

BUFFALO, Dec. 8.

To the editor of the Buffalo Gazette. A friend has just handed me the proof sheet of your paper of this morning, in which is contained what purports to be Gen. Smyth's official account of the affairs of the 28th Nov. and 1st of Dec.

I beg that you will suspend the publication so long as to assure the public that in your next I will give a true account of some of the most prominent transactions of those days.

When our lives, our property; when the precious and dear-bought gift of our ancestors—the sacred honor of our country; when every thing that we prize as men, or ought to hold dear as patriots, are falling and fading before us, it is time to speak out, whatever be the hazard.

In ascribing, as I shall not hesitate to do, the late disgrace on this frontier to the cowardice of general Smyth, I beg to be understood as not intending to impute the characters of the officers whose opinions he has brought forward to bolster up his conduct. Several of them I know to be as brave men as ever wielded a sword; and their advice if indeed they gave the advice imputed to them, may be accounted for in the obvious consideration, with which every one who saw him must have been impressed, that any military attempt under such a leader, must, in all human probability prove disgraceful.

Your very humble servant, PETER B. PORTER

Foreign.

RUSSIA.

The Russian generals appear to have drawn a circle round the site of Moscow, and to be closing upon the French quarters in that position, from all the great roads around. Kutusow, Tormasow, Winzingerode and Wittgenstein, each at the head of a formidable army, occupy the principal posts in as many distinct lines, cutting off supplies, resources and communications, preventing advances, repelling excursions and restraining expeditions. Under these circumstances Bonaparte awaits the commencement of the Russian winter in his quarters at Moscow. We are anxious to learn how Bonaparte and his soldiers will bear the visitation of this new and hitherto unknown enemy.

The gallant, the ever to be lamented Gen. BAGRATION is dead of his wounds.

Great Britain.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent in Council. Whereas, in consequence of information having been received of a Declaration of War by the United States of America against his Majesty, and of the issue of letters of marque and reprisal by the said government against his Majesty and his subjects, an Order in Council, bearing date the 31st of July was issued, directing that American ships and goods should be brought in and detained till further orders; and whereas His Royal Highness the Prince Regent acting in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty forbore at that time to direct letters of marque and reprisal to be issued against the ships, goods and citizens of the said United States of America, under the expectation that the said government would, upon the notification of the Order in Council of the 23d of June last, forthwith recall and annul the said Declaration of War against His Majesty, and also annul the said letters of marque and reprisal.

And whereas the said government of the United States of America, upon due notification to them of the said Order in Council of the 23d of June last, did not think fit to recall the said declaration of war and letters of marque and reprisal, but have proceeded to condemn and persist in condemning the ships and property of His Majesty's subjects, as prize of war, and have refused to ratify a suspension of arms agreed upon between Lieut. Gen. Sir George Prevost, His Majesty's Governor General of Canada, and General Dearborn, commanding the American forces in the Northern Provinces of the United States, and have directed hostilities to be recommenced in that quarter.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, and with the advice of His Majesty's Privy Council, is hereby pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that General Reprisals be granted against the ships, goods and citizens of the United States of America, and others inhabiting within the territories thereof (save and except any vessels to which his Majesty's license has been granted, or which have been directed to be released from the embargo, and have not terminated the original voyage on which they were detained and released, &c. &c.)

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent is nevertheless pleased hereby to declare in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, that nothing in this order contained shall be understood to recall or affect the Declaration which his Majesty's Naval Commander on the American station has been authorized to make to the government of the United States of America—namely, that His Royal Highness, animated by a sincere desire to arrest the calamities of war has authorized the said commander to sign a Convention, recalling and annulling from a day to be named, all hostile orders issued by the respective governments, with a view of restoring without delay the relations of amity and intercourse between his Majesty and the United States of America.

From the Court at Carlton House, the 13th of October, 1812.

Signed, Castlereagh, Liverpool, &c.

LONDON, Oct. 28.

By His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty,

A PROCLAMATION

For Granting the Distribution of Prizes during the present hostilities.

GEORGE, P. R.

