

The Raleigh Minerva.

Vol. 20.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1814.

No. 974.

RALEIGH, (N. C.)

PRINTED WEEKLY, BY ALEX. LUCAS.
Terms of subscription: Three dollars per year, one half to be paid in advance. No paper to be continued longer than three months after a year's subscription becomes due, and notice there of shall have been given. Advertisements, not exceeding 14 lines, are inserted three for one dollar, and for twenty-five cents each subsequent insertion; and in like proportion where there is a greater number of lines than fourteen.

Foreign.

LONDON, SEPT. 4.

Benson Transport.—The following are the particulars of the rising of the American prisoners in the Benson Transport, stated by a passenger:—The number of the prisoners was about two hundred—Besides the party of marines there were thirteen invalid officers to protect the ship, which being particularly crowded, it was customary to allow a few prisoners at a time to come upon deck even in the night time. But on our way home, when on the Grand Bank, a Prussian prisoner gave intelligence that a rising was meditated by the prisoners, which having alarmed the officers, a strict look-out at first was kept, and sentinels duly planted, and we slept always with arms loaded in the cabins. On the fourth day, at six in the morning, during the Mat's watch on deck, the prisoners left on deck sprung at once on the four sentinels at the companion ladder, disarmed them in an instant, and got possession of the hatchway; the rest all rushed on deck, and besides the four muskets they were armed with a sabre, crow-bars, &c. and the beef cleavers. They took the wheel, which was left by the mate, who ran into the cabin where we were all asleep, awoke us in the alarm, and said the ship was in full possession of the prisoners, who, with the most violent imprecations, swore they would put to death every man found with arms. The officers, half asleep, were stunned with this alarm, and uncertain how to act, while the mate, terrified at the prisoners coming below, began to throw the arms overboard. Old Maine, the invalid Master of the Orpheus, getting out of bed, was told we should be put to death if any arms were found below; to which he said, "Alumph, if we are to die, we may as well die on deck as below, and so have a trial for our lives; follow me my boys!" Then seizing his pistols and a cutlass, he sprung before us up the ladder, around which the prisoners had crowded, like a sky rocket, when he received a musket shot, which shattered his right hand, and a blow on the shoulder with a crow-bar, also a sabre cut on the back, and three other wounds. But in an instant he broke the circle round the companion door, shot one man dead, and drove another overboard in the act of firing—He soon carried away all before him, and made way for us to come up and join him, and the struggle for victory was violent on both sides.

The cook of the Americans, a strong man, advanced to the Master of the Benson, and lifting up his cleaver to strike, he saw a pistol presented, when he dropt on his knees and cried for mercy. Four more of the prisoners now fell, and they began to run below. Eight of them were wounded, and one more thrown overboard. After which they were all routed, and we gained possession of the ship and secured them. We had six wounded, besides Mr. Maine, whose right arm was amputated. No language can do justice to the cool and resolute courage of this old sailor.

MADRID, AUG. 10.

They talk of bringing to a conclusion the trials of the Members of the Cortes who are now in confinement. It appears that a long imprisonment will be the punishment inflicted on the principal of them.

LONDON, AUG. 16.

Disturbances at Cherbourg.
It appears that the inhabitants of this town entertained an idea that a great shipment of corn was about to take place for England, and on Sunday evening, the number of English vessels having much increased, they became very turbulent. After assaulting the English in the streets they proceeded on board the English vessels, maiming the crews, and throwing every thing overboard—pigs, sheep, poultry, &c. They also got on board some smugglers, many of whose hogs they threw into water, and the rest they got on shore, which, with what live stock reached the shore, they took up the country; they then attacked the English Hotel, demolished the whole of the windows, and proceeded to destroy the house; but a guard of 300 soldiers, arriving, they contented themselves with assaulting all who had the appearance of being English. Two English ladies were severely maltreated. The next day (Sunday) the riot was at its height, which was excited by two more English vessels arriving from Weymouth. Upon their approach the people armed themselves with large stones, and when the vessels entered the harbour, which is so narrow that it only admits one at a time, they lined the steep shores on each side, and commenced a violent attack with the stones. The symptoms now became so alarming, that all the English on shore were obliged to shelter themselves in houses guarded by the military, and the whole of the E. vessels in the harbour got under weigh with an intention of proceeding to sea, but a stronger guard arriving, order was enforced, after apprehending about 200 of the mob. On the stocks in the naval yard were one 120 gun ship, two 74's and two frigates, in an apparent forward state, but at present few artificers are at work.

