

During these hostile preparations on the part of America, a circumstance transpired which exhibited the political perfidy of the French government towards that of the United States, in bold relief; and if America had not been actuated by other motives than those which she had labored so assiduously to palm upon the world as the main spring of her actions, it would have completely changed the tenor of her policy towards England.

Despatches were received from Paris, by the United States minister in London, amongst which was the repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees by the French ruler, as far as related to the commerce of America; and however such a breach of faith might shock the feelings of an honest mind, this revocation, notwithstanding it was not received until May, 1812, was dated as far back as April, 1811. That the declaration of the British government, holding forth that as soon as the French decrees should be rescinded unconditionally, the British Orders in Council should from that moment be extinct, was the means of extorting the French repeal, there remained not the slightest shadow of a doubt; and in order to cover the deceit, antedated the repeal to 1811. For two years prior to this period had the French government refused, in the most insulting manner, any explanation on the subject of her decrees, or of their repeal towards America; although, during that whole time, America, on her part, had been negotiating on the subject; and, strange to tell, Buonaparte now, in May, 1812, comes forward with his abrogation of those decrees, antedated no less than thirteen months, and even having reference to 1810, a period of two years previous to its promulgation, when he pretended to have rescinded those decrees as far as America was concerned. Such a glaring insult on the honor and faith of nations was probably never offered by one government to another, and would not, perhaps, have been received by any

other government than that of the United States at that time—an opinion at which the president appears obviously to have glanced.

After closing a career of the most unwearied and assiduous inquiries into the Orders in Council, by the committee appointed for that purpose, Mr. Brougham, the original mover for inquiry into these orders, moved a second time that these orders should be repealed. Nothing new was adduced in argument on the subject, as in the previous debate all general topics had been exhausted, if we except the disclosures made in the late tedious investigation which was now presented to undergo the consideration of the House of Commons. Mr. Brougham, however, in moving the repeal, made an elaborate speech; he went on to state, that the Orders in Council had always been defended on the supposed necessity of affording relief to the commerce and industry of the country; yet the people had now come to implore parliament to abandon them to the hostilities, and spare them the merciless kindness under which they were groaning. Upon the vote of the House the destiny of thousands depended; and if the legislature should say no to the petitions against the Orders in Council, multitudes of hungry men must be let loose upon the country, who would either find food or perish. Commercial capital had been universally locked up; men of great nominal wealth were living without income, trading, or seeming to trade, without

•Our affairs with France retain the posture which they held at my last communications to you. Notwithstanding the authorized expectation of an early as well as favorable issue to the discussions on foot, these have been procrastinated to the latest date. The only intervening occurrence meriting attention, is the promulgation of a French decree purporting to be a definitive repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees. This proceeding, although made the ground work of the British Orders in Council, is rendered, by the time and manner of it, liable to many objections.

President's Message, 4th Noe. 1812.

profit ; numbers of workmen had been dismissed—those who remained were earning only the half or quarter of their' wages; even parish rates were increasing, charitable supplies failing, from the reduced means of the higher classes, and the augmented claims on their bounty. But the most prominent feature in this case, was the impending necessity of instantaneously disbanding those, who were now detained only in the hopes of a favorable decision of parliament.

The Orders in Council had an operation in producing distress, much more enlarged than many persons were willing to believe ; the army in the Peninsula was fed from America ; the embargo in that country had raised the price of flour in the Lisbon market above fifty per cent ; and had occasioned, in one morning, an export from London of six thousand barrels to supply the Portuguese market. No attempt had been made by the supporters of the Orders in Council, to meet the evidence which so fully established the distresses of the country ; that they had contented themselves with a reference to the custom-house books—a criterion that might be resorted to, when no better evidence could be had, but which is always suspicious, and, in the present instance, had been superceded by the most melancholy disclosures. But even the custom-house books indicated a great and unexampled depression of trade. Nor was there any reason for believing that, for the loss of the trade of the United States, compensation had been obtained in other quarters, since the custom-house books themselves exhibited a general falling off of the trade of the whole country. The market of South America, instead of having increased the valuable commerce of the country, had introduced a spirit of speculation which had brought ruin on'all those who had ventured to indulge in it. It was a great fallacy to suppose that any considerable proportion of the goods imported into the United States from Great Britain, was re-exported to South America and the West Indies, since it had been proved by a respec-

table witness before the committee that the re-exportation never exceeded one-thirteenth of the whole value; and, of course, that the losses of the trade to North America had not, in any way, been compensated by the supposed increase in the commerce carried on to the other parts of the world, the trade of which, we should at any rate have been able to command.

The home market had also suffered severely by the glut occasioned in all those articles which had formerly been destined for exportation ; and that even of the home trade which still remained, the greatest part depended on the extravagant demands of that great and unprofitable consumer, the government. The repeal of the Orders in Council, so far from being injurious to the stability of our maritime rights, and of the naval power which protects them, seemed essential to their preservation. The paper blockades, as they were called, were contrary to law, and had never been recognised in any of the courts. Although the Orders in Council were repealed, and although England were to relinquish for the present the rights on which they are founded, it would not follow that she could never again enforce them.

At the peace of Utrecht, after a war of unexampled success, and a series of uninterrupted triumphs, in which the power of England was extended and confirmed, and France and her allies humbled to the dust, we gave up for a time, the principle that free ships should not make free goods; and during the American war, we relinquished what is called the rule of the war, 1756, yet without ultimately abandoning either of these principles. Every right may be abandoned for the sake of expediency, and resumed when this reason ceases. The loss which was sustained by the obstinate exercise of this right, in the present instance, was enormous ; and that the American market was at stake—a market which takes off about thirteen millions of our manufa.-

tures, and in steadiness and regularity is unrivalled. By refusing to the Americans the market of England from which to purchase, we were driving them to supply themselves ; and there was no branch of their commerce which had not now, to a certain degree, been improved ; many branches of their manufactures had been created since 1807, and all were rapidly springing up to maturity. The dread of losing a market, such as that of America, was quite rational, while the fear entertained by the supporters of the Orders in Council, that the capital, industry and skill of England might be outdone by France, was altogether contemptible. There was no danger of any loss of honor by seeking to conciliate America ; that Great Britain never stood so high as she now did, in point of military character ; that she had it in abundance, and even to spare ; that the events of the war had not merely sustained the ancient fame of the nation—they had done what seemed scarcely possible—they had greatly increased it; they had covered the British arms with immortal renown ; and the government was bound to profit by the proud height on which Great Britain stood, for the purposes of peace and conciliation with America.

CHAPTER XI.

Discussions on the Orders in Council continued--Repeal of the Orders in Council officially promulgated under certain Conditions—Re-election of Mr. Madison as United States President.

PRIOR to this period, the British government had determined upon some arrangement, on this subject, which would, at all events, impart tranquility, if not relief to the country from the distresses under which they suffered, and would at the same time evince the desire of ministers to accomplish that great object so ardently sought after. It was thought, therefore, unnecessary to enter into an enlarged debate on the merits of the question ; a debate, which under existing circumstances would certainly have been superfluous ; however, before going into any explanation in the House, as to the features of the arrangements in contemplation, Lord Castlereagh deemed it necessary, after so much had been said, to defend the principles upon which the Orders in Council had originally been established. He said" on such an important subject, he felt anxious to offer to the House the reasons which appeared to him conclusive against the address. He lamented the precipitation of the honorable and learned gentlemen in bringing forward this motion ; a precipitation injurious to his own cause. This was the more to be regretted, as the evidence went to such a great extent. He was sorry that the honorable and learned gentleman, even for the sake of his own character, should have so much departed from all parliamentary practice, and should have pressed to a hasty discussion a subject, than which one more vital never came before parliament. He deprecated any interference, on the part of the House, in a question of great national importance,

involving unquestionably commercial considerations of the most serious nature, but mixed up also with considerations of maritime right.

It was certainly not out of the absolute province of parliament to interfere on such an occasion; but it had always been extremely averse, pending a negotiation on a delicate subject, to dictate to the executive government the course which it ought to pursue. He admitted that the honorable and learned gentleman had made out a grave case of national distress, as affecting the manufactures of the country. Nay, he further admitted that there existed a reasonable ground to believe, that if the American market was not opened within a limited period, the pressure would be increased. But, notwithstanding this admission, it is to be hoped that honorable members will not permit their imaginations to stray so widely with his learned and honorable friend, as to conceive that the general commerce and manufactures of the empire were in a state of decay and perishment. He felt acutely for the distresses, and he declared that he had never met with more fair and liberal men than the individuals sent by those manufacturers to represent their case to parliament. He conceded to the honorable and learned gentleman, that if Great Britain repealed her Orders in Council, America might be disposed to abrogate her non-importation act; but he contended that, on a retrospect of the past, he was by no means prepared to say that it would have been wise to have kept possession of the American market, by abstaining from those measures; an abstinence which would have exposed the commerce of this country to all the evils with which it had been threatened by France. In justice, however, Great Britain ought to have retained possession of the American market, notwithstanding the system which she had adopted towards France—a system which he admitted was not justifiable on principles of commercial policy, but which was most completely justifiable on the principle in which it originated, namely,

the principle of coercing France, and driving her from the system of misrule which she had so extensively exercised. As directed against France, this system had obtained its object to a letter. Never was a country more commercially depressed than France. By the official documents of the French government, it appeared, that the whole extent of the manufactures and produce of that country, with her population of thirty-six millions, consumed internally as well as exported, did not equal the simple exports of other nations. In the year before last, they did not exceed £54,600,000 sterling, while ours amounted to £66,000,000. Never, therefore, would he cease to contend, that the system of his late right honorable friend originated as much in wisdom as in justice. Even with the loss of the American market, (which he maintained we ought not to have lost,) let the House compare the situation in which the British empire was, with that in which it might have been, but for the Orders in Council. This country (with the exception of the last year, the deficiency of which was occasioned by temporary causes,) exhibited to the world a spectacle of a nation struggling amidst the efforts of war, and rising in wealth and commercial prosperity and grandeur. Indeed, a great part of the deficiency of the last year was occasioned by the preceding extraordinary and unnatural prosperity.

With that exception, the commerce of the country, all but that which related to America, had increased in an accumulating ratio, beyond what it had ever been in times of peace. And even in continental Europe, our commerce, notwithstanding the efforts of the scourge of the continent, had grown to a considerable extent, particularly since the issuing of the Orders in Council.

The average of our annual exports to the Continent, during the three years preceding the Orders in Council, was £17,000,000. The annual average of the three years subsequent to the Orders in Council, was £23,000,000,

being an increase of six millions annually. Even the exports to America, prior to the last year, so far from decaying, had considerably increased. The average of the annual exports to America, including the West Indies, during the three years immediately preceding the last year, [1811;] was £22,000,000 ; the annual average, during the three years preceding those three years, *was* only 219,500,000.

The present distress of those manufacturing districts most connected with America, was in a great degree attributable to the benevolent feelings of the master manufacturers, who had expended their fortunes in keeping their men employed on the same scale during the last year as they had done during the three years preceding. He had always denied that the present system was adopted from any unworthy motive of national gain. It rested on the firm ground of national defence. It rested on the principle, that as the enemy wielded his utmost extent of power against the prosperity of the British empire, we had a right to wield the utmost extent Of our power against the prosperity of France. He stated it in vindication of the character of the country and of the government, that no councils had ever been more honorably and faithfully directed to apply the system of retaliation successfully to the enemy, but in a way as little obnoxious as possible to the neutral. Various had been the modifications resorted to for this latter purpose ; and particularly the order of 1809 the blockade to France and the countries immediately under the power of her arms.

Adverting, to the system of licenses, he maintained that the honorable and learned gentleman had fallen into a great error on the subject. The licenses connected with the system of blockade, did not form a fifth of the license system of the country. We had a right, by our licenses, to avail ourselves of the relief which the enemy required ; and we had never done this to the injury of

neutrals, who had enjoyed as much facility in sailing from our ports as our own merchant vessels. But it was not with the license system that America quarrelled. We had expressed our readiness to return, if America wished it, to the strict measure of 1807, provided she rescinded the act prohibitory of our commerce.

He was anxious to call the attention of the House to some circumstances which had occurred since the last discussions on the subject, and since the issuing the Prince Regent's proclamation in April. It had been asked in that House, in what way he understood the French decree recently communicated to government by the American minister ? He had no hesitation in replying that, in his opinion, it by no means satisfied the regent's declaration, which required the unqualified and unconditional repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees, as the condition of rescinding the Orders in Council. The day on which he had received that decree, was the very day on which the House of Commons had been pleased, by its vote, virtually to dissolve the administration ; and therefore it was not until the last three or four days, that the present government, considering themselves as a government, had deliberated upon the subject. On the face of this instrument, however, he had no difficulty in repeating that it appeared insufficient, and was accompanied with circumstances of great distrust and suspicion. It was difficult also to say, whether this decree had not been completely revoked by the sweeping declaration of the Duke of Bassano, that the Berlin and Milan decrees would remain in full force until the maritime assumptions of this country should be abandoned. There, therefore, must exist considerable doubts on the subject. Nevertheless, it might not be unwise to put the country in a situation to receive explanations upon it.

