



Observe the plans of fair, delightful Peace,
Unwar p'd party rage, to live like Brothers

From the National Intelligencer.

Washington, August 30.
THE FATE OF WAR

Has befallen the City of Washington. It was taken by the enemy on Wednesday the 24th instant, and evacuated by them in the course of Thursday night, after destroying the interior and combustible part of the Capitol, of the President's house, and of the public offices. The Navy Yard was burnt by order of our officers, on learning that the enemy was in possession of the City. Not having room or time in this hasty publication, to detail particulars, we content ourselves with publishing the following letters, which with a few remarks subjoined must suffice to day. Particulars will be given hereafter.

Copy of a letter from Brig. Gen. Winder to the Secretary of War, dated Baltimore, August 27, 1814.

SIR.—When the enemy arrived at the mouth of Potomac, of all the militia which I had been authorized to assemble, there were about 1700 in the field, from thirteen to fourteen hundred under Gen. Stansbury near this place, and about 250 at Bladensburg, under Lieut. Col. Kramer; the slow progress of drafts and the imperfect organization, with the ineffectiveness of the laws to compel them to turn out, rendered it impossible to have procured more.

The militia of this state and of the contiguous parts of Virginia & Pennsylvania were called on *en masse*, but the former militia law of Pennsylvania had expired the first of June or July, and the one adopted in its place is not to take effect in organizing the militia before October. No aid therefore has been received from that state.

After all the force that could be put at my disposal in that short time, and making such dispositions as I deemed best calculated to present the most respectable force at whatever point the enemy might strike, I was enabled by the most active and harassing movements of the troops to interpose before the enemy at Bladensburg about five thousand men, including three hundred and fifty regulars and Commodore Barney's command. Much the largest portion of this force arrived on the ground when the enemy were in sight and was disposed of to support in the best manner the position which General Stansbury had taken. They had barely reached the ground before the action commenced, which was about 1 o'clock P. M. of the 24th inst. and continued about an hour. The contest was not as obstinately maintained as could have been desired, but was by parts of the troops sustained with great spirit and with prodigious effect, and had the whole of our force been engaged, I am induced to believe that the enemy would have been repulsed, notwithstanding all the disadvantages under which we fought.

The Artillery from Baltimore, supported by Major Pinkney's rifle battalion, and a part of Capt. Doughty's from the Navy Yard, were in advance to command the pass of the bridge at Bladensburg, and played with very destructive effect. But the rifle troops were obliged after some time to retire and of course artillery. Superior numbers however rushed upon them and made their retreat necessary, not however without great loss on the part of the enemy. Major Pinkney received a severe wound in his right arm after he had retired to the left flank of Stansbury's brigade.

The right and centre of Stansbury's brigade, consisting of Lt. Col. Hogan's and Shuter's regiments, generally gave way very soon afterwards, with the exception of about 400 rallied by Col. Ragan, after having lost his horse, and the whole or a part of Capt. Shower's company, both of whom Gen. Stansbury represents to have made, even thus deserted, a gallant stand. The fall which Colonel Ragan received from his horse, together with his great efforts

to sustain his position, rendered him unable to follow the retreat; we have therefore to lament that this gallant and excellent officer has been taken prisoner; he has however been paroled, and I met him here, recovered from the bruises occasioned by his fall. The loss of his services at this moment was serious.

The 5th Baltimore Regt. under Lt. Col. Sterrett, being the left of Brig. Gen. Stansbury's brigade, still, however, stood their ground, and except for a moment when part of them received a few steps, remained firm, and stood until ordered to retreat, with a view to prevent them from being out-flanked.

The reserve under Brig. General Smith of the District of Columbia, with the militia of the City and Georgetown, with the regulars and some detachments of the Maryland Militia, flanked on their right by Commodore Barney and his brave fellows and Lieut. Col. Beal, still were to the right on the Hill, and maintained the contest for some time with great effect.

It is not with me to report the conduct of Com. Barney and his command, nor can I speak from observation, being too remote; but the concurrent testimony of all who did observe them, does them the highest justice for their brave resistance and the destructive effect they produced on the enemy. Com. Barney, after having lost his horse, took post near one of his guns, and there unfortunately received a severe wound in the thigh and he also fell into the hands of the enemy. Capt. Miller of the Marines was wounded in the arm, fighting bravely. From the best intelligence, there remains but little doubt that the enemy lost at least four hundred killed and wounded, and of these a very unusual portion killed.

Our loss cannot, I think, be estimated at more than from thirty to forty killed, and fifty to sixty wounded. They took altogether about 120 prisoners.

You will readily understand that it is impossible for me to speak minutely of the merit or demerit of particular troops so little known to me from their recent and hasty assemblage.—My subsequent movements for the purpose of preserving as much of my force as possible, gaining reinforcements, and protecting this place, you already know.

I am with very great respect, Sir, your obedient servant.

WM. H. WINDER,
Brig. Gen. 10th Military District.
Hon. John Armstrong, Sec. of War.

