46-gun frigates, could send against it.

The first sight gained of this flotilla, by the British, was on the 1st of June, when it was proceeding from Baltimore, past the mouth of the river Patuxent, "to scour the bay." The British vessels consisted of the St. Lawrence schooner, of 13 guns, and 55 men, and the boats, in number seven, of the Albion and Dragon 74s, under the command of captain Barrie of the latter ship. The Americans had the honor of seeing this trifling force retreat before them to the Dragon, then at anchor off Smith's-point. That ship got under weigh, and, along with the schooner and the boats, proceeded in chase; but the shallowness of the water shortly compelled her again to anchor. In the meantime, the flotilla had run for shelter into the Patuxent. Captain Barrie, by way of inducing commodore Barney to separate his force, detached two boats to cut off a schooner under Cove-point; but the commodore, not considering that his orders to give "protection" warranted such a risk, allowed her to be burnt in his sight.

One American account of this affair says: "The commodore discovered two schooners, one of

252 MILITARY OCCURRENCES BETWEEN

which carried 18 guns, and he immediately gave chase."* Here, evidently, Mr. Thomson has, by mistake, included the American schooner burnt under Cove-point. Mr. O'Connor has fallen into the same error ; or rather, he declares there were " three schooners." Not a word appears any where about :thk schooner that was burnt. One editor says :—" Barney was obliged to take refuge in-Alie• mouth of the Patuxent."t Another says **This bold exploit** did great honor to Barney and his crews : "t and all agree, that he fired " hot shot at the enemy."

On the 6th the flotilla retreated higher up the Patuxent ; and captain Barrie; being joined on the day following by the Loire 46, and Jasseur brig, proceeded up the river with those two vessels, the St. Lawrence,' and the boats of the Albion and Dragon. The flotilla retreated about two miles up St. Leonard's creek, where it could be reached by boats only ;• but the force of the latter was not equal to the attack. Captain Barrie endeavoured, however, by a discharge of rockets and carronades from the boats, to provoke the American vessels, which were moored ., in a line a-breast, across the channel, to come down within reach of the guns of the ship, brig,

* Sketches of the War, p.

Hist. of the United States, Vol. III. p. 287.

I Mist. of the War, p. 225.

and schooner,' at anchor near the mouth of the creek. At one time the flotilla, or, as Mr. O'Connor: says, " the 13 barges" got under weigh, and chased the boats to a short distance,- and then returned to their moorings. With a view to force the flotilla to quit its station, detachments of seamen and marines were landed on both sides of the river, and the American militia, estimated at :.3 or 400, retreated before them to the woods.• The marines destroyed two tobacco-stores, and several houses that formed military posts ; but still the flotilla remained at its moorings.

Fear is certainly a great magnifier of objects. To that may we ascribe the frequent appearance of *razees*, in nearly all the rivers of the Chesapeake. The name, once received as applicable to a ship of extraordinary size and force, is in the mouth of every terrified inhabitant of the coast, the moment he descries an enemy's vessel with three masts. The reader may perhaps know, that a raze is a cut-down 74. Three British ships only were fitted in this way ; and, although all were sent upon the North American station,. only one of the three entered the Chesapeake, and that not till the 25th of August, 1814. The very editors who have just done telling us that the .British cannot send their .74s up the rivers, because of their heavy draught of water, make no scruple in placing a cut-down 74 at the

mouth of every creek near to which a British frigate had cast anchor. These are the gentlemen, too, who boast that their "authentic" accounts have passed through so many editions.

As another proof of Mr. Thomson's love of the "authentic," he concludes his account of the affair in St. Leonard's creek thus: "The commodore immediately moved upon them," (the British boats,) "and after a smart fire, drove the barges down to the 18-gun vessel, which, in attempting to beat out, was so severely handled, that her crew ran her a-ground, and abandoned her."* This is the very vessel, the St. Lawrence, whose capture by the Chasseur, the Americans so joyfully announced, seven months after she was thus "run a-ground and abandoned." In justice to Mr. Thomson's contemporaries, we must say, that he is the only editor who has favored the public with this "authentic" piece of information.

