

that the officers and crew of the ship neglected no means in their power for her defence.

Very respectfully, your ob't. serv't,
C. MORRIS.

The Hon. Wm Jones,
Secretary of the Navy.

THE ENEMY REPULSED.

BALTIMORE, SEPT. 16.

The scenes which we have witnessed here for the last four days, although full of alarm and danger, have given our fellow citizens a confidence in each other and in the preparations made for the defence of this city which has almost removed every fear of our ultimate success. To give even a sketch of the transactions which have just passed in our view, with correctness, we are aware is not, at this time, practicable. The inaccuracies in the following outline we hope will meet with that indulgence which is due to the occasion.

The British force that advanced up the Bay on Saturday last reached the mouth of the River on Sunday morning; the vessels containing the troops proceeded to North Point about 12 miles South East of Baltimore, and commenced debarking during the night; the Frigates, Bomb Ketches and Barges, entered the River, and approached the Fort and City.

Between 3 and 4000 of the enemy effected a landing at North Point during the night of Sunday and Monday morning and commenced their march towards this city. They were met about three miles from their landing by Gen. STRICKER, having under his command the infantry of the 3d Brigade, the York volunteers, a company of Artillery with some Cavalry and Riflemen, amounting to 3000. These troops had arrived the evening before on the ground where they prepared to give the enemy battle, who advanced slowly under cover of the woods. About noon, a small party of about 450 Infantry and Riflemen were detached from our line to reconnoitre; they provoked an attack from the enemy which soon after became general along the front line of troops composed of the 5th Regiment (with the York Volunteers) under Col. STERETT, the 27th Regiment under Col. LONG, and Capt. MONTGOMERY'S Artillery.

From the disposition which it was judged proper to make of our troops, not more than one half of them were engaged; these, although wholly militia, fought with a bravery and perseverance highly honorable to them and destructive to the enemy. The action continued about an hour and a quarter, and during the last quarter the firing of musketry was rapid and incessant. Severely galling as it was, our front line bore it with firmness and returned it with energy, until the enemy by superior numbers had out flanked them, when they were ordered to retreat—and even then it was with difficulty that the repeated commands of their officers, who saw the imminent danger of their being surrounded, could induce them to retire.

Our loss during the action in killed and wounded, although not great in number, was distressing on account of the value of the lives at risk. Every man who fell or was injured, was a respectable citizen, for whom a large circle of intimate friends and relatives felt deeply interested. The only officer killed on our side was James L. Donaldson, Esq. Adjutant of the 27th Regiment, and one of the Delegates from this city to the General Assembly of this State—a number of our officers were wounded, but we have not sufficient information to particularize; we have, however, the pleasure to hear that none of their wounds are dangerous.

The loss of the enemy, if we may credit the accounts given by some deserters and prisoners, greatly exceeded ours in number, but what principally compensated (if any thing could compensate) for the death of our brave and respected fellow citizens, was the loss sustained by the British army in the death of their enterprising, brave, and, we may justly add, respectable commander Gen'l Ross.—The hero of Bladensburg; the captor and destroyer of our capital was doomed to meet his fate from militia, of whom he had spoke with contempt; and, the citizen soldiers of Baltimore have the honor of retrieving in some degree, our national character from the disgrace sustained at the seat of government, by the destruction of the successful leader of that daring invasion.

After the action our troops retired towards Baltimore, and were followed slowly and at a distance by the enemy; who approached, on Tuesday, within two miles of our entrenchments. Preparations were making by our Major General to cut off their retreat, and Gen. Winder with the Virginia militia were detached for that purpose. But the enemy discovering, or suspecting the design, decamped suddenly in the night and embarked with great precipitation, only a few of them being taken prisoners, although closely pursued in their rapid retreat.

Much praise is due to the Virginia militia, and indeed to the troops generally called here to our aid, for their active vigilance and patriotic endurance of fatigue, which has been incessant and extremely harassing for the last four days. They enjoy however the gratifying consciousness of having contributed to protect our homes, every thing dear to us, from the attack of ruthless invaders.

On Tuesday morning, at 6 o'clock, the first division of the enemy's fleet consisting of 6 bomb-ketches, some rocket ships and barges, with a number of frigates, were formed beyond the reach of the guns of Fort M'Henry, when they commenced the bombardment of that Fortress. The firing continued near 24 hours without any intermission; during which time 1000 bombs were sent at us. On Wednesday morning from 12 till half past 2, the frigates, sloop of war and barges, within gun shot, kept up a tremendous and incessant roar, which was answered and repelled with the greatest spirit and firmness by Ma-

The number of the enemy is generally supposed to have been from 7 to 8000—Edits. Am.

for Armistead and his garrison in Fort M'Henry, and the officers and men of the battery at the Lazaretto, North side of the Basin, the six gun battery and Fort Covington on Patapsco South Branch.

