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diense to the order of this House, by the Department of War, is liable, in the numerical classification, made by that Department, of the letters composing this correspondence.

The Secretary of War has transmitted twelve letters, which passed between the then Secretary, General Armstrong, and Governor Blount. Instead of commencing the series with the letter first in date, by which the indorsement would be shown for the reply, this order is inverted, and the series commences with a letter from the Secretary of War, of the 2d of January, 1814, marked No. 1; and his letters are continued to No. 5. It so happens, that the first letter in date, is as low down as No. 5, Gov. Blount's of the 19th of December, 1813; and the second letter in date, is No. 7—Governor Blount's, of the 24th of December, 1813; to both of which, the letter of the 3d of January, 1814, of the Secretary of War, is an answer.

Your Committee believe that this arrangement of the correspondence, is calculated to lead to serious misapprehension; that a reader, not very attentive to a comparison of dates, would suppose that the letter of the 3d of January, 1814, referred to such militia drafts as were to be made in that year, when it is exclusively applicable to the drafts which had been made in 1813, for the prosecution of the Creek war, and which were admitted to have been executed but for three months. The injustice which, by a confusion of dates, would be done, even by possibility, to the parties concerned in the transactions of the militia drafts of Tennessee, which were made for six months in 1814, by applying the letter of the Secretary of War, of the 3d of January, 1814, to subsequent drafts for six months, instead of those which were made in 1813, for three months, has induced your Committee so to arrange the correspondence, that the leading letter, in the series, should come out first, and the subsequent letters follow in the natural order of their respective dates. This obviously just classification being observed, it will be perceived, that the letter of the 3d of January, 1814, has no bearing upon the drafts of militia, which were afterwards made for 6 months, in the progress of that year, by the Governor of Tennessee, of which the regiment under the command of Col. Pipkin composed a part.

A perusal of the correspondence just recited, of the muster rolls of the different companies of Col. Pipkin's regiment, and the proceedings of the Court Martial which was convened at Mobile, on the 5th of December, 1814, for the trial of certain Tennessee militiamen, present upon their face the following inquiries:— 1st. Whether the Governor of Tennessee had the power to order out detachments of the militia of that State for a six months' term of service? 2dly. Whether Col. Pipkin's regiment was so ordered out, and in conformity with such authority? 3dly. Whether the soldiers of this regiment, who were arraigned for certain crimes and offences before a Court Martial, which convened at Mobile on the 5th December, 1814, were legally tried, and whether the commanding General, approving the proceedings of this Court, properly exercised the power and discretion vested in him by law? In relation to the first branch of the inquiry, it will be proper to premise, that, on the 10th April, 1812, in anticipation of the war about to take place, Congress passed an act, which will be found in the 4th vol. of the Laws of the United States, page 406, which authorizes the President "to require the different Executives of the States, to organize their respective proportions of 100,000 militia, and to call into service the whole, or a part, of these quotas; which detachments were not compelled to serve longer than 6 months, after they arrived at the place of rendezvous." This act was an enlargement of the act of 1795, which restricted the service of the militia, when called out by the authority of the United States, to three months.

The act of the 10th of April, 1812, expired by its own limitation on the 10th of April, 1814. On the 11th of January, 1814, whilst, however, this law was in full force, the then Secretary of War, Gen. Armstrong, wrote the letter, numbered 2 in the documents, to Gov. Blount, which authorizes him "to supply, by militia drafts, or by volunteers, any deficiency which may arise in the militia division under the command of Major General Jackson, and without referring, on his head,

to this Department," and further informs Governor Blount that "it may be well that your Excellency consult General Pinckney on such occasions, as he can best judge of the whole number necessary to the attainment of the public objects." This letter, in the opinion of your Committee, vested plenary power in Governor Blount, until it was revoked, either by express orders, or by peace, to call out such militia drafts as, in his discretion, he might think necessary "for the attainment of the public objects," under the existing laws.

On the 18th of April, 1814, 4th Vol. Laws of the United States, page 795, sec. 8, Congress enacted "that the militia, when called into the service of the United States, by virtue of the before recited act, may, if, in the opinion of the President of the United States, the public interest require it, be compelled to serve for a term not exceeding six months, after their arrival at the place of rendezvous, in any one year. This law was to continue in force during the war.