By the latest advices, we learn, that Cher-

bourg was restored to tranquility. Some of the ring leaders of the riot on the Sunday, were sent to Paris. The remainder of those arrested continued in confinement in the town.

The first day after the imprisonment of the rioters, a feeble attempt was made to liberate them; but the soldiers, shewing their determination to do their duty, deterred the mob from further outrage.

POOLE, AUG. 13.

Arrived last night from Cherbourg, the Lord Nelson cutter, Thomas Wills, master, having on board Mr. and Mrs. Hawker, and Mr. Leech, and about 200 large stones, with which this vessel was politely assailed on arriving in that port.

Mr. Wills stood firmly to his helm within ten yards of at least 800 Frenchmen, but was so severely wounded, that he was afterwards confined under the care of a surgeon.

The Nelson being driven into Barfleur, was at first kindly treated, but afterwards assailed by about 150 of the rabble, principally women, of that port.

It may perhaps be worthy of notice, that there is now in Cherbourg, most cordially received, one of Bonaparte's Imperial Guards, on leave from Elba, to which place he will return at the expiration of his furlough.

Extract of a letter, dated Madrid, Aug. 1.
"His Majesty seems to study the happiness and welfare of his subjects; he personally superintends the adoption of such measures as he himself conceives, or he has been taught to believe, likely to contribute to their comfort or prosperity. He has re-established the Inquisition, but the venom has been extracted from it. It is now a Tribunal of Justice—an Open Court, under the eye of the King; and its proceedings will be witnessed by the nation.—Public arrest, accusation, trial, defence, and sentence."

American Intelligence.

OFFICIAL.

Copies of letters from Johnson Blakely, Esq. commander of the U. S. sloop of war Wasp, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

U. S. S. Wasp, at Sea, off Belle Isle, 27th Aug. 1814.

SIR—It is with sincere sorrow I have to announce to you the decease of Midshipmen Henry S. Langdon and Frank Toscan. They were wounded in the rencontre with the Reindeer, and all our efforts to save them after our arrival proved unavailing. It was their first essay, and although wounded, remained at their posts until the contest terminated. The constancy and courage with which they bore their sufferings leaves to the country the melancholy though proud reflection of what they might have been, had Providence ordained otherwise. Every respect due to worth was shewn to their memory.

It is with regret that I have to inform you of the delays we have experienced at this place, but had they been of shorter duration we could not possibly have sailed, as one continued westerly wind has prevailed from the hour of arrival up to the present day.

The course pointed out in your instructions having been interrupted, I shall endeavour to fulfil your further intentions as far as may possibly be in my power.

With great satisfaction, I add that every aid and information in the power of Mr. Crawford has been promptly afforded, and that I feel under many obligations to him for his attention and assistance.

We are now off this place with a fair wind and favorable prospects.

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

J. BLAKELEY.

Hon. Wm. Jones, Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. S. Wasp, at Sea, 11th Sept. 1814. Lat. 40. N. Long. 16. W.

SIR—After a protracted and tedious stay at L'Orient, I had at last the pleasure of leaving that place on Saturday 27th August. On the 30th, captured the British brig Lettice, Henry Cockbain, master; and 31st August, the British brig Bon Accord, Adam Durno master. In the morning of the 1st September, discovered a convoy of ten sail to leeward, in charge of the Armada 74, and a bomb ship, stood for them and succeeded in cutting out the British brig Mary, John D. Allan, master, laden with brass cannon taken from the Spaniards, iron cannon and military stores from Gibraltar to England, removed the prisoners, set her on fire and endeavored to capture another of the convoy, but was chased off by the Armada. On the evening of the same day, at 1-2 past 6, while going free, discovered four vessels nearly at the same time, two on the starboard, and two on the larboard bow, hauled up for the one most on the starboard bow, being the farthest to windward. At 7, the chase (a brig) commenced making signals with flags, which could not be distinguished for want of light, and soon after made various ones with lanterns, rockets and guns. At 26 minutes after 9, having the chase under our lee bow, the 12 pound carronade was directed to be fired into him, which he returned; ran under his lee to prevent his escaping, and at 29 minutes after 9 commenced the action. At 10 o'clock, believing the enemy to be silenced, orders were given to cease firing, when hailed and asked if he had surrendered. No answer being given to this, and his fire recommenced, it was again returned. At 12 minutes after 10, the enemy having suffered greatly and having made no return to our two last broadsides, I hailed him the second time to know if he had surrendered, when he answered in the af-