On the 15th of June, the Narcissus, of 42 guns, joined the little squadron; and captain Barrie, taking with him 172 boats, containing 180 marines, and 30 of the black colonial corps, proceeded up the river to Benedict. Here the men disembarked, and drove into the woods, without a struggle, a number of militia, who left behind a part of their muskets and camp equipage, as well as a 6-pounder field-piece.

* Sketches of the War, p. 333.

t Sec Plate V.

After spiking the **latter, and destroying a store** containing tobacco, the British again took to their boats, except **five** or six men who had probably strayed too far into the woods.

The circumstances attending the capture of these men have been fully detailed in an Alexandria newspaper, of the 25th of June, and are too interesting in their nature not to be given entire to the reader. The party, it appears, consisted of a portion of the St. Lawrence's marines, commanded by **sedeant Mayeaux**, a Frenchman, who had been seventeen years in the British service, and who bore a most excellent character. The Alexandria paper, first assigning as a reason for giving so particular an account of the "late affair at Benedict," that some of the citizens "bore a distinguished part in it," proceeds as follows:—"The cavalry of the district arrived on Tuesday evening, about five o'clock, and at the moment general Stewart was preparing to attack the enemy, who were in possession of Benedict. At this moment a small detachment of the enemy presented themselves at the foot of the hill, not far distant from the place where the cavalry were posted. The order was immediately given to charge, and intercept their retreat, which was done with so much haste and impetuosity, as to break the ranks, which, considering the nature of the ground, was not **injudicious**:-Five of the enemy were

taken prisoners. - - The serjeant of the guard, having been separated from his men, and endeavouring to make his escape, was pursued. -- Among the first who overtook him, was Mr. Alexander Wise, of the Alexandria dragoons, who made a bold but unsuccessful assault upon him, and being unable to check his horse, passed ten or fifteen paces beyond him. On turning his horse, he received the fire of the serjeant, and fell dead. At this moment Mr. Alexander Hunter, 'a young gentleman of this town, (who had volunteered his services for the occasion with the cavalry, and whose conduct has already been the subject of much and well-merited commendation,) came up, when the serjeant faced upon him and received the fire of his pistol, which seemed to take effect. Mr. Hunter's horse being alarmed at the report, ran some distance from the spot, When Mr. hunter returned, he found general Stewart engaged with this intrepid soldier. He immediately advanced to the general's relief ; upon which the serjeant having had his bayonet-unshipped, dropped his musket, and, mounting an adjoining *fence*, fell upon the other side, upon his back. Mr. Hunter dismounted, and, unarmed, immediately followed and engaged him, demanding of several horsemen who advanced, to aid in securing him. Two of whom presented their pistols, and, after calling upon Mr, Hunter to disengage himself

from his antagonist, discharged their • pistols without effect. This brave marine then retreated, unpursued, to an adjoining swamp. His escape appearing certain, unless immediately pursued, Mr. Hunter begged the loan of a sword, which was presented to him by the general ; and with which he alone pursued, and soon overtook him, when a conflict ensued between them, the brave enemy endeavouring by many and vigorous efforts to get possession of the sword, and refusing, though repeatedly urged, to surrender, except with his life, which a fortunate stroke soon after terminated."

As the writer of this article,---which, be it remembered, is extracted from an American newspaper,--alludes to some "erroneous impressions" caused by " the variety of verbal accounts received," we have a right to conclude, that the account he has published is as much mollified as circumstances would admit-; particularly,-as the gallant Frenchman had not been permitted to live to tell his own story. When we reflect, too, upon the notorious partiality of the southern Americans towards the French, and their equally notorious hatred towards the British, the very fact (the knowledge of which the same account admits) that the poor sufferer was a Frenchman, may have contributed to alter the features of this, even in its present shape, heart-rending story.

