[illegible] Eastern, Portland, Memphis & S[illegible] Court House, Fayetteville—Cotton Seed, [illegible] The Sinclairs—The Commander—Ruffians—Coud Winslogerode, Baby Lady [illegible]

Boston, July 19

From England.—Last evening arrived the boat Separate, of London, a cartel, with about 150 released American prisoners, in 41 days from Plymouth, Eng. She was originally bound to the Edwards, but the prisoners being principally northern her course was altered.

Plymouth papers to the 3d of June have been brought in her; they contain some interesting intelligence.

Hostilities had not commenced; but mighty preparations continued with unremitted activity; and a general and vindictive war against France was inevitable.

The U. S. ship Napoleon, Capt Jones, was at Plymouth getting ready for sea, with Messrs Adams and Crawford passengers.

Plymouth (Eng.) June 3. London papers of the 31st ult. that Bonaparte remained in Paris. Nothing was said of his departure for the army; and the meeting of the Champ de Mai, had been further postponed. Two frigates were prepared in France, with secret orders, ready to take off Bonaparte, and his family, in case of extremity.

Insurrections continue in the Western and Interior Departments.

The ports between England and France continue four times a week.

All Bonaparte's anxiety appears to be to fortify Paris; and some of the batteries were calculated to batter down, as well as to defend the city.

Adm. Hotham, has sailed with a squadron to take possession of Martinique and Guadaloupe.

Troops are continually embarking and sailing for the Netherlands.

MISCELLANY.

FOR THE STAR.

NO. II—PENITENTIARY.

If the objects of criminal jurisprudence can be secured without depriving a fellow-being of an inestimable right, I think that society has made great advances towards perfection. The consequences of capital punishment, upon the offender in the first place, and upon the public mind in the second, should be attended to.

What effects has a capital punishment upon an offender, no matter what may be the crime of which he may be guilty—They are simply these, that he is cut off, perhaps, in the midst of his years, in the bloom of youth and vigor of manhood, with no prospect of reformation, at a time when if a merciless code could have protracted his existence, he might, although denied the social converse of men, have made some atonement to his fellow-creatures, for the crimes, and some reparation to individuals for the injuries he may have committed.

The situation of that poor being is peculiarly unfortunate, who is thus forced to terminate his career before the arrival of those days which age has assigned to this state of existence, and is ushered forth into another stage or order of being, thereby probably perverting the original design of creation.

It was the distinguishing characteristic of the Saxon jurisprudence that they inflicted but very few capital punishments; such was the case formerly in Scotland; such originally in Ireland and Wales, as we are told by Mr. Whitaker.

In every case before judgment, says Mr. Eden, the Romans allowed an accused citizen to withdraw himself from the consequences of a conviction into voluntary exile. To this institution the former practice of abjuration in England bore a striking resemblance. This was permitted, says Lord Coke, when the criminal caose rather *perdere patriam quam animam*—On the same principle a liberty was given in Greece to a person accused to disappear after his first defence and retire into voluntary banishment—in the language of English law, to abjure the realm after the indictment was found.

Sabacos, one of the ancient legislators of Egypt, went still farther. He abolished capital punishments and ordained that such criminals as were adjudged worthy of death should be employed in the public works. Egypt he thought would derive more advantage from this mode of punishment, which being imposed for life, appeared equally calculated to punish and to repress crimes.

As it regards society punishments ought unquestionably to be moderate and mild. I know the opinion advanced by some writers that the number as well as the frequency of crimes is diminished by the severity of the punishment, and it is upon these principles that we seem to have built our system of criminal jurisprudence. Nor is this a very uncommon opinion with the nations of Europe, if we just advert to the unwieldly size and ensanguined code of their criminal codes. On accurate and unbiassed examination it will however appear to be an opinion unfounded as well as pernicious, inconsistent with the principles of our nature, and by a necessary consequence, with those of a wise and good government.

