

Domestic.

PHILADELPHIA, July 29.

Extract of a letter from Cape May, July 25.

On Thursday last, at eleven o'clock, A. M. a sloop appeared in the offing, the wind N. E. and made a signal; the whale boat, manned with pilots, pushed off and boarded her, she was from Richmond, bound to New York, with flour and tobacco, but having the wind ahead had concluded to put into the Delaware. The British sloop of war and tender Pennsylvania, got under way and cut the sloop off, so that they were obliged to tack and run her on shore. The Martin continued the chase till she ran ashore, where she lay 4 hours, and had the gun boats been in Cape May road, instead of New Castle, they might have captured her. As soon as the sloop ran on shore, the alarm was given, and Lt. Townsend, with his troops came and the militia turned out with a field piece and pushed for the shore; by the time they got there, and took possession of the sand hills, four of the enemy's barges, and the Pennsylvania were near the shore—but it is probable they will never forget the 22d of July. One barge was sunk. The loss they sustained we cannot learn, but do not doubt it was great. The next day some dead bodies, were seen driving about in the surf. For reasons best known to themselves, on Friday afternoon, the ships of war that lay off the Brown went to sea, and have left the Delaware entirely free, there not being an enemy's vessel in sight at this time, Sunday afternoon. It is supposed the Martin has received some damage, and has gone to repair.—The sloop being very old, is gone to pieces, but her cargo is all saved. It is expected, that we shall not be now called Tories. The gun boats may now come down and lay in safety.

Another letter same date.

On Thursday last, the sloop Confidence, of Norfolk, Captain Moreysett, from Richmond bound to New York, came in Cape May Channel—the Martin sloop of war, made sail up the Bay, and cut her off, which obliged the sloop to run on shore near the point of the Cape. The enemy sent four barges and the Pilot Boat Pennsylvania to destroy her, when getting very close we took the liberty to give them a few discharges from a four pounder, and our muskets, which sunk one of the barges, cut away their oars, and put them all in confusion, also hulled their tender—the enemy made shift to fire what guns they had loaded—but were so cut up they could not load any more, but drifted off with the wind—at the same time the sloop of war was aground near Crow's Shoal, which if fortune had sent the gun boats would at that time made her their prize—we have got the cargo of the sloop all on shore consisting of 600 bis hour and some tobacco. Much praise is due to Lieut Townsend and the detachment under his command for their activity. The bay at this moment all clear, as the whole of them went to sea on Friday night.

Verbal accounts say that there were supposed to be from 80 to 100 men in the barges, one of which was raked by the field piece, and several men were seen to fall by the discharge of the musketry of our troops, who did not lose a man, having taken the advantage of the sand hill on the shore, behind which they loaded and then advanced to the top and fired on the barges within 150 yards of them.

Extract of a letter from Major General LEWIS to the Secretary of War, dated, Sackett's Harbor, July 20.

"Our fleet has gone out of the inner harbor, and appearances are in favor of its going to sea in forty-eight hours at farthest.

"A little expedition of volunteers from the country, to which by the advice of Com. Chauncey I lent forty soldiers, sailed from hence three days since on board of two small row boats, with a six pounder each, to the head of the St. Lawrence, where they captured a fine gun-boat mounting a 24 pounder, 14 batteaux loaded, 4 officers and 61 men. Two of our schooners have gone out to convoy them in. The prisoners have been landed, and are coming on under charge of a detachment of dragoons."

Extract of a letter from Brig. Gen. BORD to the Sec'y of War, dated Fort George, July 20.