After the passage of this act, it does not appear that the President revoked the power which he had given to Gov. Blount, by virtue of the letters of the Secretary of War, of the 11th and 31st January, 1814; but he seems to have been willing from his silence, coupled with the notorious fact of Gov. Blount's continuing to order out militia drafts, under the discretionary authority of those letters, to consider that such drafts as Gov. Blount should order out, were, in his opinion, required "by the public interest."

And your Committee think, that this proposition may be put more affirmatively, to wit: that it was the "opinion of the President, that the public interest did require" that Governor Blount should, under the advice, or by the requisition of Gen. Pinckney, have the power to order out militia drafts, either for three or six months, as the exigencies of the service should render necessary, "without referring on his head," to the President for special directions.

This deduction they consider irrefragable and conclusive, and that there was nothing in the act of April 18th, 1814, which prevented the President from expressing his opinion, through general instructions, to the Executive of a State, whose orders for militia drafts, under such discretion, should, de facto and de jure, be the opinion of the President, "that such drafts were required by the public interest."

This inference, your Committee moreover believe, if they thought it necessary to go into such an investigation, might be sustained by the contemporary constructions which were given to this clause in the act of April, 1814, in the actual discretion which was vested in the Executives of several of the States.

2dly. Your Committee are now brought to inquire, whether Colonel Pipkin's regiment was ordered out for six months, and in conformity with the above cited authority? It appears, by the muster rolls, that this regiment was regularly inspected, and mustered into service for six months, to wit: on the twentieth of June, 1814; and that, consequently, their term of service expired on the morning of the twentieth of December, 1814. In the absence of all other proof, these records are to be considered as the highest evidence, not only of the fact, but of the legal presumption, that the muster and inspection were made with the requisite authority.

But it is a circumstance of public and indisputable notoriety, and one which belongs to the history of the country, that Col. Pipkin's detachment was mustered into service expressly for six months, by virtue of an order of Governor Blount's, dated the 20th of May, 1814; a certified copy of which, your Committee have taken steps to procure, that it may be placed on the file of this House, with the documents from the War Department.

This order recited that the draft was made in compliance "with the requisition of Major General Pinckney, and in furtherance of the views of Government, by a latitude given to him (Gov. Blount) by the War Department, in regard to calls for men to act against the Creeks." This draft was ordered to rendezvous on the 20th of June, 1814, at Fayetteville, Tennessee; & formed the identical detachment of one thousand men, who were afterwards placed under the command of Col. Pipkin, and stationed in the summer and autumn of that year, at the posts

in the Creek country. And, by reference to Gov. Blount's letter of the 10th October, 1814, (No. 11,) it will be seen that he specially reported this regiment of one thousand men, to the Secretary of War, "in service for six months, from which fact the inference is inseparable, that the President considered it as legally in service, or it was the bounden duty of the Secretary to have ordered their immediate discharge; which, it so were appears that he ever did. If, therefore, any confirmation was wanted for the original authority by which the draft was made for six months, your Committee consider that Gov. Blount's report, of the 10th October, and the implied sanction of the President, incontrovertibly furnish it.

3dly. Whether the soldiers of Col. Pipkin's regiment, who were arraigned for certain crimes and offences before a Court Martial, which convened at Mobile, on the 5th of December, 1814, were legally tried; and whether the Commanding General, approving the proceedings of this Court, properly exercised the power and discretion vested in him by law?

By reference to the proceedings of the Court Martial in question, it will be seen, that two commissioned officers, and about 200 of the non-commissioned officers and privates of Colonel Pipkin's regiment, were tried for the most serious offences which can be committed in the military service of the country. That these offences, first, consisted in "exciting and causing mutiny;" secondly, in the commission of an actual mutiny, accompanied by circumstances of aggravated robbery and spoliation of the public stores; and thirdly, in the crime of desertion.