firmative. The guns were then ordered to be secured and the boat lowered to take possession. In the act of lowering the boat, a second brig was discovered, a little distance astern and standing for us. Sent the crew to their quarters, prepared every thing for another action, and awaited his coming up—at 30 minutes after 10, discovered two more sails astern standing towards us. I now felt myself compelled to forego the satisfaction of destroying the prize. Our braces having been cut away, we kept off the wind until others could be rove, and with the expectation of drawing the second brig from his companions, but in this last we were disappointed. The second brig continued to approach us until she came close to our stern, when she hauled by the wind, fired her broadside which cut our rigging and sails considerably, and shot away a lower main cross tree, and retreated her steps to join her consorts—when we were necessitated to abandon the prize, he appeared in every respect a total wreck. He continued for some time firing guns of distress until probably delivered by the two last vessels who made their appearance. The second brig could have engaged us if he had thought proper, as he neared us fast, but contented himself with firing a broadside, and immediately returned to his companions.

It is with real satisfaction I have again the pleasure of bearing testimony to the merits of Lieuts. Reilly, Tillinghast, Baur, and Sailing Master Carr; and to the good conduct of every officer and man on board the Wasp. Their divisions and departments were attended and supplied with the utmost regularity and abundance, which, with the good order maintained, together with the vivacity and precision of their fire, reflects on them the greatest credit. Our loss is two killed, and one slightly wounded with a wad. The hull received four round shot, and the foremast many grape shot. Our rigging and sails suffered a great deal. Every damage has been repaired the day after, with the exception of our sails.

Of the vessel with whom we were engaged, nothing positive can be said, with regard to her name or force. While hailing him previous to his being fired into, it was blowing fresh (then going ten knots) and the name was not distinctly understood. Of her force, the four shot which struck us are all thirty-two pounds in weight, being a pound and three quarters heavier than any belonging to this vessel. From this circumstance, the number of men in her tops, her general appearance and great length, she is believed to be one of the largest brigs in the British navy.

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

(Signed) J. BLAKELEY.

The Hon. WILLIAM JONES, Secretary of the Navy.
P. S. I am told the enemy, after his surrender, asked for assistance and said he was sinking—the probability of this is confirmed by his firing signal guns for some time after his capture.

The action took place in lat. 47, 30. N.

Copy of a letter from commodore Macdonough, to the Secretary of the Navy.

United States Brig Eagle, Chazy, Nov. 6, 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that about six tons 8 inch shells have been taken out of the Lake by us at this place, which were thus secreted by the enemy in his late incursion into this country.

A transport sloop has also recently been raised at Isle La Motte, which was sunk by the enemy loaded with their naval stores, and various instruments of war. On weighing the powder taken on board the enemy's squadron, we find 47,000 pounds, with shot in proportion, besides much fixed ammunition.

I have the honor to be, Sir, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

T. MACDONOUGH.

The Hon. Wm. Jones, Secretary of the Navy.

State Legislature.

LEGISLATURE OF NORTH-CAROLINA.
HOUSE OF COM. THURSDAY, NOV. 24.
Col. Jesse A. Pearson was elected a Brigadier General of the 17th brigade of the militia of this state.

FRIDAY, NOV. 25.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from Doct. James Smith, of the city of Baltimore on the subject of vaccination; which, with the documents accompanying it, was referred to a select joint committee.

On motion of Mr. Ramsay, a committee of military land warrants was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Ramsay, Jones of Halifax, Jones of Hertford, Benton, Lenoir and Blackman, on the part of the house, and of Mess. Bower, Ballard and Moore on that of the senate.

Mr. Baker presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of this state, on the subject of vaccination, which, being read, was referred to the joint committee appointed on Dr. Smith's letter.

Rec'd from the Senate, a bill to amend an act passed at the last session of the general assembly, erecting an academy in the town of Tarborough, which was read the first time and returned. Also, a bill to repeal the first clause of an act passed in 1812, to amend the militia laws of this state, which was likewise read the first time and returned, with a message proposing to refer the same to a select joint committee on the militia laws.