So far as any sentiment of generous sympathy is affected by a merciless code, to remain among the citizens their abhorrence of crimes is by the barbarous exhibition of human agony, sunk in the commission of criminals. These barbarous exhibitions of human suffering likewise generate another bad effect, which strikes at the very foundation of social institutions, I mean a latent and gradual, but powerful because a natural aversion to the laws—for laws which are objects of aversion, receive a prompt or cheerful obedience or secure a regular and uniform execution? The expectation is forbidden by some of the strongest principles in the human frame. Such laws while they excite the compassion of society for those who suffer, rouse its indignation against those who are active in the steps preparatory to their sufferings. I ask if this be from fact? I know it to be fact from experience. I have witnessed the execution of a criminal for [illegible] The [illegible] opportunity of observing the workings of human feeling relative to the occasion. The immense multitude collected seemed altogether to have forgotten that they were assembled at the gibbet. I heard not the plaintive accents of a commiserating crowd. I was then too young to draw or gather much instruction from this exhibition; but my mind has since revolved within its recess this scene with all its attendant circumstances many a time and oft. I well know that, although the sentiment of criminals guilty of the crime of which he was convicted was general and prevalent, and that a necessity of punishment under some shape or modification, was universally felt, still if the feeling of every individual had been consulted on the occasion, he would have been permitted to have escaped his then impending doom.

What appears naturally to be the result of a repetition of such scenes as this? The most natural will be that the criminal will probably be dismissed without prosecution by those even whom he has injured. If prosecuted or tried, the jury will probably find some deceptious ground on which they may be justified in giving a verdict of acquittal—If convicted the Judges will with avidity receive and support every the slightest exception to the proceeding against him, & if all other things fail, will have recourse to the last expedient within their reach, for exempting him from rigorous punishment—that of recommending him to the mercy of the pardoning power. Does not this way the severity of punishment, deaden the execution of the law? If this be what I take it to be, the conclusion of the most [illegible] understanding when exerted upon these matters, I ask, if a toleration of such vindicative principles are not likely, I may add sure, to defeat materially the ends of public justice? I ask, when you have in the first instance assigned the ultimatum of punishment to certain crimes, if the criminal be once pardoned, he will not, under the expectation of further impunity, repeat his offence? If you do not think as I do, I must confess you have a more comfortable confidence in the regenerating effects of exemption from punishment, than I have. When once the habit of vice and depravity is acquired, it receives by exercise continued accessions of strength and inveteracy. In the progress of his career the culprit is led to engage in some desperate attempt. From one he boldly advances to a second, till at last he necessarily becomes the victim of that preposterous rigor, which repeated impunity had taught him to despise.

FRONCHET C.

POLITICAL.

FOR THE STAR.

Mr. Henderson—In one of the papers, printed in your town, I accidentally saw last week, for I don't subscribe to it, something said about the old Electoral Law. The names of its supporters in the Legislature were at the same time given. The paper I met with at the Court House, but could not get it to bring home with me. Now, many of my neighbours wish to see those names, and they do not take the *Minerva*, but the *Star* chiefly, and a few of the *Register's*. Therefore I wish you would also print that piece, and let my neighbours satisfy themselves. They have been grumbling a great deal to see the electoral men coming forward so soon again, and more particularly because the choice of a President is so near at hand; and although it is believed our Representatives would not dare to play their ugly tricks over again, it seems as well not to put it in their power.

Yours to serve, PHILIP BLOUNT.

July 24, 1815

P. S. I open this to say that my neighbor Carey, who takes this, has promised to call as he goes to town at Squire Simmons' and get the paper I told you of, with the names, and you can just stick them in, either with or without this scrawl. P. B.

ELECTORAL LAW.

By referring to the journals of the Legislature for 1811, it will be found that the bill taking from the people the right of choosing electors to vote for President and Vice-President, was introduced by Mr. *James Mebane*, of Orange. The entry made on the journal is in these words:

"Mr. Mebane presented a bill to repeal an act passed in the year 1808, entitled "An act, for dividing the state into districts for the purpose of electing representatives to congress," and an act passed in the year 1808, entitled "an act directing the manner of appointing electors to vote for a President and vice president of the U. States," which being read, was passed the first time and sent to the house of commons."

Those who voted for this bill, in the senate, on its final passage, were—Messrs. Armstrong, Brickell, Cotten, Nance, Cunningham, Doherty, Dobson, Davis, Edmunds, Freshwater, Fisher, Graves, Guy, Hawkins, Hooks, M'Farland, Mebane, Lindsay, Mobley, Toole, Riddick, Reid, Scales, Slade, Tate, Taylor, R. Williams, T. Wright, Williamson, Wynns, Ward, Welborn—32.

