

THE RALEIGH MINERVA.

RALEIGH, N. C.—PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY LUCAS AND A. H. BOYLAN.

[OR \$2 50 CENTS IN ADVANCE.]

No 785.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1811.

Vol. 16.

FROM THE NEW YORK EVENING POST.

BARLOW to FULTON.
The New French Minister and his Friend Ful-
 As has been observed, Messrs. Barlow and Ful-
 ton lived together at Paris, the *Nisus* and *Eur-*
ymachus of modern days. Between them *Buon-*
aparte's was brought forward; Fulton, it is be-
 lieved, was the principal, and Barlow his agent, to
 expose it to the French government, and, in
 return, to share the profits. But somehow, how-
 ever, it did not, as Mr. Fulton acknowledges, meet
 with the encouragement which was necessary
 to carry on the experiments to a useful result.
 They both demonstrated to Bonaparte's ministers,
 how they might easily blow up all the vessels in
 the world, except their own, and thus "make the
 medium of the seas." They even employed me-
 chanics in Paris to make some of the machines,
 for the purpose of convincing the ministers of the
 feasibility of the invention. Still the government
 looked coldly upon the project. While things
 were in this situation, Joel went over to England
 to make trial of their fortune there. Since the
 French would not blow up the English ships, they
 were determined that the English should blow up
 the French ships. Accordingly, Joel procured
 an introduction to Lord Sidmouth, and made such
 a plausible representation, that Fulton himself
 was sent for, and over he came. He convinced
 Lord Sidmouth that he could soon blow the French
 ships to the d—, and, and, at length undertook,
 for a certain sum, (report says 40,000l. sterling)
 to blow up the French fleet, or, in the in-
 terim phrase, *decompose*, the French fleet and gun-
 boats, which then lay at Boulogne. The experi-
 ment was made, and failed. One of the gun-
 boats, however, was partially decomposed; and as
 the French are a busy, inquisitive, curious nation,
 always prying into other people's business, some of
 them went to work to examine the fragments of
 the vessel itself, which had the misfortune to be
 exploded; and altogether discovered, sure enough,
 the lock sticking to one of the plates of her bot-
 tom; which lock happened to have the name
 of a Parisian lock smith on it. The locksmith
 was immediately arrested, and being brought
 to the police-office and there subjected to an exami-
 nation, he confessed that it was one of the locks
 he had made for Messrs. Barlow and Fulton, two
 Americans. Search was immediately made after
 these disinterested gentlemen, but it was found
 they were both safe in England, out of the reach
 of the *Bicetes* or the *Guillotines*.
 Finding a sailing ship was to be done in
 England, (for Mr. Fulton could not convince the
 ministry that the failure at Boulogne was not owing
 to the torpedoe, but to the want of skill in the
 application of it) he came over to America to
 tell the secret, to us, and Barlow came also. Since
 France would not blow up the English marine
 and England could not blow up the French mi-
 nistry, he now came to shew the United States how
 to blow them both up. Before, however, he ask-
 ed the administration to purchase the secret, he
 tied it upon a brig, which he borrowed of them,
 for the purpose, and anchored her fast in the
 stream, without any one on board. Left thus
 to herself, defenceless, and resigned to all that
 could be done to her, the brig lay perfectly quiet,
 and let Mr. Fulton act his pleasure. Having plac-
 ed the brig, as he wished her to lie, Fulton pub-
 licly invited all the town to come down on the bat-
 tery and witness his prowess and dexterity in ruin-
 ing her at mid day. All the town, accordingly
 went down, and there they stood, some of them,
 more than two hours, straining their eyes to be-
 hold Mr. Fulton ruin the poor brig; they looked,
 however, in vain. For, though, there she lay at
 his mercy, Fulton, somehow, could not make out
 to do any thing to her. Time passed away, and
 still the brig remained uninjured. The cobwebs
 went home deeply disappointed and displeas-
 ed at this mortifying failure. But, after the people were
 gone, it seems, Mr. Fulton renewed the attack
 with fresh vigour, and in the end, with some suc-
 cess. Some say he put powder into her, and
 did the business, unfairly; but others say not;
 however he contrived at length to manage his tor-
 pedoe in such a manner, that just before night,
 it actually entered her bottom, and spilt her
 keel; so that she never could be called a brig
 any more.
 Big with this triumph over a defenceless brig,
 Mr. Fulton boldly applied to the government of
 the United States and asked to grant him 5000
 dollars to defray the expenses of making a few
 more experiments. As an inducement, he pro-
 posed to give an immediate exhibition on a small
 scale at Washington, and destroy a little vessel,
 by shooting a torpedoe into her bottom, with a har-
 poon; after which he proposed to come to New-
 York and blow up commodore Rogers, in spite of
 all the defence that he could make against him.—
 The first experiment was immediately given in
 the presence of all the members of Congress from
 the southern and western states, they being well
 acquainted with naval tactics; but it so far fail-
 ed, that the harpoon when shot from the gun, on-
 ly glanced against the vessel and returned very
 nearly to the same spot whence it had been shot,
 and had like to have killed a sergeant of marines
 one of Mr. Fulton's own men. But, Mr. Fulton
 had before this time been so fortunate as to con-
 tract himself by marriage with the well known
 Chancellor Livingston, who had also been in Pa-
 ris greatly to his advantage, and commanded a
 great many votes in his district. The election
 was just coming on, and as Mr. Fulton had suc-
 ceeded so well with his harpoon at Washington,
 the 5000 dollars were obtained without much dif-