"I have the honor to report, that on the 17th Inst. the enemy attacked our pickets, in a body of about 200 British, besides Indians. Detachments were sent out to support them, but with instructions to act defensively. After a contest of one hour, occasionally severe, the enemy was dispersed. Our loss was trifling—only 3 or 4 being killed, and a few wounded; the loss of the enemy has not been ascertained, but being exposed of some well directed fires of our light artillery, under the command of Lieut. Smith, it is probable their loss must have been comparatively great. Col. Scott, who had the direction of our troops which were engaged, speaks highly of the ardor and steadiness of both officers and men. Being fought in detachments, many young officers had an opportunity of evincing their activity and bravery. To use the language of Col. Scott, "this affair, though small, served to test the merits of the officers and men engaged. More ardor has seldom been displayed. Capt. Vandercusen fought his detachment with good effect; and Capt. Madison, with his picket guard, was fully engaged. They could not lose their ardor under Major Cummins. Captain Birdsall's riflemen were nearest to the enemy in pursuit. Major Armstrong, who was officer of the day, was active in concentrating and arranging the troops and pickets. Capt. Towson, of the artillery, was wounded in the hand while voluntarily bearing Col. Scott's orders; and an officer of the rifle corps was slightly wounded."

FROM FORT GEORGE

We have received information to the 16th inst. at which time all was tranquil, and the troops were in high spirits.

Brigadier General Boyd is in command. General Dearborn had taken leave of the army, between whom and him much harmony prevailed; and the moment preceding his departure is

represented as having exhibited an affecting scene. The bickerings which have been represented as existing among the officers have almost entirely subsided; and mutual efforts at conciliation have restored to the camp that good humor and harmony which private feuds had in some degree disturbed.

Capt. of a letter from Major Chapin to General Dearborn.

Fort George, June 13th, 1813.

SIR—I have just arrived from my confinement in Canada with my men, without our parole. Our return happened in the following manner: I received orders at Burlington Heights on Monday morning to go to Kingston: we set off accordingly under the care of a guard of sixteen men: I had with me 28 men. We all went on very quietly till four o'clock in the afternoon at which time I gave a signal to attack the guard, which were stationed in the following order—a sergeant and one man in the boat with my men, a Lieutenant and 13 men in the boat with me and two officers. At the signal my men run along side of the boat I was in. Lieut. Showers ordered them to fall astern. I ordered them on board; at which time the officer attempted to draw his sword. I seized him by the neck, threw him on his back—two of his men drew their bayonets upon me. I immediately seized both bayonets at the same instant and threw them on top of the officer and kept all down together; at the same moment my men seized the guard and wrested from them their arms—we then having possession of the arms changed our course and arrived here this morning half after two o'clock, all safe. We have brought two boats with us.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant.

CYRENIUS CHAPIN.

Maj. Gen. Dearborn.

HAGERSTOWN, Maryland, July 21.

To relieve the public anxiety excited by the imperfect accounts heretofore received of the capture of Col. Berstler and the troops under his command, the following letters from Colonel Berstler himself, and Col. Scott of the United States army, are published by permission of Dr. Berstler, to whom they are addressed:

Head of Lake Ontario, Upper Canada, 25th June, 1813.

DEAR FATHER,

It becomes my unfortunate lot to inform you, that yesterday I was taken prisoner with a detachment under my command amounting to 500 men—after an engagement of about three hours, I lost not many killed, about 40 wounded and five or six officers, myself a flesh wound of no consequence—I am on my way to Kingston—I shall write to you every opportunity—the officers under my command must say whether your son did his duty, I need only state to you that I was 17 miles from Fort George and surrounded on all sides by more than my numbers, and the enemy's force increasing, while mine was constantly diminishing, ammunition nearly exhausted, men wearied with a march of ten miles without a mouthful of refreshment, then the engagement, then to fight our way back the whole distance surrounded by woods and filled with Indians—on the score of humanity I determined to capitulate, as it was extremely doubtful whether a man of us would reach Fort George. What I say above will be sufficient for you—my country must apply to those under my command.

Your Son,

CHARLES.

Col. Scott will please seal and forward the above.

DEAR SIR,

I pray you to believe that your son is not condemned for being unfortunate.

Respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. SCOTT.

Dr. C. Berstler.

