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Congress of the United States.

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 20.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

Notwithstanding the early day which had been fixed for your session of the present year, I was induced to call you together, still sooner as well than any inadequacy in the existing provisions for the wants of the Treasury might be supplied, as that no delay might happen in providing for the result of the negotiations on foot with Great Britain, whether it should require arrangements adapted to a state of peace, or further and more effective provisions for prosecuting the war.

That result is not yet known. If, on one hand, the repeal of the orders in council, and the general pacification in Europe, which withdrew the occasion on which impressments from American vessels were practised, suggest expectations that peace and amity may be re-established; we are compelled, on the other hand, by the refusal of the British government to accept the offered mediation of the Emperor of Russia, by the delays in giving effect to its own proposal of a direct negotiation; and, above all, by the principles and manner in which the war is now avowedly carried on, to infer that a spirit of hostility is indulged more violent than ever, against the rights and prosperity of this country.

This increased violence is best explained by the two important circumstances, that the great contest in Europe, for an equilibrium guaranteeing all its states against the ambition of any, has been closed without any check on the overbearing power of Great Britain on the ocean; and that it has left in her hands disposable armaments, with which, forgetting the difficulties of a remote war against a free people; and yielding to the intoxication of success, with the example of a great victim it before her eyes, she cherishes hopes of still further aggrandizing a power already formidable in its abuses to the tranquility of the civilized and commercial world.

But whatever may have inspired the enemy with these more violent purposes, the public councils of a nation, more able to maintain than it was to acquire its independence, and with a devotion to it, rendered more ardent by the experience of its blessings, can never deliberately resort to the means most effectual for defeating the extravagant views or unwarrantable passions, with which alone the war can now be pursued against us.

In the events of the present campaign, the enemy, with all his augmented means, and wanton use of them, has little ground for exultation, unless he can feel in the success of his recent enterprises against this Metropolis and the neighboring town of Alexandria: from both of which his retreats were as precipitate, as his attempts were bold and fortunate. In his other incursions on our Atlantic frontier, his progress, often checked and chastised, by the martial spirit of the neighboring citizens, has had more effect in distressing individuals, and in dishonoring his arms, than in promoting any object of legitimate warfare. And in the two instances mentioned, however deeply to be regretted on our part, he will find in his transient success, which interrupted for a moment only the ordinary public business at the seat of government, no compensation for the loss of character with the world, by his violations of private property, and by his destruction of public edifices, protected as monuments of the arts by the laws of civilized warfare.

On our side we can appeal to a series of achievements, which have given new lustre to the American arms. Besides the brilliant incidents in the minor operations of the campaign, the splendid victories gained on the Canadian side of the Niagara, by the American forces under Major General Brown, and Brigadiers Scott and Gaines, have gained for these heroes, and their emulating companions, the most unfading laurels; and having triumphantly tested the progressive discipline of the American soldiery, have taught the enemy that the longer he protracts his hostile efforts, the more certain and decisive will be his final discomfiture.

On our southern border victory has continued also to follow the American standard. The bold and skilful operations of Major General Jackson, conducting troops drawn from the militia of the states least distant, particularly of Tennessee, have subdued the principal tribes of hostile savages, and by establishing a peace with them preceded by recent and exemplary chastisements, has best guarded against the mischief of their co-operation with the British enterprises which may be planned against that quarter of our country. Important tribes of Indians on our north western frontier have also acceded to stipulations, which bind them to the interests of the United States, and to consider our enemy as their also.

In the recent attempt of the enemy on the city of Baltimore, defended by militia and volunteers, aided by a small body of regulars and seamen, he was received with a spirit which produced a rapid retreat to his ships, whilst a

concurrent attack by a large fleet was successfully resisted by the steady and well directed fire of the fort and batteries opposed to it.

In another recent attack by a powerful force on our troops at Plattsburg, of which regulars made a part only, the enemy, after a persevering struggle for many hours, was finally compelled to seek safety in a hasty retreat, with our gallant hands pressing upon him.

On the lakes, so much contested throughout the war, the great exertions for command made on our part, have been well repaid. On Lake Ontario, our squadron is now, and has been for some time, in a condition to confine that of the enemy to his own port; and to favor the operations of our land forces on that frontier.