iculty. Thus assisted, Mr. Fulton went to work
 to prepare himself for the second experiment, in
 the presence of a respectable committee, specially
 appointed by Congress to see that all was fair, and
 the business conducted with propriety, and make
 a report thereon. When Commodore Rogers
 was ready to be demolished, he gave notice to Mr.
 Fulton, and the latter, with the committee repair-
 ed to the Wallabout Bay to convince both the
 commodore and the committee, how easily the
 United States with torpedoes might destroy the
 ships belonging to England and France, with
 their crews into the bargain. The day, at last,
 came; the parties repaired to the scene of ac-
 tion, and all the town were about to follow, when
 Mr. Fulton deadened their curiosity, by informing
 them, that the grandest experiment would be
 postponed. Mr. Fulton, next dissipated the ap-
 prehensions of the committee, by assuring the
 gentlemen, that he only meant at this time to blow
 up the Commodore, in miniature; and should per-
 form the operation in a tub of water.—This ex-
 periment was accordingly made;—the torpedoe
 was applied; and if nothing was actually done, it
 was proved by arguments at least, that every thing
 might have been done. The committee, how-
 ever, reported against Mr. Fulton, much to his sur-
 prise; & he has published an answer to the report
 in the *Aurora*, in which he says if he did not suc-
 ceed so well as he hoped, it was because he had
 not then brought his machines to that state of
 perfection which he since has. He, therefore, on-
 ly desires Congress will give him some more
 money and one of their commodores to try his ex-
 periments upon, and he has no doubt he shall be
 able to demonstrate in what an expedition man-
 ner, he can blow all the ships in Europe to the
 four winds of heaven.

I am, however, a little before my story; but it
 was necessary to be so, in order to preserve the
 narrative unbroken. The conclusion, must be
 reserved for another paper.

The new French Minister and his friend Fulton.
 This number will be principally occupied with
 the latter of these gentlemen.—I have promised
 to explain the concluding paragraph of the letter
 from Washington, and it shall now be done. It
 shall be done by the assistance of a document I
 have been obliged to postpone till now, but which
 will seal Mr. Fulton's lips in eternal silence.

It may not be amiss, to begin by introducing
 the following extracts from Mr. Fulton's letter of
 February last, which was printed in the *Aurora*,
 and some other democratic newspapers, in answer
 to the *Report of the Committee*.

"To my friends and countrymen, (says he) who
 have felt interested in the success of this invention,
 and who may have looked forward to the INDE-
 PENDENCE AND TRANQUILITY which its success
 would secure to the UNITED STATES, I address
 this note" &c.

