

more under the act of March 20th, 1812, suitable for rebuilding the frigates Philadelphia, Greene, New-York and Boston; but as there is no appropriation...

Contracts for and purchase of timber to a very considerable amount, have been made for naval purposes during the year 1814, but which have not been charged to the particular appropriation of the 30th of March, 1812...

These have been charged either under the head of repairs, or to the appropriation for building 74's and frigates, which appropriations, it is conceived, are properly chargeable with timber purchased for those purposes...

No contracts for live oak timber have yet been made, as the transportation is impracticable under existing circumstances; and if collected in considerable quantities at landings accessible to vessels fit for transportation, they would be equally so to the enemy...

It is therefore considered, that a state of peace will be much more favorable to the collection of a stock of timber of this description than that of war, in which it can neither be transported to dock yards nor deposited in safety at the sea coast landing...

No further steps have been taken in relation to the dock yard, than general enquiry and proper deliberation in order to determine upon the best site in a central situation.

The result has decided in favor of the right bank of the Hudson, above the Highlands. The motives to this decision, were, from considering the contemplated dock yard as the nucleus, around which a great naval establishment may be formed...

The natural defences at the pass of the Highlands, are such as to remove all doubt on this subject, and supersede the necessity of a large protecting force.

The Hudson is a deep, bold, noble stream, of easy and safe navigation. The surrounding country produces abundance of iron and large quantities of hemp, and the banks of the Hudson furnish a variety of timber fit for naval purposes.

The communication with the northern and western lakes, is more direct and favorable to the distribution of naval and military stores, than any other situation that can be selected.

The only objection of importance that I have heard suggested, is, that the Hudson at this point is closed by the ice a fortnight later than at New York; but this objection is greatly overbalanced by the extraordinary advantages of the situation.

In order to select the most suitable situation, a careful examination and survey, under the direction of some of our most experienced officers, aided by a skillful engineer, appears to be indispensable; an opportunity which has been prevented by the operations of the war, and consequent occupation of the officers best qualified for this service.

None of the gun boats have been sold or otherwise disposed of, than by placing in ordinary, in a state of preparation for service, those that were fit for but not in actual service, and dismantling and laying up those that were unfit for service. This was considered the best disposition that could be made; as the only purpose they could be applied, if sold, would be to the domestic navigation, the hazards and interruptions of which had and still do prevent the employment of a considerable portion

of the private craft usually engaged in that branch of trade.

On the subject of deepening the channel into the harbor of Erie, I shall be enabled to report in a few days. The proper inquiry for information on that subject was made by this department shortly after the resolution was submitted to congress, but nothing definite or satisfactory had been received until within a few days; proposals for that purpose, by persons on the spot, were submitted by the honorable Mr. Wilson the representative from that district.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir your obedient servant, W. JONES.



THE WAR.

From the Georgia Journal, Milledgeville, March 16.

Our Indian affairs have recently undergone no material change. Offensive operations, which are at present suspended, will be renewed we imagine on the arrival of the troops from North-Carolina, who have at length marched and may be looked for in the course of a week. By the last accounts from General Jackson, he was at Fort Strother with five thousand militia and a Regiment of regulars, and expected to descend the Coosa river to its junction with the Tallapoosa about this time. A simultaneous movement was to have been made by Colonel Russell to the head of the Alabama. Could the troops on this side have also advanced, the Indians would have been completely hemmed in, and perhaps an end put to the war. It is not unlikely that the march of Col. Russell may have been protracted by a late incident. Being engaged in building boats at the Alabama Heights to transport his provisions, and having a number of men who were unemployed, he determined to make an irruption into the enemy's country and destroy a town which he understood was not far distant. But it seems his guides deceived him, and after traversing the wilderness ten days, during all which time no sign of an Indian was discovered, his stock of provisions failed. Having taken the precaution to forward a supply up the river, a small party headed by Lieut. Wilcox of the U. States army, was despatched in search of the boat and their comrades, of whose safety they had become apprehensive. They had proceeded but a short distance down a small rivulet, when they suddenly came on a large body of Indians, who pursued them in canoes. Finding they would be overtaken, the party made for the shore—the enemy approached and the conflict commenced—“long time in even scales the battle hung”—but the savages, though five times their number, were at length repulsed, and our adventurous countrymen proceeded on. Being again pursued, their canoe unfortunately upset in a second attempt to land, by which nearly all their ammunition was lost. The little that remained having been expended, the Indians, after a bloody contest, overcame them—but one man escaping to tell the mournful fate of the rest. It is said that Lieut. Wilcox, tho' wounded in many places, struggled to the last, and had scarcely fallen when the detachment which he was in search of came in view. The Indians immediately fled, leaving the scalps they had taken.