A part of the squadron on Lake Erie has been extended into Lake Huron, and has produced the advantage of displaying our command of that lake also—One object of the expedition, was the reduction of Mackinaw, which failed with the loss of a few brave men, among whom was an officer justly distinguished for his gallant exploits. The expedition ably conducted by both the land and the naval command, was otherwise highly valuable in its effect.

On Lake Champlain, where our superiority had for some time been undisputed, the British squadron lately came into action, with the American, commanded by Captain Macdonough. It issued in the capture of the whole of the enemy's ships. The best praise for this officer and his intrepid comrades is in the likeness of his triumph to the illustrious victory, which immortalized another officer & established, at a critical moment, our command of another Lake.

On the Ocean the pride of our Naval arms has been amply supported. A second frigate has indeed fallen into the hands of the enemy, but the loss is hidden in the blaze of heroism with which she was defended. Captain Porter, who commanded her, and whose previous career had been distinguished by daring enterprise and by fertility of genius, maintained a sanguinary contest against two ships, one of them superior to his own, and under other severe disadvantages, till humanity tore down the colors, which valor had nailed to the mast. This officer and his brave comrades have added much to the rising glory of the American flag, and have merited all the effusion of gratitude which their country is ever ready to bestow on the champions of its rights and of its safety.

Two smaller vessels of war have also become prizes to the enemy; but by a superiority of force which sufficiently vindicates the reputation of their commanders; whilst two others, one commanded by Captain Warrington, the other by Captain Blakely, have captured British ships of the same class, with a gallantry and good conduct, which entitle them and their companions, to a just share in the praise of their country.

In spite of the naval force of the enemy accumulated on our coast, and his enterprises which have not ceased to annoy his commerce, and to bring their rich prizes into our ports; contributing thus, with other proofs, to demonstrate the incompetency and illegality of a blockade, the proclamation of which is made the pretext for vexing and discouraging the commerce of neutral powers with the United States.

To meet the extended and diversified warfare adopted by the enemy, great bodies of militia have been taken into service, for the public defence, and great expences incurred. That the defence every where may be both more convenient and more economical, Congress will see the necessity of immediate measures for filling the ranks of the regular army; and of enlarging the provision for special corps, mounted and unmounted, to be engaged for longer periods of service than are due from the militia. I earnestly renew, at the same time, a recommendation of such changes in the system of militia, as, by classing and disciplining for the most prompt and active service the portions most capable of it, will give to that great resource for the public safety, all the requisite energy and efficiency.

The monies received into the Treasury during the nine months ending on the thirtieth day of June last, amounted to thirty-two millions of dollars, of which near eleven millions were the proceeds of the public revenue, and the remainder derived from loans. The disbursements for public expenditures during the same period exceeded thirty-four millions of dollars, and left in the Treasury, on the first day of July, near five millions of dollars. The demands during the remainder of the present year already authorized by Congress, and the expences incident to an extension of the operations of the war, will render it necessary that large sums should be provided to meet them.

From this view of the national affairs, Congress will be urged to take up without delay, as well the subject of pecuniary supplies as that of military force, and on a scale commensurate with the extent and the character which the war has assumed. It is not to be disguised, that the situation of our country calls for its greatest efforts. Our enemy is powerful in men and in money; on the land and on the water. Availing himself of fortuitous advantages, he is aiming, with his undivided force, a deadly blow at our growing prosperity, perhaps at our national existence. He has avowed his purpose of trampling on the usages of civilized warfare, and given earnestness of it, in the plunder and wanton destruction of private property. In his pride of maritime dominion and in his thirst of commercial monopoly, he strikes with peculiar animosity at the progress of our navigation and of our manufactures. His barbarous policy has not even spared those monuments of the arts and models of taste with which our coun-

try had enriched and embellished its infant Metropolis. From such an adversary, hostility in its greatest force and in its worst forms, may be looked for. The American people will face it with the undaunted spirit which in our revolutionary struggle defeated his unrighteous projects. His threats and his barbarities, instead of dismay, will kindle in every bosom an indignation not to be extinguished but in the disaster and expulsion of such cruel invaders. In providing the means necessary, the National Legislature will not distrust the liberal and enlightened patriotism of its constituents. They will cheerfully and proudly bear every burden of every kind, which the safety and honor of the nation demand. We have seen them every where paying their taxes, direct and indirect, with the greatest promptness and alacrity. We see them rushing with enthusiasm to the scenes where danger and duty call, to offering their blood, they give the surest pledge that no other tribute will be withheld.

