

THE STAR, and North-Carolina Gazette, Published weekly, by BELL & LAWRENCE.

Subscription, three dollars per annum. No paper will be sent without at least \$1 50 in paid in advance, and no paper discontinued, but at the option of the Editors, unless all arrears are paid. Advertisements, not exceeding fifteen lines, inserted three times for one dollar, and twenty-five cents for each continuation. All letters to the Editors must be post-paid.

POLITICAL.

NAVAL PEACE ESTABLISHMENT.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. To the House of Representatives of the United States:

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 15th of December last, requesting the President of the United States to communicate a plan for a Peace Establishment of the Navy of the United States, I herewith transmit a report from the Secretary of the Navy, which contains the plan required.

In presenting this plan to the consideration of Congress, I avail myself of the occasion to make some remarks on it, which the importance of the subject requires, and experience justifies.

If a system of universal and permanent peace could be established, or if, in war, the belligerent parties would respect the rights of neutral powers, we should have no occasion for a navy or an army. The expense and dangers of such establishments might be avoided. The history of all ages proves that this cannot be presumed; on the contrary, that at least one half of every century, in ancient as well as modern times, has been consumed in wars, and often of a most general and desolating character. Nor is there any cause to infer, if we examine the condition of the nations with which we have the most intercourse and strongest political relations, that we shall, in future, be exempt from that calamity, within any period, to which a rational calculation may be extended. And, as to the right of neutral powers, it is sufficient to appeal to our own experience to demonstrate how little regard will be paid to them, whenever they come in conflict with the interests of the powers at war, while we rely on the justice of our cause and on argument alone. The amount of the property of our fellow-citizens, which was seized and confiscated, or destroyed, by the belligerent parties, in the wars of the French revolution, and those which followed, before we became a party to the war, is almost incalculable.

The whole movement of our government, from the establishment of our independence, has been guided by a sacred regard for peace. Situated as we are, in the new hemisphere; distant from Europe, and unconnected with its affairs; blessed with the happiest government on earth, and having no objects of ambition to gratify; the United States have steadily cultivated the relations of amity with every power. And if, in any European wars, a respect for our rights might be relied on, it was undoubtedly in those to which I have adverted. The conflict being vital, the force being nearly equally balanced, and the result uncertain, each party had the strongest motives of interest to cultivate our good will, lest we might be thrown into the opposite scale. Powerful as this consideration usually is, it was, nevertheless, utterly disregarded, in almost every stage of, and by every party to, those wars. To these encroachments and injuries, our regard for peace was finally forced to yield.

In the war to which at length we became a party, our whole coast from St. Croix to the Mississippi, was either invaded or menaced with invasion; and to many parts, with a strong imposing force, both land and naval. In those parts where the population was most dense, the pressure was comparatively light; but there was scarcely a harbor or city, on any of our great inlets, which could be considered secure. New-York and Philadelphia were eminently exposed, the then existing works not being sufficient for their protection. The same remark is applicable, in a certain extent, to the cities eastward of the former; and as to the condition of the whole country southward of the latter, the events which marked the war are too recent to require detail. Our armies and navy signalized themselves in every quarter where they had occasion to meet their gallant foe, and the militia voluntarily flew to their aid, with a patriotism, and fought with a bravery, which exalted the reputation of their government and country, and which did them the highest honor. In whatever direction the enemy chose to move with their squadrons and to land

their troops, our fortifications, where they existed, presented but little obstacle to them. They passed those works without difficulty. Their squadron, in fact, annoyed our whole coast, not of the sea only, but every bay and great river throughout its whole extent. In entering those inlets, and sailing up them with a small force, the effect was disastrous, since it never failed to draw out the whole population on each side, and to keep it in the field while the squadron remained there. The expense attending this species of defence, with the exposure of the inhabitants, and the waste of property, may readily be conceived.

The occurrences which preceded the war, and those which attended it, were alike replete with useful instruction as to our future policy. Those which mark the first epoch, demonstrate clearly, that, in the wars of other powers, we can rely only on force for the protection of our neutral rights. Those of the second demonstrate, with equal certainty, that, in any war, in which we may be engaged hereafter, with a strong naval power, the expense, waste, and other calamities, attending it, considering the vast extent of our maritime frontier, cannot fail, unless it be defended by adequate fortifications and a suitable naval force, to correspond with those which were experienced in the late war.