NORFOLK, July 27.

Mr. E. Mix of the Navy, a gentleman of ingenuity and enterprise, has been for several weeks past preparing Torpedoes to attempt the explosion of some of the enemy's shipping in Lynhaven bay.—The British 74 gun ship Plantagenet, that has for a month past been laying abreast of Cape Henry light house, and has rarely had the company of any other vessel, appeared to Mr. Mix as the most favorable object for trying his experiment.

Accordingly on the night of the 18th July, accompanied by Captain Bowman of Salem, and Midshipman McCowan, of the U. S. Navy, who volunteered their assistance during the whole of the enterprise, he left his place of rendezvous and proceeded down to the Plantagenet, 74, in a large open boat, which he calls the *Chesapeake Revenge*, and from his previous observations found no difficulty in ascertaining the position of the ship. When he had got to within 40 fathom of her, he dropped the Torpedo over in the very instant of doing which he was hailed by one of the enemy's guard boats. The machine was speedily taken into the boat again, and he made his way off in safety. On the night of the 19th he made another attempt, and was again discovered ere he could accomplish his purpose. On the night of the 20th he succeeded in getting within 15 yards of the ship's bow, and directly under her jib-boom. There he continued to make his preparations for 15 minutes, when a sentinel from the fore-castle hailed "boat ahoy?" and he had to decamp. The sentinel not being answered fired his musket, which was followed by a rapid discharge of small arms. Blue lights were made, to find out the boat, but failed;—they then threw rockets in different directions, which illuminated the water for a considerable width as far as they were thrown, and succeeded in discovering the position of the nocturnal visitor; when the ship commenced a rapid fire of heavy guns, slipped her cables and made some sail; what her botes were dispatched in pursuit. The daring intruders however escaped unhurt. The visit was repeated on the nights of the 21st, 22d, and 23d, without success, as the ship, having taken the alarm, changed her position every night.—On the night of the 24th, however, Mr. M. succeeded in finding

her out, and having taken his position within 100 yards distance, in a direction with her harbor bow, he dropped the fatal machine into the water just as the sentinel was crying *all's well*. It was swept along with the tide, and would have completely effected its errand but for a cause not proper to be named here, but which may be easily guarded against in future experience, it exploded a few seconds too soon. The scene was awfully sublime! It was like the concussion of an earthquake attended with a sound louder and more terrific than the heaviest peal of thunder. A pyramid of water 50 feet in circumference was thrown up to the height of 30 or 40 feet its appearance was a vivid red tinged at the sides with a beautiful purple. On ascending to its greatest height, it burst at the top with a tremendous explosion and fell in torrents on the deck of the ship which rolled into the yawning chasm below, and had nearly upset; impervious darkness again prevailed. The light occasioned by the explosion, though fleeting, enabled Mr. M. and his companions to discover that the fore-chains of the ship was blown off and a boat which lay alongside with several men in her was thrown up in the dreadful convulsion of the waters. Terrible indeed must have been the panic of the ship's crew from the noise & confusion which appeared to our adventurers to prevail on board; and they are certain in that nearly the whole ship's crew hastily betook themselves to the boats.

Though he did not succeed on this occasion in destroying one of the enemy's ships, Mr. Mix is rather encouraged than disheartened. He is resolved to make another attempt as soon as the time and circumstance will admit, and he appears confident from the experience which practice has given him, that he will be able to make future trials with a certainty of success.

WILMINGTON, July 31.