From the best information we can obtain, the effective strength of the Indians who are hostile does not exceed two thousand. Against this force we have at present not less than eight thousand men employed. If able to elude our arms, they must ere long be conquered by famine, being already reduced to great poverty and wretchedness, and having no means of procuring subsistence. In any event, government will no doubt confiscate at least enough of their lands to defray the expenses of the war; and it is quite possible that part of the nation which has remained friendly will be restricted in their territory & made to conform to regulations that will ensure their fidelity in future. Such of them, however, as have rendered us important aid, and none will deny but Earney Rife is of that number, ought not to be forgotten. The timidity of his skin should not detract from valorous deeds; and we cannot but indulge the hope, that this brave man will be noticed and duly rewarded by the proper authority.

Boston, March 18.

Frigate Constitution.—Yesterday arrived at Providence the cartel ship Rising States, from Barbadoes and St. Barts. Left the former 32 days ago, and the latter on the 1st instant. The Constitution had secured a cartel into Barbadoes with prisoners belonging to vessels she had taken—one of the vessels was said to be a sch. of 20 guns. The Venerable of 74 guns, Adm. Durham, had sailed in quest of the Constitution. The Venerable took the two French frigates lately carried in Barbadoes. When they fell in with the 74, they agreed to fight her, but on closing, with her the French commodore made all sail and escaped; her consort exchanged several broadsides with the English ship, and then attempted to board her, but fell astern, after throwing about 70 men on her deck who were mostly killed or wounded. A few days afterwards the Venerable fell in with the other frigate and captured her.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of great respectability, residing near French Mills, dated 4th March, 1815.

I expected ere this to have been at New-York. I set out the 6th February, but before

night I found it was determined to break up the encampment at French Mills, and as several of the regiments would pass my house, I thought it prudent to return and be with my family during the bustle. You may rely upon it, that the removal of the army from the French Mills, was more like a flight than a regular retreat. I cannot convey to you an account of the immense public loss occasioned by the removal—Upwards of 500 sleigh loads of provisions have been captured by the British at Malone, the four couriers and Chateaugay and carried to Canada, besides what they took at the French Mills, where were also several hundred of barrels destroyed by our own troops. From the 8th to the 13th upwards of 55 sleigh loads of sick and disabled of our troops passed by—every sleigh called at my house—there were from 5 to 7 in each sleigh that had been taken out of the hospitals and it was shocking to humanity to see those miserable creatures—Some were apparently on the verge of eternity, while two thirds of the others were intoxicated and belching forth the most obscene talk and horrid oaths of which language is susceptible. The 11th and 24th regiments put up at this place on the 14th before night; but after sun set news was brought that the British had landed a second detachment at the French Mills—the commander immediately ordered all the baggage sleighs to be unloaded and the troops put in them and paraded at 12 o'clock in the night, which was done, and they marched at least nine miles before day light, leaving the whole of their baggage with a party to impress teams, and carry it on the next day as fast as possible. Three hundred barrels of flour were also left at this place, which fell of course into the enemy's hands, and which might have been saved had they given orders for its removal. It does not appear to me that a few thousand barrels of provisions was any object to the commander on this station. The three hundred barrels of flour left at this place, were all brought on from the Black River, after the order for removal from French Mills, and might as well have been stopped at the Black River as brought on here. Several hundreds of sleighs were hired in Lewis, Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties to go empty to the French Mills, also hundreds from Vermont and Plattsburgh—when they arrived at the Mills, instead of sending the Black River sleighs home they sent hundreds of them to Plattsburgh, and the Vermont and Plattsburgh sleighs to Black River.—This was exceedingly accommodating to the British, for they took them on their return, and compelled them to carry their booty to Cornwall, where they were paid in hard money for their trouble and discharged.—From the very extravagant prices which have been given at French Mills for boards say from \$25 to \$30 per thousand—from \$8 to \$10 per barrel for transportation from Plattsburgh—\$25 to \$30 per ton for hay, and \$5 to \$7 per day for a man and 2 yoke of oxen, there has been several millions of dollars expended at that place.—The boats have been all destroyed except two small ones which have been carried over land to Plattsburgh.