If the American government should be found disposed to make representations to France, to induce her to satisfy

the just expectations contained in His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's Proclamation, Great Britain would be disposed to consent to the suspension, for a limited period, of the restrictive system of both countries ; or, in other words, she would consent to suspend the Orders in Council, if America would consent to suspend her non-importation act. The experiment might then be tried of the practicability of restoring things to their ancient system. if by an act of temper and conciliation, not incompatible with the safety of the country, an inducement could be held out to France, in the paroxysm of her power, to return to that system, a departure from which, had been destructive of her own commerce, it would be an act redounding to our honor. Should the event be favorable, the advantage would be great to all parties. Should it be unfavorable, we must return to our present retaliatory system, if this effort on our part were not met with a correspondent feeling on the part of America, opportunities would be afforded, in the absence of irritation, of fairly considering those circumstances which might restore and cement that friendship which ought always to be maintained between the two countries ; and which it was the curse of both had ever been interrupted.

If, by the fatal perseverance of France, Great Britain should be driven to re-adopt her retaliatory system, means might be adopted, without endangering its efficacy against the enemy, of rendering it less obnoxious to America. He concurred with the honorable and learned gentleman, that it would be a most unworthy and unwise policy in this country, to allow itself to be provoked by the irritation which America had evinced. Was it not the part of a great empire like Great Britain to adopt a conciliatory course of conduct towards America, even at the time when her tone (although he trusted it would not lead to absolute war,) sufficiently marked the hostile disposition of her councils ? Although he did not wish to be too sanguine as to the result of his experiment, yet, persuaded as he was that there had been

moments of such great inconvenience to France, that had she not cherished hopes of final success from the occurrence of certain circumstances in this country, she would willingly have abandoned her projects, he could not help entertaining an expectation that she might be induced to return to the ancient system. Under all these circumstances, he trusted the House would not consent to the address. He would content himself with moving the order of the day. Were the documents illustrative of the negotiation between this country and America on the table, he should call for a distinct negative to the motion; but as they were not, so he did not wish to extract from the House any vote which would imply their approbation of the conduct of His Majesty's government *in* that negotiation.

On account of the information contained in the preceding speech delivered by Lord Castlereagh, the motion for rescinding the Orders in Council was withdrawn, on condition that in the next Gazette an official instrument on the subject should make its appearance.

In the next Gazette, according to promise, appeared *the* instrument alluded to, which went on to state that, by a previous declaration of the 1st of April, 1812, the repeal of the Orders in Council should take place so soon as a formal revocation of the French decrees was announced ; that a communication had been made by the American charge des affaires to Lord Castlereagh, of a copy of the alleged instrument of repeal by the French government ; and although this revocation was not such ^{as} to satisfy the conditions required by His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent's declaration, yet as Great Britain was anxious to replace on its ancient basis the commerce of neutral nations, the Orders in Council of 7th January, 1807, and of 26th April, 1809, were then fore suspended as far as regarded American prop ^{ty} from the 1st of August following

But in consequence of the exclusion of British ships of war from the ports and harbors of the United States, while those of her enemy were freely admitted, and as all commercial intercourse between Great Britain and the United States of America was prohibited by the latter, while she pursued a trade with France and her dependencies, so far as the effects of the British Orders in Council could be eluded—it was declared that if the American government should not, after the regular communication of this document, alter its policy, then the repeal of the Orders in Council should not take effect. It was likewise provided in the same document, that all seizures of American vessels and property subsequent to the date of the communication relative to the repeal of the French decrees, should not be condemned; and it was expressly reserved on the part of the British government, should circumstances require such a procedure, a revival of the Orders in Council and the adoption of such other measures of retaliation as the security of British commerce and of her maritime rights should appear from time to time to demand.

Such was the conciliatory conduct of the British government towards that of the United States, that the Orders in Council, which were undoubtedly of the greatest political importance to that country under existing circumstances, were in a great measure abandoned; and notwithstanding, it was the general impression amongst the most enlightened part of community, that the desires of America were unbounded, so would also her demands be unbounded; and that, at each succeeding concession on the part of the British government, the demands of America would become doubly imperious; yet it was expedient to manifest to those who were of the opinion that the Orders in Council were the sole cause of the commercial distresses of the country, an anxiety to go as far as the honor of the British nation and the security of her maritime rights would permit, to purchase their relief, or at least to tran-

quilize their minds on the subject. It was strongly suspected too, that as regarded the non-importation act of the United States upon British commerce, that America would not be disposed to concede an inch of ground; although, on the other hand, it was thought that the repeal of the Orders in Council, to which America had as yet principally confined herself, would be but a prelude to claims of a more extraordinary nature, as America evidently was but a tool in the hands of the ruler of France for that purpose. However, it was the wish of all parties to make a fair trial; as the refusal of America to meet Great Britain upon honorable terms, would virtually of itself render the repeal of the Orders in Council invalid. Mr. Madison had by this time secured for four years longer the presidential chair, and the faction of which he was the head, had so far predominated over the more sensible part of that country, as to obtain the ends for which they so long and so ardently sought.

CHAPTER XII.

Declaration of War against Great Britain by the Government of the United States—Extract from the President's Message, approving of the Measure—Several State Legislatures remonstrate against it—Means employed by the Governor in Chief of Canada for the Defence of the Provinces under his Command.

WHILE the government and people of England were anxiously looking forward to the pacific effect the repeal of the Orders in Council would have on America, notwithstanding the unfavourable predictions to the contrary, the news arrived that the President had approved of an act of congress formally declaring war against Great Britain. This act had been preceded by a most inflammatory message from the President, in which the British government was accused of numberless atrocities against the U States ; that since the year 1803, says that message, has that government persisted in a series of acts hostile to the U. States, as an independent nation. It declared, that British cruisers had violated the honor of the American flag, and seized persons sailing under it ; that the seizure even of *British subjects*, without trial or inquiry, was contrary to the law of nations. That British citizens had violated the rights and the peace of the American coast; and that the blood of American citizens had been wantonly spilt in the very harbors of the United States ; and instead of punishment, the highest rewards had been bestowed by the British government on the persons who had committed such atrocities. That by means of a nominal blockade, without the presence of an adequate force, the commerce of America had been plundered on every *sea*; that the orders issued by the British government had been tyrannically executed from their date, and before American vessels could be aware of their existence ; and that Great Britain had at length resorted

to a sweeping system, under the name of Orders in Council, which had been so contrived as to suit the political views and commercial jealousies of England, and satisfy the avidity of her citizens. That the pretence of retaliation which had been used in defence of these orders, was altogether groundless ; that edicts executed against American property, could not be a retaliation on those decrees of France, which it was manifestly impossible to execute; and that retaliation, to be just, should fall only on the guilty. That the government of Great Britain had recently declared its determination to insist on these measures until the markets of its enemy should be laid open to British commerce ; that England had demanded a formality in the revocation of the French decrees, by no means exemplified even by her own usage ; and had declared that she would not rest satisfied with the repeal of the decrees, merely as they affected America, unless they were wholly and unconditionally revoked.

It proceeded to state, that the object of the measures adopted by England, had not been so much to destroy the resources of her enemies as to confirm her own monopoly ; and although every effort had been tried by the United States to obtain an alteration of this iniquitous system—although an offer had been made to interrupt all commercial intercourse with France so long as she persevered in her injustice, yet the British government had been deaf to every remonstrance. That in the year 1810, the American minister in London had offered to the British government a fair opportunity for conciliation; that he merely requested to know, whether the British blockade of 180G was still considered in force ; and as this measure had afforded the pretence for the decree of the French government, it was expected that the disavowal of it, by Great Britain, would have immediately led to the rescinding of the French edicts, and the restoration of neutral commerce ; but the British government had persisted in refusing all explanation.

That a fair prospect appeared again to present itself for the adjustment of all differences ; but the acts of the British minister in America, who might have accomplished this desirable object, were all disavowed by his government ; and at the very moment when these amicable proceedings were going forward, a secret agent of Great Britain was employed to cherish disaffection in the citizens of the United States, and to dissolve the happy Union.

Mr. Madison, in the plenitude of his malignant vituperation, ventured to charge the British government, though only as matter of suspicion, of inciting the Indian nations to carry on their atrocious warfare against the people of the United States.

" We perceive, in fine," proceeds Mr .Madison, " *on the side of Great Britain, a state of war towards the United States ; and, on the side of the United States, a state of peace towards Great Britain.*"

Such was the lofty tone of recital contained in this American state paper, of the *aggressions* and *atrocities* committed by Great Britain. But as regarded France, and the conduct of her ruler, what was the President's language ? He admitted, in a brief paragraph at the end of the message, that the most atrocious violation of neutral rights had been committed by order of the French government, against the citizens of the United States ; but although he was ready to recommend, in the most emphatic terms, a declaration of war against Great Britain, he merely hinted that he hoped an amicable adjustment might yet be effected with her enemies, who had carried the spirit of outrage to such extremities.

But the President's message did not convey the sentiments of the whole Union by any means ; nor is it to be believed that whole states did not dissent from such a

tirade of falsehoods.* We are warranted indeed in believing the latter supposition to be the case, from the language breathed in the declaration of the general assembly of the state of Connecticut, at their special session ou the 25th August, 1812, and that of the

•1st. **RESOLVED**, That the war with Great Britain, in which, the present administration has plunged the United States, was inexpedient, ill timed and most dangerously impolitic...sacrificing *all* once countless blessings, and incurring all the hazards and losses, of men and treasure, necessarily resulting from a contest with a nation possessing so many means to annoy and distress us.

2d. **RESOLVED**, That, as the war was improvidently commenced, Bo has the conduct of it proved wasteful and disastrous. The administration being evidently chargeable with the multiplied disasters which have attended our arms, and consigned to captivity or death so many thousands of *brave* men, without the attainment of a single object.

3d. **RESOLVED**, That we view with inexpressible concern the course of that destructive policy which leads to a connexion with the military despotism of France ; and if it should so happen, as our fears suggest, that a convention or confederacy with that power either exists or is intended, we do not hesitate to declare, that such an event will be considered by us more dangerous than the war itself and as tending, in its consequences, to a dissolution of the United States.

6th, Lastly, **RESOLVED**, That finding in the answer of the President of the United States, to a proposed armistice, that the principal object of the war is to obtain redress against the British practice of impressment—and finding, further, in an answer from the British Government, to another proposed armistice, that their claim does not extend beyond what it calls its ancient and accustomed practice of impressing British seamen from the merchant vessels of a foreign state...we do hereby declare our solemn conviction, that a war, at the expence of American blood and treasure, to protect British subjects on the high seas from their due allegiance to their country, would be unjust ; and that the abuse of this practice, in regard to American seamen, may be guarded against by an arrangement between the two governments ; and therefore that **P** negotiation for a treaty of peace should be immediately opened.

Extracts from the Declaration of the general Asscm- big of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, 1812.

legislature of Maryland on the, 24th of December of the same year, which are fully corroborated by the declarations of the legislatures and messages of governors of several other states of that nation.

The legislature of Connecticut proceeds to state, that the aggressions of both nations ought to have been met at the outset by a system of defensive protection commensurate to our means, and adapted to the crisis. That other councils prevailed, and that system of commercial restrictions which before had distressed the people of Europe, was extended to our country. That we became parties to the continental system of the French emperor. That whatever its pressure may have been elsewhere, on our citizens it had operated with intolerable severity and hardship.

That in the midst of these sufferings war is declared, and that nation of the two is selected for a foe which is capable of inflicting the greatest injury. And that in this selection we view with the deepest solicitude a tendency to entangle us in an alliance with a nation whose ruler has subverted every republic in Europe, and whose connections, wherever formed, have been fatal to civil liberty.

That of the operation of his decrees on American commerce, it is not necessary here to remark, that the repeal of them, [the French decrees,] promulgated in this country since the declaration of war, virtually declares that the American government was not to be trusted. Insult is thus added to injury.*

That should a continuance of this war exclude our seafaring and mercantile citizens from the use of the ocean, and our invaluable institutions be sacrificed by

*See also the note under page 79.

an alliance with the French despot, the measure of our degradation and wretchedness would be full.

The accusations, however, contained in the President's message formed the ground work on which the United States legislature declared war against Great Britain; and such was the astonishment of the government and people of England that they were for a time before they could persuade themselves that the United States' were in earnest in the hazardous enterprise they had undertaken, as no conduct of the British government towards that country could have prompted them to such a rash and desperate step. The causes of the war so, emphatically insisted on in the President's message, as now appear, were ridiculous and absurd; complaints, some of which were only imaginary, and the rest had been redressed, accusations which had long been refuted and a thousand and one other things, if possible, still more absurd and preposterous, were all laid under contribution for the service of this manifesto of Mr. Madison's, in order to meet the views and feelings of the turbulent filiation by whom he had been once more raised to the head of the government.

A curious circumstance is also connected with the declaration of war by the United States, which probably tended more to exhibit the entire dependence under which the acts of America government lay to those of the French ruler, and to shew the extreme partiality of America towards France, than any other circumstance which transpired.

Immediately after the communication of the French minister, declaring the principles of the French decrees to form the fundamental law of the empire, followed the declaration of war by the United States. Whether, therefore, Great Britain considered the pretensions set up and avowed by the American government, or the circumstances attending the declaration of war, the

conclusion was the same—that a determination had long been formed by the United States to oppose the just claims of Great Britain, and with a view to embarrass that country in her contest with France for the independence of Europe, she had determined to unite her resources and exertions.

