

THE WAR.

RODGERS'S CRUISE.

Capt of a letter from Commodore Rodgers to the Secretary of War.

U. S. Frigate President.

Sandy Hook Bay, Feb. 29.

SIR—I have to acquaint you that I arrived at my present anchorage last evening at 5 o'clock, after a cruise of 75 days, and now have the honor to detail to you the particulars.

In pursuance of your directions, I sailed from Providence the 5th of December, and although I expected to have run the gauntlet through the enemy's squadron, that was reported to be cruising between Block Island and Gay-head, for the purpose of intercepting the President, I had the good luck to avoid them.

The day after leaving Providence, I re-captured the American schooner, Comet, and bound to New York, with a cargo of cotton, from Savannah, which had been captured by the British and Loire, and in their possession about 48 hours. In a few hours after re-capturing the Comet, a sail was discovered to the eastward, which I felt inclined to avoid, from the circumstance of the weather being hazy, and knowing that I was in the neighborhood of an enemy's squadron; from an advantage of wind, she was enabled however to gain on our lee beam at a distance of 3 or 4 miles, owing to which I was induced to shorten sail, with the intention of offering her battle in the morning, should nothing else be in sight, and she was a ship of the line.

The weather becoming more obscure, at 2 o'clock, prevented our seeing her until daylight, when she stood from us to the N. E. although the President was three to four miles off. From this date until the 25th, we did not see a single sail, except the Recovery, a brig belonging to the British, and bound to Port-au-Prince, from St. Bartholomew, to ballast, on the 11th after reaching the long 35 and lat. 19, being carried that far east by a severe S. W. gale, accompanied by such a heavy sea as to render heaving to, impracticable, without infinite risk, when two large sails were discovered trending to the northward, & to which I gave chase, believing as well from the situation in which they were first discovered, as the manifest disposition they afterwards showed to avoid a separation, that one was a frigate, and the other an Indiaman under her cover; in this I was mistaken, for on a nearer approach I could discover the headmost was a frigate with 7 ports, and her gangway, and the other a ship of equal or little inferior force; on discovering their decided superiority, & supposing them to be enemy's ships, I endeavored during the succeeding night to separate them by steering different courses, and occasionally showing a light—but was unable to succeed, for the headmost at one time was so near that she fired a shot over us whilst her consort was but a few hundred yards astern of her. I now directed our course to be altered, made sail, and continued the remainder of the night to show them a light occasionally, but to no effect, as at daylight they were discovered to be in a situation to unite their force. After this I shaped a course to reach a position to windward of Barbadoes, on a parallel of longitude with Cayenne, and did not meet another vessel till the 20th, when falling in with a Portuguese brig, and receiving information that she had been boarded 36 hours before by two British store ships bound to the West Indies with three hundred troops on board, I crowded sail to the westward in hope of overtaking them; in this I was disappointed, and after a pursuit of four days, hauled for her southward to gain the latitude of Barbadoes, and in that situation on the 5th of January captured the British merchant ship Wanderer, of 7 guns and 16 men, from London bound to Jamaica, partly loaded with plantation stores, and after taking from her such light stores as were of much value, sunk her. In the same position on the 7th, I fell in with the British merchant ship Prince George, in the character of a cartel with prisoners, which with four other British vessels had been captured by two French 44 gun frigates, the Medusa and Nymph, the same ships I had fallen on with 14 days before. On board of the Prince George I sent the prisoners captured in the Wanderer to Barbadoes on parole. On the 9th of January, while still to the windward of Barbadoes, I captured the ship Edward of 6 guns and 8 men, from London bound to Legua, in ballast, which vessel I also sunk. Having learnt from the master of the Edward as well as those of the Wanderer and Prince George, that they had been separated in the Bay of Biscay from their consort, consisting of the Queen 74, two frigates, and two sloops of war, I was induced, owing to a belief that the consort was still to the eastward, to remain to windward of Barbadoes until the 16th of January, when finding they must have passed, I changed my ground and ran off Cayenne, and from thence down the coast of Surinam, Berbice and Gu-

yanah, through between Tobago and Grenada; thence through the Carribean Sea, along the south east side of Portorico, through the Moss Passage, down the north side of Jamaica and other leeward islands, without meeting a single vessel of the enemy, or any other than a Spanish droger and 15 Swedish ships, until I got near the Manilla Reef; near which, after capturing and sinking the British schooner Jonathan, loaded with rum and dry goods, (the most valuable part of which I took on board) I hauled over for the Florida shore, and struck sounding off St. Augustine, and from thence ran on soundings as far as Charleston, passing within 4 or 5 miles of Columbia Island, and as near to Savannah as the weather and depth of water would allow, without meeting a single vessel, except a Spanish brig from the Havana, bound to Spain, but steering for Savannah, in consequence of having sprung a leak.