During more than an hour an incessant blaze of fire was emitted from the naval semi-circle of several miles, north, east and south of the Fort. The fire from the Forts was equally animated and constant. At one time a rocket-ship and five barges passed through the shower south of Fort M'Henry and cheered, thinking themselves sure of reaching the cove at the south-west end of the city, whence they could, unannoyed, have burnt it; but as they passed from the 42's of the great fortress, the narrow channel brought them under the 18's and 21's of the upper batteries; here crippled and discouraged, barges began to tow out the disappointed squadron. The Fort being warmly besieged at every angle, continued the cannonade till the fleet drew out to their line of safety, two and a half miles. The bombardment continued till day light, when the fleet was called off. There were four men killed and about 20 wounded in Fort M'Henry, during the gallant defence."

DIVISION ORDERS.

Division Head-Quarters, New Church-st.
September 15th, 1814.

Brigadier General WINDER congratulates the troops of his command upon the suspension of the severe duty to which they have been exposed for the last four days.

The Garrison of Fort M'Henry under the command of Major Armistead, are entitled to, and receive, the warmest acknowledgements and praise from the Brigadier General for their steady, firm and intrepid deportment during an almost incessant bombardment for twenty four hours, during which time they were exposed to incessant showers of shells.

The militia Artillery of the 3d Brigade under Captains Nicholson and Berry and Lieut. Pennington vied with the regulars in a firmness and composure which would have honored veterans, and prove that they were worthy to cooperate with the regular artillery, infantry and sea fencibles in defence of that important post. Maj. Armistead receives also the warmest acknowledgements of the Brigadier General commanding, for his able, vigilant and exact arrangements before and during this period of arduous duty, as well as for the uniform zeal, vigor and ability he has discovered in his preparations for the defence of the post immediately committed to his charge, as for the prompt and efficacious manner in which he has complied under great and perplexing difficulties with demands from all quarters for ammunition.

Lieut. Col. Stewart and Major Lane, neither of whom were required to expose themselves in this dangerous post, will please accept the Brig. General's warmest acknowledgements for the handsome and gallant manner in which they volunteered to take command of the regular infantry; who, with their officers and men, have evinced the most resolute and steady intrepidity in the midst of immense and long continued danger.

The Squadron of U. S. Light Dragoons under captain Bird have proved by the indefatigable and bold manner in which they have constantly kept upon the very lines of the enemy of the fire of his guards and the regular and exact intelligence which they have constantly given of his situation, that they want nothing but an opportunity to signalize themselves. The bold and intrepid charge which sergeant Keller, of capt. Bird's company, made upon the rear guard of the retreating enemy with but three dragoons in which he dispersed a guard of 18 fusiliers taking 6 of them prisoners in despite of their fire and that of a four pounder within half cannoner distance, which made three discharges at him, deserves the highest approbation, and the skill and dexterity with which he accomplished this bold achievement proves he will be competent to a more considerable command to which the justice of his government will no doubt advance him.

Brigadier-General Douglas with his entire brigade of Virginia militia have evinced during four days of the most active and arduous duties, under the severest privation of rest and refreshment, in constant exposure to the unusual inclemency of the weather for the season, a patience, obedience, and alacrity for the most dangerous duties which cannot be surpassed; and the prompt and eager pursuit in which they yesterday engaged, after the retreating enemy, in the midst of heavy and constant rain after such a series of suffering and fatigue, is the best evidence which can be given that the patriotism which so promptly led them to the field in defence of their country, was bottomed upon a courage which dangers and difficulty cannot subdue.

Lieut. Col. Griffin Taylor with his regiment also of Virginia militia who was left in charge of the defences in part on the Ferry Branch, has proved by his judicious arrangements and the zealous manner in which he was supported by his men and officers, that he only wanted an occasion to prove himself and them the worthy coadjutors of their countrymen.

The enemy has retired from our city and it is to be hoped under such circumstances as will deter him from again attempting it.—Those gallant Virginians will have the consolation of believing they have essentially contributed to its safety.

The enemy however has at present only taken refuge in his ships—he still remains in our vicinity and may and probably will return if he knows there is the least relaxation of vigilance or readiness. The commanding officers of corps and detachments will therefore exert themselves with unremitting diligence to repair the damages of the late fatigue and exposure—to refresh their troops and hold them in readiness for moving at a moment's warning.