The news of the declaration of war, at this time, however, completely astounded the people of England. Even those who had advocated the enquiry into the Orders in Council, were convinced that America ought to have been satisfied with the abrogation of those edicts ; and they further added, that should America urge any further claims upon Great Britain, that they should now be the first and most strenuous opposers of any further concession being made to that country.

It was frequently remarked in the public journals of the United States, that in all their intercourse with the governments of Great Britain and France, a studied and implacable hostility towards the interests of the former was universally evinced ; while, notwithstanding the reiterated insults and indignities daily offered by the latter to the American flag, yet the government of that republic was decidedly favorable to her views and wishes.

Matters, however, had now arisen to a crisis between Great Britain and the United States, that indicated war to be inevitably at hand ; in view of which, and under the impression that in such an event Canada would be invaded, the governor in chief of those provinces immediately employed means to strengthen the public works, fortify the most important avenues into the country, and more effectually to organize the provincial militia ; for should a war be the result, on the militia forces alone could the country depend for her defence, as only a sufficient regular force was retained in the country to perform garrison duty under a peace establishment ; and, under existing

circumstances with the mother country, employed as her armies were on the European peninsula, little aid from that quarter could be expected.

purpose of military chill, one hundred thousand militia, proportioned to each state as follows:

Pennsylvania,	14,000
New-York,	13,000
Virginia,	12,000
Massachusetts,	10,000
New-Hampshire,	3,500
Connecticut,	3,000
New-Jersey,	5,000
North Carolina,	7,000
Maryland,	6,000
South Carolina,	5,000
Kentucky,	5,500
Ohio,	5,500
Georgia,	3,500
Vermont,	3,000
Delaware,	1,000
Tennessee,	2,500
Rhode Island,	500
	<hr/>
	100,000

CHAPTER XIII.

Preparations of a warlike Appearance on the part of the United States—Extract from the Address of the House of Assembly to the Yeomanry of Canada, at the Commencement of the War—Invasion of Canada by an Army under General Hull's Proclamation to the People of Canada—Active Measures pursued by General Brock for the Relief of Fort Amherstbury—Evident Signs of Indecision and Distrust in the American Camp.

DURING the defensive preparations on the part of Canada, the United States government was not unmindful of its security against any hostile attack. Besides strengthening her fortifications, Sze., an act of Congress was passed, on the 11th day of January, 1812, for raising ten additional regiments of infantry to consist of two thousand men each—two regiments of cavalry of two thousand each—and one additional regiment of artillery, to consist of one thousand—to be enlisted for five years. Early in the ensuing month, another act passed that body, authorising the president of the United States to accept the military services of certain volunteer corps, not to exceed in number fifty thousand men ; and, in the month of April following, an act was passed to call into active service, for the

In addition to the above, the United States had a regular army of eleven regiments of five hundred men each, which, in the whole, certainly constituted a formidable army.

Acts were passed, at the same time, for building new ships of war, and repairing such as were out of commission, and for making such provisions for the defence of the maritime frontier as were considered necessary.

As soon as the declaration of war was announced in Canada, measures were employed in that colony to, embody a portion of the militia force of the country for its protection against an invasion of the enemy.

An appeal was made by the representatives in parliament of Upper Canada to their constituents, at the end of the extra session which was convened at the commencement of the war, in which was portrayed in its native coloring the abject and wretched state of vassalage to the ruler of France into which America had descended, and her consequent perfidious conduct towards Great Britain. A most deserved eulogium was in that address passed upon the character of the militia, for the promptitude with which their services were volunteered in defence of the country.

"Already have we the joy to remark," says that address, "that the spirit of loyalty has burst forth in all its ancient splendor. The militia, in all parts of the Province, have volunteered their service with acclamation, and displayed a degree of energy worthy of the British name. They do not forget the blessings and privileges which they enjoy under the protection and fostering care of the British empire, whose government is only felt in this country by acts of the purest justice and most pleasing and efficacious benevolence. When men are called upon to defend every thing they hold precious—their wives and children, their friends and possessions, they ought to be inspired by the noblest resolution, and they will not be easily frightened with menaces, or conquered by force. And beholding, as we do, the flame of patriotism burning from one end of the Canadas to the other, we cannot but entertain the most pleasing anticipations. Our enemies have indeed said, that they can subdue the country by a proclamation; but it is our part to prove to them that they are sadly mistaken; that the population is determinately hostile, and that the few who might be otherwise inclined, will find it their safety and interest to be faithful."

As was before observed, a large American force, consisting of regulars and militia, was early in the year 1812 stationed at Detroit, and had been placed under

the command of General Hull, an officer of the Revolution, who, on the 12th of July, crossed the river Detroit with a force of two thousand five hundred of the above troops and a strong park of artillery, and planted the American standard on the shores of Canada. Immediately on the arrival of the American army at Sandwich, General Hull issued the following :

PROCLAMATION.

Head Quarters, Sandwich, 12th July, 1812

INHABITANTS OF CANADA—

After thirty years of peace and prosperity, the U. States have been driven to arms. The injuries and aggressions, the insults and indignities of Great Britain, have once more left them no alternative but manly resistance, or unconditional submission. The army under my command has invaded your country. The standard of the Union now waves over the territory of Canada. To the peaceable, unoffending inhabitants it brings neither danger nor difficulty. I come to find enemies, not to make them. I come to protect, not to injure you.

Separated by an immense ocean and an extensive wilderness from Great Britain, you have no participation in her councils, no interest in her conduct. You have felt her tyranny; you have seen her injustice; but I do not ask you to avenge the one, or to redress the other. The United States are sufficiently powerful to afford every security, consistent with their rights and your expectations. I tender you the invaluable blessing of civil, religious and political liberty, and their necessary result, individual and general prosperity; that liberty which gave decision to our councils and energy to our conduct, in a struggle for independence, which conducted us safely and triumphantly through the stormy period of the Revolution—the liberty which has raised us to an elevated rank among the nations of the world, and which afforded us a greater measure of peace and securi-

ty, of wealth and improvement, than ever fell to the lot of any people. In the name of my country and the authority of government, I promise you protection to your persons, property and rights. Remain at your homes ; pursue your peaceful and customary avocations ; raise not your hands against your brethren. Many of your fathers fought for the freedom and independence we now enjoy. Being children, therefore, of the same family with us, and heirs of the same heritage, the arrival of an army of friends must be hailed by you with a cordial welcome. You will be emancipated from tyranny and oppression, and restored to the dignified station of freemen.

Had I any doubt of eventual success, I might ask your assistance ; but I do not. I come prepared for every contingency—I have a force which will break down all opposition, and that force is but the vanguard of a much greater. If, contrary to your own interest and the just expectations of my country, you should take part in the approaching contest, you will be considered and treated as enemies, and the horrors and calamities of war will stalk before you.

If the barbarous and savage policy of Great Britain be pursued, and the savages are let loose to murder our citizens and butcher our women and children, this war will be a war of extermination. The first stroke of the tomahawk, the first attempt with the scalping knife, will be the signal of one indiscriminate scene of desolation. No white man, found fighting by the side of an Indian, will be taken prisoner—instant death will be his lot. It dictates of reason, duty, justice, and humanity, cannot prevent the employment of a force which respects no rights, and knows no wrongs, it will be prevented by a severe and relentless system of retaliation.

I doubt not your courage and firmness ; I will not doubt your attachment to liberty. If you tender your

services voluntarily, they will be accepted readily. The United States offer you peace, liberty and security. Your choice lies between these and war, slavery, and destruction. Choose, then, but choose wisely—and may he who knows the justice of our cause, and who holds in his hands the fate of nations, guide you to a result the most compatible with your rights and interests, your peace and happiness.

By the General,

A. P. HULL.-

This proclamation of General Hull was full of confidence in the strength of his arms and in the justice of his cause, assuring himself, from that consideration, of a successful termination to the campaign. It threatens, too, of pursuing a war of extermination, in the event of the employment of the Indians on the part of the British, forgetting, it would appear, that already were the Indians engaged co-operating with the forces of the United States against the British army.

General Hull, having crossed into the British dominions with an army which in point of numbers was capable of setting at defiance the whole of the British regular army then in the Canadas, commencing an advance on Fort Malden or Amherstburg. At the time the American army approached that place, the garrison consisted of a subaltern's detachment of royal artillery commanded by Lieutenant Troughton ; a detachment of the forty-first regiment, of three hundred men, commanded by Captain Muir ; and between three hundred and four hundred militia, the whole under the command of Lieutenant Colonel St. George, inspecting field officer of militia-for that district—a force totally inadequate, by its numerical strength, to cope with that of the Americans, to which they were now opposed ; but the most vigorous measures were employed by Major General Brock, to secure the fort against an assault, in the aid of which the

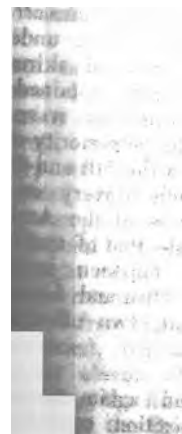
capture of Fort Michilimack intuit was a fortunate circumstance, as it laid open the rear and flanks of the American army to the desultory attacks of the Indians in the neighborhood, a part of whom had assisted in its capture.

As soon as General Hull had established his camp at Sandwich, parties were sent out from his army, to levy contributions of provisions and forage from the inhabitants, who advanced as far as the Moravian Town, committing on their routes the most unheard-of atrocities upon the defenceless inhabitants, carrying with them as prisoners of war such influential persons as they found well affected towards their king and country.

In the mean time, General Brock had despatched, from the garrison of Fort George, Captain Chambers with fifty men of the 41st Regiment, into the interior of the country, for the purpose of collecting such of the militia and Indians as were then ready to join the army at Amherstburg—previously sending Colonel Proctor of the same regiment to assume the command of that garrison. Sixty men also of the 41st Regiment were despatched at the same time to reinforce the besieged garrison, and forty were sent to Long Point, for the purpose of collecting the militia in that vicinity.

General Brock, having made such arrangements, in the government of the province, as were necessary during his absence from York, proceeded from thence to Fort George, and thence to Long Point on Lake Erie, where he was joined by two hundred and sixty of the militia, who had, in a few days and in the very height of their harvest, gallantly volunteered their services to share the dangers of the field in defence of their country, together with the detachment of the 41st Regiment who had been previously sent to that quarter. At the head of these, General Brock proceeded to the relief of Amherstburg, where he arrived on the 13th of August.

General Hull had not long remained in the position which he had taken up, until it was manifest to the British commander, that indecision and distrust reigned every where throughout the American lines ; and that the military talents of General Hull were far froiri being commensurate with the enterprise in which he had engaged, and that his talents had been sadly overrated by his government. In fact, it was evident that General Hull himself had already made this discovery ; and of course these circumstances were held as ominous of his speedy overthrow.



CHAPTER XIV.

General Hull compelled to retreat to his own Territory— General Brock arrives at Amherstbury—, Offers Terms to General Hull for the Surrender of Detroit— General Hull refuses the Proposition—The British Forces effect a Landing on the American Side of the River—General Hull proposes a Cessation of Hostilities—Terms of Surrender dictated to General Hull in his own Tent, by General Brock's Aids de Camp—Articles of Capitulation—Munitions of War 4c. 4c. included in the Conquest—Remarks—General Brock's Proclamation to the Inhabitants of the Michigan Territory—Trial of General Hull by a general Court Martial— Sentence &c.

PREVIOUS to the arrival of Major General Brock, Colonel Proctor had commenced active operations against the enemy by sending detachments across the river in order to cut off all communications between his main body and the reserve. This with other judicious arrangements had compelled the enemy to retreat under the shelter of the guns of his own fort. Several skirmishes had occurred, by which losses had been sustained upon both sides, but in all of which the Americans were compelled to retire and acknowledge the superiority of the British arms; two in particular on the 5th and 9th instants, were maintained with much bravery on both sides, and in both of which the loss of the American army was very considerable, while that of the British amounted to three killed and fourteen wounded. Amongst the latter were Captain Muir and Lieutenant Sutherland, of the 41st Regiment, two officers very justly distinguished by their chief.

After the American army had again crossed the river to their own territory a position opposite Fort

Detroit was taken up by the British, and on the 13th instant batteries were commenced; and although exposed to a well directed fire from a battery of seven twenty-four pounders, yet such was their construction under the able directions of Captain Dixon of the royal engineers, that the works were continued without intermission until completed, without sustaining the least injury from the fire of the enemy..

On the arrival of General Brock at Amherstburg, notwithstanding the formidable numerical strength of the enemy,*preparations were immediately commenced to follow him into his own territory; and on Saturday, the 15th instant, the British forces were collected in the neighborhood of Sandwich for that purpose, consisting of thirty of the Royal Artillery with three six pounders and two three pounders, under the command of Lieutenant Troughton, two hundred and fifty of the 41st Regiment, fifty of the Royal Newfoundland fencibles, and four hundred Canadian militia, in all amounting to seven hundred and thirty, to whom six hundred Indians attached themselves, making an aggregate of one thousand three hundred and thirty.

