

HORNETS'



NEST.

VOLUME I.

" QUI ME COMMOVERIT (MELIUS NON TANGERE CLAMO)
" FLEBIT, ET INSIGNIS TOTA CANTABITUR URBE."

NUMBER 26.

BY BRYANT BRAMBLE, ESQ.

MURFREESBOROUGH, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1813.—PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY DICKINSON AND HUNTINGTON.

TERMS OF THE NEST.

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Murfreesboro', Sept. 3, 1812

DOMESTICK.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Mr. Williams called for the order of the day on the bill No. 18, entitled, an act supplementary to the act for arming and classing the whole body of militia of the United States, which was taken up, Mr. Lewis in the chair.

The first section of this bill appropriates \$ 400,000 "in addition" to the 200,000 dolls. appropriated by the act to which this act is a supplement.

The 2nd section authorises the president to purchase or cause to be manufactured, the arms, and have them stamped or engraved with the words "Militia of the U. States."

3d. The arms to be distributed among the states and territories in proportion to their effective militia, in such mode as shall be provided by their respective legislatures.

4th. Any person attempting to export or convey out of the U. S. any of said arms, are subject to a fine of 50 dollars for each stand.

5th. Contains the oath or affirmation, which it is the duty of collectors to administer to captains of vessels.

6th. The militia from 18 to 31 to be called out for a period not exceeding 3 months, and cannot be compelled to do duty out of their respective state or territory—This description to be called "the minor class."

7th. The militia from 21 to 31 to be called "the junior class," to serve 9 months.

8th. Those from 31 to 45 to make "the senior class," and serve for 6 months in the state or territory in which they reside.

9th. The adjutant general of the respective states to make their returns, particularly designating each class in separate columns. Each militia captain on the 2d Monday in April to enrol every militia-man in his company according to their several classes—The enrollment to stand good for one year.

10th. When only part of either class shall be called out. The quota so required to be designated by lot; but not to do duty a 2d time until the whole class shall have served

one term. Each militia-man at liberty to furnish an able bodied substitute.

11th. Every militia officer who fails in his duty to be cashiered by sentence of a court martial, and fined at discretion, not exceeding \$100; unless good cause be shewn for such deficiency, &c.

Tuesday, February 9.
ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE U. STATES.

The hour of 12 having arrived, the Senate entered the Hall of Representatives, preceded by their President, Secretary, Serjeant at Arms and Door-keeper, and proceeded to seats prepared for them, the Members of the House having risen to receive them, and remaining standing until all had entered. The President of the Senate took a seat which had been prepared for him at the Speaker's right hand, & the Secretary of the Senate was placed beside the Clerk of the House. The tellers, Mr. Franklin of the Senate, and Messrs. Macon and Tallmadge of the House, were seated at a table in front of the Speaker's chair.

The President of the Senate then proceeded to open and hand to the Tellers the sealed returns from each state, which were severally read aloud by one of the Tellers & noted down and announced by the Secretaries of each House.

The votes having all been opened and read, the following result was announced from the Chair by the President of the Senate, viz.

The Result of the Votes.

	For President.	For Vice-President.
JAMES MADISON.	128	89
JARED INGERBOL.	7	86
ELBRIDGE GERRY.	2	20
D. WIGHT CLINTON.	4	4
NEW HAMPSHIRE	8	1
MASSACHUSETTS	22	2
RHODE ISLAND	4	4
CONNECTICUT	9	9
VERMONT	8	8
NEW YORK	29	29
NEW JERSEY	8	8
PENNSYLVANIA	25	25
DELAWARE	4	4
MARYLAND	6	5
VIRGINIA	25	25
NORTH CAROLINA	15	15
SOUTH CAROLINA	11	11
GEORGIA	8	8
TENNESSEE	8	8
KENTUCKY	12	12
OHIO	7	7
LOUISIANA	3	3

The President of the Senate declared JAMES MADISON to be elected President of the United States for four years ensuing the 4th day of March next, and ELBRIDGE GERRY Vice President of the United States for a like term of years.

The Senate departed from the House in the order and manner they had entered; and

The House adjourned.

Navy of the United States.

Navy Department, Feb. 2d, 1813.

Sir—Permit me to revive the

suggestions I had the honor to make to you, in conversation, relative to the better organization of the Navy Department, and though it would be premature in me to offer any general system of improvement, yet in my view, there are some prominent defects in the establishment which are susceptible of a simple remedy, similar to that which necessity urged the adoption of in relation to the War Department.

The vital error appears to me to consist in loading the chief of the Department with the cognizance of details, and with the execution of duties which divert his attention from the sound direction of the great and efficient objects of the establishment—or the inevitable alternative is to submit the execution of those duties to subordinate agents, whose responsibility does not afford a sufficient guarantee to the public for the judicious and faithful discharge of the trust. Of this nature is the duty of forming contracts, making purchases, and the effective control and accountability of navy agents, now spread over the interior as well as the Atlantic coast, and which I conceive would employ to great publick advantage a distinct department directed by a responsible and able head. If, in the present state of our navy, this view of the subject is in any degree correct, the increase as now provided for by law must render it indispensable.

I would, therefore, respectfully suggest the idea of a Naval Purveyor's Department, with deputies, as many as may be necessary, to be nominated by the President to the Senate. The Purveyor to reside in some of our central seaport towns, where the state of the market and the information, necessary to form contracts to advantage, can be best known and effected with the best security; the Secretary of the Navy retaining the control and general direction of all important contracts, to be formed by the Purveyor.