By order, ROST. G. HITE,
Ass't Adj't General.

FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLICAN.

SIR—As various reports are in circulation relative to the conduct of the British troops, while in possession of our Capital; and as some of these reports are calculated to impress upon the public mind a belief that plunder and devastation were the order of the day, acting on the old maxim—"Do Justice even to your enemy," I deem it not improper to give you a short statement of what passed under my immediate observation.

About ten o'clock on the night of the 24th ult. while the Capitol, the Navy-Yard, the Magazine, and the buildings attached thereto, on Greenleaf's point, were entirely in flames, I was sitting at the window of my lodging, on the Pennsylvania Avenue, contemplating the solemn and awful scene, when about one hundred men passed the house, troops of the enemy, on their way towards the President's House. They walked two abreast, preceded by an officer on foot, armed with a hanger, and wearing a chapeau de bras. In the middle of the ranks were two men, each with a dark lantern. They marched quickly, but silently. Some of them, however, were talking in the ranks, which being overheard by the officer, he called out to them, "Silence! If any man speaks in the ranks I'll put him to death!" Shortly after they passed on I observed four officers on horseback, with chapeau de bras and side arms. They rode up to the house, and pulling off their hats in a polite and social manner, wished us a good evening. The family and myself returned the salute, and I observed to them—"Gentlemen, I presume you are officers of the British army." They replied they were. "I hope, sir," said I, addressing myself to one that rode up under the window, which I found to be Admiral Cockburn, "that individuals and private property will be respected."—Admiral Cockburn and Gen. Ross immediately replied—"Yes, sir, we pledge our sacred honor, that the citizens and private property shall be respected. Be under no apprehension. Our advice to you is to remain at home. Do not quit your houses."—Admiral Cockburn then enquired—"Where is your President, Mr. Madison?" I replied I could not tell, but supposed that by this time he was at a considerable distance. He then enquired what force we had? I replied conjectures were various. It is impossible for me to say. He observed, we have got your commodore, Barney prisoner with us. So I have heard, sir, and that he is badly wounded. Yes, sir, the Admiral replied, he is badly wounded, but I am happy to inform you not mortally. He is a brave man, & depend upon it he shall be treated with the greatest humanity and kindness.—Gen. Ross observed—Yes, sir, he shall be taken good care of. They then observed that they were on their way to pay a visit to the President's House, which they were told, was but a little distance ahead. They again requested that we would stay in our houses, where we would be perfectly safe, and bowing, politely wished us a good night, and proceeded on. Soon after, I perceived the smoke issuing from the windows of the President's House, and in a short time, that splendid and elegant edifice, reared at the expence of much cost and labor, inferior to none that I have observed in the different parts of Europe, where I have been, was wrapt in one entire flame! At this instant, my reflections turned upon the consideration of the instability of human greatness, and the vanity of all earthly grandeur! So passeth away the glory of this world. The large and elegant Capitol of the nation on the one side, and the splendid national Palace and Treasury Department on the other, all wrapt in flame, presented a grand and sublime, but at the same time an awful and melancholy sight. But as my intention, when I put my pen to paper, it was merely for the purpose of giving you a concise account of what passed under my own observation, I shall briefly remark that a learned and wise man has justly said, that all things are great or small upon the scale of comparison. Thus the palaces of kings and emperors, and the abodes of men, are great in comparison with the mole hill inhabited by the humble, but indutrious ant. The emperor knows his palace, and the ant its mole hill, but the hand of Time makes no distinction, and sweeps all into one common ruin.

The inscription on the monument of the immortal Shakespeare, in Westminister Abbey, speaks elegantly in this point:
"The cloud-capt towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great Globe itself,
Yea all which it inherits, shall dissolve,
And like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a wreck behind."
On the following day I had occasion to visit Georgetown.—On my return home in company with Dr. Ott, we were called to by Mr. McLeod, who keeps the Washington Hotel. He informed us, that one of the British soldiers armed with a musket, had robbed him and threatened to burn his house, and that he was then in the act of robbing the house of Mr. Valette, aided and assisted by a negro man; that one of the neighbors had proceeded as quick as possible to Capitol Hill, the H. Q. of General Ross to give information. I felt alarmed lest something of the kind might be going on at the other end of the city, and proceeded as quick as possible to my lodgings. I had scarcely arrived at home, and taken off my coat and waistcoat (for the day was excessively warm, and I was much overcome with heat) when I observed an officer of dragoons approaching. He was well mounted and armed. Seeing me at the