Thomas T. Armstrong and Wm. M. White were elected engrossing clerks.

A resolution was read from the senate, lowering the daily compensation of the members to one dollar and fifty cents, which resolution, on motion of Mr. Barringer, was laid on the table until the 2nd Monday of Dec. next.

Received from the senate a resolution authorising the governor to draw on the treasury for such sum of money as shall be sufficient to enable the Regiment of militia ordered to assemble at Hillsborough on the 29th instant, to march to Norfolk, in the state of Virginia, in the event that supplies should not be furnished by the general government. Read and returned and the House adjourned.

SATURDAY, NOV. 26.

Mr. Baker presented a petition from sundry citizens on the subject of the fisheries in Roanoke and Cashie rivers. Referred to the committee of propositions and grievances.

Mr. Roberts presented the petition of sundry citizens complaining of the numerous exemptions from militia duty under the existing laws, and praying a revision of the same. Referred to the committee on the militia laws.

The bill respecting the Tarborough academy was read the second time.

Mr. Dickens presented a bill to amend the militia laws of this state, which was read and referred to the joint committee on that subject.

Mr. O. K. Williams presented a bill to repeal an act passed in 96, making compensation to the owners of outlawed or executed slaves, so far as the same relates to the county of Beaufort. Read and sent to the senate.

Mr. Porter presented the following resolution. Resolved, that a select committee be appointed of five members of this house to consider of and report the most expedient way to obtain information from the general government, how far, and under what principles and restrictions, they will pay or assume to pay the monies advanced by the different states in prosecuting the war. Ordered to lie on the table.

The bill respecting the Tarborough academy was read a third and last time and ordered to be engrossed.

The resolution authorising his excellency the governor to draw from the treasury fifteen hundred dollars, for the purpose of enabling the militia assembling at Hillsborough to march to Norfolk, was rec'd from the senate, having passed the third reading in that body.

Mr. Stanly moved an amendment thereto in the following words:

Provided, his excellency the governor shall be previously assured from the general government that the money thus advanced shall be repaid to the state.

This motion was advocated by Mr. Stanly and Mr. A. Moore, on the ground that the United States having in many cases refused refunding the monies expended by the different states on behalf of the militia, it was a duty to ascertain what they would do in the present case before the money was advanced from this treasury. The general government had called for these men, and were certainly aware that they would require supplies and the means of transportation to enable them to reach the post they were intended to defend. There was consequently no excuse for the neglect which had been discovered. At all events it was a duty they owed to the revenue of the state, of which they were appointed by their constituents the especial guardians, to have an explicit assurance it would be refunded, before they undertook to apply it to the uses of the U. States. Mr. Moore strongly insisted on this point, and asserted that the replies of the general government, on cases of application for remuneration of similar advances, much more resembled the quibbles of special pleading than the plain and dignified replies which became the occasion.

Mr. Pearson opposed the amendment on the ground that it was now too late to wait for the proposed answer. The men were on their march, daily arriving at the place of rendezvous, and must consequently suffer unless immediately relieved.

Mr. Drew of Halifax also spoke in opposition. He said the present motion seemed inauspicious to the prospect of unanimity and cooperation, of which at the commencement of the session there had been so flattering a prospect. He had a day or two ago indulged the pleasing belief that in this whole assembly there would be but one voice and one arm in assisting the general government against the common enemy—that enemy who was doing every thing in his power to destroy us—and had officially proclaimed his intention of laying waste every assailable point on our coast. But thank God there was nothing like despondency in the country! We had beat this powerful foe in the gristle of our youth and were easily doing it now that our strength had reached maturity. He had every confidence in the patriotism & honorable intentions of the gentleman from Newbern, (Mr. Stanly.) But this amendment he could not vote for, because it would produce delay. The money was intended to relieve the necessities of our poor fellow citizens who had to march to defend their country. The sum was too trifling to be regarded at a moment like this. Fifteen hundred dollars!—why if it were fifteen thousand, said Mr. D. I have confidence enough in the public spirit of the people to think that they would cheerfully give it. They would not mind it, sir, any more than a whiff of tobacco smoke. Mr. D. said he had not risen merely for the sake of debate—for he spoke with pain—but to urge upon the house the propriety of voting against the amendment.

Mr. Callaway also took the same side, and maintained that the amendment could not answer any good end. The men were suffering and must be supplied.