Arriving off Charleston, (which was on the 14th inst.) I stretched close in with the Bar, and made the private signal of the day to two schooners lying in Rebellion Roads, and which from their appearance I believed to be public vessels. After remaining all day off the Bar with colors hoisted and the before-mentioned signal displayed, without being able to communicate with the schooners, I stood to the northward, and at seven o'clock the next morning discovered and chased a ship to the southward, which after pursuing 8 or 9 miles, led me to a second sail, (a brig under her topsails, with her topgallant mast hoisted, and flying jib boom rigged in) and from thence to the discovery of a third sail, represented from the mast head to be a large frigate; on discovering the third sail, added to the manœuvres of the first and second, I was induced to believe them part of an enemy's squadron, and accordingly hauled up and stood for the former, to ascertain her character; and after making her from the deck, perceived she was a frigate as reported.—I now tacked and shortened sail, believing that towards night I might be enabled to cut off the ship (which was either a small frigate, or large sloop of war) and a brig from the third or largest sail, at this time 9 or 10 miles to windward; in this, however, I was not able to effect my purpose, owing to the weather sail (between sunset and dark) bearing down for the others.—Judging now from the manœuvres that after dark they would chase, I stood to the eastward under short sail; believing that in the morning I might find them in some disorder; at day light, however, owing to the haziness of the weather, they were not to be seen; consequently, I wore and stood back to the westward to make them again, and in a few minutes discovered two (one on the lee, the other on the weather bow) to which I gave chase, but after chasing them about half an hour, the weather becoming more clear and the large ships suddenly making their appearance (one on the weather and the other on the lee beam) I changed my course to the eastward; when the four vessels immediately crowded sail in pursuit; but, owing to the weather, as stated by the enemy's manner of chasing, I was enabled to get clear of them without difficulty in a few hours. From this, I pursued a course on soundings (except in doubling Cape Hatteras) to 18 fathom water off the Delaware, where, in a fog, I fell in with a large vessel, apparently a man of war.—Shortened sail to topsails and cleared ship for action, but she suddenly disappeared, and in a few minutes she, or some other vessel near, being heard to fire signal guns, I stood to the northward from a belief that I was near another squadron. From the Delaware I saw nothing until I made Sandy Hook, when I again fell in with another of the enemy's squadrons, and by some unaccountable cause, was permitted to enter the bay, although in the presence of a decidedly superior force, after having been obliged to remain outside seven hours and a half waiting for the tide.

I am, &c.

JOHN RODGERS.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec'y of the Navy.

LATEST FROM BURLINGTON.

We understand by a gentleman who arrived in this town last evening, from Burlington, that a party of British troops, consisting of about 2000, under the command of Col. Scott, lately crossed over to French Mills, and from thence proceeded to Malone, and Chateaugay Four Corners; but apprehending an attack from the American army at Plattsburg, they precipitately retreated in the midst of a violent storm of snow and hail, on Sunday evening, 10th inst. towards Coteau de Lac.—They inquired with much earnestness about Forsyth's Regiment and appeared to owe them a particular enmity.

About 60 regulars had deserted from them, and were with the American army at Plattsburg.—They were principally Irish, and stated that

one of the regulars to which they belonged would never, should opportunity offer, discharge them from whom we procured the above intelligence, and made prisoner by this party, and having a previous parole in his pocket, was released.—He had sent an express to Gen. Wilkinson, apprising him of the movements of the enemy.

The British Officers, prisoners of war, ordered from Burlington to Cheshire Mass. have all, except two, violated their parole of honor, and deserted to Canada. They were, however, arrested and confined in Montreal prison, by the enemy.

FROM SACKETT'S HARBOR.

Extract of a letter of the 21st of February. "This place is very strong, and defies attack. We have six block-houses calculated to rake every point of approach, and the squadron is advantageously arranged for defensive and destructive purposes. Captain Chauncey is building three vessels of war and converting the Sylph [schr.] into a brig.