Whereas by our Orders in Council, dated the 13th day of October instant, we have ordered that

general reprisals be granted against the ships, goods and citizens of the United States of America, (save and except any vessels to which his Majesty's license has been granted, or which have been directed to be released from the embargo) and have not terminated the original voyage in which they were detained or released) so that as well the fleets and ships of his Majesty, as also all other ships and vessels that shall be commissioned by letters of marque or general reprisals, or otherwise by the commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, shall and may lawfully seize all ships, vessels and goods belonging to the government of the United States of America, or to any persons being citizens of the United States of America, or inhabiting within the territories thereof, and bring the same to judgment in any of the Courts of Admiralty within his Majesty's dominions, duly authorized and required to take cognizance thereof; we being desirous to give due encouragement to his Majesty's faithful subjects, who shall lawfully seize the same, and have declared in council, by our order of the 13th of October instant, our intention concerning the distribution of all manner of captures, seizures, prizes, and reprisals of all ships and goods during the present hostilities, do now make known to all his Majesty's loving subjects, and all others whom it may concern, by this our proclamation, by and with the advice and consent of his Majesty's Privy Council, that our will and pleasure is, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, that the net produce of all prizes taken (save as herein before excepted) the right whereof is inherent in his Majesty and his crown, be given to the takers; (save also the produce of such prizes as are, or shall be, taken by ships or vessels belonging to or hired by, or in the service of the commissioners of customs, or exercise the disposal of which we reserve to our farther pleasure, and also save and except as hereinafter mentioned;) but subject to the payment of all such or like customs and duties as the same are now, or would have been liable to, if the same were, or might have been imported as merchandise, and that the same be given in proportion and manner hereinafter set forth, viz.

That all prizes taken by ships and vessels having commissions or letters of marque and reprisal (save and except such prizes as are or shall be taken by the ships or vessels belonging to or hired by, or in the service of the commissioners aforesaid) may be sold and disposed of by the merchants, owners, fitters, and others to whom such letters of marque and reprisals are granted, for their own use and benefit, after final adjudication, and not before.

And we do hereby farther order and direct that the net produce of all prizes which are or shall be taken by any of his Majesty's ships or vessels of war, (save and except when they shall be acting on any conjoint expedition with his Majesty's land forces, in which case we reserve to ourselves the division and distribution of all prizes and booty taken, and also save and except as hereinafter mentioned) shall be for the entire benefit and encouragement of the flag officers, captains, commanders, and other commissioned officers in his Majesty's pay, and of the seamen, marines and soldiers on board his Majesty's said ships and vessels at the time of the capture, and that such prize may be lawfully sold and disposed of by them or their agents, after the same shall have been finally adjudged lawful prize to his Majesty and not otherwise.

[Here follow the regulations for the distribution of prize money, which, and the remainder of the proclamation, are in the form usually adopted on the commencement of a war.]

By his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty,

A PROCLAMATION.

GEORGE, P. R.

Whereas we are informed that great numbers of mariners and seafaring men, his Majesty's natural born subjects, are in the service of divers foreign princes and states, to the prejudice of his Majesty's kingdom; and whereas attempts may be made to seduce some of his Majesty's subjects contrary to their allegiance and duty to his Majesty, to enter on board ships or vessels of war, or other ships or vessels belonging to the United States of America, with intent to commit hostility against his Majesty or his subjects, or otherwise to adhere or give aid or comfort to his Majesty's enemies upon the sea; now we, in order that none of his Majesty's subjects may ignorantly incur the guilt and penalties of such breaches of their allegiance and duty, have thought it necessary in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council, to publish this proclamation, hereby notifying and declaring that all persons, being his Majesty's subjects, who shall enter or serve, or be found on board any ships or vessels of war, or other ships or vessels belonging to the United States of America with intent to commit hostilities against his Majesty or his subjects or who shall otherwise adhere or give aid or comfort to his Majesty's enemies upon the sea, will thereby become liable to suffer the pains of death, and all other pains, and hereby declare, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, our intention and firm resolution to proceed against all such offenders according to law.

Given at the Court at Carlton House, the 26th October, 1812, and in the 53d of his Majesty's reign.

Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DECEMBER 23.

Navy Establishment.

The bill from the Senate to increase the Navy of the United States was read a third time.

And the question stated, "Shall the bill pass?"

Mr. McKee spoke at considerable length against its passage, and concluded by moving to postpone it to Monday, with a view of obtaining further information on the subject of the materials, &c.