The vote was taken on the 23d December, and the same day passed the house of commons, the following persons being its supporters:

Messrs. Avery, V. Allen, J. Allen, Brittain, Bell, Baker, Balfour, Clark, Chambers, Craig, Cherry, Dudley, Deens, Douglass, Dupree, Eborn, Felton, Gambell, Gillespie, T. Garrett, Good, Gentry, Guy, Hodges, Hudgins, Hatch, Hoyle, Harris, Horn, Jones, N. Jones, W. Jones, D. Jones, Joyner, Kilpatrick, Love, Lyndon, Leatherman, Long, Mebane, Mercer, M'Donald, D. Miller, Moody, Moseley, Moore, Massey, Mumford, Norsworthy, Nelson, Phillips, Rainey, D. Sawyer, [illegible], E. Jones, Spencer, M. E. Sawyer, H. Thomas, [illegible], J. Trogdon, Vanhook, Wright, Woodlief, Wilson, Yancey—66.

The bill providing for a return to the good old mode of choosing electors was *opposed*, on its final passage, and of course throughout, in the commons, by the following members:

Messrs. Bell, Barber, Coffield, Copeland, Dabney, W. Daniel, J. J. Daniel, Dobson, J. Darden, Edwards, Foster, Freeman, Flury, Garrett, Hudgins, Horn, W. R. Johnson, Kelly, Lanier, Lyndon, C. Moore, O'Kelly, Rainey, Stone, R. Seawell, Sparkman, Spencer, Taliaferro, R. Vanhook, Wright, Woodlief, Wilson—32.

In the Senate, on the 17th December, after various attempts to defeat the passage of the bill for restoring to the people the right of voting—and after Mr. *Atkinson*, of Person, and Mr. *Rogers* of Wake, had both attempted to introduce an amendment with the general ticket plan, the bill finally passed by a majority of 24 to 17; thus completely disappointing the hopes of those who wished to keep this power in their own hands. These 17 who, with the 32 in the commons, of course were against the bill restoring to the people the power of voting, were, as the journals inform us,

Messrs. Atkinson, Ballard, Bright, Clarke, Dozier, Edmunds, Hoskins, Hill, Holmes, Hawkins, Jones, Johnson, Lindsay, M'Farland, Rogers, Thomas, Wright, N. Williams.—17.

MILITARY.

The merits of Lieut. Colonel Wm. S. Hamilton, of the Rifle Regiment, as a meritorious and intelligent officer and a good scholar, is generally known, and particularly by the citizens of this, his native village; his attention to his duties and his ability have deservedly made him a favorite of the War Department under every change; and his services during the late war have been active and arduous.—We publish the following correspondence as an act of justice to him, and as involving a question of consequence to the Military men of our country.—The certificates annexed to the piece, proving all the charges against Lieut. Hedges, we have not thought necessary to be published.

I should not take any notice of the production of Lieutenant Hedges, and his advisers, had they not thought proper to introduce at the close, two notes signed by the Adjutant and Inspector General. The name of Brig. Gen. Parker thus standing in the public prints (apparently) in opposition to my conduct, I am urged to give to the press some documents. Several are withheld, and can be produced, should a future occasion require them.

The last statement in the series, is signed by all two platoon officers at this post, who were present about the first of June. The officers of the army, whether retained or disbanded, will at once perceive the principles which I have assumed as military, and can judge of their correctness; they will perceive in a striking light, *that evil* so much complained of, (to wit, campaigning at the Adjutant and Inspector General's office) which has nearly stopped the foundation of our military establishment; and they will learn hereafter to wonder at nothing which may happen, when such a man as Hedges can fly to the head of the staff, and figure to the prejudice of the commanding officer of the post from which he deserted.

If the *dates* of the papers are *duly noticed*, there can be no necessity for further remark.

W. S. HAMILTON,
Lieut. Col. R. R. Com

Carlisle Barracks, July 9, 1815.

EXTRACT.

Carlisle Barracks, June 2d, 1815.

SIR—I forward a copy of charges produced against Lieut. F. E. Hedges, now of the 7th, late of the 5th, infantry. Instead of arresting him, or reporting him for dismissal, in the way of indulgence he was permitted to hand in his resignation. The garrison being unpleasant in his circumstances, he was allowed to select some place in the country not far distant, where he might remain till the war department should notify its decision in the case. He selected the town of Carlisle, where he was then ordered to stay, and was positively refused leave of absence to Washington. This refusal was given because I had no authority to grant a furlough, and because if that authority had belonged to me, he should not have been permitted to depart, believing that he was capable of stating to your office gross falsehoods. In despite of my refusal, and of my orders, he has left Carlisle for Washington.

