

THE RALEIGH MINERVA.

THREE DOLLARS PER YEAR.

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

[HALF OF WHICH IS SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE AUTHOR.]

Vol. 18.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1813.

No. 911.

American Intelligence.

CORRESPONDENCE

between Commodore HARDY and the U. S. Officer commanding at Sag Harbor, on the subject of the seizure of a Mr. Penny

Thomas Hardy, commander of H. B. M. squadron off Gardner's Island.

Sir—The inhabitants of the town of East Hampton have requested of me a flag, which I have authorized, for the purpose of demanding Joshua Penny, a natural born citizen of the township of Southold, on this island, and a resident of the town of East Hampton.

He is demanded as a non-combatant being attached to no vessel as a mariner or corps militaire whatever, but was taken by force by your men from the bed in his own house, unarm'd. The bearer of this flag is Lieutenant Hedges, an officer under my command in government service. You will have the goodness to deliver Mr. Penny to Lieut. Hedges; as he cannot consistently be retained as a prisoner of war by any article in the cartel agreed on, ratified and confirmed by the agents of each of our governments for the exchange of prisoners.

Given under my hand, at the garrison of Sag Harbor, this 23d day of August, 1813.

BENJAMIN CASE,

Major commanding the troops in the U. S. service at Sag Harbor.

His Britannic Majesty's ship *Ramilles*, Gardner's Bay, Aug. 23.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, and as I do not wish to detain Lieut. Hedges, the bearer of your flag, I will do myself the honor of replying to your letter to-morrow by a flag of truce.

I have the honor to be, sir, your very humble servant,

THOMAS M. HARDY, Capt.

To Major Case, commanding the troops in the U. S. service at Sag Harbor.

His Britannic Majesty's ship *Ramilles*, Gardner's Bay, Aug. 24.

Sir—As it was late yesterday afternoon when I had the honor of receiving your letter of the 23d inst. requesting the release of Joshua Penny I did not judge it proper to detain Lieut. Hedges for my reply.

I beg leave to inform you, I had received certain information that this man conducted a detachment of boats, sent from the U. S. State's squadron, under the command of com. Decatur, now lying in New-London from that port to Gardner's Island, on the 26th July last, for the express purpose of surprising and capturing the captain of his Britannic Majesty's frigate *Orpheus* and myself, and having failed in the undertaking, but making prisoners of some officers and men belonging to the *Orpheus*, he went with the remaining boats to Three Mile Harbor. The next account I had of him, was his being employed in a boat contrived for the purpose, under the command of Thomas Welling, prepared with a torpedo, to destroy this ship, and that he was on her at Napeaug Beach, when this ship and the *Orpheus* were in Port Pond Bay, last week. He has also had a certificate given him on the 18th of this month, by some of the respectable inhabitants of East Hampton, recommending him to Com. Decatur, as a fit person to be employed on a particular service by him, and that he has for some time been entered on the books of the frigate at \$40 per month; add to which, this notorious character has been recognized by some of the officers and men of this ship, as having been on board two or three times, with clams and fruit; of course as a spy, to collect information of our movements. Having been made so well acquainted with the conduct of this man for the last six weeks, and the purpose for which he has been so actively employed in hostilities against his Britannic Majesty, I cannot avoid expressing my surprise that the inhabitants of East Hampton, have attempted to enforce on you a statement so contrary to fact. I, therefore, cannot think of permitting such an avowed enemy to be out of my power, when I know so much of him as I do. He will therefore, be detained as a prisoner of war, until the pleasure of the commander in chief is known.

Robert Gray, an inoffensive old man, who was taken with Penny, I have treated, as it does not appear that he is one of his accomplices in the transactions I have alluded to.

I think proper to enclose a copy of my letter to justify Terry, to warn the inhabitants of the coast against permitting the torpedo to remain any where near them. I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient humble servant.

THOMAS M. HARDY, Capt.

of his B. M.'s ship *Ramilles*.

Major Benj. Case, commanding the troops in the U. S. service at Sag Harbor.

His Majesty's ship *Ramilles*, off New-London, Aug. 23, 1813.

