



THE WAR.

From the Norfolk Ledger of June 23.

In our last we noticed the movements of the enemy's force, as indicative of a disposition to take a higher position in the Roads. On Saturday evening one frigate was about a mile and an half above Hampton, another nearly three miles below her, and another about a mile and an half lower than the second.

The uppermost frigate being so far detached from her consorts, determined Capt. Cassin, who commands the naval force here, to make an attack upon her with the gun boats. On Sunday morning, about four o'clock, an attack was accordingly made by fourteen boats, at about three quarters of a mile distance. The attack was spirited, under the immediate command of Capt. Tarbell, and it being perfectly calm, gave great hopes of the destruction of the enemy's frigate; but a light breeze of wind springing up about a quarter before five, enabled the other two frigates to come to the assistance of their consort; one of these frigates (supposed to be a Razer, from the circumstance of a thirty-two pound shot being found in the hull of one of the gun boats) opened a heavy fire, which compelled Capt. Tarbell, about a quarter before six, to draw off his flotilla, and take up his original position.

Only one man was killed on board the boats; several of them were much injured in their sails and rigging, by the grape shot from the frigates. We are unable to say what damage was sustained on board the frigates; in their spars they suffered, as far as could be perceived, no injury whatever—the hull of the uppermost frigate is supposed to be considerably damaged.

On Saturday afternoon the enemy's squadron in Lynhaven Bay received a considerable reinforcement. From a person in whose accuracy we have great confidence, we learn that this reinforcement consists of 4 sail of the line, six frigates, two sloops of war, and one schooner. Eight sail came into Hampton Roads on Sunday.

At half past 1, P. M. on Monday, the enemy's ships in motion—one ship off the mouth of Nausemond river—two at the mouth of James river—boats passing from ship to ship, apparently filled with men. Wind S W. An alarm fired.

At half past 3 o'clock, P. M. by a person just from Sewell's Point we learned, that there were in Hampton Roads four sail of the line, seven frigates, three sloops of war, and 2 gun brigs, six schooners or tenders, two transport ships and two brigs—three frigates beating up—a number of barges in tow, six schooners and a brig, all full of troops.

Admiral Warren arrived, and at anchor off Hampton—Admiral Cockburn had shifted his flag to a frigate, and had the command of the ships and barges employed. Some barges were employed in buoying off the channel. The number of troops could not be well estimated, but the three frigates, six schooners and the barges, about fifty to sixty, full of troops. The uniform of the troops could be plainly discerned.

The following minutes of the attack made by the Gun-Boats upon the British frigate, are furnished by an officer who was in the action;

The attack commenced at 14 minutes before 4 o'clock, A. M. and continued until 19 minutes after 6. Boat, No.—, Lieut. Neale, received seven round shot in and about her hull, which cut away most of her rigging, sweeps, stanchions, and channels, Lieut. Neale slightly injured. No.—, Sailing Master Nantz received a round shot between wind and water. No.—, Sailing Master Smith, received one round shot, which killed Mr. Allison, Master Mate, and wounded one other person. No.—, Lieut. Henry, received one round shot in the hull, from which no injury was sustained—five men were wounded.

Most of the Boats were struck in the hull or rigging, but the injury has not been ascertained.

Yesterday about day-break the enemy were discovered with their barges pulling to shore, about two and a half or three miles above the upper point of Crany Island—about 400 effected their landing without any opposition or loss, there being no force to oppose them, and being out of reach of the artillery on Crany Island—but another detachment which pulled directly for Crany-Island, met with a different reception. The batteries were manned with the troops stationed on the Island, and a detachment of seamen commanded by the officers of the Constellation, who opened a heavy fire, that compelled the enemy to retreat with great loss. Three barges were sunk—one was taken with 18 men on board, belonging to a foreign regiment. Our officers, soldiers, seamen, and marines exhibited the utmost coolness and enthusiasm.

Boiled in the attempt on Crany-Island, the enemy landed the whole of the force embarked in boats, about 3 miles above.

The prisoners state that the expedition was commanded by Admiral Cockburn. They also report that the Junon, in the action with the Gun Boats, received nine shot in her hull, had many men killed, and her rigging much damaged.

The enemy threw some rockets but without effect.

The infantry and rifle-men have not had their share of the action, as the enemy was so roughly handled by the artillery, that he did not come within the reach of small arms.

The number of troops, including marines for landing, are said to be about 9000—those already landed from 1800 to 1900.—This we give as a report.