Having foreborne to declare war until to our regret, hostilities had been added the capture of nearly a thousand American vessels, and the impressment of thousands of American sea-faring citizens; and until a final declaration had been made by the government of Great Britain, that her hostile orders against our commerce would not be revoked, but on conditions as impossible as unjust; whilst it was known that these orders would not otherwise cease, but with a war which had lasted nearly twenty years, and which, according to appearance at that time, might last as many more; having manifested on every occasion, and in every proper mode, a sincere desire to arrest the effusion of blood, and meet our enemy on the ground of justice and reconciliation, our beloved country, in still opposing to his persevering hostility all its energies, with an undiminished disposition towards peace & friendship on honorable terms, must carry with it the good wishes of the impartial world, the best hopes of support from an omnipotent and kind Providence.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, Sept. 20th, 1814.

Domestic.

BOSTON, SEPT. 14.

On Monday, a gentleman arrived in town, who left Machias on Wednesday, Castine on Thursday afternoon, Wiscasset on Saturday, and Portland on Sunday morning, and reports the following:—That the people of Machias complained very much of their defenceless situation, and without doubt will surrender without opposition: no personal property had been seized by the enemy east of Castine, and the inhabitants were making every exertion to secure such as was exposed. All the ports on the Penobscot had been evacuated by the enemy excepting Castine, which they were fortifying. It was said that three days before some expedition. Much alarm existed at Wiscasset for the safety of that place. An express arrived at Bath at the moment of his leaving, bringing information that 2000 men had arrived at Booth Bay.—At Portland they expected an attack soon; the inhabitants had nearly all moved away, and there were about 4000 troops in and near the town, and every preparation was making for a vigorous defence. Considerable alarm existed at Portsmouth, and many of the inhabitants had removed from the place.

In conversation with Sir J. C. Sherbrooke, and Ad. Griffith, the following answers were made to questions asked—that all property east of Penobscot river, belonging to non-residents, will be confiscated, when we have matured some general plan, which plan will be strictly adhered to, excepting in some extraordinary cases, such as Mr. Hook's whose personal property had been seized and sold, and his real estate to share the same fate immediately, in consequence of his absconding just as the enemy took possession of the place! The inhabitants will be permitted to retain their arms for self-defence, and the preservation of the peace of the country, by entering into a compact with him, not to use them against his Majesty's forces: that all vessels upon the stocks will not be molested: all vessels afloat will be considered as prizes, and may be ransomed; that he had dispatched a commission with a competent force to take possession and prize all vessels east of Penobscot river.

It was asked Sir J. C. Sherbrooke whether he thought his country would retain all east of Penobscot; to which he replied 'that will be determined by our ministers, who are or will be negotiating in Holland.'

Sir J. was then asked, 'shall you exact the oath of allegiance from the inhabitants east of Penobscot?' He replied, 'the time was when oaths were considered sacred, but I am sorry to say their frequency has in part done that away—and I will not introduce them here.'

In a party of his suite, and Colonels and Majors of the army, they all spoke most confidently of being in possession of all the Massachusetts and Maine seaports in six weeks, that they were pleased to hear of their making fortifications, as they would be for their use! They discover the utmost contempt for the American militia.

The office of the Registry of Deeds, at Castine, was taken possession of immediately after their arrival, and the seal placed upon the lock;—on Thursday afternoon it was opened, and they commenced an examination of the records, for the purpose of ascertaining all lands owned by non-residents—an examination of the County Treasury book was commenced the same day.

The British had at Castine on Friday morning last, two 74's, (the Bulwark was one) three frigates, one sloop of war (the Martin) two brigs, and six transports.

The British were concentrating their forces at Castine for another expedition, which Sir J. and Admiral G. was to command.