Sir—Having received positive information that a whole boat, the property of Thomas Welling and others, prepared with a torpedo, for the avowed purpose of destroying this ship, a mode of warfare practised by individuals from mercenary motives, and more novel than honorable, is kept in your neighborhood, and as from the very good information I obtain from various sources,

there is no doubt these persons will soon be in my power, I beg you to warn the inhabitants of the towns along the coast of Long Island, that wherever I hear this boat or any other of her description has been allowed to remain after this day, I will order every house near the shore to be destroyed.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obed't serv't,
THOMAS M. HARDY, Capt.
Terry, Esq. justice of the peace, Southold, Long-Island.

NORFOLK, Sept. 3

ON Sunday last, six negro fellows belonging to different farmers in the vicinity of Cape Henry, went down to the beach and made signals to the Plantagenet & Duterell, when a boat immediately put off and took them on board. A great many others have eloped in the same way, which induces us to believe that the enemy holds a correspondence with the negroes on shore. This proceeding of the enemy suggests to some of the inhabitants a plan, which if it had been managed with more circumspection, would have made him pay dearly for the negroes. A party of the militia, (17 in number) stationed themselves behind the Sand hills, while two white men with their faces and hands blacked, went down upon the beach and waved their handkerchiefs to the ships when a boat with six men immediately came ashore, followed at the same distance, by two others full of men. Just as the men from the first boat were preparing to land, one of those disguised in walking a few steps showed his bare ankles which he omitted to blacken, when the enemy exclaimed—*White men in disguise!*—*Let us push off!* which they did, and at the same moment the militia ran out and fired upon them until they were out of gun shot; they killed two out of six. Had real negroes been made use of, the deception would have been complete and effectual.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Albany.

"The conscription directed by the general government, and lately attempted to be executed in New-York, has entirely failed. Fifteen thousand men were called for by the governor D. D. Tompkins, the same little man who flattered a day or two at Washington, about Mrs. Madison, this summer. The draft took place on the 13th ult. The whole militia of the state, about 90,000, were ordered to assemble in their company districts on that day. Of this number at the most not 20,000 assembled—Of some, 1,000 in number, not 100 appeared; and generally, there was a total absence of whole companies from the places ordered out by whole companies, have generally (absolutely) refused to march. Companies have met, and unanimously refused to march. Indeed I have not heard of a single instance where more than half a dozen from a company have consented to leave their homes for Canada. And it is a remarkable fact, that this defection and refusal, although exclusively confined to no party, is now prevalent among the democrats. I have traveled since the day of drafting through the counties of New York, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, Dutch, Greene, Columbia, Rensselaer and Albany. These are the old and populous counties of the state, and some of them wholly democratic. I know from actual observation that the facts above stated are true in these counties; and from the best information, I am certain they are true throughout this large and populous state. The war is hated by all parties. True, there are official tools of the administration, who still keep up a clamor for war, but they do not produce any effect upon the people. Beyond all doubt, three-fourths of the people of this state believe the war unnecessary, wanton and ruinous. Not 2,000 men will be obtained in the state.

"Since I have been in Albany I have heard an anecdote relative to General Lewis, which I will relate—he commands at Sacket's Harbor. He lately arrested a citizen upon a charge of traitorous correspondence with the enemy, and was proceeding to hang him by means of a trial by court martial. The Supreme Court was sitting in Albany, and application being made to the judges by the friends of the citizen a habeas corpus was by them issued to Lewis, commanding him to produce the citizen before them. Lewis returned to the writ an evasive answer. The court were not to be trifled with by any of these military mountebanks. A blue coat, with white facings, mounted by gold epauletts, carries no terror to such men as Kent, Van Ness, Thompson and Yates. They immediately issued an attachment against Lewis for a contempt of the court; and the officer of the court has gone to Sacket's Harbor to arrest him and bring him before the court. While such Judges exist, the people are safe; and John Armstrong and his brother Lewis, and all their tools and raggamuffins, may play their 'fantastic tricks' with danger to no one but themselves. The law will here triumph. For the court is independent, resolute, firm and bold—and it will be supported by a body of farmers, who would dispose of as a breakfast the half-starved, ragged crew who now infest the frontiers of this state. It is generally supposed, that Lewis wishes to get a way from the army; and that he will yield to the writ and come a prisoner to Albany, as the easiest way of getting out of the war. He has been a great war-hawk. But it is said his notions are wonderfully changed for the better; and that he has become remarkable pacific.