N. B. We have to lament that Capt. Sterrett of the 5th Baltimore regiment, has also been wounded, but is doing well. Other officers, no doubt, deserve notice, but I am as yet unable to particularize.

The enemy having evacuated the city, those inhabitants who had departed, generally returned on Saturday. No attempt has since been made by the enemy to re-occupy it.

On Saturday, several of the enemy's vessels appeared in sight down the river, and a flag was sent down by the citizens of Alexandria, offering to surrender at discretion.

The following is the disgraceful Capitulation made by the Council of Alexandria:

H. M. S. Seahorse, off Alexandria, 29th August, 1814.

GENTLEMEN—In consequence of a deputation yesterday received from the city of Alexandria, requesting favorable terms for the safety of the city, the undermentioned are the only conditions in my power to offer.

The Town of Alexandria, with the exception of public works, shall not be destroyed, unless hostilities are commenced on the part of the Americans, nor shall the inhabitants be molested in any manner whatever, or their dwellings entered, if the following articles are complied with.

Art. 1. All naval and ordnance stores, (public or private) must be given up.

2. Possession will be immediately taken of all the shipping, and their furniture must be sent on board by the owners without delay.

3. The vessels that have been sunk must be delivered up in the state they were in the 19th August, the day the squadron passed the Kettle Bottoms.

4. Merchandize of every description must be instantly delivered up, and to prevent any

irregularity that might be committed in its embarkation, the merchants have it at their option to load the ships generally employed for that purpose, when they will be towed off by us.

5. All merchandize that has been removed from Alexandria since the 19th inst. is to be included in the above articles.

6. Refreshments of every description to be supplied the ships, and paid for at the market price by bills on the British Government.

7. Officers will be appointed to see that articles, No. 2, 3, 4 and 5, are strictly complied with, and any deviation or non-compliance on the part of the inhabitants of Alexandria will render this treaty null and void.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JOHN A. GORDON,
Capt. of H. M. S. Seahorse, and Senior Officer of his majesty's ships off Alexandria.

To the Common Council of the Town of Alexandria

The fort at or near Warburton was blown up by the commander about dusk on Saturday evening. The following letters relate to that circumstance:

Copy of a letter from the Secretary of War to Capt. Dyson, dated August 29, 1814.

SIR—I send Capt. Manigault with orders to receive your written or verbal report of the causes under which you left the post committed to your charge, in this you will state the orders under which you acted, & from whom received. I am, sir, your most obedient servant.

J. ARMSTRONG,
Capt. Dyson, Corps of Artillery.

Camp at Macon's Island, August 29, 1814.

SIR I had the honor to receive your communication of the 29th inst. The orders received from Brig. Gen. Winder through Maj. Hite, verbally on the 24th inst. were, in case I was oppressed by, or heard of, an enemy in my rear, to spike our guns & make my escape over the river. The enemy approached by water on the 27th, and we had learnt on that day thro' several channels that the enemy had been reinforced at Benedict, 2000 strong, and that they were on their march to co-operate with the fleet, in addition to the force which left the city. Under all these circumstances the officers under my command were consulted, and agreed it was best to abandon the fort and effect a retreat. The force under my command was thought not equal to a defence of the place.

I have the honor to be, with great consideration, your obedient servant,

SAML. F. DYSON,
Capt. Corps of Artillery.

The Hon. John Armstrong,
Sec'y of War, Washington.

Capt. Dyson is, we learn, under arrest, and the command of his company given to Lieut. Spencer.

The President of the United States was not only active during the engagement which took place with the enemy, but had been exerting himself for two or three days previous, and has been personally active ever since. Every one joins in attributing to him the greatest merit.

The enemy's vessels now lie off Alexandria about six miles below this city, and by some are supposed to menace it. We are prepared to meet, and we hope to repel them.

Private property was in general scrupulously respected by the enemy, during his stay in the city, with the exception of two or three houses burnt because guns were fired from them on the enemy. The Office of the National Intelligencer, besides these, was the sole exception. Cockburn, the incendiary hero of Hampton, presided at the demolition of its material parts, and amused the spectators with much of the peculiar slang of the Common Sewer in relation to the Editors of this paper. The destruction of our office will account for the present appearance of our paper.

The officers of government are now all at this place, and about resuming in their ordinary course all the functions of Government, to which a momentary interruption has been given by the sudden incursion of a strong force of the enemy. This event, however it may have produced considerable loss to the Public, much loss

to a few individuals, among whom are ourselves, and great anxiety to all classes, can produce no serious effect, either on the government, or the community generally. The inconvenience, though serious to us and those who have bravely fled to our succour, to the people of the United States, will be momentary; the loss to the proprietors of the city (those excepted whose property was destroyed) was very trivial. The only serious effect is, the stigma which this event will necessarily, we do not say justly, affix on the national character. That stain can only be effaced by future vigor and unity of action. In what manner these should be exhibited, is a point we shall leave for future elucidation.