The militia to the eastward of Penobscot were making no preparations to expel or resist the enemy—and several towns have sent deputations to know his intentions.

BOSTON, SEPT. 15.

Increase of Appetite.—When the war commenced, the enemy promised to respect Eastport; but they afterwards took it, and then declared they meant to trouble no place to the westward of it.—They have however now taken Castine, and claim all from Passamaquoddy to Penobscot, but under assurances that they mean to molest no other part of Maine, and these assurances will probably be found as sincere as former ones.

The territory between Penobscot and Passamaquoddy, the Governor and Admiral from Nova Scotia have by a proclamation, (see last page) declared their intention to take possession of, and have commenced by occupying Castine, includes about 40 towns belonging to the State of Massachusetts. Among these towns are Addison, with about 400 inhabitants, Calias, 400, Cherryfield, 200, Columbia, 500, Harrington, 800, Jonesboro, 600, Machias 1600, Steuben 600, Lubec, Robinston, Bluehill 700, Backstown, 2500, Castine 1100, Deerdale 1600, Eden, 700, Frankfort 1800, Orrington 1400, Sedgwick 1400, Isleboro 600, Mt. Desert 1100, Trenton, 600, Sullivan 800, Goldsboro 500, Penobscot 1400, &c.

ARMY AT NIAGARA.

Major General Brown has recovered from his wounds, resumed the command of the Niagara army, and issued the following

GENERAL ORDERS.

Adjutant General's Department, Fort Erie, Sept. 2, 1814.

Maj. Gen. Brown resumes the command of the troops on the Niagara Frontier.

The Maj. General recurs with proud satisfaction to the conduct of his division since the opening of the campaign.

It was opened in defence of the munitions of war destined for the navy—which were embarked at Oswego, when the enemy was in force on the Lake, landed on the shores of Sandy Creek, and transported to Sackett's Harbor. Oswego displays the discipline and prowess of a single battalion of Artillery led by Col. Mitchell; and Sandy Creek gives name to the gallant achievement of the 1st Rifle Reg. under Lt. Col. Appling. The bravery alone of American soldiers has often shown them superior to their British adversaries. But on the plains of Chippewa, bravery and discipline both rise pre-eminent, and triumph over the enemy's best troops, led on in the ablest manner. There the brigade of Maj. Gen. Scott fought British veterans, a battalion against a battalion, and the smallest in number conquered. Victory crowned the American arms.

At the falls of Niagara, brave soldiers met a severe trial. They rose superior to the task, and proved their intrepidity equal to any emergency. They engaged the whole force of the enemy, and again conquered a larger than their own. The victory was ours. The trophies of victory only were not accomplished. The enemy had relinquished the field and the contest to our superiority. The glorious defeat of an important expedition of the enemy on our shore, is again accomplished by the 1st Rifle reg. on its arrival on this frontier, under the late distinguished Major Morgan.

Another trial was left for the brave spirits who compose the American force in Canada. An endurance of fatigue was shewn with unexampled cheerfulness on the works around their camp at fort Erie; and a new test of military prowess was called for to complete the glorious character of the division. They were called to receive the attack of heavy columns of the enemy on their line of entrenchment; and the signal manner in which they acquitted themselves, as well as the vigilance of their brave and finished commander, Brig. Gen. Gaines, is established by the brilliant victory acquired on the 15th of August. The discomfiture of the forces under Lt. Gen. Drummond, was attended with a disparity of loss unexampled in the record of battles.

Brig. Gen. Ripley will assume the command of the troops at Fort Erie.—Brig. Gen. Miller is assigned to the first Brigade, and Col. Gibson to the 2d Brigade, until further orders. Col. Brady will assume the command at Buffalo, and Lt. Col. Nichols continue in that at Williamsville. Lt. John Armstrong of the 4th R. R. is appointed an aid to the Maj. General, and will be obeyed accordingly.

By order of the Maj. General,

C. K. GARDNER.

Adj. General.

General PETER B. PORTER is appointed by the Governor of New-York a Maj. General by brevet of the Militia of that state, for the gallantry displayed by him on the Northern frontier during the present campaign.

Adj. Genl.