About noon, on the same day, a flag of truce was sent by General Brock to General Hull, with a summons for the surrender of the town and fort of Detroit, stating that he could no longer restrain the fury of the Indians. To this an immediate and spirited refusal was returned by General Hull, stating that he was prepared to meet any force which might be at the disposal of General Brock, and any consequences which might result from any exertion of it he might think proper to make. About four o'clock, the firing commenced from the British batteries and was immediately returned, which continued without intermission until about eleven o'clock that night. At daylight, next morning, the fire re-commenced upon both sides, at which time the British were discovered landing their

troops at the Springwells, three miles below Detroit. The Indians, in the mean time, had effected a landing about two miles lower down, and moved up, taking a position in the woods about a mile and a half on the left.

The British force immediately advanced within about five hundred yards of the enemy's line, with a view to bring him to a general action, General Brock having received information that Colonel Mc. Arthur, a distinguished American officer who had left the garrison only a few days previous, was now close upon his rear, and that his cavalry had been seen that morning by some of the reconnoitering parties of the British. The American army, having made a precipitate retreat into the fort, an assault was immediately decided upon. However, for this time the effusion of blood was saved by the exterminating General Hull sending out a proposition for a cessation of hostilities, for the purpose of preparing terms of capitulation.

Lieutenant Colonel Mc. Donald, provincial aid de camp, and Captain Glegg, aid de camp to General Brock, were deputed by that general to proceed to the American general, to present the terms upon which General Brock would be pleased to accept the surrender. In about an hour the two aids returned to the British camp, with the condition of capitulation which they dictated to General Hull in his own tent. The conditions were as follows

ARTICLE I Fort Detroit with all the troops, regulars as well as militia, will be immediately surrendered to the British forces under the command of the Major General Brock and will be considered prisoners of war, with the exception of such of the militia of the Michigan Territory 13 have not joined the army.

II. All public stores, arms and all public documents, including every thing else of a public nature, will be immediately given up.

III. Private persons and property of every description will be respected.

IV. His Excellency, Brigadier General Hull, having expressed a desire that a detachment from the state of Ohio, on its way to join his army, as well as one sent from Detroit, should be included in the capitulation, it is accordingly agreed to. It is, however, to be understood, that such part of the Ohio militia as have not joined the army, will be permitted to return to their homes, on condition that they will not serve during the war; their arms will be delivered up, if belonging to the public.

V. The garrison will march out at the hour of twelve o'clock this day, and the British forces will take immediate possession of the fort.

Signed, J. Mc. DONALD, Lieut. Col.
Militia, P. A. D. C.
J. B. GLEGG, Major, A. D. C.
JAMES MILLER, Lieut. Col.
5th Regt. U. S. Infantry.
E. BRUSH, Col. Commanding
1st Regt. of Michigan Militia.

Approved, W. HULL, Brigadier General
Commanding the N. W. Army.
Approved, ISAAC BROCK, Major General.

AN ARTICLE *supplementary to the Articles of Capitulation, concluded at Detroit, the 16th of August, 1812.*

It is agreed that the officers and soldiers of the Ohio militia and volunteers shall be permitted to proceed to their respective homes, on this condition, that they do

not serve during the present war, unless they are exchanged.

Signed, W. HULL, Brigadier General
Commanding U. S. N. W. Army.
Signed, ISAAC BROCK, Major General.

AN ARTICLE in addition to the supplementary Article of Capitulation, concluded at Detroit, on the 16th of August, 1812.

It is agreed that the officers and soldiers of the Michigan militia and volunteers, under the command of Major Wetherall, shall be placed on the same principles as the Ohio militia and volunteers are placed by the supplementary article of the 16th instant.

Signed, W. HULL, Brigadier General
Commanding N. W. Army U. S.
ISAAC BROCK, Major General.

By the surrender of Detroit, which clothed with fresh and accumulating glory the arms of Great Britain, and stamped in indelible characters the terror which the name of a British soldier carries into the ranks of his enemy, an army of two thousand five hundred of the choicest American troops became prisoners of war, and thirty-three pieces of brass and iron ordnance fell into the hands of the conquerors,* besides four hundred rounds of twenty-four pound shot fixed, one hundred thousand cartridges made, forty barrels of powder and two thousand five hundred stand of arms.11

A Return of Ordnance taken in the Fort and Batteries of Detroit, August 16th, 1812.

Iron Ordnance—nine twenty-four pounders, eight twelve pounders, five nine pounders, three six pounders.

Brass Ordnance—three six pounders, two four pounders, one three pounder. one eight inch howitzer, one five and a half inch howitzer.

Total of Ordnance taken-33.

(Signed,) FELIX TROUGHTON, Lieut.
Commanding Royal Artillery.

Col Caes's letter to the American Secretary of War.

On the day of the surrender of the town and fort of Detroit, the American army had fifteen days' provision of every kind on hand. Of meat there was plenty in the country, and arrangements had been made for purchasing and grinding the flour. It was calculated that they could readily have procured three months' provisions, independent of one hundred and fifty barrels of flour and thirteen hundred head of cattle which had been forwarded from the state of Ohio, and remained at the River Raisin under Captain Brush, within reach of the army.*

In endeavoring to appreciate the motives and to investigate the causes which led to an event so unexpected and dishonorable as the surrender of General Hull, it is impossible to find any solution in the relative strength of the contending parties, or in the measure of resistance in General Hull's power.† He had a force at his disposal which was more than double the numerical strength of that of the British general, including six hundred Indians which had attached themselves to the army ; yet, such was the decided bravery and promptitude of General Brock and his little band, that they were determined to storm the American garrison and camp. But it would appear that General Hull was not prepared for such prompt and decided measures as the handful of British regulars and Canadian militia were preparing to press upon him ; he therefore surrendered at discretion.

Cass's letter.

General Brock had no sooner taken possession of the fort and town of Detroit with the Michigan Territory, of which it is the capital, than he issued the following

PROCLAMATION.

Proclamation by" Isaac Brock, Esquire, Major General, commanding His Majesty's Forces in the Province of Upper Canada, 4c. etc

Whereas the Territory of Michigan was this day, by capitulation, ceded to the arms of His Britannic Majesty, without any other condition than the protection of private property—and wishing to give an early proof of the moderation and justice of His Majesty's government—I do hereby announce to all the inhabitants of the said territory, that the laws heretofore in existence shall continue in force until His Majesty's pleasure be known, or so long as the peace and safety of the said territory will admit thereof ; and I do hereby also declare and make known to the said inhabitants, that they shall be protected in the full exercise and enjoyment of their religion—of which all persons, both civil and military, will take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

All persons having in their possession, or having any knowledge of any public property, shall forthwith deliver in the same, or give notice thereof to the officer commanding or to Lieutenant Colonel Nicholl, who are duly authorised to receive and give proper receipts for the same.

Officers of militia will be held responsible that all **sand** in possession of the militiamen be immediately

delivered up, and all individuals whatever who have in their possession arms of any kind, will deliver them up without delay.

Given under my hand, at Detroit, this 16th day of August, 1812, and in the 62d year of His Majesty's reign God save the King.

(Signed,) **ISAAC BROCK,**
Major General.

Such was the glorious result, **to** the British arms, of the first military operations in Canada, during the war. It had, however, an effect throughout the whole of the United States, to beget the most violent altercations with respect to the conduct of General Hull.

The government contended that General Hull had been guilty of the basest and most dastardly cowardice, while he and his friends maintained that the means with which he was supplied were inadequate to the enterprise with which he was intrusted. A court martial was ordered, before which his conduct in that affair underwent a candid and dispassionate investigation, and which, after maturely weighing the evidence in all its bearings, found him guilty of neglect of duty, unofficerlike conduct and cowardice, and did therefore adjudge him to be shot to death ; but the court, considering the advanced age of the prisoner and his revolutionary services, (he being a compatriot of the immortal Washington,) recommended him to mercy. The President, although highly approving of the sentence of the court, yet thought proper to remit its execution.

It has often been contended, by many persons of respectability in the United States, I that the surrender of

We **felt** it due to **truth**—**to** government—to General Hull, and **to** all persons directly or indirectly concerned with the facts

General Hull was the result of bribery ; however, no circumstances connected with that affair will warrant that conclusion ; nor can it, after a moment's reflection, be conceived that it was the effect of cowardice.

General Hull's character, as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, stood high ; and his capacity, to fill the rank he then held in the service was never questioned ; his fidelity towards his government was ever beyond a doubt, and his principles as an individual were blended with the finest honor. But the general, after descending far into the vale of time, a period at which every faculty of the mind becomes imbecile, and man is again in childhood, is placed at the head of an undisciplined army, (a situation he never before had filled;) with his imagination replete with horrors of the most fearful description, at the awful tales of the savage ferocity of the *British* and *Indians*, which were propagated by ignorant and designing people—his ideas magnifying every danger in a tenfold proportion—hence he is rendered incapable of wielding the army entrusted to his command, and therefore surrendered, as he says, to prevent the effusion of blood.

or circumstances leading to the shameful capitulation at Detroit, to suspend our opinion until a sufficiency of light was afforded to chase away the doubts and shadows that rested on the strange transaction. But doubt has resolved itself into certainty—we no longer hesitate to join in opinion with the whole people of the west, " of every sect or persuasion, religious or political," that the army at Detroit was treacherously surrendered; and that General Brock instead of General Hull ought to have been the prisoner. This idea is powerfully enforced by many private letters from gentlemen of the first respectability in the state of Ohio, who had opportunity to know the verity and strength of the opinion advanced ; but the detail by Colonel Cass [see appendix.] is conclusive—it is besides supported by a host of testimony in all the substantial facts it exposes.

Niles' Register—Baltimore.

The foregoing premises are supported by the tenor of his proclamation, as nearly every line of that document breathes a terror not to be disguised. It is corroborated, too, by his communication to Colonel Cass, as appears by that officer's letter to the Honorable William Eustis, where he says " I was informed by General Hull, the morning after the capitulation, that the British forces consisted of eighteen hundred regulars, and that he surrendered to prevent the effusion of human blood. That he magnified their regular force nearly five fold, there can be no doubt."

CHAPTER XV.

An Attack upon the Post of Queenston by a Part of General Van Rensselaer's Army, under the command of General Wadsworth—General Brock killed—Colonel Mc. Donald mortally wounded—Dies of his Wounds—Arrival of a small Reinforcement headed by General Sheaffe who now assumes the Command—Renewal of the Conflict—Communication opened with Chippawa—Victory declares herself on the Side of the British—Cowardly Conduct of the United States Militia—Surrender of General Wadsworth with all the Forces under his Command—Cannonading between Forts George and Niagara—Assembling of another American Force.

HOWEVER complete might have been the victory at Detroit to the British arms, yet glories of a much more brilliant cast awaited them in the defence of their country.

Dispirited at such a total failure in General Hull's expedition, it became late in the season before the American government could collect a force on the frontiers, with which, with any safety, another descent upon Canada could be made. At length, Major General Van Rensselaer, of the New-York militia, with a force of four thousand men under his command, (fifteen hundred of whom were regular troops,) established his camp at Lewiston, on the Niagara River, nearly half way between Lake Ontario and the Falls.

Before daylight, on the morning of the 13th October, a large division of General Van Rensselaer's army, under Brigadier General Wadsworth, effected a landing at the lower end of the village of Queenston, (opposite

Lewiston,) and made an attack upon the position which was defended with the most determined bravery,

by the two flank companies of the 49th Regiment commanded by Captains Dennis and Williams, aided by such of the militia forces and Indians as could be collected in the vicinity. Major General Brock, on receiving intelligence, immediately proceeded to that post, from Fort George, and arrived at the crisis when the handful of British regulars and militia was compelled to retire for a time before an overwhelming force of the enemy. However, on the appearance of their gallant chief, the troops were seized with a fresh animation, and were led on by that brave general to a renewed exertion to maintain the post ; but just at the moment of charging the enemy's position, within pistol shot of his line, and while his ranks wavered with hesitation, General Brock was killed by a musket ball, and with him the position was for a short time lost. Colonel Mc. Donald, His provincial aid de camp, was mortally wounded about the same time, who afterwards died of his wounds.

A reinforcement of the 41st Regiment, commanded by Captain Derenzy, with a few of the Lincoln Militia and a party of Indians were immediately marched from Fort George to the succor of the troops at Queenston, under the direction of Major General Sheaffe who now assumed the command ; and persons who were, both by their situations in life and by their advanced age, exempt from serving in the militia, made common cause ; they seized their "arms and flew to the field of action.*

The conflict was again renewed, and from the advantageous position taken up by Major Norton, the

*Judge Clench of Niagara, an old half pay officer from His Majesty's service, who had, for some cause or other, some time previous, retired from the command of the 1st Lincoln Militia, in company with a few others equally exempt from service, with a truly patriotic zeal, followed their beloved general from Fort George to Queenston, and ranged themselves in the ranks as volunteers, to drive the enemy from their shore,

Indian chief, with his warriors on the woody brow of the high grounds, a communication was opened with Chip-pawa, from whence captain Bullock, of the 41st Regt. with a detachment of that corps, was enabled to march for Queenston, and was joined on the way by parties of the Militia who were repairing from all quarters, with all the enthusiasm imaginable, to the field of battle. The fight was maintained, upon both sides, with courage truly heroic. The British regulars and militia charged in rapid succession, against a force in number far exceeding their own, until they succeeded in turning the left flank of their column, which rested on the summit of the hill—the event of the day no longer appeared doubtful.