It is in my opinion speaking within bounds to say that 1000 have died since the army first landed at French Mills.—N. Y. Evening Post.

The Star.

RALEIGH, FRIDAY, APRIL 1 1814

We have been favoured with the perusal of a letter from Col. Jesse A. Pearson, dated "Camp, two miles north of Petersburg, Geo. March 18." The Colonel expected to reach Fort Hawkins on the 24th. His troops had been somewhat afflicted with the measles, but had generally recovered.—We are sorry to learn that Major Torrence had his leg fractured on the 11th ult. by a fall from his horse, but was not prevented from proceeding with the regiment.

Arrived at the Cantonment, near this City, the 30th ult. a company (50 privates) of the U. S. troops under the command of Capt. Guondoin of the 43d Regiment, from Columbia.

A company of 86 men, under the command of Lieut. Blount passed through Fayetteville on the 25th ult. from Washington N. C. on their way to Charleston.

We this week commence the debate on the Loan Bill, by giving a part of Mr. Pearson's Speech. Their great length will prevent our publishing more than one or two speeches on each side. The Speeches of our own Representatives, (if to be procured) shall have preference.

Counterfeits.—There are in circulation in Va. vast numbers of Counterfeit forty Shilling Bills, N. E. currency.—Messrs. John & Robt. Stuart of this city, received from their friends in Petersburg a few days ago, forty two of these counterfeits, to have them exchanged.—We have also heard of many others that were brought from the same place.—In the counterfeits the edge of the sword in the figure of justice turns inward, in the real ones it is held outward.—In the counterfeits the black line over the words "Counterfeiters beware" runs perfect across, in the real ones it is imperfect immediately under the words eight Crowns. In the real Bills in the right hand lower corner of the square round the figure of Justice, immediately under the balance, is a large black dot; in the counterfeits the dot is scarcely perceptible.—On the same side in the genuine Bill in the word payment between the two first strokes of the letter M there is a very small dot; in the counterfeits there are none.—The paper of the genuine Bills appears of a yellow complexion, that of the counterfeits white. The signing, particularly the name of J. Hunt is more straggly than in the real ones.

Pennsylvania.—The Governor of this State returned the bill incorporating 43 new Banks to the Legislature, having declined to sign it, and stating his objections to the passage.—The Legislature however have passed the bill by a majority of two thirds, which makes it a law in defiance of Gov. Strong.

Twenty Houses in Norfolk & 8 in Savannah have lately been consumed by fire.

A Savannah, Geo. paper of March 26, mentions that official information had been received from Point Petre, that much alarm existed at that place from an expected attack by a British frigate and two sloops of war, that were anchored off St. Marys.

A letter from Bordeaux to his friend in Boston dated Jan. 29 says "a prize to the Rattlesnake, of Philadelphia, worth a million, has arrived at Larn-hells, and our Consul left this place yesterday to take the charge of her. Six other prizes have been sent into the ports of Brittany."

An article from Franklin (Tenn.) of date March 9, states that Gen. Jackson had taken up the line of march from Fort Strother, in search of the enemy with a force of about 5000 troops.

The British brig Falcon, prize to the privateer American of Salem, arrived at Bath on the 17th, with a cargo invoiced at 50,000 pounds.

We understand that a court of inquiry is now sitting on Gen. Wilkinson, of which Gen. Izard is President. Washington Gaz.

We are informed that Gen. Cass has resigned his commission in the army of the U. S. in consequence of his having been appointed Gov. of the Mississippi Territory. Phil. Paper.

New Hampshire election.—The New Hampshire Papers give returns of votes from nearly all the towns, and show that Gov. Gilman is re-elected, & that the Senate and House will continue Federal. Boston Pall.