August 31.

Mr. Secretary MONROE has, in pursuance of the united requests of the commanders of the various description of troops assembled in the district, accepted the command of the military force now in the vicinity.

Gen. Armstrong having yesterday retired from the execution of his duties of Secretary of War in this district, in consequence probably of the prejudice which has been excited against him among the troops, the duties of his office also have been temporarily consigned to the Secretary of State, who immediately entered on the discharge of them. Many measures were forthwith put in a train of execution, which it may not be proper to announce, and the effect of which will be seen in due time.

The enemy continued last night still at Alexandria, emptying the warehouses as agreed on in the capitulation; a capitulation of such a nature as the citizens of Georgetown indignantly repelled an invitation to enter into. Two of the frigates or vessels of war are said to have gone down yesterday, but there are doubtless others below to supply their place.

Night before last, we learn, nine transports of the largest class entered Patuxent river. Their destination is for the present only matter of conjecture.

Troops are every hour arriving in the city, in large or smaller corps, which it would be difficult if we wished to enumerate. Among those arrived or expected are a number of seamen under their gallant commanders.

THE BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG.

Of this interesting and important action there were almost as many accounts as there were men engaged. We have already published the official report of the commander in chief, and we now give such additional particulars as appear interesting & authentic. In doing so, we had none more deserving than the following, selected from the Baltimore papers, and furnished by those, no doubt, who witnessed and took a share in the most arduous part of the conflict. The troops of this city chiefly composed the reserve, and not being fully brought into action, could not of course speak of the most interesting scenes from actual observation; and therefore it is, that we resort to other sources for additional details, omitting from them such remarks as are unimportant, or from a personal view of the battle and from other intelligence, we deem not well founded:

FROM THE BALTIMORE PATRIOT.

AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE OF WASHINGTON.

To the Editors of the Baltimore Patriot, Friday Evening August 26.

Gentlemen—Having witnessed the late unhappy occurrences at Washington, I will agreeably to your request put them on paper, that if necessary they may be used to correct some of the many erroneous reports which are circulating.

I arrived at Washington on Sun-

day, the 21st inst. At that time the officers of government and the citizens were apprehensive of an attack from the British, who had landed in force on the Patuxent. Their numbers had not been ascertained, but reports were various stating them from 4000 to 16,000. General Winder was stationed near the Wood-Yard, with about 2000 men, hourly expecting large reinforcements from every quarter, particularly from Baltimore, 3000 men having been ordered to march immediately for that place.—On Sunday the public officers were all engaged in packing and sending off their books and the citizens their furniture. On Monday, this business was continued with great industry, and many families left the city. The specie was removed from all the Banks in the district. Reports were very current, that Winder had received large reinforcements; so that it was believed by many well informed persons, that he would have 10,000 men embodied in the course of the week, in the expectation that there was a very considerable force collected, the President accompanied by the Secretary at War, and of the Navy, left the city for the camp. They arrived there late that night; and the next morning finding but 3000 men, and learning that the Baltimore troops were encamped at Bladensburg, they returned to the city on Tuesday to make further arrangements. All the books and papers were sent off, and the citizens generally left the place.

In the course of that day a scouting party from General Winder's army had a skirmish with the British advance guard, and returned to camp with such tidings as induced General Winder to retire to the city, which he accomplished by 9 o'clock in the evening, burnt the old bridge which crossed the Eastern Branch and encamped on the hill, directly above the other bridge, about one mile and a half from the Navy Yard, and prepared to defend that passage. In the event of the British being too strong, the bridge was to be blown up, for which he had every thing prepared. At this post he remained the whole night, expecting the enemy's forces. On Wednesday morning I walked through the army, and remained at the bridge until 10 o'clock, when advice was received, that the enemy had taken the Bladensburg road. The troops were immediately put in motion, and by 12 o'clock the whole were on their march, in the hope of forming a junction with the Baltimore troops before the enemy reached Bladensburg. This was only partially accomplished, when the battle commenced, and was contested by the Baltimore troops and the men from the flotilla, with great spirit and gallantry, until it appeared useless for so small a force, very badly supported, to stand against six thousand regulars all picked men and well supplied—a retreat was ordered, when the President who had been on horseback with the army the whole day, retired from the mortifying scene, and left the city on horseback.

On Thursday morning, I proceeded on with the army, to Montgomery Court House, where Gen. Winder's head quarters were established. I had some conversation with him. He appeared to regret very much, that he had not been enabled to have made a greater resistance, although he was perfectly satisfied that a successful resistance could not have been made, with the force in the neighborhood of Washington, since, if all had been brought together before the action, it would not have been so large as that opposed to him, and our force was principally militia, and that of the enemy all regulars and picked men.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

[The following is furnished the editors of the Patriot, by an officer of distinction, who was in the battle.]

The enemy left Bladensburg on Thursday night, by the road to the Patuxent, carrying with them as many of their wounded as forty were not