The situation of affairs on the lakes and on the Canada frontier, is truly alarming. Chauncey with his fleet has been out of harbour, and has had a brush with the British fleet. It is pretended, that Yeo ran away from Chauncey and declined the combat. This is false. I wish it were true. But it is proved to be a total misrepresentation. The hostile fleets lay three whole days within four miles of each other. Chauncey had the wind and coasts have forced Yeo to action at any time. This was no doubt Chauncey's intention. But by a series of the most skillful manoeuvres, Yeo not only baffled all Chauncey's efforts, but succeeded in breaking his line and capturing two of his vessels. This Chauncey was compelled to witness without being able to prevent, unless by a general action, and so completely had he been manoeuvred, that he must have come to anchor every disadvantage, and have been beyond all doubt defeated. He immediately took refuge in Sacket's Harbor, which he soon after left for a day or two, but soon returned, where he now lies, unable to go out with safety. All this time Yeo, reinforced by the two vessels which he had taken, is cruising on the lake. Sometimes near Port George, and sometimes before Sacket's Harbor. He has never been in Kingston since the fleets met—he has command of the lake. I should have mentioned, that two more of Chauncey's vessels were sunk in a storm, and but 16 men out of 150 have been saved.—And in the little brush between the fleets, two more of Chauncey's schooners have been so completely riddled as to render them unfit for service. Thus in one fortnight we have lost six vessels from our little fleet on the lake; and however the troops of the palace may attempt to hide the disgrace, or pervert the facts, the above is a plain and correct statement, derived from the most unquestioned sources of information. You can judge from these facts as to the issue of the campaign.—Be assured the American standard will not reach Montreal, nor even Kingston, this year.

General Armstrong has made a dead halt in Albany. If Chauncey does not succeed on the lakes, he goes no further. For why? Because he will find nothing but danger and difficulty at

Affair of Honor.

Hon. Secretary Jones vs. Col. Lemuel Taylor.

TO THE PUBLIC.

In whatever situation I may be placed by my country or my fate, I shall neither be too high, nor too low, to respect public opinion, and cheerfully submit to its inquest and decision, according to the rules of morality and honor.

I am aware that public considerations alone would have absolved me from noticing a vulgar and indecent libel which appeared in the Federal Republican of this day, signed "LEMUUEL TAYLOR;" but it is due to truth, and to my own character, to put down the vile slander by a plain exhibition of facts, elucidated by a few brief remarks. My acquaintance with Mr. Taylor, as will be seen by his letter, was of the most transient kind, affording no foundation for private or confidential correspondence, nor had any such existed. On the 21st ult. I received a letter, of which the following is a literal copy:

Baltimore, Aug 20th, 1813.

WILLIAM JONES Esq.

Dear Sir—I know that our acquaintance does not justify my using such familiar terms as I have begun with, but I feel so much on the subject I am about to mention, that I could not help addressing you, as I am convinced I should always do, if we were better acquainted. It is mentioned in one of our prints this evening, that Joshua Barney is appointed to the command of our flotilla—for myself, I do not believe it, because I presume you are acquainted with his character; but if you are not, permit me to inform you, that he is a most abandoned rascal, both as to politics and morals; and that he is despised by nine-tenths of all that have taken an active part in the defence of Baltimore, and by none more than capt. George Siles, whose zeal and activity you must have heard of; and in truth if Barney is appointed to any command, most of the most useful men will be obliged to retire. If it is not done, let me beg of you, for sake of the government, the safety of Baltimore, and for your own character, not to make such an appointment.

All I ask of you is to believe me, when I say I have nothing in view in writing this, but the good of my country, government, and the city where I reside.

I am, dear sir, your very obedient servant,

LEMUUEL TAYLOR.

William Jones, Esq.
Secretary of the Navy.

This letter, addressed to the Secretary of the Navy, without reservation or restriction, betraying either absolute ignorance of propriety, or sheer impudence, appeared to me a bold, intrepid denunciation, which the author would have proclaimed from the house-top, fearless of consequences, and inviting publicity rather than concealment. The temper and style, to be sure, appeared neither proper for public or private correspondence; but least of all did I suppose, that the author meant to make the Secy of the Navy either the official or private depository of aspersions so broad, foul and indefinite; and particularly when applied to an officer who had received so many marks of public confidence, and had just then been appointed to an honorable command—

that of the U. S. flotilla for the defence of the upper part of the Chesapeake.