Two great objects are, therefore, to be regarded in the establishment of an adequate naval force: The first, to prevent war, so far as it may be practicable; the second, to diminish its calamities, when it may be inevitable. Hence, the subject of defence becomes intimately connected, in all its parts, in war and in peace, for the land and at sea. No government will be disposed, in its wars with other powers, to violate our rights, if it knows we have the means, are prepared, and resolved to defend them. The motive will also be diminished, if it knows that our defences by land are so well planned and executed, that an invasion of our coast cannot be productive of the evils to which we have heretofore been exposed.

It was under a thorough conviction of these truths, derived from the admonitions of the late war, that Congress, as early as the year 1816, during the term of my enlightened and virtuous predecessor, under whom the war had been declared, prosecuted, and terminated, digested, and made provision for, the defence of our country, and support of its rights, in peace as well as in war, by acts, which authorized and enjoined the augmentation of our Navy, to a prescribed limit, and the construction of suitable fortifications throughout the whole extent of our maritime frontier, and wherever else they might be deemed necessary. It is to the execution of these works, both land and naval, and under a thorough conviction that, by hastening their completion, I should render the best service to my country, and give the most effectual support to our free republican system of government, that my humble faculties would admit of, that I have devoted so much of my time and labor to this great system of national policy, since I came into this office, and shall continue to do it, until my retirement from it, at the end of your next session.

The Navy is the arm from which our government will always derive most aid in support of our neutral rights. Every power engaged in war, will know the strength of our naval force, the number of our ships of each class, their condition, and the promptitude with which we may bring them into service, and will pay the due consideration to that argument. Justice will always have great weight in the cabinets of Europe; but in the long and destructive wars, exigencies often occur which press so vitally on them, that, unless the argument of force is brought to its aid, it will be disregarded. Our land forces will always perform their duty in the event of war; but they must perform it on land.—Our navy is the arm which must be principally relied on for the annoyance of the commerce of the enemy, and for the protection of our own; and, also, by co-operation of the land forces, for the defence of the country. Capable of moving in any and every direction, it possesses the faculty, even when remote from our coast, of extending its aid to every interest on which the security and welfare of our union depend. Annoying the commerce of the enemy, and menacing, in turn, its coast, provided the force on each side is nearly equally balanced, it will draw its squadrons from our own; and, in case of invasion by a powerful adversary, by a land and naval force, which is always to be anticipated, and ought to be provided against, our navy may, by like co-operation with our land forces, render essential aid in protecting our interior from incursion and depredation.

The great object, in the event of war, is to stop the enemy at the coast. If this is done, our cities, and whole interior, will be secure. For the accomplishment of this object, our fortifications must be principally relied on. By placing strong works near the mouths of our great inlets, in such positions as to command the entrances into them, as may be done in many instances, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for ships to pass them, especially if other precautions, and particularly that of steam batteries, are resorted to, in their aid. In the wars between other powers, into which we may be drawn, in support of our neutral rights, it cannot be doubted that this defence would be adequate to the purpose intended by it, nor can it be doubted, that the knowledge, that such works existed, would form a strong motive, with any power, not to invade our rights, and thereby contribute essentially to prevent war. There are, it is admitted, some entrances into our interior, which are of such vast extent, that it would be utterly impossible for any works, however extensive, or well posted, to command them. Of this class, the Chesapeake Bay, which is an arm of the sea, may be given as an example. But, in my judgment, even this bay may be defended against any power with whom we may be involved in war as a third party, in the defence of our neutral rights. By erecting strong works at the mouth of James River, on both sides, near the Capes, as we are now doing, and at Old Point Comfort and the Rip Raps, and connecting those works together by chains, whenever the enemy's force appeared, placing in the rear some large ships and steam batteries, the passage up the river would be rendered impracticable. This guard would also tend to protect the whole country bordering on the bay, and rivers emptying into it; as the hazard would be too great for the enemy, however strong his naval force, to ascend the bay, and leave such a naval force behind; since, in the event of a storm, whereby his vessels might be separated, or of a calm, the ships and steam batteries, behind the works, might rush forth and destroy them. It could only be in the event of an invasion by a great power, or a combination of several powers, and by land as well as by naval forces, that those works could be carried; and, even then, they could not fail to retard the movements of the enemy into the country, and to give time for the collection of our regular troops, militia, and volunteers to that point, and thereby contribute essentially to his ultimate defeat and expulsion from our territory.