We have in what precedes presented our readers with a very sketchy view of events, as they occurred, for the last three days. Many reports have been omitted, which were true and interesting, but they came in rather a questionable shape. It is certain, however, that so far the enemy has been completely foiled in an enterprise of great importance, without the loss of one man on our

part, or even one wounded. The plan of attack appears to have been formed judiciously—the first movement first landed, was no doubt to have made a diversion or an attack at the upper end of Crany-Island, while the great body of the force was to have landed directly upon it—the spirit and well directed fire from the artillery on the Island, drove back the principal force, with apparent great loss, & in confusion; the attack from the minor force was never made.

It is but too common to exult upon every trivial success, but the events of yesterday were calculated to excite pride and exultation. The enemy's force in view was imposing, upwards of twenty vessels of war, some of the largest size, a number of smaller, with transports, all made a formidable appearance, and from 5 to 4000 men could be landed. All their efforts appeared directed against one post—notwithstanding the situation of this post was such, that it overpowered, there was much difficulty in retreat, not the smallest symptom of apprehension appeared, but the very reverse, all were cool and collected, rather wishing the attack, and we feel confident that the enemy was fortunate that he did not approach nearer.

Last night it was expected another attack would be made, but all was quiet, and at the moment we are writing, we are unprovided of the enemy's subsequent movements.

Between twenty and thirty deserters and prisoners have been brought in since those before noticed. They are all, but two or three, foreigners, chiefly French, that had enlisted to get clear of jails and prison ships.

We have not been able to learn the name of the commander of the land forces, but the brigade of marines, under Col. Williams, is stated to be among the troops on board or landed.

It is pleasing in this hour of trial and apparent danger, to notice the universal composure which prevails—not the slightest appearance of alarm or confusion. The measures which the General has taken, have inspired all with confidence. The zeal with which he is supported by his officers and soldiers, and by the Naval Commander, Officers, seamen and marines, and by all ranks of citizens, assure us that the enemy will pay dear for any attempt on this post. The local force of this place, and militia of adjacent counties, are hourly uniting with the army.

Eleven o'clock, A. M.—We receive information on which we can rely, that the enemy embarked his whole force at sun-set last evening, on board the barges, about 40 in number, & proceeded to the fleet. From the number of boats, it is concluded the force landed did not fall short of 2000. More deserters were brought in this morning; these report that there are a great number more in the woods, which may be expected in the course of the day.

Latest—Accounts have just been received, that the enemy landed last night at New-Port-Neuse, at the entrance of James River. An attack upon Hampton Roads is probably meditated.

Twelve o'clock.—Information has been just received, that the enemy landed this morning at or near Hampton.

We should have stated, that the enemy could not, from the positions he chose, be molested by the gun boats in his movements yesterday.

The following statement of the enemy's force, which landed yesterday, we received from a prisoner; we give it as such.

Table listing enemy force: 102d regiment (1000), Royal marine brigade (1600), From the ships of war, marines (400), Seamen (1000), Two companies of French (300), Total (4300).

Boston, June 19.

CHESAPEAKE AND SHANNON. BRITISH ACCOUNT.

Our melancholy apprehensions have proved too true. In the following account from a Halifax paper of the 9th inst. received by a Spanish vessel which arrived yesterday afternoon, are contained the sad details of our calamity.

Much however, as we have to deplore, our enemy has little to rejoice at—and deep as is our affliction, shame forms no part of our regret. All that could be done by valor, was done—the British have gained a victory, but they have paid dearly for their triumph.

Halifax, June 9.

Friday, arrived H. M. brig Manly, from Newfoundland 14 days.

Sunday, H. M. ship Shannon, from Boston Bay, with the American frigate Chesapeake, late Capt. Lawrence, her prize; also, H. M. ship Minerva, from Canso.

It is with pleasure we congratulate our readers on the capture of the American frigate Chesapeake, commanded by Capt. Lawrence, by His Majesty's ship Shannon, after an action of eleven minutes.

The following particulars of this pleasing event we have collected from conversations with some of the officers of the Shannon, and have reason to think them materially correct.