Again:
 "With an object of such immense importance to
 MY COUNTRY IN VIEW, it shall never be abandon-
 ed by me, until I can find some one of such
 mathematical talents as to prove that the practice
 of torpedoes is not within the powers of nature, or
 the mental and physical powers of man. When
 the papers presented by the Secretary of Navy
 shall be printed, the public will be convinced that
 there is sufficient reason to proceed with ardor in this
 enterprise."

Having thus seen the patriotic motives which
 actuate Mr. Fulton's bosom; having seen that
 his principal wish, in bringing his Torpedoes to
 perfection, is "to secure the independence and tran-
 quility of the United States;" and that his deter-
 mination to persist in the project, is because its
 success is of "such immense importance to his coun-
 try," let us leave Mr. Fulton, for a moment, and
 go back to the period in our story where we broke
 off, to follow him in his experiments.

Messrs. Fulton and Barlow, not having met with
 due encouragement in France, and having next
 failed in England, came at length to the United
 States to try the fortune of the Torpedoes here.
 Agent Barlow planted himself at Washington,
 where he could have the president's ear, and Ful-
 ton strengthened himself by marriage, with nu-
 merous family connections in the state of New-
 York. All things being ready, application was
 brought forward to Congress in the winter of 1809,
 stating the immense value of the Torpedoes to the
 United States, to guard them against all foreign
 attacks from the powers of Europe, and preparing
 for the grant of a suitable sum of money to en-
 able the petitioners to bring them to perfection.
 Congress accordingly, (although the treasury was
 penniless) granted, the petitioner the sum of *five*
thousand dollars to enable him to "proceed with
 ardor in an enterprise" "of such immense impor-
 tance to HIS COUNTRY." This, it must be remem-
 bered, was just at the close of the session, in the
 Spring of 1809.

Thus enabled by Congress to continue to make
 his experiments, behold Mr. Fulton, (with the aid
 of his friend Barlow I presume) sitting down in
 New York, with the public money in his pocket,
 and writing the following letter, in March 1809,
 yes, in March 1809, to his Excellency, Monseigneur
 Marbois, at Paris. The reader may consider
 it without hesitation, as a genuine letter; and
 peruse it as such; for, however it may have come
 into my hands, Mr. Fulton will never have the har-
 dihood to deny it.

THE LETTER.
 "New York March 22d, 1809
 SIR,
 "You will recollect while I was in France, I
 made some experiments on submarine navigation

and a new mode of attacking ships of war with
 sub-marine bombs; which I now call *Torpedoes*,
 in consequence of the shock they give. Several
 years ago, I ascertained by experiments, on a
 sufficiently large scale, that if about one hundred
 pounds of powder could be exploded under the
 bottom of a first rate ship of the line, it would so
 wreck it, that it would immediately sink; to prove
 this I have blown up two brigs each of 300 tons.

My constant expectation has been to find a cer-
 tain means, with the least possible risk to the
 assailants, of getting the *Torpedoe* under the vessel,
 near her keel, where the shock would be perpen-
 dicular under her; with this view, I laboured three
 years, in a sub-marine boat, which succeeded to
 navigate under water, with ease and safety; but
 was of no use in getting the *Torpedoe* under the ves-
 sel. I, therefore, sought for other means of applying the *Tor-*
pedoes. After five years of varied experiments, I
 have fortunately discovered an infallible mode of
 placing the *Torpedoes* near the keel of any ship,
 however great her force may be; and it may be
 done while she is at anchor, or when sailing not
 more than four miles an hour. By my system,
 one thousand men, organized and prepared with
Torpedoes, could, in the usual fine weather of
 summer, destroy the whole British fleet which
 blockaded Bologne, in a few hours; or drive them
 into their own ports; and 20,000 men organized,
 could sweep the whole narrow channel between
 Dover and Calais of all British vessels, which could
 be sent into it; in fact my system, if practised
 with the energy, which his royal and imperial ma-
 jesty could give to it, would in two years, anni-
 hilate or render useless, the British marine, and
 consequently destroy the political influence of that
 nation. If the researches of science has develop-
 ed the practicability of destroying their marine,
 how immensely important would such an event be
 to the tranquillity, prosperity and happiness of his
 majesty's dominions; to the civilization of Europe
 and of mankind; how worthy the genius of his
 majesty? And who can say that it is not among
 the extraordinary events associated with his IM-
 MORTALITY AND HIGH DESTINY?