After this wounded marine had " dropped his

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musket," and, in climbing the fence, fallen (from weakness, no doubt) " upon his back," was it manly in the two American horsemen to " discharge their pistols" at him ? or did Mr. Hunter's conduct in stepping aside to allow them to do so, entitle him to " much and well-merited commendation" ? Was it not a cowardly act in Mr. Hunter to borrow, and in general Stewart to lend, a sword to attack an unarmed, already wounded man ?—And then, " a fortunate stroke" terminated the poor wretch's existence !--We envy not the feelings of the " young gentleman" who committed, or of the general and his party of cavalry and volunteers who abetted, this foul murder :—for, what else can we call it ? No truly brave man but would have set a higher value upon the gallant serjeant's life, for the determination he evinced not to surrender. Why not have permitted him to remain in the swamp to which he had fled : what dire mischief could have happened to the republic by the presence of this unarmed individual ? A day or two's residence in the woods might have lowered his lofty spirit; and he would then, perhaps, have freely surrendered to a tenth part of those whom he so long kept at bay ; and from whom he would, no doubt have ultimately escaped, had he possessed another musket, or perhaps another load, even, for that which he had. Acquitting the American commanding officer of those, accordant feelings which

would have prompted him to grant so brave a man his liberty, no alternative remains to account for the general's hot pursuit of him, but that he must have felt piqued, because Mayeaux's conduct was so opposite to that of the American captain of militia, who, in the same neighbourhood, and about a twelvemonth previous, suffered himself to be taken prisoner by a one-handed British lieutenant **the navy**.* in vain do we search, - 'through the different American works for any account of the capture of serjeant Mayeaux and his party ; although the capture of a single individual has, on other occasions, been exultingly recorded by the whole of our three obsequious historians. It must be the wish of every staunch American, that the editor of the Alexandria newspaper had not been so officious : be it our task to give a yet more permanent form to the account of the intrepid behaviour, and the dastardly murder, of serjeant Mayeaux.

After quitting Benedict, captain Barrie ascended the river to lower Marlborough, a town about 25 miles from the capital of the United States.¹ The party landed, and took possession of the place ; the militia, as well as the inhabitants, flying into the woods. A schooner, belonging to a captain David, was captured, and loaded with tobacco : after which, having burnt,

* See p. 39, 1 - See Plate V.

at Lower Marlborough, and at Magruders,* on the opposite side of the river, tobacco-stores, containing 2800 hogsheads, and loaded the boats with stock, the detachment re-embarked. The Americans collected a force, estimated at about 350 regulars, besides militia, on Holland's cliffs; but some marines, being landed, traversed the skirts of the heights, and re-embarked without molestation ; the American troops not again shewing themselves, till the boats were out of gun-shot.

The blockade of commodore Barney's flotilla, and the depredations on the coasts of the Patuxent, by captain Barrie's squadron, caused great inquietude at Washington. At length, an order reached the American commodore, directing him to destroy the flotilla ; in the hopes that the British, having no longer such a temptation in their way, would retire from a position so contiguous to the capital. The order was suspended, owing to a proposal of colonel Wadsworth, of the engineers; who, with two 18-pounders, upon travelling-carriages, protected by a detachment of marines and regular troops, engaged to drive away the two frigates from the mouth of the creek. The colonel established his battery behind an elevated ridge, which sheltered him and his men ; and, on the morning of the 26th of June, a simultaneous attack of the gun-boats

* Sec Plate 5.

and battery was *made* upon the two frigates, Loire and Narcissus.* What with hot shot, the position chosen by the colonel not being commanded by the fire from either frigate, and captain Brown, the commanding officer's, having no force which he could land to carry the battery,t the Loire and Narcissus retired to a station near Point Patience ; and the American flotilla, with the exception of one barge, which put back, apparently disabled by the shot from the frigates, moved out of the creek, and ascended the Patuxent. The frigates sustained no loss on this occasion ; but commodore. Barney admits a loss of a midshipman and three men killed, and seven men wounded.

