

THE RALEIGH MINERVA.

[TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR.]

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

[HALF OF WHICH IN ADVANCE.]

VOL. 18.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1813.

No. 907.

Congress.

DATA FOR THE ENEMY.
A resolution having been raised on this subject, at the close of the session, Mr. Macon, the chairman, in the name of the committee, made the following Report:

The committee, to whom was referred that part of the President's message "which relates to the conduct of our enemies which the war has been waged by," report,

That they have collected and arranged all the testimony on this subject which could at this time be procured. This testimony is submitted to the House, arranged under the following heads:

First. Treatment of American prisoners. Detaining of American prisoners as subjects on the sea of neutrality in the dominions of Britain, or of naturalization;

Second. Detention of citizens as prisoners of war who were in England when the war was declared;

Third. Compulsory service of impressed American seamen on board British ships of war;

Fifth. Violation of flags of truce;

Sixth. Ransom of American prisoners from Indians in the British service.

Seventh. Pillage and destruction of private property in the Chesapeake bay, and in the neighboring country;

Eighth. Massacre and burning of American citizens surrendered to officers of Great Britain, or Indians in the British service. Abandonment of the remains of Americans killed in battle, or murdered after the surrender to the British. The pillage and shooting of American citizens, and the burning of their houses after surrender to the British under the guarantee of protection; New-Jamaica, at Hampton, in Virginia.

The evidence under the first head demonstrates that the British government has adopted a rigorously uniform system to the comfort and apparently unnecessary to the safe-keeping of the American prisoners. There are also instances of a departure from the customary rules of war, in the treatment and confinement, in close confinement, of particular persons, and the transportation of others for undefined causes from the ports of the British colonies to the island of Great Britain.

The evidence under the second head establishes the fact, that however the practice of detaining American citizens in British subjects may be regarded as the principle it involves, that such a practice is committed through the agency of the king and other commanders of his government. It must, however, be admitted that however unwilling to do otherwise, Great Britain is reported to oblige her subjects to submit to their citizens when naturalized under her laws. This practice, even supposing the release of every person thus detained, obviously subjects our captured citizens upon mere suspicion, to hardships and perils from which they ought to be exempt according to the established rules in relation to prisoners of war.

The evidence under the third head shews, that while all other American states were permitted to depart within a reasonable time after the declaration of war, all Americans who were in the dominions of Great Britain, whether they resorted to ports in time of peace for lawful purposes, or were forced into them under pretence of illegal commerce, are considered prisoners of war. The question of this exception is not more apparent than the jealousy it excites towards that neutrality of our fellow citizens. But the committee can not remark, that if the practice of hiring American sailors to navigate British vessels is generally adopted and authorized, and that it is suffered, appears from the advertisement of George Brown, the British agent at Port Royal, which is to be found with the testimony collected under the first head, that the naval strength of that empire will increase in proportion to the number of our slaves in bondage. The present war having changed the relation of the two countries, the pretended right of impressment can no longer be exercised, but the same can only be accomplished by the subjugation of this mode. Every means thus employed (the terms of whose engagement have not been ascertained) increases the naval strength of the enemy, not only by depriving the United States of his active services, but by enabling Great Britain to carry on and expand her commerce without diminishing the number of slaves employed in her vessels of war.

The testimony collected under the fourth head proves, that it is the ordinary practice of the officers of British armed vessels to force impressed Americans to serve against their country by threats, by corporal punishment, and even by the fear of immediate execution—an instructing commentary upon the professions of the government, of its readiness to release impressed American sailors bound on board ships of war.

On the evidence collected under the fifth head, it is only necessary to observe, that in one case, that of Dr. M'Keehan, the enormity is increased by the circumstance of the flag being disengaged from the object of a hostile character, having solely for its object the relief of the wounded and suffering prisoners who were taken at the River Raisin on the 22d January, 1813. The agent of Dr. M'Keehan, not by the allies of Britain, but by the officers of her army, can only

be rationally accounted for by the supposition, soldiers, or the character of the British nation thus that it was considered good policy to deter vindicated, the evidence will shew.