Knowing that officer to possess to a prominent degree all the qualities for command, and believing that a vast majority of the community of the district which he was appointed to defend, and of the nation, would feel the same confidence in his skill, prowess, zeal and integrity; I could not but suspect that other motives and feelings than those avowed, had participated in the denunciation.

In Com. Barney I recognized an intrepid distinguished officer of the Revolutionary Navy, whose achievements have been the theme of public admiration and the subject of the pencil, whose vivid representation of one of those scenes, has long been a prominent ornament in the chamber of the Navy Department.

I knew him as one of the six captains first appointed under the administration of President Washington, and had he not resigned he would long since have been at the head of our present navy.

I also knew that President Washington had considered him a citizen so much entitled to public consideration that a vessel and special messenger was sent to Jamaica to demand his release from confinement and menaced ignominy for gallantly defending his ship against British depredation—and all this when his character was as perfectly known as at the present time. Under these circumstances I could not in justice to Com. Barney or to the public, whose officer he is, have withheld from him an opportunity of vindicating his reputation; nor could I suffer the denunciation to remain secretly on the files of the Department; nor indeed had I the most distant idea that concealment was the wish of the writer, until his open avowal proved both his folly and his baseness. Com. Barney came to Washington—I read to him the slander from the original, and displayed to him the author. The result is known and I am happy it is no worse—it will improve the manners of Mr. T. and I hope without impairing his health.

Mr. Taylor had the audacity to charge me with a "flagrant breach of trust"—demanded an explanation thro' his friend. I gave in substance the reasons I have here assigned, and exhibited to his friend the original letter—this was not satisfactory—his passion or his vanity had prompted him to prepare an alternative. A challenge was produced, and as every man of honor and common sense in my situation would have done, I declined the invitation.

The next resort was an abortive attempt to publish in the Baltimore papers the argumentative, and eloquent morsel, that appeared in the Federal Republican of this day. The good sense of every Editor in Baltimore rejected the disgusting libel, and it has as yet, been forced by the scavengers of detraction through the common sewer.

I ask pardon of the public for this momentary aberration from the elevated path which official duty would have prescribed, but truth and candour rather than personal feeling have urged the course which I have reluctantly pursued.

W. JONES.

Washington, Sept 6, 1813.

A GREAT MAN TURNED ROUND.

Mr. Jones, the secretary of the navy has published in the court paper, which is the exclusive and patent receptacle of such curiosities, an attempt to justify his conduct towards Lemuel Taylor, which so far from accomplishing his object, must shock every man of feeling and humanity. It seems that Mr. Taylor wrote him a letter derogatory to the character of Commodore Barney, a copy of which is inserted in the Intelligence. It is of such a nakedly personal nature, as when known to the commodore, who had recently received the command of the United States flotilla in the upper part of the Chesapeake, could leave him not a moment's hesitation about challenging the writer. Though its imputations are general and indefinite, the censure it conveyed is extreme and explicit; and Mr. Taylor's intention in writing it, heavers to be to re-monstrate against the appointment.—We do not copy it, as we take no concern in the matter between them, which is personal. When we add, that Mr. Taylor seems to have been unacquainted with the secretary of the navy, and that he did not expressly require the letter to be received in confidence, we have stated the case sufficiently to enable the reader to judge of the part taken by the secretary, who, on Commodore Barney lately arriving at the seat of government read the letter to him and gave up the writer's name. We therefore believe it is impossible to doubt, that the secretary of the navy unnecessarily and wantonly compelled the parties to fight a duel. To pronounce this opinion decisively, it is not necessary to examine the motives or foundation of Mr. Taylor's conduct.—True or false, meritorious or malicious, the exhibition of his letter to a military man of some rank, by the head of his department, was unavoidably calculated, and beyond controversy must have been intended, to lead to the sanguinary issue it did; and the more so as Mr. Taylor holds a military appointment under the state of Maryland. The lives of two fathers of families, and both of them in the active service of their country, were without the least necessity put to hazard, for the sake, as the Secretary of the Navy unfeelingly expresses it, of "improving Mr. Taylor's manners." Yes! The Secretary of the Navy avows with his signature