In thus stating to you my firm conviction, found-
 ed on satisfactory experiments, in the easy and
 certain effect of this simple discovery; I beg of
 you not to let its magnitude prevent your giving
 credit to it. Look back on the revolution which
 the sciences have caused in the affairs of man.
 The invention of gun powder changed the whole
 art of war; out of the invention of gun powder,
 grew ships of 100 guns; and you may be assur-
 ed that the *torpedoes*, in the way I have
 discovered, ships may be destroyed. Admitting,
 for a moment that so desirable an object can be
 accomplished by the means which I have discover-
 ed, the liberality of his royal and imperial majesty
 would induce him to grant a reward to the inven-
 tor proportioned to the invention.

I, therefore, propose the following arrangements
 to His Majesty's government:

To such minister or agent as his imperial and
 royal majesty will be pleased to name, I will send
 a complete *Torpedoe*, with such description and
 drawings as will enable any intelligent Engineer to
 make them and use them against the enemy. On
 the part of his majesty the minister or agent, will
 agree that I, my heirs or assigns, shall be paid
 out of his majesty's treasury one thousand francs,
 for each gun of each vessel of an enemy, which
 shall be destroyed by means of my sub-marine
 bombs or *Torpedoes*; the payment to be made in
 three months after the destruction of each vessel.
 And whereas, after the enemy have experienced
 the consequences of my mode of attack, they may
 be compelled to abandon their vessels or surrender
 or reduce the number of their vessels of war in
 consequence of my invention; the payment to be
 made in three months after the abandonment, cap-
 ture or reduction of each vessel.

And should my invention be practised to the an-
 nihilation of the British fleet, or give to France such
 a power over the British ports and commerce, as
 to compel the English government to reduce the
 number of their ships of war; it consequently
 would follow, that England would be in the power
 of France and so humbled as to be under the neces-
 sity of submitting to any terms which his royal and
 imperial majesty might think proper to grant; even
 to laying them under contribution. Hence as one
 condition of the peace, they should pay me, my
 heirs or assigns, two millions of pounds sterling,
 in one month, after signing the definitive articles
 of peace with France.* You will please to observe,
 that on these conditions, if I do not give France
 an extraordinary advantage over the British marine
 and nation, I make no demand. But if, by my
 invention, I do give France so immense an advan-
 tage over her most powerful and tormenting en-
 emy, I calculate on a great reward; which I expect
 the enemy to pay. This, sir, should convince you
 of the great confidence which I have in my mode
 of attack, and as my success in mechanical pur-
 suits has been considerable, I hope it will guard
 me from the imputation of an inexperienced and
 visionary projector, and warrant your giving some
 credit to my assertions, however extraordinary
 they may appear.

In prosecuting this invention, I have consider-
 ed military marines as a political disease and I have

* The British marine now costs the nation 13
 millions sterling a year. If by my system, it can
 be destroyed, and they pay me two millions, the
 nation will be relieved of taxes, to the amount of
 13 millions sterling a year; the two millions is
 therefore a reasonable demand for so great a bless-
 ing.