Major General Van' Rensellaer, commanding the American army, perceiving his reinforcements embarking very slowly, recrossed the river to accelerate their movements ; but, to his utter astonishment, he found that at the very moment when their services were most required, the ardor of the unengaged troops had entirely subsided. General Van Rensellaer rode in all directions through his camp, urging his men by every consideration to pass over. Lieutenant Colonel Bloome, who had been wounded in the action and recrossed the river, together with Judge Peck who happened to be in Lewiston at the time, mounted their horses and rode through the camp, exhorting the companies to proceed, but all in vain.* Crowds of the United States militia remained on the American bank of the river, to which they had not been marched in any order but run as a mob : not one of them would cross. They had seen the wounded recrossing ; they had seen the Indians ; and were panic struck.† There were wretches to be found

*—11. 1. 1.

†Major Geaneral Van Rensellaer's letter to Major General 11. 1. Dearborn, dated "• Head Quarters, Lewiston, 14th Oct. 1812."

tAmericaa Report of the Battle of Queenston.

in the American ranks, who, at this critical juncture, could talk of the *Constitution*, and the right of the militia to refuse crossing the imaginary line which separates the two countries.*

No sooner had the British forces succeeded in turning the left flank of the enemy than he visibly began to give way ; one grand effort was therefore made upon the crest of his position, in which the heights were carried at the point of the bayonet.

General Van Rensellaer, having found that it was impossible to urge a man to cross the river to reinforce the army on the heights, and that army having nearly expended its ammunition, boats were immediately sent to cover their retreat ; but a desultory fire, which was maintained upon the ferry from a battery on the bank at the lower end of Queenston, completely dispersed the boats, and many of the boatmen relanded and fled in dismay. Brigadier General Wadsworth was therefore compelled, after a vigorous conflict had been maintained for some time upon both sides, to surrender himself and all his officers with nine hundred men, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, to a force by far inferior to his in numbers, which circumstance speaks loudly in favor of the plan of attack adopted by Major General Sheaffe.†

*American Report of the Battle of Queenston.

†Great praise is bestowed on Lieutenant Kerr of the Glengary Fensible Light Infantry, in General Sheaffe's Report, for his intelligence and active services while employed in communications ; †the Indian warriors and other flanking parties during this conflict.

Amongst the officers mentioned in the Report of General Sheade, as havinz particularly signalized themselves, appear the tames of the following of the militia forces, for the gallant and steady manner they led the troops under their command into action, and, with that unparalleled bravery peculiar to Britislo

Soon after Major General Brock's arrival at Queens-7 ton, in the morning, he had sent down an order to Fort George, for cannonading the American fort, Niagara ; the operations of which were so ably directed by Colonel Claus and Brigade Major Evans, who were left in command of Fort George and the adjacent batteries, as completely to silence the American guns, and to force the garrison to abandon it and take shelter in places of more safety ; by which means much mischief was prevented to Fort George and Newark, as the enemy had been throwing heated shot into those places.t

The loss of the British army, in this battle, did not exceed one hundred men, including killed, wounded and missing—while that on the side of the Americans, including deserters, was not less than two thousand : but amongst the killed, the British government and the country had to deplore the loss of one of their bravest and most zealous generals, in Sir Isaac Brock, and one whose memory will long live in the warmest affections of every British subject in Canada.ii

troops, for a length of time sustained the conflict with an over-
•heltino. enemy—viz. Lieutenant Colonels Butler and Clark, Captains Iatt, Durand, Rowe, Applegarth Jas. Crooks, Cooper, Robert Hamilton, Mc. Ewen, and Duncan Cameron; and. Lient. Thomas Butler, commanding a flank company of Lincoln Militia, and Lieutenant Richardson, commanding a flank company of York Militia; Captain A. Hamilton is likewise highly spoken of, for his usefulness and activity at the guns under Captain Holcroft, to whose compdny he attached himself, after being disabled from accompanying his troop in the Niagara Dragoons. to which he then belonged.

The guns in Fort George were under the immediate direction Captains Powell and Cameron of the Militia Artillery, during the 136.

ii Such was the high esteem in which the character of General Brock was held even with the enemy that, during the movement of the funeral procession of that brave man, from Queenston to Fort George, a distance of seven miles, minute guns were fired at every American post on that side of the river ; and even the appearance (it hostilely) suspiciously

Nothing could possibly excel the heroic bravery manifested on both sides, during this sanguinary contest Colonel Van Rensselaer, aid de camp to the general of that name, who led the van of the invading army, displayed much real courage in the gallant and intrepid manner in which he formed the division under his command, on the margin of the river, and led them on to the attack., He even, after receiving four wounds, continued to issue his orders.

Captain Wool, an officer only twenty-six years of age likewise displayed great courage and self-devotedness to his country's service.

The names also of Brigadier General Wadsworth., Colonel Scott, Lieutenant Colonels Christie and Fenwick, and Captain Gibson with several others of an inferior rank, are honorably spoken of in General Van Rensselaer's communications to General Dearborn on the subject.

On the morning subsequent to the battle of Queenston, General Shea entered into an armistice with the American general commanding at Lewiston, to be confined to that part of the frontier comprised between lakes Ontario and Erie, subject to a condition that forty-eight hours notice should be given by either party for a recommencement of hostilities. This arrangement was at first censured, by individuals unaware of the motives by which General Sheaffe was actuated ; it was not, in the flush of victory, taken into consideration, that the number of American prisoners then in his charge far exceeded the numerical strength of his army, when the Indian force was withdrawn ; and that with his very limited means of defence, he had a frontier of forty miles to protect.

The Americans, after recovering in some measure from the disastrous defeat with which they had met at the heights of Queenston, commenced the most vigorous and gigantic preparations for assembling another army, at Buffalo, for a second descent upon the Niagara frontier, under the command of General Smyth ; and if numbers constitute force, they had succeeded beyond their most sanguine hopes.

With an army, the least account of which, in any of the American reports, was eight thousand strong—with fifteen pieces of field ordnance—a populous and fertile country in his rear, and the facility afforded him by good roads to draw the supplies for his army, and to bring into the field a formidable artillery—General Smyth was enabled to come well prepared for the enterprise in which he had engaged ; and so sanguine was he of the successful result of his expedition, that he vauntingly promised, on the 10th of the month, " that in a few days the troops under his command would plant the American standard in Canada ;" and in pursuance of which, he issued an order to the commandant of Fort Niagara, to save the buildings of Fort George and the adjacent town of Newark, as they would be required for winter quarters for the " Army of the Centre."

Such formidable preparations were not unnoticed by the vigilance of General Sheaffe and the efficient officers under his command ; but successfully to repel such terrific odds was conceived to be, at least, very doubtful ; for, up to the period at which the American general had violated the terms of the armistice, not a single British soldier had arrived to reinforce the army ; and, after the conflict at Queenston, the militia, which constituted the majority of the British force, had been permitted to return home to secure the remainder of their harvest,

However, on the first alarm being given of the hostile movements of this American army, those sufficiently harassed but loyal militiamen promptly returned to their posts, fully determined to dispute every inch of ground while a man was left to defend it.

The flaming proclamations of General Smyth—the extended columns of cavalry and infantry, and the immense park of artillery with which he was enabled to line the American shore—and the continued marching and countermarching of countless battalions—attended with all the pomp of war and parade of martial bombast which the prolific mind of General Smyth was capable of calling into contribution, for the purpose of intimidation—were lost upon men so firmly attached to their king and devoted to the service of their country.

CHAPTER XVI.

The American Forces, assembled on the Niagara River, placed under the Command of General Smyth—Another Invasion of Canada—The Invaders completely repelled—Indignant Feelings of the American Troops at the Conduct of General Smyth,—Second Attempt of General Smyth to invade Canada—Complete Failure in that Attempt—The American Army retires to Winter Quarters—Geographical Description of the Country in the Vicinity of Niagara and Queenston—Remarks on the Conclusion of the first Year's Campaign—Effect the Result of the First military Operations had on the public Mind in America—Proposals of Mr. Madison for Terms of Pacification—Rejection of those Terms.

THE American army lay in camp along the lines, until the latter part of the month, daily gathering fresh accessions of strength. During the 25th and 26th, the movements of General Smyth appeared to menace an immediate invasion.

On the morning of the 27th, at daybreak, agreeably to an order of General Sheaffe, issued the previous evening, the guns of Fort George with those of the batteries in the vicinity, simultaneously opened a fire on Fort Niagara, which was continued throughout the day ; and, according to the American official accounts, with considerable execution..

On the night of the 28th, a strong corps of the enemy under Colonel Boerstler and Captain King, aided by a party of seamen, crossed the river about two miles below Fort Erie, apparently for the purpose of siezing the batteries, preparatory to the movement of the main body of General Smyth's force. The batteries were

covered by detachments from the 49th Regiment, commanded by Lieutenants Bartley and Lamont, who defended their posts with the accustomed bravery of the corps to which they belonged ; but the overwhelming force of the enemy obliged them to retire,

In this contest, Lieutenant Lamont was severely wounded, having received not less than twenty-one buck-shot in different parts of his body, and the detachment under his command literally "cut to pieces." Lieutenant Bartley, after making a circuitous retreat by the edge of the woods, joined Captain Whelan of the Newfoundland Fencibles, who, with his own company and three companies of the 3d Regiment of Lincoln Militia, was repairing in double quick time to the relief of the forces defending the batteries. The enemy had, by this time, gained possession of the works.

The enemy was again assailed, an escalade was effected, and the batteries re-taken at the point of the bayonet. A most desperate resistance was made by the enemy, but without effect. Captain King, of the American forces, a brave and meritorious officer, and about thirty-eight non-commissioned officers and rank and file, were made prisoners of war. Colonel Boerstler recrossed the river ; and from the number of killed and wounded of the Americans strewed over the ground on which the conflict was maintained, it was evident they had suffered very severely.

Upon hearing the fire of the contending parties, Colonel Bishop, who commanded at Chippawa, immediately ordered the militia under Lieutenant Colonel Clark and Major Hatt towards the scene of action. Major Ormsby, too, commandant of Fort Erie, marched with a part of his command, consisting of a detachment of the 49th Regiment, to the succor of the troops engaged ; but these detachments only arrived in time to witness

the gallant conduct of their brethren in arms, who had effectually repelled the invaders from the shores of their country.

By the united exertions of Captain Kirby of the Militia Artillery, and Bombardier Jackson of the Royal Artillery, with the men under their command, the guns, which the enemy had dismounted on leaving the batteries, were replaced on their carriages and brought to bear upon the retreating boats with much effect.

General Smyth was contemned and ridiculed by people of all ranks and conditions in the United States, for his pusillanimous conduct in the management of this expedition; and in order, in some measure, to wipe off the stain which justly adhered to his character, he promised to make a more effectual attempt; but scarcely did even this promise suffice to suppress the indignant feelings which his conduct had already excited in the minds of the officers and men of his army.

In pursuance of General Smyth's promise, the army under his command was collected at Black Rock, for the purpose of making another attempt upon Canada, on the morning of the 1st December, at three o'clock; and at half past four o'clock, the troops and ordnance were all embarked and in readiness to proceed to the opposite side of the river.

General P. B. Porter had, pursuant to General Smyth's orders, placed himself in a boat, accompanied by Major Chapin with a few other officers and about twenty-five Buffalo volunteers, at the right of the first line which extended nearly half a mile, to lead the van of the enterprise. But "at daylight," says General Porter in his expose of that affair to the public, "we discovered the troops disembarking, and were informed that the invasion of Canada had been abandoned for this season, and that the troops were ordered to winter quarters. A

scene of confusion ensued which is difficult to describe: About four thousand men, without order or restraint, discharging their muskets in every direction."

After such a base betrayal of the trust reposed in General Smyth by his government, a flag of truce arrived from that general to Colonel Bishop, who had taken command of the troops in the neighborhood of Fort Erie, for the surrender of the fort and troops under his command. "Let your general come and take the fort and troops," was the reply of that officer; but General Smyth did not apparently covet another rencontre; his troops therefore disappeared, and he retired from the service.

The British forces engaged in this affair received the unqualified approbation of the commander in chief. indeed, when it is considered that Colonel Bishop, with a handful of regulars and militia, successfully repulsed such a formidable invasion, language seems barren to mete their praise.

Thus terminated the campaigns of 1812 on the Canadian frontiers. The affairs on the Lakes were not attended with any thing of sufficient importance to claim a notice in general history. The American army under General Dearborn, which was intended to make an attack upon Lower Canada, had lain comparatively dormant, suffering the season to glide past without scarcely being heard of, until the winter began to set in, when it moved into quarters more suitable to that season of the year.

The disappointments and defeats of Generals Hull, Wadsworth and Smyth were sufficient lessons, however, to admonish the American government, that the *fidelity of His Majesty's Canadian subjects towards the British government and constitution, was founded upon too solid a basis to be shook by any effort in the power of that government to make*

For the benefit of the distant reader, it might not be improper to close the account of this campaign with a geographical description of the theatre of military operations, that a more correct idea may be formed of the manoeuvring of the armies, and of the strength of the positions for which they had to contend.