We have here a fine opportunity of contrasting the difference in style, between a letter written by an adopted, and one written by a native American, upon the same subject. Commodore Barney writes : " This morning, at 4 A.M. a combined attack of the artillery, marine corps, and flotilla, was made upon the enemy's two frigates, at the mouth of the creek. After two hours' engagement, they got under weigh, and made sail down the river. They are now warping round Point Patience, and I am moving up the Patuxent with my flotilla."

An officer on board the flotilla, writes thus :

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. p. 730. + Ibid, p. 740.

Hst. of the War. p. 226.

" We moved down_ with the flotilla, and joined in the chorus with the artillery. Our fire was terrible. At six o'clock they began to move, and made sail down the river, leaving us masters of the field. Thus we have again beat them and their rockets, which they did not spare. First, we beat off a few boats ; then, they increased the number ; then, they added schooners ; and now, behold the two frigates: all have shared the same fate. We next expect ships of the line. No matter, we will do our duty." *

. On the 4th of July, the *Severn*, of 50 guns, having joined the *Loire* and *Narcissus*, captain Nourse, of the first-named ship, despatched captain Brown, with the marines of the three ships, (150 in number,) up St. Leonard's creek. Here two of commodore Barney's barges were found scuttled, owing to the damage they had received in the action with the frigates. The barges, and several other vessels, were burnt, and a large tobacco-store destroyed. Soon after this, the British quitted the Patuxent.

On the 19th of July, rear-admiral Cockburn, in the *Marlborough* 74, having been joined by a battalion of marines, and a detachment of marine artillery, proceeded up the river Potomac, for the purpose of attacking Leonard's-town, the capital of St. Mary's county, where the 36th

Navaplonumeit, p. 24Q.

United States' regiment was stationed. The marines, under major Lewis; were landed, whilst the boats pulled up in front of the town ; but, on discovering the marines, the enemy's armed force quitted the place, and suffered the British to take quiet possession. A quantity of stores, belonging to the 36th regiment, and a number of arms of different descriptions, were found there, and destroyed ; a quantity of tobacco, flour, provisions, and other articles, were brought away in the boats, and in a schooner, which was lying off the town. Not a musket being fired, nor an armed enemy seen, the town was spared.

The Americans having collected some Virginia militia, at a place called Nominy-ferry, in Virginia, a considerable way up Nominy-river, rear-admiral Cockburn, on the 21st, proceeded thither, with the boats and marines ; the latter commanded by captain Robyns, during the illness of major Lewis. The enemy's position was on a very commanding eminence, projecting into the water ; but some marines having been landed on its flank, and they being seen getting up the craggy side of the mountain, while the main body landed at the ferry, the enemy fell back, and, though pursued several miles, till the approach of night, escaped with the loss of a few prisoners. They had withdrawn their field-artillery, and hid it in the woods ; fearing that, if they kept it to use against the British,

they would not be able to retreat with it quick enough to save it from capture; After taking on board all the tobacco, and other stores found in the place, with a quantity of cattle, and destroying all the storehouses and buildings, the rear-admiral re-embarked ; and, dropping down to another point of the Nominy river, observed some movements on shore, upon which he again landed with the marines. The Americans fired a volley, but, on the advance of the marines, fled into the woods. Every thing in the neighbourhood was therefore destroyed or brought off; and, after visiting the country in several other directions, covering the escape of the negroes who were anxious to join him, the rear-admiral quitted the river, and returned to the ships with 135 refugee negroes, two captured, schooners, a large quantity of tobacco, dry goods, and cattle, and a few prisoners. Far from considering tobacco, packed up in hogsheads, ready for shipping, as " good prize, by the maritime law of nations," as he did the north-west company's goods, * Mr. O'Connor calls it " plundered property," and the seizure or destruction of it the " petty and wanton act of an unprincipled and mean enemy."†

On the 24th of July, the rear-admiral went up St. Clement's creek, in St. Mary's county, with the boats and marines, to examine the

See p. 193.