"Some are of opinion, that Gen. Wilkinson will undertake an expedition from Plattsburg this winter.—Colonel Scott has marched to the Niagara Frontier with a detachment of regulars. Lieut. Colonel Mitchell reached this post on the 19th inst. with the 3d, regiment of artillery and detachment of the 2d light artillery, from the French Mills; having performed the march in seven days.—Col. Ripley has also arrived, after a very expeditious march, at Watertown with the 11th and 21st regiments of infantry. The troops are healthy. Accommodations are better here than formerly as the town is much improved."

New York, March 4.

A letter to the Editor of the Albany Argus, dated on Wednesday, at Plattsburg, says:—"On Monday Gen. Wilkinson received intelligence, that the enemy were advancing from the west, 3000 strong. The infantry and some companies of artillery and dragoons, immediately marched to meet them, and the troops at Burlington were ordered here. The troops proceeded 14 or 15 miles, when finding the enemy had turned back, they returned to this place. It appears the enemy have been to Malone, and carried off 600 barrels of provisions, left there in consequence of a person's neglecting to bring them on according to contract. They burnt the state arsenal at Malone, and destroyed some private property, mostly belonging to sutlers."

A gentleman from the army states that only 20 barrels were taken by the enemy.

Gloucester, February 26.

THE PRISONERS OF WAR.

During the last week considerable alarm was manifested by the citizens of this place in consequence of a design entertained by the British prisoners of war here, but which was happily discovered in time to prevent the threatened mischief. An order having been recently sent from the War Office to Col. Campbell, commanding officer at this post, to take charge of the British officers on parole here, and send them to Frankfort Kentucky, they were confined in jail until preparations could be made for their removal. Early on the morning of the 11th inst. two gentlemen of respectability gave information to Col. Campbell, that the British officers were conspiring with prisoners at the garrison's short distance above this place, for the purpose of forcibly effecting their escape. The disclosure of the plan was made by two of the British officers, in great confidence to one of the gentlemen who considered it his duty to make the plan known, and accordingly consulted with a friend on the proper manner to proceed. In consequence of this information, Col. Campbell, having first consulted with Governor Meigs and obtained his most decided approbation and concurrence, ordered eleven of the officers to be put in irons, and took such other measures as would completely render any attempt at escape ineffectual. The Mayor also procured a party of militia to patrol the streets and suburbs of the town to make assurance doubly sure. It appears from developments subsequent to the first disclosure, that a part of the plan was, after the prisoners at the garrison had forced the guard, to set fire to the town and while the citizens would necessarily be engaged in extinguishing the fire, to rescue the officers in confinement,

and then all make their escape in the best manner possible. It may not however be improper to state that the British officers deny any intention of the above nature were entertained by them; but that such a design was in agitation there can be no doubt, as the officers acknowledge that propositions were made by the soldiery at the garrison, and assurances given of their readiness to put them in execution.

On Monday last the officers were sent from here in a boat to Frankfort, Kentucky.

DOMESTIC.

AMERICAN FEDERALISTS.

The writer of the following letter, we are informed by the Virginia Enquirer, served as an officer through the revolutionary war—afterwards commanded a regiment of militia in that state—was six successive years a member of the State Legislature—and was afterwards appointed by President Adams commandant of a regiment. The sentiments he expresses are such as every genuine Federalist must feel, and such as must finally prevail in the country.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ENQUIRER.

Having perused in your paper of this day, an extract from "The Yankee," under the head of "Synopsis of speeches in the Legislature"—and having also read in the same paper a piece dated Boston Jan. 28, under the head of "Grand Rebel Caucus," I feel myself as a Federalist, who fought the Revolutionary battles of my country, imperiously called on to disavow the infamous principles advocated in those speeches, and by that Caucus.

No member of the Massachusetts Legislature, or of the Boston Caucus, who advocates the existence of British influence, or who is willing to rebel against the government or constitution of his own country, deserves to be dignified with the name of federalist.—As a true member of the genuine old Washington school, I abhor such men, and detest their principles, and do hereby most solemnly protest against both.—As to the present war which is complained of, I will add—that whether I might have approved the declaration of it or not, is immaterial; it is sufficient that it has been constitutionally declared by the government—that circumstance renders it the duty of every real federalist to exert all the means in his power to prosecute the present war with vigor and effect.—I rejoice that in the just prosecution of this war, two of my boys, as members of the company of Petersburg Volunteers, have already fought the battles of their country, and old as I am, permit me Mr. Editor to assure you, that in this war, even I shall again be prepared, whenever the occasion may require it, to render to my beloved Country every service which may be in my power.

W BENTLY.

A Virginia Federalist.

February 10th 1814.