On the 25th May, H. M. ship Tenedos, which had, for nearly 3 months, been cruising in Boston Bay, with the Shannon, separated from her and Capt. Parker was instructed, by Capt. Broke, not to rejoin him until about the 14th June—this was done in the hope and expectation, that the Chesapeake frigate, finding the Shannon was cruising alone off Boston, would come out, and give her battle—nor were our tars disappointed—early in the morning of the 1st inst. the Shannon stood in close to Boston Light House, and observed the Chesapeake lying at anchor, with royal yards across, and apparently ready for sea—the British colors were then hoisted on board the Shannon, and she hove to, near the land; at 9 A. M. the enemy frigate was observed to loosen her sails,

and fire a gun; at half past twelve she weighed anchor, and stood out of the harbor, when the Shannon fired, and, under easy sail, edged off the land, followed by the Chesapeake; at a shortened sail, at 5 hove to, with the topsails aback, for fear the enemy would not bring her to action before dark—in 20 minutes the Chesapeake cheered with musket fire, the Shannon, still standing towards her in such a way as left our tars in uncertainty which side of their ship she intended to engage—at half past 5, however, she luffed up on the Shannon's weather quarter, and on her foremast coming in a line with the Shannon's mizen, the latter fired the after gun, and her others, successively, until the enemy came directly abreast, when the Chesapeake fired her whole broadside, the action commenced—in 5 minutes past the Chesapeake fell along-side the Shannon, and was boarded in her tops, as well as on her decks, by our gallant countrymen, and, in 11 minutes, from the commencement of the action, her three ensigns were hauled down, and soon afterwards replaced with the English flag over them—her decks cleared of the dead, the wounded taken below, a great proportion of the prisoners removed out of her—and accompanied by the Shannon, she was steered for this port.

On board the Shannon, Mr. Watt, the 1st. Lieutenant; Mr. Aidham, the Purser; Mr. Dinn Captain's Clerk, and 23 seamen, were killed—Capt. Broke, a midshipman and 56 seamen wounded.

On board the Chesapeake, Mr. Ballard, 4th Lieutenant; Mr. Broome, Lieut. of marines; Mr. White, the master; several petty officers, and about 70 men, were killed.—Capt. Lawrence (since dead); Mr. Ludlow, the 1st. Lieut. severely wounded; Lt. Budd, 2d Lt do; Lt Cox, 3d Lt slightly; midshipman Weaver, Abbott, and Nicolls, severely, and Berry, slightly; Mr. Livermore, the Chaplain, Severely, and near 100 seamen, wounded.

Capt Broke we understand, nobly led the borders from the quarter deck, and was, we are sorry to state, severely wounded, in the moment of victory, by a sabre, on the head, while exerting himself to save two Americans from the fury of his men; he is, however we rejoice to learn, in a fair way of recovery, and we hope will soon be able to return to that station, which he filled with so much benefit to his country, and with such imperishable honor to himself.

Lt. Watt was killed after boarding the Chesapeake—he was an excellent officer.

On captain Broke being wounded, the command of the Shannon devolved on the 2d Lieut Mr. Wallis, son of Mr. Wallis, of the Navy Yard who conducted himself in a very brave manner.

Great merit is due to Capt. Broke, on this occasion, not only for the perseverance with which he has so long sought a contest with an American frigate, but for the promptitude and skill with which he has decided the question of superiority, and put an end to all the vapouring, with which the American papers have of late been filled.—In point of size and number of guns, the two ships were as nearly equal as could be wished: Whatever advantage there was, was in favour of the Chesapeake both as to size and number of men.

The respect due to a brave enemy was yesterday shewn to the remains of Capt. LAWRENCE. The Corpse was landed from the Chesapeake under a discharge of minute guns, and at 2 o'clock reached the King's wharf—the American Ensign was spread as a Pall over the coffin, on which was placed the sword of the deceased—six captains of the Navy officiated as Pall Bearers—six companies of the 4th Regiment, commanded by Sir John Wardlaw, preceded the corpse—the officers of the Chesapeake followed it as mourners: the officers of the Navy generally attended—Sir Thomas Saumarez the Staff, and officers of the Garrison, and the procession was closed by a number of respectable Inhabitants.—The funeral service was performed by the Reverend Rector of St. Paul's, and three volleys discharged by the troops over the grave.

Further Particulars.

A letter from Barnstable mentions the arrival at that place of a vessel from Halifax, with papers to the 10th inst.—from which we have the following particulars. "The Chesapeake was taken in 11 minutes, by the misfortune of having her topsail tie & fore-sheet cut away, when endeavouring to thwart the bows of the Shannon, for the purpose of boarding; from this circumstance the Chesapeake came into the wind, and gave the enemy the most favourable opportunity of boarding.

