



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1813.

No. 744

Vol. XIV.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DEBATE

On the Address to the President.

[Continued from our last.]

Friday, Nov. 26

Mr. BRANCH said, the importance of the subject before the Senate, and the duty which he owed to himself and to those whom he represented, must plead his apology for noticing a few of the reiterated statements which had been made by gentlemen on this question.

He had hoped that the luminous arguments of his friend from Edgecomb (Mr. Clark) would have rendered it unnecessary for him to have troubled the house with any remarks on this occasion; but as the statements had been repeated, and as, in the language of the gentleman from Orange he conceived it due to the people of North Carolina that this subject should be looked into; that they should know what the General Government had done for our protection; that they should know the truth, not in part, but the whole truth. But does this Report asked Mr. B. contain the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? He apprehended not.

The Report states that we have had to rely upon our own efforts for defence, that the General Government has not afforded us the least aid. Is this true? Were not the detached Militia ordered out by the command of the General Government & at their expense, for the purpose of repelling the invasion? How then, can gentlemen reiterate the charge that no protection had been afforded to the State?

The gentleman from Martin and the gentleman from Orange, if he understood them, differed materially on this subject. The gentleman from Orange says the report alludes to the state of things since the declaration War; but the gentleman from Martin County says it refers to the time from the period of the invasion. It is presumed that the gentleman from Orange, being a member of the committee who made the Report, must understand the import of his own language.

Again the Report intimates, that though we have had confidence in the General Government, yet their neglect towards this State has been such as to impair that confidence. This is not absolutely expressed, but it is implied. And can it be right, at the present crisis, to manifest to the world a diminution of confidence towards the Administration of our Government when she has not only to contend with a most implacable external foe, but with internal enemies also? He hoped the Senate would duly consider the importance of the vote they were about to give, and not suffer themselves to sanction as truths statements that would be found, on enquiry, to say the least of them, greatly exaggerated.

Mr. J. WRIGHT said, the Senate were called upon to postpone indefinitely the Report under consideration. Before this disposition of the Report is made, we ought, said he, to enquire into the object of it. This had been explained in detail in a more masterly manner than he could do it, and if our maritime frontier be in the defenceless state which it is represented in the report, he could see no propriety in adopting the motion proposed.

Mr. W. said he would not take up the time of the house in showing what is the state of our maritime frontier, by recurring to unofficial authority; but he would for this purpose beg permission to read a letter from the Governor's Letter-Book. [Mr. W. read a letter from General Pinckney to the Governor on the subject of fortifying our coast.]

No one could say that our maritime frontier is not exposed; and if we attend to a late message from his Excellency the Governor, we have reason to believe that ere long we shall be invaded by a powerful and implacable foe. If we have any re-

gard, therefore, for our own safety, it is our indispensable duty to come forward and apply for relief to the General Government whose business it is to provide for the defence of the Union.

The resources of N. Carolina, he said, were not equal to our present exigencies. Could he believe that they were, no man would be more willing to make the necessary appropriations, and suffer the General Government to apply all her resources against our Enemy in Canada. Mr. W. complained that the same attention had not been paid to the protection of this State that had been paid to the protection of our sister States: Were he not convinced of this, such was his veneration for the General Government, that he would not join in the proposed Remonstrance at the present juncture of our Affairs; but the magnitude of other States had so far eclipsed North Carolina, that she had been almost altogether neglected, not only by the present but by former Administrations, though she was, from her resources and population, the fifth State in the Union.

We are engaged in a war with a powerful foe, said Mr. W. who, we have good reason to believe at this time, meditates an invasion of the Southern Country. We have therefore just cause of alarm.

The report before the Senate in his opinion, contains a correct exposure of our defenceless situation. And it appears, though frequent applications have been made to the Gen. Government for aid, they have all proved abortive. His Excellency the Governor is at one time referred to one character and at another to some other. His first reference was to Gen. Pinckney. He applied to the General, and what was the result? General Pinckney did not possess the power of affording the relief sought for. The reference was therefore improperly made. He could not suspect the motives of the General Government in their treatment of this State, but their conduct could not arise from a want of knowledge of our situation. In order to bring this matter more immediately into view, Mr. W. said he would read some extracts from letters in the Governor's Letter-Book on this subject. [Mr. W. read the extracts.]

It appears said Mr. W. that the Governor is referred to a Commissary of supplies at Norfolk, for munitions of war. But on application to this man, he receives for answer that he is not able to supply him. He was not prepared to say that the President of the United States is culpable for all these things; but certainly these occurrences have operated against the people of North Carolina, and we ought to express our sentiments on the occasion; if not we cannot expect to be relieved from our present exposed situation.

Mr. W. did not think that the General Government intended entirely to overlook this State; but an opinion had been entertained by many, and it might be the opinion of the General Government, that our shoally coast was our best protection. But, said he, it is time to invalidate this opinion, and to call upon Government for that portion of her regard which is due to us, and which had been extended to other States. He admitted that greater apprehensions of danger from the enemy might be entertained at Charleston than at Wilmington; but surely as we contribute our full proportion towards the support of the General Government, our seaports, though of less consequence than many others, ought not to be entirely overlooked.