Queenston is a neat little town about seven miles below the Falls of Niagara, at the head of the navigable waters of that strait. It is overlooked by a steep hill, called Queenston Heights, probably more than three hundred feet above the level of the river—the position for which the conflict with General Wadsworth's division was maintained. Queenston is the place of depot for all public stores and merchandise which are brought to that place from Kingston and Lower Canada. Public stores for forts Erie and Malden, and merchandize for all the country above, as well as the returns of furs and produce by that route downwards, are all stored for a time at Queenston. They are transported over the carrying place by wagons, a distance of nine miles, to and from Chippawa above the falls. Queenston is an excellent harbor—deep water and good anchorage—the banks on both sides are elevated, and the landscape probably amongst the most splendid and sublime in the world.

Newark¹ is on the same side of the the river with Queenston, close to where the Niagara river empties into Lake Ontario. Upon the evacuation of the western posts by the British, Fort Niagara, on the opposite side of the river to Newark, was surrendered to the United States. The site for this fort was selected in 1751, by the French, and was considered as the key to the inland country. In its best state it was, however, only a raw part of ear li, scarped with a stockade, and a spacious¹⁵⁵ barrack within the works. The encroachment of the waters threatens to undermine it ; but a work has be

¹Now Niagara.

erected, of the same materials with Niagara, called Fort George, on the British side of the river, on a position which seems, by being more elevated, to command the position of Fort Niagara ; but the works on both sides have been suffered to fall into a state of dilapidation, especially that of Fort George. The *point blanc* distance of the two works is very little over a mile ; and about three quarters of a mile, of a beautiful plain, separates Fort George and Newark.

The war, by this time, had become very unpopular throughout the United States ; and the people, becoming every day more and more discouraged from the frequent disasters which befel their armies, and which every day's report was sounding in their ears, seemed to betray a strong anxiety that matters should be adjusted between the British government and that country, upon any sort of reasonable terms ; but this Mr. Madison and his satellites prevented by offering the most ridiculous and absurd terms of arrangement, on the least approaches to na amicable understanding that would show itself upon either side.

The President proposed an armistice, on condition that the Orders in Council should be immediately rescinded—and that the system of blockade should not be revived—and that all American seamen, on board of British shipping, should be forthwith discharged, without any condition or limitation as to how they might have become American citizens—and that a stop should be put to searching American vessels for British seamen. Thus did the American ruler demand that all advantages should preponderate on his side. The unconditional repeal of the Orders in Council did he require—the immediate discharge of every man, in the British navy, who had ever obtained a certificate of American citizenship, (and the most scrupulous honesty *was* not at all times observed either in giving or receiving those certificates,) and that the system of blockade should not be

revived. And what was to be the return for which the British government should make all these concessions? *Verily Mr. Madison would suspend, for a time, (that is, during his sovereign pleasure,) the operations of his mighty means of warfare against Great Britain.* To concede to such propositions was not consistent with the honor of a great and mighty nation like Great Britain: they were therefore rejected. The President, in a subsequent message to Congress, complained loudly of the conduct of the British government, in rejecting every proposal for a pacific arrangement which had yet been offered; and he even indulged in a series of the grossest misrepresentations. He reiterated his old assertion, that the Indians in the service of the British government had been guilty of the most unheard-of atrocities towards such of the American people as had fallen into their hands as prisoners of war; and contrasted the conduct of the British with the pacific disposition evinced by the people of the United States, who, he stated, were only anxious to promote civilization among the Indian tribes. But probably the best evidence, as regards the humanity of the British and Indians in this respect, may be found in the despatches of General Brock to Sir George Prevost, dated Head Quarters, Detroit, 17th August, 1812. "Many of the Indian nations," says he, "when this contest commenced, were engaged in active warfare with the United States, notwithstanding the constant endeavors of this government to dissuade them from it. Some of the principal chiefs happened to be at Amherstburg, trying to procure a supply of arms and ammunition, which for years had been withheld, agreeably to the instructions received from Sir James Craig, and since repeated by your Excellency.

"From that moment they took a most active part, and appeared foremost on every occasion. They were led yesterday by Colonel Elliot and Captain Mc. Kee, and nothing could exceed their order and steadiness. A few prisoners were taken by them during the advance, whom they treated with every humanity; and it affords me much pleasure in assuring your Excellency, that such was their forbearance and attention to what was required of them, that the enemy sustained no other loss in men than what was occasioned by the fire of our batteries."

CHAPTER XVII.

Engagement between the Charier and Constitution—Attempts made to board the Constitution—The Career rendered completely unmanageable—She surrenders—Remarks.

A PERIOD, most of the events of which have just passed in review, must now be returned to. An ardent anxiety had been for some time expressed, both in Great Britain and America, that the British and American navy should have an encounter—of the result of which, no doubt, on either side, appeared to be entertained. The day, however, arrived.

On the 19th of August, in latitude 40 degrees 20 minutes north and longitude 55 degrees west, off the coast of Labrador—the Guerriere, (British frigate,) Captain Dacres, and the Constitution, (American frigate,) Captain Hull, met—the former of which rated thirty-eight guns but mounted forty-nine and mustered at quarters, at the commencement of the action, two hundred and forty-four men and nineteen boyst : the latter rated forty-four guns but mounted fifty-six, of uncommonly heavy metal, and mustered at quarters, at the commencement of the action, four hundred and seventy-six men, almost double the number of the Guerriere.

It is probably not unworthy of remark, that on board of the Guerriere at the time of this engagement, there were ten American seamen who had for a number of years belonged to her ; but as the declaration of war by the United States, was not known at the time of her sailing, no opportunity of course had since that period offered itself for discharging them. The gallant and generous Dacres, however, conceiving it to be unjust, in the extreme, to compel them to fight against their countrymen, ordered them to quit their quarters and go below.

The Guerriere, being on her return from a cruise—her foremast and bowsprit both considerably crippled, and a great part of her fore rigging gone—discovered a sail on her weather beam, which afterwards proved to be the United States frigate Constitution, bearing down on her fire wind. She immediately made sail and gave chase ; all hands were called to quarters and the ship cleared for action.

At about twenty minutes past four, the frigates came to close quarters, and a heavy fire was continued for some time. About half past five, the mizen mast of the Guerriere was shot away and fell over the starboard quarter, which brought the ship to the wind against her helm, and left her exposed to a galling fire from the Constitution, which had placed herself on the larboard bow of the Guerriere, and was raking her fore and aft. At the same time, her marines and riflemen were picking from the decks of the Guerriere all whom they found to be most efficient.

Several attempts were made by the crew of the Guerriere, to board her opponent ; but the sea ran so high, and the ship refusing to answer her helm, it was found to be impracticable.

At twenty minutes past six, the fore and main masts of the Guerriere went over the starboard side, which completely rendered the guns on that side useless ; and just as the crew had finished clearing the wreck, the sprit-sail yard gave way, which left the ship an unmanageable wreck in the trough of the sea, rolling her main-deck guns under water. The Constitution, which had previously shot ahead to refit, had now completed and returned to the contest ; when Captain Dacres called together the few officers who remained, and held a short consultation, the result of which was, that they con

ceived any further resistance a useless waste of valuable lives ; the Union Jack was, therefore, taken from the stump of the mizen mast, where it had been, from necessity, nailed fast.

On board of the *Guertiere*, there were fifteen killed and sixty-three wounded ; amongst the latter of whom was Captain Dacres, who received a severe contusion in the back ; and on board of the *Constitution*, there were eight killed and twelve wounded.

No blame could possibly be attached to the officers and crew of the *Guerriere* : she was defended with the most consummate skill and gallantry, against a force almost double their superior in strength, in almost every point of view, and only surrendered when further resistance would have been the most prodigal waste of lives of the brave crew that had already done their duty to their king and country.

It redounds much to the honor of the United States—the manner in which the officers and seamen of the *Constitution* conducted themselves towards their prisoners. It was the conduct of the brave towards the brave, and the wounded were attended with every mark of kindness.

Language fails when a description is attempted of the triumph of the people of the United States, on hearing of this, their first naval victory (if after such an unequal contest it might be so called,) over " the lords of the main," who, until now, had driven every other power from the face of the ocean that ventured to contest their dominion on that element. Public entertainments, of the most splendid description, were prepared by the citizens of Boston, for the officers and crew of the *Constitution*, on their landing at that place ; and, in every town through which Captain Hull passed, the example of the citizens of Boston was faithfully copied.

'Cite war *Nva*: now becoming popular throughout America ; and it was in contemplation to augment the American navy, so as to *cope with that of Great Britain*.

Although there were some unthinking people in England, who censured Captain Dacres for not rather having allowed himself and crew to go to the bottom than to have surrendered to an enemy whom they looked upon as contemptible, yet there were others—and those, too, who were more capable of forming a juster value of the American character, and who made a proper estimate of the relative strength of the two vessels—who formed quite a different opinion on the subject:-

To the groundless apprehensions, generated in a moment of disappointment, the best answer probably which could be made, is contained in the following very sensible and very pertinent remarks*, which may be read with interest when the puny naval force of America shall be forgotten,

" There are three of the American frigates, viz.—the *Constitution*, the *President* and the *United States*, which were originally intended for line of battle ships, and are of one thousand six hundred tons burthen and upwards, admeasurement. They carry fourteen twenty-four pounder long guns, at each side on their main deck, and are armed on their quarter deck and fore-castle, which nearly meet, with fourteen thirty-two pounders, carronades, on each side—making a total of fifty-six guns heavy. By their capacity, this battery is elevated possibly ten feet above the lead water line, from the lower side of the main deck ports.

*Copied from a respectable English printed day.

" It is right further to remark, that this great capacity enables them to possess considerably larger scuttles for ventilating them between decks; and by such combined power of space and air, they are enabled to carry a complement of from four hundred and fifty to five hundred men.

"It is also worthy of remark, that this portion of their navy forms the *elite* of the corps, has been long in commission, and commanded by their best officers; add to which, that they are our own degenerate sons that man them, many of whom are absolutely fighting against us, (as it were,) with halts about their necks.

"The outcry made against the government is, that this small comparative force has not been already swallowed up. They, however, like a mouse on Salisbury Plain, and having a roving commission, are of course not long in one spot. When met at sea by the *Guerriere* and *Macedonian*, two of our heaviest frigates now in commission, the fight was between single ships, and the result has been known, to the sorrow certainly of all lovers of their country.

" But will it be asserted by any one, that our whole frigate navy must be remodeled, in consequence of this check? Would it not be better at once to declare, that these three ships, viz.—the *Constitution*, *President* and *United States*, are line of battle ships, having equipments in men and ordnance and capacity equal thereto; and exonerate our Captains of frigates from going alongside of them, unless assisted by some additional force?

" It should be remembered by the British public, that a captain of a British thirty-two gun frigate mounting only twelve pounder carronades, is bound to fight any single decked ship (meaning thereby 'gun-deck,' ^S contradistinguished from quarter-deck and fore-castle, though their two platforms nearly meet,) and ^{GORSE-}

quently proceeds into battle, a willing sacrifice to the honor of the flag whose independence he is most certainly bound to maintain. But surely there should be some bounds to such honorable chivalry. Formerly it was necessary, or at least thought so, for a regiment to remain under a severe galling fire which possibly they could not return to advantage, merely because a British soldier was never to turn his back on an enemy. But such courage is better managed now a days, thanks to Lord Wellington and other able men who have learned at his lordship's school. And why not permit our frigates (of which, I repeat it, the *Guerriere* and *Macedonian* are as good specimens of force as we can bring; and being both taken in single action shows, that they are not equal to such frigates of the American navy as before described,) to retire from such force, as they are accustomed to do from two decked ships?

" It is said by some, who rather delight in exhibiting any loss of war, (this country must in common share with other nations,) as the faults of the persons whose cause they do not espouse, that we do not man our ships sufficiently. Why not, say they, muster the same number of men as the American frigates? The answer is easy—our frigates cannot stow them; and if stow them, or rather crowd them, they could not take the necessary supplies of provisions for the usual period of a common foreign service, in which British shipping are chiefly engaged, in consequence of our vast dominions abroad and extensive commercial relations. Our frigates of the first class, with the exception of the *Endymion* and *Cambria*, the former now repairing, and the latter either taken to pieces or about to be, are about one thousand and fifty tons, six hundred tons less than either of the American frigates before described.

" It may be then said, and indeed is already said, build them ! This certainly may be done, and probably will be done to a proper extent, if any fit two decked ships whose upper works are in a state of decay, can be found to cut down*. It is also possible that the department or government to which this great responsibility attaches, may be disposed to do so ; time, however, must be allowed for such a process. It is easy for people who know little of the subject, to clamor why have we not this or that, the moment it is wanted. Do our countrymen, at least the sensible part, forget that our navy, with the most rigid economy, costs its twenty millions sterling annually, and would if such prodigality were used, cost us thirty millions ? Do they forget of what perishable materials ships are composed ? Do they forget that dreadful disease, the dry rot ? But suppose we had three, or four, or six, say, of this description of frigates, like the Americans, either building or cutting down larger ships for the purpose, it might happen, and most likely would happen, that they never would meet the large Americans. The two finest British frigates, the *Endymion* and *Cambrian*, have, I will not say never been engaged at all, but, certainly never with a frigate of any description.