Since the publication of our last intelligence has been received, that the Enemy's squadron which had landed on Ocracock has returned to the Chesapeake. The danger of an immediate invasion is thus lessened. But who can say how soon he may again turn his hostile prowess to our shores. The alarm, which was summoned so many to the post of danger, will not, we hope, pass away, without benefit; but while we must admit how accessible is our coast, we may feel strong in that confidence, which the unanimous rising of our brave citizens in defence of their home and country, must inspire.... On the 29th a general review took place on the parade ground; major general Thomas Brown, with his two aids, majors John D. Toomer and Alexander Hostler; adjutant general Robert Williams, who had arrived the evening before from Newbern, brig gen. Wm. Watts Jones, colonel Nixon and major Lillington were on the parade. The troops were reviewed and went through their various military revolutions to the great satisfaction of the major general, who in an address judicious and animating, complimented them on their appearance, conduct and patriotism. General Jones then made to the militia companies, a few pertinent and flattering remarks, concluding with the information that their further services could now be dispensed with. The companies of captains Filyaw, Bordeaux, Ramsey and Moore, all of this county, have accordingly been discharged.

Two companies from Sampson, commanded by captains Boykin and Lassiter, one from Robeson under the command of captain Sullivan, with two troops of cavalry from Fayetteville and Duplin commanded by captains Chapman and Hooks, have arrived here. This morning, under the command of brigadier general Davis, attended by his aid major Owen, six companies of Infantry and two of riflemen from Anson, Richmond and Montgomery counties have entered the town. A general review will take place at 3 o'clock p. m. at 4, the troops will march to the Episcopal Church, where Divine Service will be performed by the Rev. Mr. Empe, and a discourse suitable to the occasion delivered.

GOVERNOR HAWKINS.

Who on the present occasion of alarm, has acted promptly and judiciously, and who, in his official communications with the war department, has urged the claims of North-Carolina on the General Government for protection with commendable firmness, is expected in this town.

Picket Guards have been established at the most eligible places at proper distances from town.

The 4th Regiment commanded by colonel Roland, will be stationed in this neighborhood. General Brown is busily employed in organizing for the United States' service the troops which are now in Wilmington; the whole organization will be completed speedily. Immediately on the arrival of the Major General, col Samuel Ashe and major A. D. Moore, offered to him their services as supernumerary Aids and were accepted.

STEAM BOATS.

Mr. John De Lacy, agent of Robert Fulton, Esq. has just returned to this place after happily effecting the object of his journey to the South. He has ascertained that along the immense distance from St. Mary's to the head waters of the Chesapeake, there will be occasion for only six miles portage. To aid in clearing away the obstructions, it is contemplated to call the attention and pray the patronage of congress. A memorial to this effect is in circulation and will, we are confident, meet universal support.

Intelligence is received this day; via Newbern that a British Squadron of 6 sail had left the Chesapeake, steering Southwardly.

Wilmington:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1813.

NORTH CAROLINA ELECTIONS, FOR 1813.

Edgecombe. J. W. Clarke, senate. Joseph Farmer, James Benton, commons. For the senate, there was no opposition. The poll for the commons stood, Farmer 611, Benton 540, H. Flowers, 472.

Granville. Dr. Falconer, senate. J. Hare, W. Daniel, commons. Poll. Senate, Falconer 319, Person, 316. Commons, Hare 677, Daniel 559, Yancey 551, Bullock 324.

WANTON CONDUCT OF THE ENEMY

Since the commencement of the present war, no opportunity of incensing the public mind, by exaggerated statements of British enormities, appears to have been neglected. This is pursued as a system, and has had a very great effect in procuring supporters to the administration. Those who could not be moved by the noise about national honor and seamen's rights, have been assailed in another quarter. Instead of appealing to their pride, their sympathies have been awakened and their judgments perverted by insidious tales. Respecting the conduct of the British at Hampton, in Virginia, so much has been said, that in many places, we are well aware, one would be exposed to insult who should dare to doubt the truth of the many shocking statements which have been promulgated. Still for our lives we cannot avoid declaring, that we place not the smallest confidence in the publications to which we have alluded. The accounts appear to us so improbable in themselves, so unsupported by evidence, alleging against the enemy transactions so atrocious, so irreconcilable with any of the notions we entertain of human nature—that we must be excused from yielding our assent to their credibility until we see them better authenticated. Several circumstances strike us as being singular in regard to subject. In the first place, we have seen the representation of Captain N. Lee, a gentleman well known in Norfolk, and said by the democratic Herald, of that place, to be fully entitled to credit; and he declares, that having passed thro' Hampton, and made the most particular enquiries, he learned that there was not the smallest foundation in truth for the stories in circulation respecting that place. No men had been murdered in cold blood, nor had any females been violated. Again, There are doubtless respectable inhabitants at Hampton, who are capable of drawing up a correct and satisfactory narrative. These must unquestionably have perceived, that a great majority of the public is not willing to place reliance on the vague and unsatisfactory statements which have been floating through the newspapers. Would it not have been natural for them, then, to have had a meeting, and published a narrative such as we have alluded to, authenticated by the signatures of two or three of their number? Such a procedure would have been satisfactory to the nation; and until it or something of a like nature be done, we must crave the freedom of indulging our scepticism.