That he may give the department no trouble in the way of trial, I suggest that he may be stricken from the rolls of the army, and that he be not allowed to resign. On the charges he would have been cashiered beyond a doubt; for the facts can be proven by many witnesses, and the law has provided in the case an explicit penalty. His departure aggravates his other offences, and puts him beyond the sphere of indulgence. I shall advertise him as a deserter, offering the prescribed reward for the purpose of making his disgrace public; and should he be forced to trial, he ought to suffer death.

He was once stricken from the rolls by General Armstrong. How he got restored is unknown to me. He is subject to intoxication, cruel to the men, and a disgrace to his cloth. If it be asked, how it happened that I allowed him to hand in his resignation; I answer, that it was considered the shortest way of getting rid of him, and that he was not worthy the trouble of the usual trial, or the notice of the war office.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Very respectfully your ob't serv't,
W. S. HAMILTON,
Lieut. Col. R. R. Com.

Brig. Gen D. Parker, Adj. & Ins. Gen.

EXTRACT.

Adjt. & Ins. Gens. Office, June 14, 1815.

SIR,—I have advised the publisher of the National Intelligencer, not to repeat the advertisement; and you will please to send a note signed by your Adjutant, and to be published in the same paper; embracing the following ideas.

Previous to advertising lieut. F. E. Hedges, &c. he had been allowed to withdraw from the service, by the War Department, and the order of June 14th, as published in the National Intelligencer, in his case, is hereby superseded.

This is to be signed by the Adjutant, Gordon, and to be the order of the commandant at Carlisle.

I beg you to accept the new assurances of my great respect and regard.

D. PARKER, Adjt. & Ins. Gen.

Lieut. Col. Hamilton

SIR—As you have been allowed to retire from the army, the order lately issued by the commanding officer at Carlisle, in the form of an advertisement, in your case, cannot now effect you.—The commanding officer at Carlisle will countermand his order advertiseing you as a deserter.

Your most obedient servant,
D. PARKER, Adj. & Ins Gen.

Mr. F. E. Hedges, late lieutenant.

June 15th, 1515

Colonel, please to have your order countermanding the advertisement of M Hedges circulated as far as the advertisement has been published. Yours

D. PARKER, Adj & Ins. Gen.

EXTRACT.

Carlisle Barracks, 22d June, 1815.

SIR,—Your letters touching the case of Mr. Hedges are received:

This man was a deserter in the strictest sense, and was published as such accordingly. As an individual he merited the notice taken of him, and has no cause of complaint. The benefit of advertising him was great, as respects the government of my command, and of course, the public interest.

I do not understand your letters—Do you mean by "*countermand*," that I must assert Hedges is not a deserter? or, do you mean, I shall state that he need not be apprehended? If the first, it is out of the question that I *can for any consideration whatever*; for I should assert falsely. If the second, your letter to him will be sufficient to save him, and any how, no body will take the trouble of catching him, for the reward of ten dollars.

The best way of proceeding, in my judgment, is to strike him from the rolls, publishing the same, thus the man escapes apprehension, and a just regard is paid to the discipline of the army.

Now sir, to conclude, if you wish those certain facts to be esteemed official, you should have given them the sanction of, by order, &c. When the Secretary's wishes are communicated, they will be complied with so far as my honor will allow, and indeed will be complied with to a certainty, as I have he will ask nothing which may be improper.

Were I to consider your letters as full proofs of your *private* thoughts, and write to you unofficially with expressions suited to [illegible] there would be and eternal enmity formed between us. I care not about justifying myself to you, you will not (of course) take the trouble to write to me. Therefore until the orders of the Secretary of war are communicated, it's business of Hedges may rest where it is, unless you choose that it should not. I have the honor to be, sir &c.

W. S. HAMILTON,
Lt. Col. R. R. Com'd.

Brig. Gen. D. PARKER, *Adj. & Ins. Gen.*

RALEIGH.

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1815.

Communications.

We are requested to state that Roger Tillman, Esq. of Person, is a candidate for Congress in this District—He is a Republican.