The two first of those offences, to wit: "exciting and causing a mutiny," and actually committing mutiny, "by forcing the guard, and seizing the Commissaries' storehouse and stores, at Fort Jackson, were committed, the first, before the 19th of September, 1814; and second, on the 19th of September, 1814; and before even three months' service of this detachment had expired. That some of the mutineers were deluded into a belief that they were about to be wrongfully detained in service, beyond the term for which they were legally drafted, your Committee think not improbable; and those who were thus likely to be deluded, the Court recommended to the clemency of the commanding General, who, it appears, pardoned them; and that all the rest of the mutineers and deserters were condemned to trivial punishments, neither affecting life nor limb, excepting six of the ringleaders, to wit: David Morrow, a sergeant in Capt. Strother's Company, Jacob Webb, John Harris, Henry Lewis, David Hunt, and Edward Lindsey, privates in Colonel Pipkin's regiment, who were found guilty either of causing, or exciting a mutiny, before the 19th of September, 1814, or committing a mutiny, or deserting whilst on post, before the expiration of the 19th of September, 1814, and suffered death in consequence.

By an examination of the trials of these six ringleaders, it will be seen, that they were prominently guilty, either of "exciting and causing a mutiny," or of being the leaders of a mutiny; the first before, and the last on, the 19th of September, 1814; and that John Harris, to whose name such remarkable notoriety has been attached, was engaged some time prior, "in causing and exciting a mutiny," by carrying even a muster roll of mutiny and desertion throughout the camp, to procure the names of those who were willing, and would pledge themselves to commit these crimes.

To these facts, your Committee will now apply the law. The act of 1795, provides, "that the militia in the service of the United States shall be governed by the Rules and Articles of War." By the 7th article of the Rules and Articles of War, "any officer or soldier, who shall begin, excite, or join in any mutiny or sedition, in any troop or company in the service of the United States, or in any party, post, detachment, or guard, shall suffer death, or such other punishments, as, by a Court Martial, shall be inflicted." By the 8th article, a similar penalty is awarded, where any officer or soldier "does not use his utmost endeavors to suppress a mutiny, or, coming to the knowledge of an intended mutiny, does not, without delay, give information thereof to his commanding officer." And, by the 29th article, the crime of desertion, is punishable by death, or such other punishments

as, by sentence of a Court Martial, shall be inflicted.

These facts, and their principles, furnish a complete vindication of the Court, whose painful duty it was to condemn six of their fellow-citizens to a severe and ignominious punishment.

But if all the reasoning of your Committee was absurd and valueless, as to the fact, that these men were rightfully in service for six months, and it were even admitted that they were drafted but for three months, the proceedings of the Court would stand without spot, blame, or legal impeachment. As the crimes for which these unfortunate human beings suffered death, were committed before three months of their term of service had expired; and by the 12th section of the act of the 18th April, 1814, which was then in full force, and which provides, "that any commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, musician, or private, of the militia of the United States, who shall have committed an offence, while in actual service of the United States, may be tried and punished for the same, although his term of service may have expired, in like manner as if he had been actually in service of the United States;" it is, therefore, obvious that these men could be legally detained for trial and punishment, even if they could have been considered as in service but for three months.

That they had a fair and impartial trial, your committee see no reason to doubt, and the mere fact of their jurors being their own officers, fellow-citizens, and, probably, neighbors, secured the presence of that sympathy which leads to the most merciful interpretation (where it is just to apply it) of the conduct and motives of others.

That General Jackson, commanding in chief, in the Military Division, in which these events transpired, properly exercised the power and discretion vested in him, by law, by approving the proceedings of this Court, your committee, likewise, perceive no reason to doubt. It is true, that they were approved on the 22d of January, fourteen days after the victory of the 8th, by which the enemy had been repulsed from the Mississippi. But the General was, at this time, ignorant of the pacification at Ghent; and, moreover, must have been apprized that a part of the enemy had gone round, and had concentrated his forces in the neighborhood of Mobile, in that very vicinity where these outrageous acts of insubordination, mutiny, and desertion, had taken place. That such a concentration of the enemy's forces was effected, is a fact beyond all dispute, on the 11th of February, Fort Boyer was attacked and captured.

The Commanding General must, also, have known that it was on volunteer or militia drafts the defence of the Southern coast would rest; whilst the flagrant mutinies and desertions in the campaign of 1813, of the militia drafts of that year, must have admonished him of the necessity of striking a severe, yet salutary, example in the minds of those who were liable to be misled.

Although the clemency of the General was not invoked by the Court, it is true, he might have pardoned these victims of their own crimes; but there are occasions when mercy is but another name for weakness; when even a severe and unalterable firmness, in the discharge of our duty, is the most perfect justice we can render to our country.