† Mist. of the War, p. 227.

country. The militia shelved themselves occasionally, but always retreated when pursued ; and the boats returned to the ships without any casualty, having captured four schooners, and destroyed one. The inhabitants remaining peaceably in their houses, the rear-admiral did not suffer any injury to be done to them, excepting at one farm, from which two musket-shots had been fired at the admiral's gig, and where the property was, therefore, destroyed.

On the 26th of July, the rear-admiral proceeded to the head of the Machodic river, in Virginia, where he burnt six schooners, whilst the marines marched, without opposition, over the country on the banks of that river ; and, there not remaining any other place on the Virginia or St. Mary's side of his last anchorage, that the rear-admiral had not visited, he, on the 28th, caused the ships to move above Blackstone's Island ; and, on the 29th, proceeded, with the boats and marines, up the Wicomoco river. He landed at I-lamburgh and Chaptico ; from which latter place he shipped a considerable quantity of tobacco, and visited several houses in different parts of the country ; the owners of which living quietly with their families, and seeming to consider themselves and the neighbourhood to be at his disposal, he caused no farther inconvenience to them, than obliging them to furnish

supplies of cattle and stock for the use of his forces ; for which they were liberally paid.

On the 2d of August, the squadron dropped down the Potomac, near to the entrance of the Yocomoco river, which the rear-admiral entered on the following day, with the boats and marines, and landed with the latter. The enemy had here collected in great force, and made more resistance than usual, but the ardor and determination of the rear-admiral's gallant little band, carried all before it ; and, after forcing the enemy to give way; the marines followed him 10 miles up the country, captured a field-piece, and burnt several houses, which had been converted into depots for militia-arms, &c. Learning, afterwards, that general Hulanerford had rallied his men at Kinsale, the rear-admiral proceeded thither ; and, though the enemy's position was extremely strong, he had only time to give the British an ineffectual volley before the latter gained the height, when he again retired with precipitation ; and did not re-appear. The stores found at Kinsale were then shipped without molestation ; and, having burnt the store-houses and other places, .. with two old schooners, and destroyed two batteries, the rear-admiral re-embarked, bringing away five prize-schooners, a large quantity of tobacco, flour, &c. a field-piece, and a few pri-

soners. The American general Taylor was wounded and unhorsed, and escaped only through the thickness of the wood, and bushes, into which he ran. The British had three men killed, and as many wounded. Thus 500 British marines penetrated: 10 miles into the enemy's country, and skirmished, on their way back, surrounded by woods, in the face of the whole collected militia of Virginia, under generals Ifinigerford and: Taylor ; and yet, after this long march, carried the heights of Kinsale in the most gallant manner.

Coan river, a few. miles below Vocomoco, being the only inlet on the Virginia side of the Potomac, that the rear-admiral hadnot visited, he proceeded on the 7th to attack it, with the boats and marines. After a tolerably quick fire on the boats, the enemy went off precipitately, with the guns : the battery was destroyed, and the river ascended, in which three schooners. were captured, and some tobacco brought off.

On the 12th, the rear-admiral proceeded up. St. Mary's creek, and landed in various parts of the country about that extensive inlet ; but without seeing a single armed person, though militia had formerly been stationed at St. Mary's factory for its defence ; the inhabitants of the state appearing to consider it wiser to submit, than to attempt opposition. On the 15th of August, the ,rear-admiral again landed within

St. Mary's creek ; but found, in the different parts of the country, the same quiet and submissive conduct on the part of the inhabitants, as in the places visited on the 12th. The account of the preceding operations on the coasts of the Chesapeake, with a battalion of marines, a detachment of marine-artillery and of seamen, in all, under 700 men, is extracted exclusively, from rear-admiral Cockburn's official report of his proceedings : the truth of which is tacitly admitted by the silence of the American historians on the subject ; although the British accounts had long previously come to their hands.