Under strong impressions that a Peace Establishment of our Navy is connected with the possible event of war, and that the naval force intended for either state, however small it may be, is connected with the general system of public defence, I have thought it proper, in communicating this report, to submit these remarks on the whole subject.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, Jan. 30, 1824.

From the Bellefonte (Pa.) Patriot, of Feb. 2.

Pennsylvania.—The meeting of Democratic Republicans of Centre county, held on Tuesday evening last, the week of the Court, to send Delegates to the Harrisburg Convention, about to be held in March next, for the purpose of nominating Electors of President of the United States, was unusually large and respectable.

All the Candidates, except Mr Crawford, had friends at the meeting; but those of Mr. Calhoun were by far the most numerous. The old, respectable, and sober-headed democrats seemed all inclined to him, as the man capable to direct the destinies of this great nation.

THE PRESIDENCY.

Having in our last, declared ourselves favorable to JOHN C. CALHOUN for the Presidency, and promised to state some of the reasons which influence our choice; we now proceed, in part, to redeem our pledge. In doing this, we will state, and we believe it will not be denied, that Mr. Calhoun is an undeviating republican, and has uniformly given his able and decided support to the present administration. He is a firm patriot; and has always, since called into public life, evinced an honorable and unremitting zeal for his country's prosperity and independence; and particularly at a time when it became necessary for the United States, in vindication of their just and equitable rights, as an independent nation, to declare, and to support a war against a powerful enemy. He is an able statesman, which is abundantly proven by the lead he took in congress, amid the choice talents assembled there, during the most momentous period which has passed since

the revolution. He possesses a mind, exalted and vigorous, a clear perception, sound political principles, and unremitting industry.—He is the friend of Internal Improvement, and the firm supporter of our growing Navy. The administration of the War Department, since he came into the office, has been distinguished by its regular system and strict accountability; and also for its economy and the great reduction of expenses which have been effected under the present system. Mr. CALHOUN, is moreover, the candidate of the people—he has not been canvassed into notice; but the people are rallying round his standard, determined to choose for themselves; and look up to him, as one whom they may safely trust at the helm. His rising popularity is not the result of artifice or cunning; but is a voluntary tribute offered to distinguished merit. He relies not on local or sectional strength; but on the independent people of these United States, for his support.

In answer to the only objection which has been urged against Mr. Calhoun for the Presidency, we would remark, that he who twelve years ago took the lead in Congress, where was collected the choicest talents in the United States—he who reported the declaration of war against England, and was in every respect the most efficient man in that branch of our government to which he belonged; and who has for several years past filled, and now fills, with honor to himself and interest to his country, one of the most important offices in the government, cannot now be reasonably objected to on account of youth. We should think that the age of Mr. Calhoun (being now about forty) might rather be used as an argument in his favor; that being about the period at which it is generally supposed the energies of the human mind attain their summit. Jackson (Missouri) Patriot.

MISSOURI.

Mr. Crawford and Mr. Calhoun.—It is known to the people that a certain party, with the watch words of economy, retrenchment, exclusive republicanism, &c. endeavored to rally round Mr. Crawford as the "sole remaining prop of the republican party"—and that a report of Mr. Crawford, short stating the receipts of the treasury, was made the ground on which our little army was reduced, and protection to our Indian trade and exposed frontier was denied.

How stands the account?

Mr. Crawford was Secretary of War, and we find millions in the hands of his disbursing officers unaccounted for.

Mr. Crawford is Secretary of the Treasury, and we find millions in the hands of the directors of broken banks, and receivers of public moneys yet unaccounted for.

Mr. Calhoun is Secretary of War, and of the sum drawn from the public treasury in the year 1822, for military service being \$4,571,961 94, and passing thro' the hands of 291 disbursing officers, not one cent has been lost to the government.

Mr. Crawford and his satellites preach economy.

Mr. Calhoun practices it.

Well may the President say, "a system of economy and accountability has been introduced into every branch of the service, which admits of little improvement;" and well may the directors of broken banks and receivers of public moneys, who have embezzled the public funds, and are now living on their speculations, fear it.

St. Louis Enquirer.

A Writer in the Register, who says he lives in the "western wilderness," has given what "he conceives to be the state of public opinion" in Alabama, on the subject of the Presidential Election; and from the apparent candor of his piece, and his assumed facts, he may probably induce many of the readers of the Register, as they will not, it is likely, in respect to some of his statements, see anything to the contrary, to believe that what he says is true. One of three things, however, is plain—either that he wrote his piece some months ago, when there was some doubt as to the "state of public opinion" in Alabama, or that he is pretending to inform others on a subject of which he is almost totally ignorant himself, or intentionally misrepresents facts. That these are not mere empty assertions, may be satisfactorily shown by an examination of one or two of his statements.