The motion to postpone was supported by Mr. Alston and Mr. Seyber, and opposed by

Messrs. Milnor, Bassett and Widgery. The votes were,

For postponement 51

Against it 73

So the motion was lost. The question recurred on the passage of the bill.

Mr. Potter opposed the passage of the bill at considerable length.

Mr. Randolph moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill to to-morrow. Motion lost.

The question on the passage of the bill was decided as follows:

Yeas 70—Nays 56.

So the bill was passed.

Merchants' Bonds.

The bill from the Senate directing the Secretary of the Treasury to remit fines, penalties and forfeitures, in certain cases, was read a third time, and the question stated, "Shall the bill pass?"

Mr. Cheves stated that a doubt had arisen in the minds of some gentlemen, and a communication had been received from the proper officer of the government on the subject, whether, as the importations had been contrary to law, the payment of the duties thereon could be enforced after the passage of the bill. He therefore proposed, under the direction of the committee of ways and means, to amend the bill by striking out therefrom the words "and the duties payable on such goods, wares and merchandise being paid and secured to be paid agreeable to law," and inserting the words "on payment of the duties which would have been payable by law, had such goods, wares and merchandise been legally imported."

This amendment at this stage of the bill's passage required unanimous consent; which was accorded by the house, after a few observations from Mr. Bibb, who stated that, although a majority of the committee of ways and means were opposed to the bill, they had unanimously concurred in the proposed amendment.

Mr. Roberts opposed the passage of the bill on account of its general principles, as of the difficulty of legislating on it.

Mr. Cheves replied.

The question was then taken on the final passage of the bill, and decided by yeas and nays.—Yeas 64, nays 61.

So it was determined that the bill shall pass.

Waleigh.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1813.

NOTE.

The Patrons of the Minerva are respectfully informed that, hereafter, the terms of subscription to this paper will be precisely those on which the other gazettes of the city are printed. As every new subscriber is required to make a payment of six months in advance, no deduction will be made on that account. Consequently three dollars per year will be invariably demanded. The Minerva, though of equal size, containing as much matter, and costing as much in its execution as either the Star or Register, has hitherto been furnished at a rate one sixth cheaper. This, a regard to the prosperity of the establishment will no longer permit to be done.

COUNCIL OF STATE.

The following gentlemen compose, for the present year, this body:

- D. Robeson,
G. Leon Alston,
M. C. Love,
Thomas Love,
S. Armistead,
Bryan Wardlaw,
Thomas Kean

F. N. W. Burton and Thomas G. Poik, Esqrs, have been appointed aids de camp to his excellency the Governor and Commander in Chief, in the room of Colonels D. Cameron and R. H. Jones, the one advanced to the rank of major general, and the other resigned.

The United States' troops, about 500 in number, now stationed at S. History, have been ordered, we learn, to proceed towards the Floridas.

An intelligent officer, now in this place, informs us that these men are very pleasantly situated and plentifully provided, excepting for winter clothing. However the summer garments, with which they had been furnished, and which are of stuff as thick and warm as that worn in the neighborhood, leave them nothing to complain of on that score. They are in comfortable huts; and under strict discipline.

It appears, from the different accounts of the contemptible proceedings at Buffalo, that Gen. Smyth, the Gascon, and Peter B. Porter, the spreader of the war-feat, are at loggerheads. For a wordy warfare, we know no two better champions. The real cause of the breach between these glowing and frothing fighters, appears to be, that Porter, having the contract for supplies, found it recently a losing bargain, and then drove away the troops in Canada, to get rid of it. Smyth's delay defeated his object. Consequently, he abuses the Gascon, and the Gascon upbraids him. Let the reader refer to their letters, inserted to-day. They are a glorious pair!

General Smyth has addressed an official letter to General Dearborn, on the subject of the late abortive attempts at Buffalo. It is the same in substance, as the one we publish.

In the latter, the following note was omitted to be placed in its proper situation:

Six hundred of Gen. Tannehill's brigade deserted in 24 hours. A court martial of this brigade have fined a man 12 1/2 cents for the crime of desertion!

In our last page will be found a copy of the suspending executions, for which we have hitherto not had room.

MACHINERY!