While the British men-of-war were lying in the rivers of the Chesapeake, the negroes from the neighbouring plantations were continually flocking to the banks ; entreating, by the most piteous signs, to be rescued from a life of slavery. Could such appeals be made in vain **F**hey were taken off, by hundreds ; and obtained from an enemy that liberty, which their own *free* country denied to them. It was in vain that the American government, by asserting, through the medium of the prints " known to be friendly to the war," that the British, after receiving the negroes, "shipped the wretches to the West Indies, where they were sold as slaves, for the benefit of British officers,"* attempted to check

* history of the War. p. 183,

the flow of slave-emigration. This plan failing, the editor of the " Norfolk Herald" was instructed or induced to say :—"To take cattle or other stock, would be consistent with the usage of civilized warfare ; but to take negroes, who are human beings ; to tear them for ever from their kindred and connexions, is what we should never expect from a Christian nation, especially one that has done so much to abolish the slave-trade. There are negroes in Virginia, and, we believe, in all the southern states, who have their interests and affections as strongly engrafted in their hearts, as the whites, and who feel the sacred ties of filial, parental, and conjugal affection, equally strong, and who are warmly attached to their owners, and the scenes of their nativity. To those, no inducement which the enemy could offer, would be sufficient to tempt them away. To drag them away, then, by force, would be the greatest cruelty. Yet, it is reserved for England, who boasts of her religion and love of humanity, to practice this piece of cruelty, so repugnant to the dictates of Christianity and civilization."*

Whether this article was penned at Washington, or on board of one of the British ships in the bay, it is the happiest piece of satire, that has appeared in an American newspaper:- • It commences with an unqualified admission, that,

* History of the War, p. 185.

to take cattle or other stock" is " consistent, with the usage of civilized warfare ;" whereas, in all the American histories, not excepting that even from which the extract is made, the British are accused of " plundering large quantities of cattle." As, however, the British commanders, whenever the owners could be found, invariably paid for what they did take, the admission is of little use. But are not thos,• " human beings, who have their interests and affections as strongly engrafted in their hearts as the whites," part, and a valuable part too, of the " stock" of an American planter ?—The reader has only to take up a Charlestown, a Washington, a Richmond, or even a " Norfolk" newspaper, and a whole side of advertisements, will presently assure him of the degrading fact. Let it not be concealed either, that the treatment of the slaves in, and who form so great a portion of the southern population of, the United States, is ten-times more horrid and disgusting than any thing that occurs among a similar class of " human beings" in the British West Indies. In addition to the accounts published in the American newspapers, and the description given, and marks shown by, the refugee-slaves themselves, it is only necessary, in order to substantiate the fact, to refer to the code of laws by which. the American, in comparison with that by which the British, negroes are governed. We freely admit that,

" to drag away, by force," those slaves who (if any such are to be found in the United States) are " warmly attached to their owners and to the place of their nativity," would be " the greatest cruelty." But who has done so ? The British in the Chesapeake, as the Americans themselves inform us, were frequently straitened for provisions ; how ridiculous, then, is the charge, that the captains of ships, by way of encreasing the consumption on board, and without any corresponding benefit, should send parties on shore, first to catch,—in which they must have been tolerably active,—and then to " drag away," the slaves of the American planters. If, for receiving on board such as voluntarily offered themselves, the British officers required any other sanction than " the dictates of Christianity and civilization," they might find it in the following resolution, submitted to the consideration of the house of representatives of the United States, by Mr. Fisk, of Vermont :—" Resolved, that the committee on public lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of giving to each deserter from the British army, during the present war, 100 acres of the public lands, such deserter actually settling the same."* We have here a fine specimen of the " national honor" of the United States, about which so much has been said and written !

* National Intelligencer, Sept. 28th, 1814.