While we are on this subject, we deem it our duty to make another remark. With much pain it has been seen, that a paper, opposed to the administration, not satisfied with doubting that the British turned themselves into fiends at Hampton, has stated that the American troops were guilty in Canada of the worst crimes lately laid at the door of the enemy. This we cannot for a moment believe; and, in our opinion, the assertion of it, without the most undeniable evidence, is highly and glaringly improper. Surely we cannot believe our own troops more depraved than those of the English! And if it be wrong to impute to the foe conduct of which he has not been guilty, how much more reprehensible and unwise is it to give currency to slanders on our own men! Whatever we may imagine of the policy of employing our arms against Canada, and indeed of the present contest altogether, our men have proven themselves to be brave, and we have no doubt of their humanity. Indeed we place no reliance on any of these tales, nor do we believe them to have been propagated, on either side, by prudent or liberal individuals.

MR. SINGLETON'S LETTER.

Is connected with the foregoing subject, and is curious enough to merit some little attention. There is, indeed, an aspect about this whole business which we neither like nor shall pretend to approve. Throughout Mr. Singleton's communication, which most of our readers must doubtless have seen, there appears an anxiety, to fasten the charges of cruelty and barbarity on the British who landed at Portsmouth and Ocracock, which in the end is no farther successful than to discover its own spirit. The gentleman himself appears to have been well treated; the ladies were well treated; and much money was paid for articles needed by the shipping. We cannot, either, avoid turning to Mr. Watson's Newbern paper of the 19th ultimo, wherein he informs us of Mr. Singleton's return from captivity on board the British ships; and details the information which this gentleman furnished. At the end of the article, Mr. Watson, and he is a firm democrat, observes:

"In justice to the enemy, it is proper to state, that from all the particulars we have received, it is certain that their behaviour to the people of Ocracock and Portsmouth, has been extremely respectful. All the cattle, &c. were paid for at higher prices than the owners would have asked. The soldiers manifested a disposition to commit acts of violence, but were restrained by the officers."

Were it not for the attempt in Mr. Singleton's communication unnecessarily, as we hold to increase the fever now raging among a portion of the people, the thing would be rather laughable than otherwise. The conduct of the British is pronounced wanton, savage and cruel. And what were they guilty of as it appears? why of taking away some cattle, ripping open some feather beds, destroying a few law books and musty papers, and leaving divers women and children without a second suit to their backs. Well in all this there is no great cruelty. We shrewdly suspect there are thousands in the community who will think the law books, no great loss; the feather beds may perhaps again be sewed up, and the women and children garnished anew with habiliments proper for their use. Indeed, if we were to judge from the lack of clothing we could fancy the British had penetrated a long way into the interior. For it would not be a difficult matter, five hundred miles from the seaboard to find children enough who, far from having a second suit to lose, have not a single one to wear! If stripping the women and children be a crime, Heaven have mercy on our rulers; for their war and taxes are, and will soon be, doing that fast enough. If the ghosts of old clothes and law books, are to rise up in judgment to substantiate the charge of