This writer states, that "the persons at present held up to public view as candidates, are W. H. Crawford, Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, John Q. Adams, and John C. Calhoun;" and that "the most authentic source of information ranks the respective candidates in that state, in the order in which they are named." In proof of this statement, he says—"But the Senatorial branch of our legislature forms the best criterion of public sentiment upon this

subject that has yet transpired; and of this body, nine are in favor of Mr. Crawford, six of Mr. Clay, two of Mr. Adams, and one for Gen. Jackson." Now mark here—a plain tale will put him down. A late Mobile Register says—"A few days since, the members of our Senate happening to be all present, after adjourning the morning session, an expression of individual feeling in relation to the candidates was invited, when after each having signified his preference, they stood in the following order: 1st. Jackson, 2d. Calhoun, 3d. Clay, fourth, Crawford, 5th. Adams." But we have still stronger proof of this writer's inaccuracy,—proof that fixes on him the brand of gross ignorance or wilful misrepresentation, in the resolutions which recently passed the legislature of Alabama, nominating Gen. Jackson for the Presidency. These resolutions were adopted in the Senate, by a vote of twelve to seven; and yet this writer states that only one of the nineteen Senators of Alabama is in favor of Jackson; and the Register consents to circulate statements like these, of the falsity of which its own files furnish incontestible evidence.

The writer admits, that among the people, "Gen. Jackson's friends are pretty numerous," but states they "are not influential in the Legislature."—How much credit is due to this assertion, may be learned from the fact, that the resolutions nominating him for the Presidency, passed this same Legislature, in the House, by a vote of thirty-nine to eighteen, and in the Senate as stated above.

From such facts the writer comes to the conclusion, that Mr. Crawford will receive the votes of Alabama; but, as we have shown, that his premises are false, it is quite needless to do any thing more to invalidate his conclusion. It is plain, that under no circumstances can Mr. Crawford obtain the vote of Alabama; for even should Jackson be withdrawn,—and from present appearances it is not likely he will,—it is highly improbable to suppose that his friends will throw their influence into the scale of his bitterest enemy.

It is by such deceptions as these, which are continually played off on the people, that the friends of Mr. Crawford hope to succeed; but they will be disappointed. The people, generally, are too well informed to be imposed upon by them; and the number which they may mislead, is too small to be of any service to Mr. Crawford's interests.

Forgettenville Observer.

Extract of a letter from a member of Congress to one of the Editors of the Richmond Whig, dated at the City of Washington, 23d January, 1824.

"The electioneering conflict waxes warmer and warmer, and nothing has yet transpired to prove decisive of the issue. The friends of Mr. Crawford are as zealous for a caucus, as his enemies are inimical to it; and yet they pretend to constitute the last and forlorn hope of the Jeffersonian School. It is singular enough that these gentlemen, who affect to be the only true descendants of the Democratic worthies of 1798, form the single party, who openly and avowedly advocate the measure of a caucus. It is for them to reconcile the inconsistencies of this course with their professions of unshaken attachment to the Constitution, of zeal for the early opinions of the party, and unchangeable opposition to all measures which partake of usurpation.

"It is supposed, that there may be between 75 and 100 members willing to go into caucus, and of these some fifteen or twenty belong to the old Federal party. As Mr. Crawford's fate is known and admitted by his friends, to depend on a caucus nomination, it would be no matter of surprise to me, if this minority resorted to the desperate expedient of nominating him as the choice of the Republican party. In that event, so flagrant an outrage on decency, and the rights of the majority, would be answered and repelled by a counter meeting, in which, if no nomination were made, the rights of the people would at least be vindicated against so gross an usurpation and insult.—Many and unsuccessful efforts have been made by the friends of Crawford, to induce Clay to postpone his pretensions, but the friends of the latter deem the proposition fraudulent and unreasonable, and retort the solicitation. There will be no compromise, no caucus, and no election.

After all the conjectures and calculations which have been formed of N. York, it is believed very generally here, that a majority of the Assembly of that state is for Calhoun. The election of the Speaker, Goodell, which was claimed by the Crawfordites as a triumph, was only effected by that gentleman's renouncing his previous predilection for the Secretary of the Treasury. If the mode of election be changed as proposed, from the system of General