" But even admitting that we had them, and that they did meet, might not some of our fast sailing two deck ships, now in the American seas, be equally and successfully employed—nay, better ; for the certainty of ykory, with a comparatively less loss, would be

*These remarks are only adapted to the period in which the war was in progress ; but it must be recollected it is of that period that the author is writing ; and he is anxious that not only the present age, in which he writes, but posterity may be made acquainted with all the circumstances under which the war was prosecuted on both sides.

greater. On the whole, therefore, I consider that the nation should at once vote, as it were, these three American *sai disant frigates*, line of battle ships; and support a man, and not run his character down, who considered it right to retire from one. They would then be of no more consequence than any other ships of war ; and, by being liable to capture by one of our two deckers, are the description of ships, that, if the American war could long continue, would be too expensive for frigates, and not of force for the line.

CHAPTER XVIII.

A number of merchant Vessels captured by the Host of American Privateers which began to it the Ocean—Engagement between the British armed Brig Frolic and the United States Sloop of War Wasp—Crew of the Wasp boards the Frolic—Frolic captured—Arrival of the Poictiers of seventy-four Guns, which conducts both of the Vessels into Bermuda—Captain Jones, of the Wasp, arrives in the United States—Action between the Macedonian and the United States—Macedonian captured—Captain Carden's Reception on Board the United States—Action between the British Frigate Java and the United States Frigate Constitution—Captain Lambert mortally wounded—Capture of the Java—Remarks..

FRESH proofs were daily accumulating, that the naval forces of America were not wanting in point of valor and naval tactics, as was by many, at the commencement of the war, supposed to be the case ; but that they were probably, at some future period, should the war continue, destined to dispute the dominion of the ocean with Britania herself. American privateers began to swarm from every port in the United States, by which numerous captures of British trading vessels were made ; besides which, repeated engagements with the public armed vessels were occurring, amongst which was an encounter between His Majesty's armed brig Frolic and the United States sloop of war Wasp.

On the morning of the 18th of October, in latitude 36 deg. N. and long. 64 deg. W.—His Majesty's armed brig Frolic, Captain Whinyates, being on her homeward bound voyage from the Bay of Honduras, having under convoy six richly laden merchantmen from that quarter, while the crew were employed repairing damages which

ithe had sustained the preceding night in a violent gale of wind, in which she had carried away her main-yard, lost her top-sails, and sprung her main-top-mast, she descried a strange sail which gave chase to the convoy. Captain Whinyates immediately dropped astern ; and, not yet aware of the war between Great Britain and the United States, he hoisted Spanish colors, with a view to decoy the sail and give the convoy time to escape.

About ten o'clock, the sail closed with the Frolic, and proved to be the American sloop of war, Wasp Captain Jacob Jones. A close and spirited action commenced; the fire was maintained on board the Frolic with such animation, for a time, and apparently with such good effect, as encouraged every hope of a speedy termination in their favor ; but the gaff-head braces being shot away, and the main-mast entirely script of canvass, the brig became completely unmanageable. The enemy, taking advantage of this, s' of ahead and raked her fore and aft, while the Frolic was unable to bring a gun to bear on her antagonist.

The Wasp again took up her position on the larboard side of the Frolic, and continued to pour in a most destructive fire. The Frolic, at length, fell with her bowsprit between the main and wizen rigging of the enemy, when she was immediately hoarded and the British colors hauled down, within about fifty minutes after the commencement of the action.

What must have been the astonishment of the American seamen, when they found not a man alive on the deck of the Frolic, except three officers and the mariner at the wheel. Such was the determined bravery with which the Frolic was defended; and nothing but the crippled state of the brig, occasioned by the heavy gale she had encountered the preceding night, could have

brought on such a speedy and disastrous issue, as the vessels were nearly equal in strength, both as regarded men and guns.

The loss of the Frolic, in this sanguinary engagement, was thirty killed and fifty wounded ; while in the Wasp, the loss was only trifling.

On the same day, while Captain Jones was refitting in order to convey his prize into port, a sail hove in sight, which proved to be the British ship of war, Poictiers, of seventy-four guns, commanded by Captain Sir John Beresford, who re-captured the Frolic, and captured the Wasp, conducting both vessels into Bermuda.

A short time after, Captain Jones was exchanged; and the demonstrations of joy with which he was received in the United States, were almost without a parallel.

The Congress presented the officers and crew of the Wasp with the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars as a compensation for the loss of their prize ; and Captain Jones was appointed to the command of the Macedonian frigate, which the United States government had purchased from the captors.

The American navy was destined, before the termination of this year, to acquire yet further triumphs on the ocean ; which, the high character maintained for a series of years by the British navy over the naval forces of those powers with whom they had been at war, rendered, at once, a subject of astonishment and affliction.

Early on the morning of the 25th of October, 1812, a few minutes after daybreak, His Majesty's frigate Macedonian, commanded by Captain John Surman

Carden, in lat. 29 deg. N. and long. 29 deg. 30 W., descried a sail to leeward, which, after standing for it some time, was discovered to be an American frigate of the largest class, called the United States and commanded by Commodore Stephen Decatur.

About nine o'clock, the frigates neared each other, and the United States opened her fire, which was immediately returned by the Macedonian ; but, by reason of the enemy keeping two points off the wind, Captain Carden was prevented coming as close to him as he wished. In this situation, so discouraging to the officers and crew of the Macedonian, her guns being of so much lighter caliber than those of the enemy, the action raged for an hour ; after which the enemy backed and came to the wind, when the Macedonian brought her to close quarters. However, it was soon discoverable that, even then, the superior strength of force of the enemy rendered the British frigate a very unequal match.

Yet, notwithstanding the great disparity of force, Captain Carden maintained the battle for two hours and ten minutes, vainly hoping that some fortunate occurrence might turn the engagement in his favor ; during which time, the mizen-mast of the Macedonian was shot away by the board, top-masts shot away by the caps, main-yard shot in pieces, lower masts badly wounded, lower rigging all cut to pieces, a small proportion only of the fore-sail left to the fore-yard, all the gulls on the quarter-deck and fore-castle disabled but two and filled with wreck, two also on the main-deck



disabled, and several shots between wind and water, and a very great proportion of the crew killed and wounded.

During the engagement, the enemy had sustained but very little damage, in comparison with that of the Macedonian, and had now shot ahead to place himself in a position to rake his antagonist, while she rolled in the trough of the sea, a perfect wreck and unmanageable loge. At this crisis of the battle, no alternative seemed to present itself to Captain Carden but the painful extremity of a surrender.

The heavy loss sustained on board of the Macedonian, in this eventful and sanguinary engagement, together with the skillful manner in which she was brought into action and maintained the fight, fully evince that neither to a want of courage or a knowledge of naval tactics was the defeat to be attributed; for every effort of both had been exhausted, and every hope of success (even by chance itself,) had disappeared, before the mortifying thought of a surrender had suggested itself; and to have maintained the action longer, would have a most unpardonable sacrifice of lives rendered, bug ere this, truly invaluable to their country.

The loss of the Macedonian was very great: she had thirty-six killed, thirty-six severely wounded, many of whom, on examination, were despaired of, and thirty-two slightly wounded—total loss of the Macedonian, one hundred and four. The loss of the United States frigate is stated, in Commodore Decatur's report, to be

*Captain Carden's Report to John W. Croker, Esquire, dated 28th October, 1812.

only seven killed and **live wounded**; but the vessel was very much shattered both **in hull** and rigging. Captain Carden states, that after being taken on board the United States, **a lieutenant and six men of that vessel** were thrown overboard.

"On being taken on board the enemy's ship," says the gallant Carden, in his report, "I ceased to wonder at the result of the battle. The United States is built with the scantlidg of a seventy-four gun ship, mounting thirty long twenty-four pounders (English ship guns,) on her main-deck, and twenty-two forty-two pounders carronades, with two long twenty-four pounders on her quarter-deck and fore-castle, howitzer guns on her tops, and a travelling carronade on her upper deck, with a complement of four hundred and seventy-eight picked men."

The reception which Captain Carden had when taken on board the United States, by the gallant Decatur, was truly characteristic of a brave and generous mind, and must have been a source of consolation to Captain Carden in that moment of disaster. When Captain Carden presented his sword to the American commodore, "I cannot think," said that magnanimous chief, "of taking the sword of an officer who had that day proved that he knew so well how to use it; and, instead of taking his sword, he should feel a peculiar happiness in taking him by the hand."

On the arrival of the news of this victory, the most unbounded joy was evinced throughout the United States; and on the evening of its arrival at Washington, (the capital,) the city was most brilliantly illuminated.

Another naval action, which, too, terminated in favor of the American flag, closes the affairs on the ocean for this year. This was fought by the Java frigate of thirty-eight guns, commanded by Captain Lambert, and

the United States frigate Constitution, now commanded by Commodore Bainbridge*.

On the 29th of December, 1812, the Java being on an outward bound voyage to the East Indies, in latitude thirteen degrees and six minutes south, and longitude thirty-six degrees west, and from ten to fifteen leagues from St. Salvador, discovered a strange sail which was soon ascertained to be the American frigate Constitution.

The Constitution commenced the action by firing at the Java, while at some distance ; the Java immediately returned a broadside ; both ships begun to near each other, manoeuvring alternately to gain a raking position and to avoid being raked ; during which an incessant fire was maintained on both sides with grape and round shot.

At two o'clock, P. M., the ships came to close quarters. The battle raged, in this situation, till within a few minutes of three, when the unequal force of the enemy was becoming more and more apparent. The jib-boom of the Java having got foul of the wizen rigging of the Constitution, Captain Lambert endeavored to shoot ahead and extricate himself from the enemy, and rake him fore and aft, preparatory to boarding him ; but, while performing this manoeuvre, the main-top-mast of the Java was shot away directly above the cap, lost her gaff and spanker-boom, and had her mizen-mast shot away nearly by the board.

During this part of the sanguinary struggle, the gallant Captain Lambert, who had hitherto engaged himself in every part of the ship where the greatest fury of the

For the strength of the frigate Constitution, see pages 131 and 137.

battle seemed to rage, in animating his brave crew with his presence, and by his skill directing their exertions, now fell, mortally wounded in the breast ; and was, of course, in consequence, obliged to quit the command, which devolved on Lieutenant Chads, the first Lieutenant of the ship, who bravely defended the frigate until every source of hope had failed of saving the vessel from falling into the hands of the enemy.

The guns of the Java were completely covered with wreck, and not a spar standing, and the Constitution had been laid athwart her bows, and was in the very instant of effectually raking her decks, before the officer commanding the Java could reconcile his mind to a surrender ; but the idea of sacrificing so many valuable lives without the slightest hope of making the least further resistance, only determined him to surrender His Majesty's frigate to the American commander ; the only remaining color, which had been made fast to the stump of the mizen-mast, was therefore taken down.

Captain Lambert only survived his defeat six days, when that gallant naval officer surrendered his life, (a valuable one to his country,) covered with wreaths of laurels.

" The Java," says Commodore Bainbridge, in a letter to a friend, dated at sea, 24th January, 1813, " was exceedingly well fought. Poor Lambert, whose death I sincerely regret, was a distinguished gallant officer old worthy man."

The Java had on board a number of passengers for the East India station, amongst whom were Lieutenant General Hislop, appointed to the command of Bombay, with Major Walker and Captain Wood, his aids de camp, besides Mr. Marshall, master and commander in the Royal Navy, proceeding out to assume the command of a sloop of war on the Indian station. Such a cleterrn;ned

defence was made on board the Java, notwithstanding the great disparity of force, that she was so wrecked by the fire of the enemy as to render it impracticable to take her to the United States ; she was therefore set on fire and blown up. The prisoners were landed at Saint Salvador, on parole, to return to England.

The loss of the Java, in this engagement, was immensely great. It appears from the report of Lieutenant Chads to the admiralty, that there were twenty-two killed and one hundred and two wounded*; while the loss of the Constitution was only ten men killed and

The following letter, (if genuine,) said to have been found on board the Constitution, after the removal of the prisoners into St. Salvador, gives the loss of the Java much higher than the report of Lieutenant Chads. However, the reader, after considering the various inconsistent and ridiculous accounts of the circumstances of the war, from American sources, (as we have only the American account for this letter,) must exercise his own judgment in giving it credence.

"Prisoner on board the Constitution, American Frigate,
St. Salvador, Brazils, 1st January, 1813.

" My Dear Sir—

I am sorry to inform you of the unpleasant news of Mr. Gascoine's death. Mr. Gascoine and myself were shipmates in the Marlborough, and first came to sea together. He was shot early in the action, by a round shot, in his right thigh, and died in a few minutes afterwards. Four others of his messmates shared the same fate, together with sixty men killed and one hundred and sixty wounded. The official account you will, no doubt have read before this reaches you. I beg you will let all his friends and relations know of his untimely fate.

" We were on board the Java for a passage to India, when we fell in with the frigate. Two parcels I have sent you, under good care, and hope this will reach you safely.