The shield of the innocent victims of infernal lust at Hampton were heard by the American prisoners, but were too weak to reach the ears or disturb the repose of the British officers, whose duty, as men, required them to protect every female whom the fortune of war had thrown into their power. The committee will not dwell on this hateful subject. Human language affords no terms strong enough to express the emotions which the examination of this evidence has awakened: they rejoice that these acts have appeared before the American people. And for the most human nature they deeply regret that the evidence so clearly establishes their truth. In the event of peace it would be commanding of the American and British forces will be found what is equivalent to an admission of the facts by the British commander. The committee have yet to learn that the punishment of the offenders has followed the conviction of their guilt. The power of retaliation being vested by law in the Executive Magistrate, no measure is considered necessary to be proposed, but the Resolution annexed to this report.

As such enormities, instead of inspiring terror as was probably intended, are, in the opinion of the committee, calculated to produce a contrary effect they submit for the consideration of the House the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to have collected & presented to this House, during the continuance of the present war, evidence of every departure by the enemy from the ordinary modes of conducting war among civilized nations.

Frontier Intelligence.

WASHINGTON, August 12.
Extract of a letter from Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy, dated United States Schooner Lawrence, at anchor outside of Erie Bar, August 4, 1813, 9 P. M.

"I have great pleasure in informing you that I have succeeded in getting over the Bar the United States vessels, the Lawrence, Niagara, Caledonia, Ariel, Scorpion, Somers, Tigris and Porcupine. The enemy have been in sight all day and are now about four leagues from us. We shall sail in pursuit of them at three tomorrow morning."

Copy of a letter from Major General Harrison, to the Secretary of War.

Head Quarters, Seneca Town, Aug. 13, 1813.
SIR.—In my letter of the 1st instant I did myself the honor to inform you that one of my scouting parties had just returned from the Lake shore, and had discovered, the day before, the enemy in force near the mouth of the Sandusky bay. The party had not passed Lower Sandusky two hours before the advance, consisting of Indians, appeared before the Fort, and in half an hour after a large detachment of British troops; and in the course of the night they commenced a cannonading against the Fort with 3 six pounders and two howitzers; the latter from gun boats. The firing was partially answered by Major Croghan, having a six pounder, the only piece of artillery.

The fire of the enemy was continued at intervals, during the second instant, until about half after five, P. M. when, finding that their cannon made little impression upon the works, and having discovered my position here, and apprehending an attack, an attempt was made to carry the place by storm. Their troops were formed in two columns, Lieut. colonel Short headed the principal one composed of the light and battalion companies of the 41st regiment. This gallant officer conducted his men to the brink of the ditch, under the most galling and destructive fire from the garrison, and leaping into it was followed by a considerable part of his own and the light company; at this moment a masked port hole was suddenly opened and a six pounder with an half load of powder and double charge of leaden slugs, at the distance of 30 feet poured destruction upon them and killed or wounded nearly every man who had entered the ditch. In vain did the British officers exert themselves to lead on the balance of the column; it retired in disorder under a shower of shot from the fort, and sought safety in the adjoining woods. The other column headed by the grenadiers had also retired, after having suffered from the muskets of our men, to an adjacent ravine. In the course of the night, the enemy, with the aid of their Indians, drew off the greater part of the wounded and dead, and embarking them in boats descended the river with the utmost precipitation. In the course of the 2d inst, having heard the cannonading, I made several attempts to ascertain the force and situation of the enemy; our scouts were unable to get near the Forts, from the Indians which surrounded it. Finding however, that the enemy had only light artillery, and being well convinced that it could make little impression upon the works, and that any attempt to storm it would be resisted with effect, I waited for the arrival of 250 mounted volunteers, which on the evening before had left Upper Sandusky. But as soon as I was informed that the enemy were retreating, I set out with the dragoons to endeavour to overtake them leaving Generals M'Arthur and Cass to follow with all the infantry (about 700) that could be spared from the protection of the stores and sick at this place.

Whether such exertions were made by the British I found it impossible to come up with them.