The examples of this stern and enlightened justice, are scattered throughout the pages of History, not for the abhorrence, but for the pledge of mankind; they are found, not only in the most instructive morals which the lessons of antiquity afford, but they illustrate the incomparable services of him, who wins, and ever will be venerated, as "the Father of our Country."

In conclusion, your committee will barely remark, that, as the acts of 1812 and 1814, expired, the one by its own limitation, and the other by the termination of the war, they see nothing in the transaction, which it has been their duty to examine, from its origin to its close, which calls for the legislative interference of this House, in the shape of any amendment to the Rules and Articles of War, or to the existing laws governing the militia, whilst in the service of the United States.

of the United States, Charles Fisher Esq. was unanimously called to the bar, and William Boyer Esq. appointed secretary. In the presence of Gen. David Johnston, Hugh M. Stokely Esq. was requested to prepare an address in the criticism of the United States, on the bad policy of re-electing John Quincy Adams as President of the United States, and the propriety of electing General Andrew Jackson to that office.

Resolved, that we will use all honorable means to secure the election of Gen. Andrew Jackson as President, and John C. Calhoun as Vice President of the United States. Resolved, that the meeting convened in the parish of each County, in this State, for the purpose of electing a President of the United States, on the 18th of March, shall be held in the parish of each County, in the month of March, and that the purpose of taking into consideration such means as may be practicable for the purpose of securing the election of Gen. Andrew Jackson as President, and John C. Calhoun as Vice President of the United States.

Resolved, that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Raleigh Star, Western Carolinian, and North Carolina Journal. CHARLES McDOWELL, CAP. WILLIAM BOYER, Sec'y.

JACKSON MEETING IN SALISBURY. Salisbury, Feb. 19th, 1828. This day at 1 o'clock, a very numerous assemblage of the citizens of Rowan county, friends of Jackson and Calhoun, convened in the Court House, according to previous notice. The objects of this meeting were, to appoint delegates to attend the district convention, for the purpose of getting up an Electoral Candidate for this district; and to adopt such other measures as might be thought necessary, to promote the cause of the People in this county. The meeting was organized by the appointment of Maj. John McClelland as chairman, and Maj. Littlebury R. Rose, and Dr. John Scott, as secretaries; Gen. Wm. H. Kerr, Francis Neely, Esq. and Charles Anderson, Esq. were appointed assistant chairmen.

The meeting being thus organized, (the almost good order, decorum and attention prevailing,) was addressed by Col. Thos. G. Polk, in an able, appropriate, and eloquent manner explaining the objects of the meeting, and setting forth the high claims of that great and distinguished patriot, Andrew Jackson, to the Presidency of the United States. After which, he offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, that the meeting would appreciate the re-election of John Quincy Adams, as dangerous to the best interests of this country. Resolved, that we have the highest confidence in the virtue, talents and patriotism of Andrew Jackson, and that we will use all honorable means to promote his election. These resolutions were seconded by Charles Fisher Esq. and sustained in a lucid and interesting speech, in which the merits of the two candidates were fully discussed, and their different services compared; by which the hero of Orleans appeared (more than ever) deserving of his country's highest honors.

Mr. Fisher was followed by John Giles, Esq. in a solemn, impressive, yet familiar address, at considerable length investigating the political, not personal, conduct of the two candidates; and decidedly showing the great preference which had and should be given to Andrew Jackson. Genl. R. M. Saunders moved that the above resolutions be adopted, which was unanimously agreed to.

Charles Fisher Esq. then moved, that the following resolution be adopted: Whereas, this meeting views with particular approbation the political course of John C. Calhoun, and entertains the most favorable opinion of his high talents and sterling integrity; therefore, Resolved, that we will use all honorable means to secure his re-election to the office of Vice President of the United States.

It being seconded, the names of the delegates were taken, and the resolutions unanimously agreed to. After which Gen. R. M. Saunders addressed the meeting on the present mode of electing Electors, and of the course which the People should pursue in selecting their candidates for Electors. He discussed, in a very pertinent and able manner, the leading measures of the present Administration, and showed, from proofs and documents, that the best interests of the people have not been subserved, but violated by the men in power. After which he offered the following resolution: Resolved, that five delegates be appointed for Rowan county, to meet such delegates as may be appointed by the people of Montgomery and Davidson counties at Lexington, on the Tuesday of Davidson March next, for the purpose of nominating some suitable person [See 4th Page.]