Are we prepared, asked Mr. W. to give into the opinion that North Carolina will not be visited by the enemy—that we have nothing to fear on that head? He did not enter in this opinion. If the enemy visit the Southern Coast, and find Virginia so well prepared, as to be able to meet them with success, he will advance northward South; and if they find S. Carolina

prepared to repel them, they will no doubt take a middle ground, and go against Wilmington and other places on our coast; and if we are not in a situation to give them a proper reception, much mischief will be the consequence. What, said he, would be the situation of the counties in that quarter, whose population is well known to consist of a description of persons that would be exposed to the machinations of the Enemy? He would not undertake to describe the dreadful effects of such a visitation. To prevent these difficulties, let us, said he, call upon the General Government, to aid us on our maritime frontier; with this aid, and the assistance of the Militia of some of the adjoining counties; we may make such a resistance as at least will not invite attack.

Mr. W. acknowledged that on first reading the Report, he was not altogether satisfied with it; but upon obtaining further information upon the subject, and after examining the correspondence which had taken place between his Excellency the Governor and the Departments of the General Government, and revolving all these circumstances in his mind, he could not forbear giving his vote for the adoption of the report. He hoped the House would harmonize on this subject, that the proposed Address to the President might have all the weight which it was the intent of the State it should have.

[Mr. Holmes's & Mr. Murphey's Speeches, which conclude the Debate, in our next.]

THE WAR.

GLORIOUS VICTORY!

The massacre at Tusaw is avenged!—and hundreds of savages atone for the murder of our citizens in Morgan county. Capt. Barton arrived here expressing yesterday evening from our Army with dispatches for Gen. Pinckney giving the official details of a brilliant victory over the Indians.

[OFFICIAL.]

HEAD QUARTERS Sixth and Seventh Districts, Milledgeville 7th Dec 1813.

SIR—I have the honor of receiving to you a copy of the official account which I have just received from Brig. Gen. Floyd, of an attack made by him on the hostile Indians, and sincerely congratulate your Excellency on the good conduct and bravery displayed on this occasion by the officers and troops of the state in which you preside.

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

THOMAS PINCKNEY, His Excellency, Peter Early.

Camp west of Chatahouche, December 4, 1813.

MAJ GEN. PINCKNEY— SIR—I have the honor to communicate to your Excellency an account of an action fought the 29th ult. on the Talapoosie river, between a part of the force under my command, and a large body of the Creek Indians.

Having received information that a number of the hostile Indians were assembled at Autossee, a town on the southern bank of the Talapoosie, about 18 miles from the Hickory Ground, and 20 above the junction of that river with the Coosa. I proceeded to its attack, with nine hundred and fifty of the Georgia militia, accompanied by between three and four hundred friendly Indians. Having encamped within nine or ten miles of the point of destination the preceding evening, we resumed the march a few minutes before one on the morning of the 29th, and at half after six were formed for action in front of the town.

Booth's Battalion composed the right column, and marched from its centre—Watson's Battalion composed the left, and marched from its right—Adams's Rifle Company and Meriwether's under Lt. Hendon, were on the flanks—Capt. Thomas's Artillery marched in front of the right column in the road.

It was intended to have completely surrounded the enemy by approaching the town from the wing of my force on Campbell Creek, at the mouth of which I was informed the town stood, and rest-

ing the left on the river bank below the town; but to our surprize, as the day dawned, we perceived a second town about five hundred yards below that which we had first viewed and were preparing to attack. The plan was immediately changed—three companies of Infantry on the left were wheeled to the left into echelon, and advanced to the low town, accompanied by Meriwether's Rifle Company and two troops of Light Dragoons under the command of Captains Irwin and Steele.

The residue of the force approached the upper town, and the battle soon became general. The Indians presented themselves at every point, and fought with the desperate bravery of real Fanatics. The well directed fire, however, of the Artillery, added to the charge of the bayonet, soon forced them to take refuge in the out houses, thickets and copses in rear of the town; many it is believed concealed themselves in caves, previously formed for the purpose of secure retreat, in the high Bluff of the river, which was thickly covered with reed and brushwood. The Indians of the friendly party who accompanied us on the expedition, were divided into four companies, and placed under the command of leaders of their selection. They were by engagement entered into the day previous, to have crossed the river above the town and been posted on the opposite shore during the action, for the purpose of firing on such of the enemy as might attempt to escape, or to check any reinforcements which might probably be thrown in from the neighboring towns; but owing to the difficulty of the ford and coldness of the weather, and the lateness of the hour, this arrangement failed, and their leaders were directed to cross Campbell Creek and occupy that flank, to prevent escapes from the Tallissee town. Some time after the action commenced, our Red Friends thronged in disorder in the rear of our lines. The Cowetas under McIntosh and the Tokaubatchians under the Mad Dog's Son, fell on our flanks, and fought with an intrepidity worthy of any troops.