Permit me also to ask of you to consider the propriety of increasing the appropriation for clerks in the Navy Department, so as to admit of the addition of two able clerks to the number now employed. I would also suggest the propriety of providing for the appointment of an additional number of captains, in anticipation of those authorised by the act for building the 74's. There is not now a single vacancy, and unless a captain is taken from one of the navy yards there is no commander for the Macedonian, although a distinguished master commandant has been designated for that promotion and command; indeed we have none to provide for casualties or the fate of battle.

I would also draw your attention to a species of force of vast importance for short coasting convoys, as well as for the annoyance of the enemy; I mean corvettes, such as the Hornet or rather larger (such the enemy employs). Of this valuable class of vessels we are almost destitute.

I think six vessels of this class would be desirable. They can be built by contract on favourable terms, and in service in 4 months. Orders have been given to construct and equip two corvettes at Erie,

and one at Sackett's Harbor, with a view to the complete command of the whole of the lakes. I think, sir, the public could be amply remunerated for the additional six corvettes, by a reduction of the number of gun boats now in service, and of the officers and crews of those that may be retained in situations admitting of such diminution.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully sir, your obedient servant,

W. JONES.

Hon. Burwell Bassett,
Chairman of the Naval Committee,
House of Representatives,
Navy Department, Feb. 3d, 1813.

Sir—With reference to the note I had the honour to address to you on the 2d instant, permit me to add, that the authority to increase the number of captains is equally applicable to the circumstances of the Adams frigate, intended for Captain Morris, who is not yet appointed, and for whom there is no vacancy.

I also pray your attention to a subject which menaces the service with serious inconvenience. Offences committed on board privateers, are to be tried by naval courts martial; two have been called for and ordered, since I have been in office. It is at all times inconvenient and expensive to institute these tribunals, and in many cases may be impracticable; meanwhile the accused may be suffering the rigours of an unjust imprisonment, and the frequency of offences or charges may create very serious evils. Indeed a case has already occurred in which an individual has suffered several months close confinement waiting trial. Cannot some other tribunal be substituted?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. JONES.

Navy Department, Feb. 4th, 1813.

Sir—Upon more mature reflection and investigation, I am induced to believe that it will for this session be best to postpone the creation of the Purveyor's office, lest it should militate with some of the arrangements necessary to be made at an early period; and during the recess I shall have an opportunity of testing the utility of the plan, as well as of suggesting some improvements of the system. All that will be necessary at present, will be to provide for two additional clerks in this department; and I believe they are really necessary. I would propose to embrace, in the appropriation of building and equipping the sloops of war, the whole number which may be necessary both on the lakes and the sea, by a section authorising the building sloops of war (say ten of the largest class), and a section appropriating for the building & equipping the said sloops of war, including \$200,000 for expences incurred in the purchase and building of vessels on the lakes, dollars.

I am respectfully, Sir your obedient servant,

W. JONES.

Hon. Burwell Bassett,
Chairman of the Naval Committee,
Head Quarters, Carrying River,
24th January 1813.

DEAR SIR—The event of which I expressed so much apprehension in my letters to you, from Lower San-

dusky, has happened. The detachment under Col. Lewis was reinforced by Gen. Winchester with 250 men. He attacked it, and took the command at the river Raisin on the 20th, and on the 22d, he was attacked at several places by a considerable British and Indian force with 6 pieces of artillery, the troops being surprised and in a most unfavourable position, had but little opportunity of forming to the advantage. They were surrounded and broke in 20 or 25 minutes. Major and captain and about 25 soldiers were all that effected the escape.

I had 300 men with me, about 3 miles above the Rapids, where the news first reached me. I immediately ordered them to prepare to march, and set out with my staff to overtake a detachment of 300 men that had set out that morning for the river Raisin. I overtook them at the distance of 15 miles, but before the other troops (Colonel Andrews' Ohio regiment) came up, it was ascertained that the defeat was complete, and it was the unanimous opinion of Generals Payne, Perkins, and the field officers, that we should return. A detachment to the amount of 150 of the most active men, was sent forward with directions to proceed as far as possible to assist those who were fortunate enough to escape: there were however but few; the snow was so deep that the fugitives were entirely exhausted in running a few miles; those that did get off effected it by turning down to the lake and secreting themselves. I believe there were not more than 40 or 50 that got a mile from the scene of action, and the greater part of them were overtaken.

Never were the affairs of any army in a more prosperous situation than ours before the unfortunate step of marching the detachment to the river Raisin; it was made not only without any authority from me, but in opposition to my views. Every thing in my power was, however, done to prevent any disaster, and reinforcements were pushed on with as much rapidity as possible: (Major Cotgrove's battalion, the first in the army) was within 14 miles of the scene of action, when he heard of the defeat, and 300 regular troops were also on their way. I remained at the Rapids with one regiment only. In justice to General Winchester, I must observe, that I have understood that the measure (marching the detachment to the river Raisin) was forced upon him by his officers; but, whatever may have been the cause, and however great the calamity, both as it regards the nation and individuals, it is certainly not irreparable. By the unanimous advice of the general and field officers, I took this position yesterday, for the purpose of forming a speedy junction with the troops in the rear, and to cover the very valuable convoy of artillery and stores that are coming from Upper Sandusky. Unless the weather is very unfavourable, I shall be at the Rapids again in 4 or 5 days, and shall certainly give the enemy an opportunity of measuring their strength with us in another contest. For myself I feel no doubt as to the result, and if I can judge of the disposition of the troops, from the manner in which they received an address from me yesterday, a desire of avenging their