" Yours, truly,

H. D. CORNECK,

" Lieut. Peter V. Wood, 22d Regt. of Foot,
Isle of France or Bourbon, East Indies."

forty-six wounded—by the American report, the number on board of the Constitution is said to be only nine killed and twenty-five wounded.

In point of strength, the Java might be said to be nearly equal to the Guerriere when she engaged the Constitution. True she had a number of extra seamen on board, for the purpose of manning ships of war in the East Indies ; but these only crowded her decks and probably rendered the event more unpropitious.

These naval disasters were viewed, by a number of people in England, as a certain precursor of the repression of that naval pride and prowess, in British seamen, which had in such an eminent degree contributed to their ascendancy on the ocean; but, by those better acquainted with the advantages under which an American vessel at all times engaged her antagonist, and of the energy and resolution, even at such times, evinced by the British tars, when all chances of war and every combination of circumstances conspired to operate against them, to an extent capable of subduing all but those in whom courage and heroism had ever been innate and indestructible principles, it was expected they would only stimulate to renewed exertions to recover that proud eminence which they seemed born to hold on their native element

CHAPTER XIX.

The American Secretary of State transmits to the American Minister in London, certain Documents relative to the Declaration of War—Pursuant to Instruction from the Secretary, Mr. Russel communicates with Lord Castlereah, on the Subject of an Armistice—Mr. Russel's Propositions rejected—Lord Castlereah transmits the Prince Regent's Decision on the foregoing—Mr. Russel obtains an admiralty Order for Protection during his Passage to America—Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren invested with Power to negotiate on Terms of Pacification with the Government of the United States—Communicates with Mr. Monroe on the Subject—Mr. Monroe's Answer.

DURING the period, the events of which have but just been taken in retrospect, negotiations were in progress for the purpose of bringing to a good understanding the differences between the two countries.

A few days after the declaration of war, a letter was addressed to Mr. Russel, the charge des affairs of the United States in London, by Mr. Monroe the secretary of state, bearing date the 26th of June, 1812, enclosing a copy of the President's message and an act of congress, by which the appeal to hostilities was made, together with the report of the committee of foreign relations which brought the subject under consideration.

This letter, after recapitulating the grievances so often repeated by the American government, and stating the impossibility for that nation to surrender her rights, relinquishing the ground which she had taken, and that *it was* equally incompatible with her interests and character to rely longer on measures which had hitherto failed to accomplish her objects, it proceeds to state that

war was the only remaining alternative ; and, that fact being clearly ascertained, he would discover, by the enclosed documents, that it was adopted with decision.

Mr. Russel was further advised in this letter, that although the United States had many just and weighty causes of complaint against Great Britain, yet, if the Orders in Council were repealed, and no illegal blockades were substituted for them—and orders were given to discontinue the impressment of seamen from American vessels, and those restored who had already been impressed—there would uvigt no reason why hostilities should not immediately cease.

As an inducement (says Mr. Monroe in his letter,) to the British government to discontinue the practice of impressment from American vessels, Mr. Russel should give assurances that a law would be passed (to be reciprocal,) to prohibit the employment of British seamen in the public or commercial service of the United States.

Agreeably to the instructions contained in Secretary Monroe's letter, Air. Russel addressed a letter to Lord Castlereah, dated the 24th of August, on the subject of Isis instructions, in which, after expatiating at length on the unceasing anxiety at all times manifested by his government, to maintain the relations of peace and friend-

tit is probably not altogether unworthy of remark, that the British government, in return for the numerous concessions it was called upon to make, was to rest wholly upon the assurances of the American minister, that a law would be passed at some subsequent period—that is, no doubt, when it would best suit the interests of the United States in its collusions with the French ruler. This is what Mr. Russel, in his letter to Lord Castlereah, already alluded to, calls proof of the spirit which has unhormly distinguished the United States government, in all its proceeding*

ship with Great Britain—of its patience in suffering the many wrongs it had received—and finally of its perseverance, by all the amicable means within its power to obtain redress, it had despaired of ever being able to receive that redress from the justice of the British government, to which it had so often appealed in vain—it therefore conceived (says Mr. Russel,) that a further forbearance would be a virtual surrender of interests and rights essential to the prosperity and independence of the nation confided to its protection, and was therefore compelled to discharge its high duty by an appeal to arms.

Mr. Russel, however, states to his lordship, that notwithstanding the government of the United States, for the preservation of its character as a nation, regarded this as the only course it could pursue, yet he was authorised to stipulate with the British government an armistice to commence at or before the expiration of sixty day& after the signature of the instrument providing for it, upon the conditions set forth in Mr. Monroe's letter of the 26th June ; and likewise adds, that he was instructed' by his government, that such an arrangement would prove much more efficacious in securing to Great Britain her seamen, than the practice for which it is proposed to be a substitute, indtpendeilt of all the other objections to it.

In reply to this communication of the American charge des affaires, Lord Castlereah, in a letter dated 29th August, informed him that although the diplomatic intercourse between the two countries had been terminated by a declaration of war on the part of the United States, he had not hesitated, under the peculiar circumstances of the case and the authority under which he acted, to submit to the Prince Regent the proposition contained in his letter of the 24th inst., for a suspension of hostilities

But his lordship did not forget to inform Mr. Russel, that, from the period at which his instructions must have been issued, it was obvious this overture must have been determined upon by his government in ignorance of the Orders in Council of the 23d June ; and as a clause in his instructions actually forbid a departure from the conditions already specified, it only remained for his lordship to add that the Prince Regent felt himself under the necessity of declining to concede the proposition therein contained, as being on various grounds absolutely inadmissible.

His lordship, in the same letter apprised Mr. Russel, that the British government, as soon as it had reason to apprehend that Mr. Foster's functions might have ceased in America, in consequence of war having been declare d by that government before the aforementioned repeal of the Orders in Council of the 23d June, and the instructions consequent thereupon could have reached him, measures had been taken for authorising the British admiral on the American station to propose to the government of the United States an immediate and reciprocal revocation of all hostile orders, with the tender of giving full effect, in the event of hostilities being discontinued, to the provisions of said order, upon the conditions therein specified.

His lordship, in consequence, as he himself states, declines entering into a detailed discussion of the propositions which Mr. Russel had been directed to bring forward ; as his [Mr. Russel's] government had delegated to him no powers to negotiate thereon ; and therefore rested the negotiation wholly between the admiral at the port of Halifax, and the government of the United States.

His lordship further expressed his surprise, that a condition preliminary even to a suspension of hostilities, no greater security should be given by the American

government, than a simple assurance that a law should be hereafter passed prohibiting the employment of British seamen in the public or commercial service of the United States ; and even on such fallacious security a demand should be made, that that government should immediately desist from its ancient and accustomed practice of impressing British seamen from the merchant ships of foreign nations ; yet his lordship expressed the willingness of the British government to receive from the government of the United States, and amicably discuss, any proposition professing to have in view, either to check abuse in the exercise of the practice of impressment, or to accomplish by means less liable to vexation the object for which impressment had hitherto been found necessary.

On the morning of the 1st of September, Mr. Russel received Lord Castlereah's communication containing the Prince Regent's decision regarding the propositions alluded to ; upon which the American ambassador addressed a note, on the same day, announcing his intention to embark immediately at Plymouth on board the ship Lark, for the United States ; and on the day following, an admiralty order was transmitted to him from the foreign office, for the protection of that ship as a cartel on her voyage to America, and for the free embarkation of his family, retinue and baggage, and the effects of the legation.

During the diplomatic intercourse between Lord Castlereah and Mr. Russel, for the purpose of arresting the progress of the war, Sir John Borlase Warren, admiral of the blue and British naval commander on the Halifax station, opened a correspondence with Mr. Monroe. the American secretary of state, having in view the same object.

Admiral Warren, in a note dated 30th September, acquaints Mr. Monroe of the revocation of the Orders in

in Council affecting American commerce, proposing at the same time that the American government should instantly recall their letters of marque and reprisal against British ships, together with all instructions for any acts of hostility whatever against the territories of His Majesty, or the persons or property of his subjects, with a particular understanding that immediately on the receipt of an official assurance to that effect, corresponding instructions should be issued by the British government, preparatory to a final pacification between the two countries.

In answer to the above communication, Mr. Munroe, in a despatch dated "Department of State, 27th October, 1812," after referring to Mr. Russel's correspondence with Lord Castlereah, and its unhappy issue, and expressing his hopes that, as the British government had authorised him to propose a cessation of hostilities, it was doubtless aware of the important and salutary effect which a satisfactory adjustment of this difference cannot fail to have on the future relations between the two countries—he likewise added, that he indulged the hope that the British government, before this period, had invested him with full power for that purpose. " Experience," adds Mr. Monroe, " has sufficiently evinced that no peace can be durable unless this object is provided for."

After the secretary informing Admiral Warren that it was, without further discussion of questions of right, the ardent desire of the President to provide a remedy for the evils complained of on both sides, he proceeds to state, that the claim of the government of Great Britain is to take from the merchant vessels of other countries British subjects ; in the practice of which, the commanders of British ships of war often take from vessels of the United States American citizens.

If the United States prohibit the employment of British subjects in their service, and enforce the prohibition, by suitable regulations and penalties, the motive for the practice is taken away. It is in this mode that the President is willing to accommodate this important controversy with the British government, and it cannot be conceived on what ground the arrangement can be refused.

A suspension of the practice of impressment, pending the armistice, continues Mr. Monroe,) seems to be a necessary consequence. It cannot be presumed, while the parties are engaged in a negotiation to adjust amicably this important difference, that the United States would admit the right, or acquiesce in the practice, of the opposite party, or that Great Britain would be unwilling to restrain her cruisers.

By what parity of reasoning Mr. Monroe could for a moment presume that the British government would immediately suspend a practice by which the strength of her navy was ensured, and her right to which had never been questioned but by America—merely on an assurance that a reciprocal law should be afterwards passed by his government—is a problem not easy of solution.

Mr. Monroe, after making a few explanations on some clauses of Mr. Russel's instructions, adds in conclusion, " that if there were no objection to an accommodation of the differences relating to impressment in the mode proposed, other than the suspension of the British claim to impressment during the armistice, there can be none to proceeding, without the armistice, to an immediate discussion and arrangement of an article on that subject. This great question being satisfactorily adjusted, the way would be opened to an armistice or any other course

leading most conveniently and expeditiously to a general pacification.

However, the instructions transmitted to Admiral Warren by the British government, only authorised him to arrange with the government of the United States, in the event of an armistice, as far as regarded the revocation of the laws which interdicted the commerce and ships of war from the harbors and waters of the United States, while those of France, her adversary, had ever enjoyed that privilege—leaving for a subsequent discussion all other grounds of difference between the two governments. All means which had been hitherto resorted to, for an accommodation between the rival states, having failed, negotiations were stopped ; and war continued to be prosecuted with every possible energy on both sides.

CHAPTER XX.

Meeting of the United States Congress—Substance of the President's Message, as regarded the Affairs with Great Britain—Refers to the State of Finance—President's View in declaring War.

ON the 3d day of November, being the time appointed by law for the meeting of the United States congress, the speaker, Mr. Clay, took the chair at twelve o'clock ; when it was found that thirty-eight members were in their places in the house. In the senate only eighteen members were present ; and, that number not being a quorum, both houses were adjourned until next day, when a quorum was present. The committees for that purpose then announced to the president, that the two houses were ready to receive any communication he had to make, when Mr. Madison, by his private secretary, Mr. Cole, presented a message.

After the usual routine of congratulations common to such state papers, Mr. Madison calls the attention of congress to the motives for assembling a large military force under the command of General Hull, in the Michigan Territory, before the declaration of war—representing it as a measure of precaution and forecast, with a general view to the security of the frontier ; and in the event of war, to such operations in the upper parts of the provinces of Canada as would intercept the hostile influence of Great Britain over the savages, obtain the command of the lake on which that part of Canada borders, and maintain a co-operating relation with such forces as might be most conveniently employed against other parts.

After adverting to the disastrous result of the expedition under General Hull in the Michigan Territory,

the president states that that defeat "was not without its consoling effects. It was followed," says he, " by signal proofs that the national spirit rises according to the pressure on it. The loss of an important post and of the brave men surrendered with it, inspired, every where, new ardor and determination. In the states and districts least remote, it was no sooner known than every citizen was ready to fly to arms—at once to protect his brethren against the blood-thirsty savages let loose by the enemy on an extensive frontier, and to convert a partial calamity into a source of invigorated efforts.

" This patriotic zeal," adds Mr. Madison, " which it was necessary rather to limit than excite, has embodied an ample force from the states of Kentucky and Ohio, and from parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia."

This annual exposition of national affairs, next adverts to the descent made by General Van Rensselaer on the post at Queenston, on the Niagara River, and of his subsequent defeat and the capture of his army ; and ascribes its unfavorable termination to the great superiority of the force with which that army had to contend, and their not receiving timely support by reinforcements*.

The next topic to which Mr. Madison directs the attention of the national legislature, is the disappointment to which their imaginations had been subjected, by not gaining the command of the lakes, as every effort in the invasions made into Canada, aimed to that particular object ; however, measures had been adopted to provide a naval force on those waters, which, it was confidently hoped, would prove superior to that of the enemy ; and from the talents and activity of the officer

*See Battle of Queenston, page 11g.