At 9 o'clock the enemy was completely driven from the plain, and the houses of both towns were wrapped in flames. As we were then 60 miles from any depot of provisions, and our five days rations pretty much reduced in the heart of an enemy's country, which in a few moments could have poured from its numerous towns hosts of the fiercest Warriors, as soon as the dead and wounded were properly disposed of, I ordered the place to be abandoned, and the troops to commence their march to Chatahouche.

It is difficult to determine the strength of the enemy, but from the information of some of the Chiefs, which it is said can be relied on, there were assembled at Autossee, Warriors from eight towns for his defence, it being their holy ground, on which they proclaimed no white man could approach without inevitable destruction. It is difficult to give a precise account of the loss of the enemy; but from the number which were lying scattered over the field, together with those destroyed in the towns, and the many slain on the bank of the river, which respectable officers affirm they saw lying in heaps at the water's edge, where they had been precipitated by their surviving friends, their loss in killed, independent of their wounded, must have been at least 200 [among whom were the Autossee and Tallassee Kings] and from the circumstance of their making no efforts to molest our return, probably greater. The number of buildings burnt, some of a superior order for the dwellings of savages, and filled with valuable articles, is supposed to be 400.

Adjutant General Newnan rendered important services during the action, by his cool and deliberate courage. My Aid, Major Crawford, discharged with promptitude the duties of a brave and meritorious officer. Major Pace, who acted as field Aid also distinguished himself; both these gentlemen had their horses shot under them, and the latter lost his. Dr. Williamson Hospital Surgeon, and Dr. Clepton were prompt and attentive in the discharge of their duty towards the wounded during the action.

Major Freeman at the head of I. win's Troop of Cavalry, and part of Steele's made a furious and successful charge upon a body of Indians, and several and completely defeated them—Capt. Thomas and his Company, Captain Adams and Lieutenant Hendon's

Rifle Companies killed a great many Indians, and deserve particular praise. Capt. Barton's company was in the hottest part of the battle, and fought like soldiers. Capt. Myrick, Capt. Little, Capt. King, Capt. Broadnax, Captain Cleveland, Capt. Joseph T. Cunningham and Capt. Lee, with their companies distinguished themselves. Brigade Major Shackleford was of great service in bringing the troops into action; and adjutant Broadnax and Major Montgomery, who acted as assistant Adjutant, showed great activity and courage. Major Booth used his best endeavors in bringing his Battalion to action, and Major Watson's Battalion acted with considerable spirit.—Irwin's Patterson's and Steele's Troops of Cavalry whenever an opportunity presented, charged with success. Lieut. Strong had his horse shot and narrowly escaped, and Quarter Master Tennell displayed the greatest Heroism, and miraculously escaped, though badly wounded, after having his horse shot from under him. The Topographical Engineer was vigilant in his endeavors to render service.

The troops deserve the highest praise for their fortitude in enduring hunger, cold and fatigue without a murmur, having marched a hundred & twenty miles in seven days.

The friendly Indians lost several killed and wounded, the number not exactly known. Cap. Barton, an active and intelligent officer (the bearer of these dispatches) can more particularly explain to your excellency the conduct, movements and operations of the army.

I have the honor to be with high regard, your most obedient servant,

JOHN FLOYD B. G.

[Here follows a list of killed and wounded, consisting of 11 killed and 54 wounded. Amongst the latter were Brig. Gen. Floyd severely and Adj. Gen. Newnan slightly.]

Boston, December 3.

Col. Porter arrived in town on Wednesday evening last, direct from St. Regis, through Burlington.

We learn that an officer arrived in town from French Mills, who left there on Friday last, reports, that the advanced guard of Gen. Wilkinson's army, under Brig. Gen. Brown, were completely successful in their attack upon a body of 700 of the enemy, 15 miles below Williamsburg. The bridge or bridges having been destroyed over a small rivulet on the lower side of which this force was stationed, Brig. Gen. Brown forded the river about 2 miles above, came upon their rear, attacked with his artillery and musketry, and almost literally cut them to pieces—except about 200 made prisoners. It is said very few of their whole force made their escape.

A gentleman arrived in town last evening, who left Burlington on the 29th ult. Gen. Wilkinson was at the French Mills on the 27th. Gen. Boyd was at Plattsburg. Comm. M'Donough was off that place with the American squadron. Gen. Izard was very sick at Plattsburg.

STAMP DUTIES.

Timely Caution.—The following Stamp Duties on all promissory notes to be discounted at the Banks and on all bills of exchange, are to be paid after the 31st Dec. 1813.

Table with 2 columns: Amount of note and Stamp duty in dollars and cents. Rows include amounts from \$100 to \$7000 and above.

After the 31st of December next no promissory note will be discounted at any of the Banks unless the note be written on stamped paper.

NOTICE.

BY reason of losing my eye-sight, I have appointed my friend ELI H. WHITAKER, my Attorney, to sign my name to all contracts, &c. by me made, by Power of Attorney, bearing date the 18th day of November, 1813. Recorded in Halifax county court, November Session, 1813.

MAT. C. WHITAKER.