Sanguinary Combat.

Two Frenchmen, privates in Captain Swifts company of Marines, quarrelled a few days ago, and neither would be satisfied without an appeal to arms.—The weapons they chose for the occasion were their own bayonets, which as is the way among soldiers in the French army, they unfixed from their muskets, and having chosen their seconds, proceeded to a spot in an adjacent thicket.—Here these heroes alias ministers, set at each other with all the formality and skill of experienced adepts, and continued to parry and stab, until one of them pierced with repeated wounds, fell, exhausted and declared himself vanquished; while the other having been thrice stabbed by his fallen antagonist, was very willing to receive his submission. Both were borne bleeding to the Hospital in the Navy Yard, where they have been properly attended, and we sincerely trust, are in a fair way of recovery. N. Herald.

Postscript.

By the arrival at Boston on the 22d ult. of the Letter of Marque schooner Rambler, Capt Snow, in 34 days from Bordeaux, Paris papers to the 9th of February, are received. Their contents are important.

Paris, January 24.—This morning his majesty the Emperor set out to put himself at the head of his armies.

Paris, January 26.—The London papers received this morning in Paris announce that the negotiations between Denmark and Sweden are broken off; that the armistice had been denominated, and that hostilities were renewed on the 7th of January.

Lyon, January 25.—The enemy has been driven from all their outposts; they are in full retreat. The resistance they had experienced, the good dispositions of the inhabitants, and the arrival of the reinforcements in the city seem to have produced their retrograde movement.

Reims, Jan 25.—The passage of troops to our city has been continual for several days, all our authorities rival in zeal to prepare against the enemy if it should dare present itself. Our national guards organized and armed; we see in the midst of their ranks all the members of the Prefecture. Troves, Jan. 25.

The spirit of the military officers and soldiers, is most excellent. A kind of fury transports them at the very name alone of the enemies that come to sack France; they burn to drive them on the other side of the Rhine.

Chartres, January 20.—By a manoeuvre as skillful as it was bold General Mison has disengaged Amboise, repelled and beaten the enemy, of whom he has killed a considerable number, and effected his junction with the army of Duke de Lorraine. The English have withdrawn towards Rosenthal; the Prussians have entered their former cantonments, and the frontier is sheltered from all insult.

News equally happy arrived from the other points of the empire; the French nation shew themselves every where worthy of themselves; a noble enthusiasm creates new resources. Every thing forebodes an approaching peace, and if the allies could hesitate to conclude it, a proud and generous people who have so often conquered and pardoned them, would soon make them repent of having polluted their territory.

Paris, February 9.—A Congress has convened at Chalons. Lord Castlereagh was among the Plenipotentiaries. No favourable result is augured from this meeting. It is believed the Allies are bent upon capturing Paris.

The Emperor had retreated to Troyes. The Duke of Tarentum was at Chalons.

The enemy have advanced considerably. It is believed they were at Picardy, near Soissons.

Passengers in the Rambler state that the allies were within 60 leagues of Paris, which place was in the greatest consternation. The inhabitants were employed in cutting down trees to fortify the city, and digging trenches in the city. The women and children were in flight.

At Chalons great etiquette was observed by the different Ministers & particularly by those of France & England; Maitre had been given by each attended by the others.

A passenger informs, that when the Rambler sailed it was reported in Bordeaux that Hamburgh had surrendered to the Swedish army, and that Mofat had made peace with the Austrians—the conditions of which were, that he should remain king of Naples for life, and after his death the crown should revert to the house of Sicily.

The advanced posts of the enemy had been hovering about Chalons, upon the Saone, where a few skirmishes had taken place.

A battle was fought the 29th and 30th January near Troyes, in which Denmark and the Allies both claimed the victory.

Bayonne had not been taken the 10th of Feb. There had been several skirmishes, between the armies, but when the Rambler sailed, Marshal Soult and Lord Wellington were both inactive.

Neither the Texel nor Scheldt fleets had fallen into the hands of the Allies.

The Rambler brought in 17 prisoners. She captured on the 9th of March, British ship Union, of Glasgow, from Jamaica for Liverpool, laden with 1200 bales cotton, and 138,000 lbs. coffee. Review Custom House Mail.