REPUBLICAN ANTIDOTE.

The following is the concluding paragraph of Mr. Fuller's speech, in the Massachusetts Senate on the answer to the Government's speech.—

"But sir, among all the exceptionable parts of the Answer, I am most shocked and astonished at the cold reception of the news of approaching peace. PEACE, hailed by the wise, moderate and patriotic of all ranks of our countrymen, is by this self named 'PEACE PARTY,' repelled with frigid suspicion and insulting sneers. Has not the war effected your favorite projects? You have not yet vaulted into the places of power and authority, & hurled out & traduced and calumniated patriots to the dust, who had been placed there by the people. The eastern states are not yet severed from their sister states of the south and west, nor is the nation yet desolated by the ravages of civil war.—Hasten then, ye aspiring sons of discord; quick, seize the few moments that remain; march an army to strengthen and foment resistance in Vermont; expel the officers civil and military, the ships and armies of the national government, invite to your aid the hovering navies and armies of England; arm your own fellow citizens against each other; light the torch of civil war, brother against brother; father against son; spread slaughter, flames and devastation over your country! Assuage 'Peace Party!' Your country's infamy and ruin is your pride and glory. But you will not be gratified; your hopes will be blasted. The people have discovered your intentions, England has discovered your imbecility. Peace, honorable, glorious peace will come."

you must retire to merited obscurity and disgrace, and your country with advance to prosperity to fame and happiness."

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, Feb. 25.

Mr. Rhea from the committee on that subject, reported a bill to alter and establish certain post roads; which was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Ingersoll, the bill reported by him for the better organization of the courts of the U. States, for the district of New York, passed thro' a committee of the whole. [This bill apportions the official duties between the two district judges for that district, &c.] The bill was ordered to be engrossed for third reading without amendment.

The House again went in committee of the whole on the loan bill.

Mr. Wright spoke in support of the bill, of the measures of government, particularly in respect to the proposed retaliation for the outrages threatened by the enemy.

Mr. Calhoun followed him in an eloquent and impressive speech, on particular points on the same side of the question.

When he concluded, the House adjourned.

Saturday, Feb. 26.

Mr. Fisk from the committee of foreign relations, reported their agreement to the Senate's amendments to the bill to provide for the return home of vessels detained in other ports by the embargo; and the house concurred in said report.

The house proceeded to consider the resolution submitted by Mr. Eppes on the 24th inst for the appointment of an additional standing committee to be called a committee for public expenditures.

Mr. Eppes explained his object in submitting his resolution; stating that the duties contemplated to be assigned to this committee would fully occupy during the session, and was necessary to relieve the committee of Ways and Means, from much of the business present referred to it, and which it was unable properly to consider, &c.

The resolution was then passed without opposition; and on motion of Mr. Eppes the committee of Ways and Means was discharged from the consideration of such duties as are embraced by the resolution, and the same referred to the committee for Public Expenditures.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the loan bill.

Mr. Pickens took the floor, and a speech of three hours, took a general view of the conduct of the European belligerents, as it affected this country, and the course and policy of the American government, during the republican administrations which he delineated throughout in strong terms. Before Mr. Pickens had concluded he gave way for a motion to that effect, and the committee rose, adjourned Congress, and

The House adjourned.

Monday, Feb. 27.

After going through some preliminary business, the House again went in committee of the whole on the loan bill.

Mr. Pickens resumed his speech against the bill, the commencement of which principally occupied Saturday sitting. He spoke to-day, somewhat vehemently, and sometimes deliberately and argumentatively, against the and early measures of the present administration, and particularly directed the most pointed of his remarks against what he termed the 'democracy of country.' His speech to-day occupied three hours.

Mr. Lowndes in his usual forcible manner, and eloquent language, replied to a part of Mr. Pickens's speech, gave his decided support to the bill under discussion. He spoke till the usual hour of adjournment, without having concluded his remarks on this subject. The committee rose reported great, obtained leave to sit again.

Tuesday, March 1.

Mr. Ingersoll from the Judiciary committee, reported a bill further to amend the judicial system of the United States, which was twice read and referred to committee of the whole House.

Mr. Troup from the Military committee, reported a bill for the more effectual protection of the north west frontier by granting donations of land to actual settlers; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Deane from the committee whom was referred the petition of Cannon on behalf of the United States, made an unfavorable report on the bill, which was ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

The house went into committee of the whole on the loan bill.

Mr. Pickens by permission of the house, made a few remarks in addition to explanatory of some parts of his former speech.