Upon my arrival at Sandusky, I was informed by the prisoners that the enemy's forces consisted of 490 regular troops, and 500 of Dixon's Indians, commanded by general Proctor in person and that Tecumseh with about 2000 warriors was somewhere in the swamp, between this and Fort Meigs, expecting my advancing, or that of a convoy of provisions. As there was no prospect of doing anything in front, and being apprehensive that Tecumseh might destroy the stores and small detachments in my rear, I sent orders to general Cass, who commanded the reserve, to fall back to this place, and to general M'Arthur with the front line to follow and support him. I remained at Sandusky until the parties that were sent out in every direction returned—not in one we got a scene.

I am sorry that I cannot transmit you Major Croghan's official report. He was to have sent it to me this morning but I have just heard that he was so much exhausted by thirty six hours of continual exertion as to be unable to make it. It will not be amongst the least of general Proctor's mortifications to find that he has been baffled by a youth who has just passed his twenty first year. He is, however, a hero worthy of his gallant uncle (general Geo. R. Clark.)

Capt. Hunter, of the 17th regiment, the second in command, conducted himself with great propriety; and never were a set of finer young fellows than the subalterns, viz. Lieuts. Johnson and Baylor of the 17th, Anthony of the 25th, Meeks of the 7th, and Ensigns Shipp and Duncan of the 17th.

The following account of the unworthy artifice and conduct of the enemy will excite your indignation—Major Chambers was sent by Gen. Prentiss, accompanied by Col. Elliott, to demand the surrender of the fort. They were met by Ensign Shipp. The Major observed, that Gen. Proctor had a number of cannon, a large body of Regular Troops, and so many Indians, whom it was impossible to control; and if the fort was taken, as it must be, the whole of the garrison would be massacred. Mr. Shipp answered, that it was the determination of Major Croghan, his officers and men, to defend the garrison, or be buried in it; and that they might do their best. Col. Elliott then addressed Mr. Shipp and said, you are a fine young man; I pity your situation; for God's sake surrender, and prevent the dreadful slaughter that must follow resistance. Shipp turned from him with indignation, and was immediately taken hold of by an Indian, who attempted to wrest his sword from him. Elliot pretended to exert himself to release him, and expressed great anxiety to get him safe in the fort.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of the first note received from Major Croghan. It was written before day: and it has since been ascertained, that of the enemy there remained in the ditch one Lieutenant Colonel, one Lieutenant and twenty-five privates; the number of prisoners, one sergeant and twenty-five privates; 14 of them badly wounded: every care has been taken of the latter, and the officers buried with the honors due to their rank and their bravery. All the dead that were not in the ditch, were taken off in the night by the Indians. It is impossible, from the circumstances of the attack, that they should have lost less than one hundred. Some of the prisoners think it amounted to two hundred. A young gentleman, a private in the Petersburg volunteers, of the name of Brown, assisted by five or six of that company and of the Pittsburgh Blues, who were accidentally in the fort, managed the six pounder which produced such destruction in the ranks of the enemy.

I have honor to be, &c.

W^m. HENRY HARRISON.

N. B. Of our few wounded men there is but one that will not be well in less than six days.

(Major Croghan's Note.)

(COPY.)

Lower Sandusky, Aug. 3, 1813.

Dr. SIR,

The enemy made an attempt to storm us last evening, but was repulsed with the loss of at least 100 killed, wounded, and prisoners. One Lt. Col. (Lt. Col. Short) a Major and a Lieut. with about 40 privates, are dead in our ditch. I have lost but one in killed, and but few wounded. Further statements will be made you by the bearer.

GEO. CROGHAN, Major.

Coming. Ft. Sandusky.

N. B. Since writing the above, two soldiers of the 41st regiment have got in, who state that the enemy have retreated. In fact, one of their gun-boats is within three hundred yards of our works, said to be loaded with camp equipage, &c. which they, in their hurry, have left.

GEO. CROGHAN.

From General Harrison to the Secretary of War.

Head-quarters, Seneca Town,

5th Aug. 1813—6 o'clock, A. M.

I have the honor to enclose you Major Croghan's report of the attack upon his fort, which has this moment come to hand. Fortunately the mail is not closed.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, Sir, your humble servant.

W^m. HENRY HARRISON.

(COPY.) Lower Sandusky, Aug. 5, 1813.

DEAR SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that the combined force of the enemy, amounting to at least 500 regulars and seven or eight hundred Indians under the immediate command of General Proctor, made its appearance before this place, early this morning.

(See fourth page.)