window, he rode up and politely enquired for Mr. McLeod's Hotel. I directed him where it was. He then observed—Sir, I have come on in haste from Head-Quarters, for the purpose of taking one of our soldiers who is robbing your citizens, but the distance is much further than I was aware of. It must be upwards of a mile from our army, and the probability is, I shall be made prisoner by some of your troops. I replied, sir, I have just come from thence. "It is a fact that one of your soldiers is not only robbing our citizens, but maltreating them also, and I pledge to you my honor, there is not an American soldier or officer in that quarter of the city. While we were conversing, there rode up in haste, another officer, well mounted and armed—after a few words conversation with each other, the officer whom I first saw, said to me, I have confidence in your honor, and if you will immediately come with us, we will proceed to the spot and take the villain; do not stay to put on your coat or waistcoat, there is not a moment to be lost. I immediately ran without coat or waistcoat, and we got up in time to seize the soldier in the very act of robbing Mr. Norval's house. The first words the officer said to him were, "you villain you have transgressed and are disgracing your country." He denied that he had taken any thing. Mr. McLeod said, sir, he has stolen from me and my neighbors, & I am an evidence against him. The Russian consul who was present during the whole of the transaction, pointing to Mr. McLeod said to the officer, sir, that gentleman is a man of respectability; whatever he tells you is entitled to your confidence. The officer expressed in his countenance considerable indignation, and closing his fist he gave the soldier a most violent blow, which staggered him considerably and his hat fell to the ground. I took it up and found it filled with silk shawls and other articles of value, which I pulled out and showed to the officer. He then struck him a violent blow with the butt end of his pistol, and told him to proceed immediately to head quarters, or he would instantly put him to death on the spot. The soldier was then mounted on a horse he had with him, and which he had stolen, and the officers, one on each side, escorted him to the capitol hill. He made several attempts to escape but without effect. I have since been informed, that he was taken out on parade, the same day, and shot. On parting with the officer he observed to me, sir, I am sorry our two nations are at war. I hope the time is not far distant when peace will be restored. We have not come here for the purpose of plunder but to destroy all public property. If any thing of the kind should take place again, such as you have just witnessed, I have to request that your citizens will assemble, surround the villains without delay, and conduct them to head quarters. Depend upon it, sir, they will be punished. The officer was a young man about 26 or 27 years of age, remarkably handsome in his person and of very intelligent mind.

Respectfully, sir,

Your obedient,

WM. P. GARDNER.

WASHINGTON CITY,

September 10. 1814.

By the Northern Mail.—Owing to the situation of Baltimore and the consequent removal of the Post Office out of town, we have had no Northern Mail here for two days. We received two mails yesterday, but there is yet one due. We have no printed accounts from Baltimore; every man being under arms, all the presses are stopped. The following are the most interesting articles that the mails bring.—*Nat. Int.*
PLATTSBURG TAKEN.

ALBANY, AUG. 10.

An express arrived in this city last evening bringing the unpleasant intelligence of the capture of the village of Plattsburgh, by the British forces under the command of General Brisbane.—The express left Plattsburgh on Tuesday afternoon, and states, as we are informed, that the enemy entered the town about 11 o'clock that they were met about seven miles from the place by about 800 militia, supported by Major Wool, and 200 regulars—that considerable skirmishing took place in which a few of our men were killed and wounded—that Major Wool and the regulars retreated and the enemy took possession of the village, which had been previously deserted by the inhabitants.

Our regular force in the fort is stated to be about 2000 effective men, well provisioned, and no doubt is entertained of their being able to make a bold and vigorous stand.

The enemy have taken possession of the Isle of Mott, and obliged a number of the inhabitants to take the oath of allegiance to the British government.

PLATTSBURGH, Sept. 11.

Dear Sir.—A battle has just closed on Lake Champlain between the two fleets. Victory is ours! The British large ship lately built, of 32 guns, a brig, two sloops, and several galleys taken.

The bearer will wait no longer.

WM. SWETLAND.

[The following letter from a correspondent on board the fleet, describes the previous operations of the two parties, and gives some particulars not previously known here.]

U. S. SHIP SARATOGA,

ON Plattsburgh, Sept. 8.

You no doubt had learnt, in course, of the movements of a great part of our army, under Gen. Izard, to the westward. This event was no sooner known to the British at the lines, than their whole forces, under Gen. Brisbane, began their march for the invasion of our territory; and a proclamation, or rather a