ardently sought for a means to cure it. I have
 had the fate of all inventors in contending with
 prejudices and disappointments; but convinced
 that my principle was right and only required
 practice, I persevered. Being a citizen of a *Neu-*
tral Nation, I felt free to act in any country where
 there appeared to be the best chance for getting
 my plan introduced into practice. In the infancy
 of my experiments I made offers to France; but
 did not find the encouragement which was neces-
 sary to carry on the experiments to a useful re-
 sult. Lord Sidmouth invited me to England.
 Mr. Pitt adopted my plan in part; I knew, if it
 succeeded against the Bologne fleet, the ingenu-
 ity of the French Engineers would be asserted; they
 would soon get possession of the engines with the
 mode of using them, and the invention would reach
 in England to the destruction of her marine. A
 Carthaginian Boat, you know, first gave the Ro-
 mans an idea of constructing a fleet which en-
 abled them to destroy Carthage.—Mr. Pitt died,
 Lord Grenville and St. Vincent reproached the
 conduct of Mr. Pitt, attempting to bring to perfec-
 tion, machines, which might be turned against
 them and destroy their superiority by sea. For
 this reason the new ministry would not prosecute
 my plans. If the *Torpedoes* did not succeed in the
 attack on the Bologne fleet, it was not, how-
 ever, in consequence of any faults in principle
 but from a defect in arrangement. I had not
 then discovered a certain mode of sending the *tor-*
pedoes under the bottom, near the keel. This de-
 fect I have since remedied; and now the destruc-
 tion of the vessel attacked is certain. His Royal
 and Imperial Majesty has too magnanimous a mind,
 and be displeas'd with me for acting first in France
 and then in England; my whole object being to
 prove principles of so much importance. If you feel
 interested in the result of this invention; if you
 feel at liberty to communicate the contents of this
 letter to His Majesty, and he should order that
 my proposals be complied with, I will immedi-
 ately send an agent to France, with such Engines
 and details as I hope will satisfy His Majesty of
 their importance, and shew the power which he
 may have over the British marine.

It will perhaps occur to you, that I should have
 made this communication to the Minister of ma-
 rine, or you may feel disposed to communicate it
 to him, or through him, to his majesty; but the
 chances always are, that every naval man will be
 inimical to this mode of war, which, added to
 the common prejudices against new inventions,
 would cause my plan to be treated with neglect or
 raise obstacles to it.

The vast sphere which have immortalized the Ma-
 jesty have sprung from, and been directed in their
 execution, by the force and energy of his own ge-
 nius. I therefore beg you to give a translation of
 of this letter to him. If he commands that my
 proposals shall be agreed to, that my plan shall
 be investigated, and on finding it to possess a ra-
 tional hope of success, shall be tried on the ene-
 my, he may be certain of a prompt victory over
 them and a PERFECT LIBERTY OF THE SEAS.*

"I am, Sir, your most obedient and
 "Very Humble Servant,
 (Signed) "ROBERT FULTON,
 "To His Excellency Lord Marbois."

I shall add no comment, for none can make
 any part of this letter clearer. It speaks in lan-
 guage too intelligible to be misunderstood. I
 however, beg the reader, to return and peruse it
 once more. Let him mark well this American's
 expressions; his flatteries of Bonaparte; attribut-
 ing "immortalities and high destinies," to the
 greatest villain that ever scourged the world.—
 Lastly, let him see Fulton, making his boast
 to Marbois that whoever paid him the price of
 his invention, whether England or his native
 country, it was for France, for the benefit of
 France, alone, it was really designed, I conclude
 by asking every man of common sense, of what-
 ever party (excepting the *Coady party*) if he can
 any longer doubt that we have among us Ameri-
 cans so unnatural as to have transferred their af-
 fections from their own country to France?—All
 for France and the world well lost, is their motto.
 Messrs. Barlow and Fulton, or either of them,
 will find the columns of this paper always open to
 any defence they may have to make.

For Mr. Fulton's defence, see fourth page.

Joel Barlow.—This gentleman has been unjustly
 accused in several papers, of being the Author
 of the baronous and jacobin song of "God save the
 Guillotine." Mr. Thelwell the celebrated lectur-
 er of treason in London, and not Mr. Barlow,
 composed it. This explanation is due to truth
 and justice. Mr. Barlow has his faults; but we
 are happy to be able to relieve a native of the U-
 nited States from the odium of a performance,
 which could be dictated from the heart of a Can-
 nibal only.—*Bal Fed. Rep.*

We have now very little doubt as to Barlow's
 not being the author of this song, although he for
 some years suffered it to pass as his, without con-
 tradicting the report. But, though he was not
 the father of this cannibal performance; he was
 certainly its god-father; for it was he, who first
 brought it forward on a public occasion, and had
 it sung at a jacobin festival at Harburg in 1793.—
 Now, we know that the receiver is just as bad as
 the thief, if there is any truth in proverbs.

* Jefferson's toast at Richmond.

Wanted,
 A COUNTRY SCHOOL MASTER. Apply
 to the printers of this paper.