We are also requested to state that Richard Stanford, Esq of Orange, who has represented the District about 17 years, is again a candidate for Congress.—He is a Republican.

IMPOSTORS Mr. *John Francis Renault* has taken in high dudgeon the caution lately given to the SEAMEN to prevent the unwary from suffering by his effrontery; of his uncommon share of which his vindication is a new proof. The fellow has been now going about for many years, defrauding the community under the shallow pretexts. In 1805 he was with his piece in Maryland; more recently in Virginia; then in Carolina; now in Richmond—Every where he tells what he imagines a plausible tale, but his career shall be cut short if we can obtain the assistance of our brethren. In 1805 he stated he had been three years labouring on his piece, and that it was to be immediately engraved and published! yet in all this time he would persuade us no opportunities was to be found for having the work done! When he was in this place, in 1812 or '13, he persuaded the people that the drawing was just then fresh from the pencil!—Now he says that to have it engraved in this country, "requires *what we have not*, an expert engraver in the three kinds of painting! and that no artist has yet appeared in this country who could undertake the engraving of a picture of *this consequence*!" And yet in the very same piece, that he has applied not only to Thiebout and Murray of Philadelphia, but to Leney of New York to do the work!!! The statement of his expences, &c. even if it were true, has nothing to do with his system of fraud. It only proves he has squandered the whole money his subscribers had intended as assistance in procuring the engraver's services; and that they need never expect either to see Mr. Renault's piece again or their money. In a word, this unblushing impostor would persuade us that in a period of more than ten years (how much more we know not) and having received three thousand five hundred dollars in advance of subscription, he has not been able to procure the engraving of an ordinary though unwieldy piece, while at the same time many excellent prints have yearly claimed applauses for our artists and gratified the public taste.—There are several gentlemen in this city who have seen Mr. Renault in different parts of the United States, have heard his contradictory stories, and whose veracity he dare not question. Mr R should bear in mind, that there are laws, and in some places Magistrates vigilant enough to enforce them against swindlers and vagabonds of every denomination.

Tho. W. Lorrain, formerly of this city, has issued proposals for publishing a paper in Columbia, S. C. under the title of the "*Telescope*."

As nearly as can be ascertained between 500 and 700 houses were burnt in Petersburg on the 16th and property destroyed to the amount of a Million and a half of Dollars. The Fire Insurance company of that state will lose about $ 200,000.—A subscription for the relief of those who lost their all, was opened in this city a few days ago, to which the citizens generally subscribed.—Mr. Glendinning give $ 100.

From the Ontario to Lake Superior, the savages are said to be hostile to the United States.—Genl. Brown has ordered troops to the points threatened, and will we hope, bring them to terms.

Blessings of Commerce—Seventy six thousand five hundred and eighty two Bales of Cotton have been shipped from the Port of Savannah Georgia, from the 20th March to the 30th of June 1815—49,079 of which went to Europe, and 27,503 to Northern ports of the U. States.

A Naval Court Martial has been held at Halifax on the officers and crews of the Levant and Cyane, for the capture of their ships by the U. S. frigate Constitution. They were honorably acquitted, their capture being ascribed the very superior force and sailing of constitution: and the officers and men were complimented for their skill and intrepidity in defending their ships while there was the least prospect of success.

Important to Fishermen.—Eight American vessels have been carried into Halifax, detected in fishing on the western shores of that province.—They were however released immediately, with their papers endorsed, prohibiting their so fishing in future. Two gun brigs had sailed for the protection of their fishing ground, with orders to bring in every American found within 3 miles of the shore.

The Halifax papers mention an idle report, that the Turks are going to assist the Algerines with a powerful squadron, against the Americans.

It is incorrectly stated in some of the Northern papers, that 20 new Banks are about to be established in Virginia.

The President of the U. States, and his Lady left Washington city on the 19th, for their seat in Virginia.

Dr. Wm. Ludlmore, is re-elected to Congress from the Mississippi Territory—The Poll was—for Ludlmore 3,319—Cales Mead 2,351.

New-York, July 19—A letter from St. Bartholomews, states that the British were preparing a force to go against Guadaloupe, which island had been declared in a state of blockade, by the British Admiral on that station.

Obituary.

Died, in this city, last week, Mr. *John S Jordan*