Capt. L. was first wounded in the leg and the second shot gave him a mortal wound.—Not a word did a passenger hear say, about the explosion—and though on board the Chesapeake, did not see that her quarter deck was blown up. Capt. Broke was in a state of insipidity—but there was hopes of his recovery."

BIOGRAPHY.

From Lee's Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States.

WILLIAM RICHARDSON DAVIE, Of North Carolina,

Was born in the village of Egremont, near White Haven, in England, on the 20th of June, 1756.

His father, visiting South Carolina soon after the peace of 1763, brought with him this son; and, returning to England, confided him to the care of the reverend William Richardson, his maternal uncle; who, becoming much attached to his nephew, not only took charge of his education, but adopted him as his son and heir. At the proper age William was sent to an academy in North Carolina; from whence he was, after a few years, removed to the college of Nassau-hall in Princeton, New-Jersey, then becoming the resort of most of the southern youth under the auspices of the learned and respectable doctor Witherspoon. Here he finished his education, graduating in the autumn of 1776, a year memorable in our military as well as civil annals.

Returning home, young Davie found himself shut out for a time from the army, as the commissions for the troops just levied had been issued. He went to Salisbury, where he commenced the study of the law. The war continuing, contrary to the expectations which generally prevailed when it began, Davie could no longer resist his ardent wish to plant himself among the defenders of his country. Inducing a worthy and popular friend, rather too old for military service, to raise a troop of dragoons, as the readiest mode of accomplishing his wish, Davie obtained a lieutenancy in this troop. Without delay the capt. joined the South army, & soon afterwards returned home on furlough. The command of the troop devolving on lieutenant Davie, it was at his request annexed to the legion of Count Pulaski, where captain Davie continued, until promoted by major general Lincoln to the station of brigade major of cavalry. In this office Davie served until the affair of Stono, devoting his leisure to the acquirement of professional knowledge, and rising fast in the esteem of the general and army. When Lincoln attempted to dislodge lieutenant colonel Maitland from his entrenched camp on the Stono, Davie received a severe wound, and was removed from camp to the hospital in Charleston, where he was confined for five months.

Soon after his recovery he was empowered by the government of North Carolina to raise a small legionary corps, consisting of one troop of dragoons and two companies of mounted infantry; at the head of which he was placed with the rank of major.

Quickly succeeded in completing his corps, in whose equipment he expended the last remaining shilling of an estate bequeathed to him by his uncle, he took the field, and was sedulously engaged in protecting the country between Charlotte and Camden, from the enemy's predatory incursions. On the fatal 16th of August, he was hastening with his corps to join our army, when he met our dispersed and flying troops. He nevertheless continued to advance towards the conqueror; and by his prudence, zeal and vigilance, saved a few of our waggons and many of our stragglers. Acquainted with the movement of Sumpter, and justly apprehending that he would be destroyed unless speedily advised of the defeat of Gates, he despatched instantly a courier to that officer, communicating what had happened, performing, in the midst of distress and confusion, the part of an experienced captain. The abandonment of all the southern region of North-Carolina, which followed this signal overthrow, and the general despondency which prevailed, have been recorded in the body of this work; nor have the fortunate and active services of Major Davie been overlooked. So much was his conduct respected by the government of N. Carolina, that he was, in the course of September, promoted to the rank of colonel commandant of the cavalry of the state.

In this station he was found by gen. Greene on assuming the command of the Southern army; whose attention had been occupied from his entrance into North Carolina, in remedying the disorder in the quarter master and commissary departments. To the first Carrington had been called; and Davie was now induced to take upon himself the last, much as he preferred the station then possessed. At the head of this department colonel Davie remained throughout the trying campaign which followed; contributing greatly by his talents, his zeal, his local knowledge, and his influence, to the maintenance of the difficult and successful operations which followed. While before Ninety-Six, Greene foreseeing the difficulties again to be encountered, in consequence of the accession of force to the enemy by the arrival of three regiments of infantry from Ireland, determined to send a confidential officer to the legislature of North Carolina, then in session, to represent to them his relative condition, and to urge their adoption of effectual measures without delay, for the collection of magazines of provisions, and the reinforcing of his army. Colonel Davie was selected by Greene for this important mission, and immediately repaired to the seat of government, where he ably and faithfully exerted himself to give effect to the views of his general.

The events of the autumn assuring the quick approach of peace, colonel Davie, returned home; and having shortly afterwards intermarried with miss Sarah Jones, daughter of general Allen Jones of North Carolina, he selected the town of Halifax, on the Roanoke, for his residence; where he resumed the profession with the practice of law.