Some weeks ago an article appeared, under the editorial head of this paper, relative to the choice in this state of electors of president and vice-president. In that article were pointed out, some of the means by which the friends of administration labored to prevent a vote by districts, and to secure in the joint ballot a majority to Mr. Madison. Among other expedients, we noticed that of letters from our members in congress, cunningly calculated to influence members of the legislature. One of these had been seen, and was particularly alluded to. Following this paragraph, is another letter of the same import, which has accidentally fallen into our hands. What the writer's opinions of the duty and dignity of a representative may be, is of little consequence; but it is of importance that the people should know, how readily intrigue can find ductile modes of attaining its objects.

Washington, November 12, 1812.

GENTLEMEN,

You will collect from the president's message, and documents, just published, a correct view of our public affairs at this moment. Nothing of importance has yet been done in congress, except the formation of committees, and blocking up business by acting on. As to the operations of the war, very little can be expected, till the presidential election is once over! The federal faction, and the discontents of the republicans, are now so busy in parrying, opposing and improving every measure for carrying into effect the course the government has taken; our public enemy also is so much interested in the event of the election of president, and counts so highly on a change, that we cannot expect from our internal or our external opponents, any favorable alteration in the matter is decided. After that is over, and the decision shows that we are determined to stand by our government (which can only be done by the reelection of our present worthy president); then matters will go on smoothly, at least among ourselves. Excursions the most unwhimsical are now making by the advocates of De Witt Clinton, of New York, who are seconded by the federalists of New England. Their agents are abroad at this moment through every state. One has gone to North Carolina, as it is stated in a letter from New York which I have seen. If this is so, I have no doubt of his disappointment there.

The only fear of Madison getting the unanimous vote of North Carolina, is that through the intrigue, the vote of the state may be lost entirely. That may be effected in this manner: A bill may be introduced to repeal or modify the present electoral law, under pretence of substituting another mode of election. But when once the alteration is made, impediments will arise, and finally the matter will be delayed till the constitutional time expires which will be very shortly. Col. Porter suggested to me a plan of laying the members into districts, each to vote one elector. The colonel no doubt thinks himself right in this plan. But it not only retains the principle, and all objections which belong to the electoral law, without any of its good properties. The state will in its own right, in its votes and part of its weight be lost; which cannot be spared at this time, particularly since an unfair play which is used by some of the states. One instance is N. Jersey. An electoral law had been established, that the people were to elect by general ticket. The majority being decidedly republican, an unanimous vote would have been given to Madison. But through accident, a small majority of the assembly are federal. They have lately met, felt the power in their hands, repealed the electoral law, and enacted a law by which the assembly is to choose electors, and an unanimous vote will be given against the opinions of the people of that state. Their congressional districts are about changing so as to sweep off as many of their republican members as possible. A considerable change, through such means, has been placed in the elections of N. England. Every eye is turned towards North Carolina. I hope every attempt to change the law, till your election is over, will be promptly resisted. If we are to have a fair and honorable peace, it will be through our united exertions to carry on the measures taken to bring our enemy to a feeling sense of his duty and their interest. And this will best appear to be the disposition of the American people, by shewing that we have not forsaken the chief legislator, under whose auspices these measures were adopted. A contrary policy would be to show our enemy and the world, that our government was either so feeble in its texture, which too many believe already, or that the people were so divided or so governed by private interest, that a foreign enemy, after preying on our best rights, had nothing more to do than to hold out a little, and our resistance would change with the men who had terminated on it. Submission would be eternal by the order of the day.

I have written more fully on this subject than I intended when I sat down; but you will excuse me. I think the subject important. The congress you will communicate to such of your neighboring members as you may deem prudent.

As any thing occurs I shall take the liberty of writing further; and will be happy in a line to all or any of you.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

ISRAEL PICKENS.

Messrs. Raborn, Dickson and Greene,

Members of Assembly.

CONGRESS.

The navy bill has become a law. The bill from the senate for the relief of the bankrupt merchants passed the house, with some immaterial amendments.

Vermont Election.

We can announce with confidence the election of the Hon. Martin Chittenden, Daniel Chipman, Charney Lundgon, William Combs, Jonathan H. Hubbard, and John Noyes, Esqrs, as Representatives of the people of Vermont in the 15th Congress. They composed the Vermont ticket, and are chosen by a majority of the people. In this auspicious event we congratulate the state.