

I will not suffer myself to believe that this conversation was misunderstood or has since been forgotten.—How then shall I account for the intimation thrown out to the public in your despatch to the Secretary of War, that you expected the fleet to co-operate with you? Was it friendly, or just, or honorable, or only to furnish an opening for the public; but thus to assist them, to infer that I had pledged myself to meet you on a particular day, at the head of the lake, for the purpose of co-operation and in case of disaster to your army, thus to turn their resentment from you, who are alone responsible, upon me, who could not by any possibility have prevented or retarded even your discomfiture. You well know, sir, that the fleet could not have rendered you the least service during your late incursion upon Upper Canada. You have not been able to approach Lake Ontario on any point nearer than Queenstown, and the enemy were then in possession of all the country between that place and the shore of Ontario; so that I could not even communicate with you without making a circuit of 70 or 80 miles. I would ask, of what possible use the fleet could have been to you either in threatening or investing Fort George, when the shallowness of the water alone would prevent an approach with these ships within two miles of that fort or Niagara? To pretend that the fleet could render the least assistance in your projected capture of Burlington Heights on your route to Kingston, is still more romantic; for it is well known that the fleet could not approach within nine miles of those Heights.

That you might find the fleet somewhat of a convenience in the transportation of provisions and stores for the use of the army, and an agreeable appendage to attend its marches and counter-marches, I am ready to believe: but, sir, the Secretary of the Navy has honored us with a higher destiny—we are intended to seek and to fight the enemy's fleet. This is the great purpose of the government in creating this fleet; and I shall not be diverted in my efforts to effectuate it by any sinister attempt to render it as subordinate to an appendage of the army.

We have one common object in the annoyance, defeat and destruction of the enemy; and I shall always cheerfully unite with any military commander in the promotion of that object.

I am, sir, with great consideration and respect, your most obedient servant,

L. CHAUNCEY.

Major General Brown.

HUZZA FOR THE MILITIA.

We do not recollect ever to have read of a more brilliant and decisive exploit by a handful of militia hastily rallied by a partisan officer, than that described in the following extract of a letter, on the correctness of which the fullest reliance may be placed:

Chester Town, Md. Sept. 1.

On or about the 20th ult. the British frigate *Meneaus*, rating 38, carrying 49, and pierced for 54 guns, commanded by Sir Peter Parker, Bt. made her appearance in view of Rock Hall, upon which L. Col. Reed called out the 21st regiment of the Maryland militia.

On Sunday the 28th the enemy came on shore at the farm of Mr. Henry Waller, being on the Chesapeake Bay about 7 miles above Rock Hall, & burnt his dwelling house, barns, all other out houses, wheat in the granary and stack, and in short destroyed every thing by fire that they possibly could—his loss is estimated at \$ or 10,000 dollars.

On Tuesday the 30th they went to the farm of Richard Frisby, Esq. adjoining Waller's (he now resides near Baltimore) and committed the same disgraceful and degrading acts; his loss is supposed to be about the amount of Waller's. At each of the aforesaid places they set fire to the property and made their escape to the frigate before the militia could get down to attack them.

On Tuesday morning also they landed and went to the house of James Frisby, it is supposed for the purpose of burning him out. However Mrs. Frisby prevailed upon them to spare the property. They took with them some poultry, and said they intended that day to attack and defeat Col. Reed and his militia near Bell Air, and then to go and get supper in Chester town. True in part to their promise, about half past 11 o'clock that night they landed between 2 and 3 hundred men, headed by Sir P. Parker; having a few days before taken 4 of Richard Frisby's negroes, they made one of the said negroes pilot them to the American encampment about 2 and a half miles from the bay shore.—Though very recently made, our videttes observed their movements, and

gave information thereof to the Colonel who prepared for action and did fight them with from 150 to 160 militia men, not one of whom except himself had ever been in an engagement; the action lasted half an hour or upwards. On the American side there were three privates wounded, not supposed dangerously, and one taken prisoner. On the British one Master's Mate, 1 Midshipman, 8 privates killed and 5 wounded, left on the field of battle, two of them died of their wounds yesterday. 1 deserter—Sir Peter received two wounds, the last of which was in the head, and killed him instantaneously.

FROM THE MOBILE.

Fort Stoddert, August 1.

We have from time to time received news from Pensacola of the preparations making by the British for an attack upon some part of the southern country. From the obvious importance of New-Orleans and the Mississippi country, as well as from the nature of their preparations, we have been induced to fear that their views were directed towards Louisiana; and, if so, I do not see any thing that can save the intermediate country in which we reside from falling into their hands and becoming the prey of their savage coadjutors. You have probably been aware that large bodies of the Creeks have taken refuge in the Spanish part of West Florida. Their distresses were so great that they had fully determined on returning to their own country, and giving themselves up as prisoners to the American troops. As soon as this was known at Pensacola, they were assured that they would soon receive the necessary supplies; and although no such supplies were actually furnished, yet they confided in the promise; and whenever their distresses seemed to be bearing them down, and they again talked of surrendering, they were again and again encouraged with new prospects of succour and support.

It is some weeks ago, indeed, that accounts, apparently well authenticated, reached Pensacola, that the British had landed a small force at Apalachicola, with 22,000 stand of arms for the Indians, and a large stock of Indian articles.

The depredations on our property which were continually made by the Indians from the neighborhood of Pensacola, induced Gen. Benton, commanding the 39th regiment of infantry, to determine on an attack upon them, which was conducted with vigor, and terminated with all the effect which could be expected to be produced on a fugitive enemy. Gen. Jackson about the same time sent an express to Pensacola from the Creek nation, to demand the Indian Chief M'Queen and the Prophet Francis. Since that the patrols have been doubled at Pensacola, and scour all the roads, on horseback, at some distance from the town. On the 25th of July, Durante, a half breed, came as an express and agent from Apalachicola, which is about 130 miles east of Pensacola, and is the place where the British are making a deposit of arms and ammunition. The next day a number of Indians crossed the bay, after being supplied by the Spaniards with corn, a pint of powder and 50 musket balls each. The head men remained, for the purpose, it is presumed, of hurrying the departure of those behind. Durante, on his arrival, reported that he had seen 3000 English land. The next day, however, (having been cautioned, it is probable, as to what he should say) he declared that he knew nothing about it.

On the 27th of July, an English armed brig and schooner came up to Pensacola. They had come from Apalachicola, and brought a number of Indians who were all dressed in British uniform. The English officer declared that he had a force of 1500 collected, and expected that it would shortly amount to 3000; so that they will probably be able to march with a force of 5000, viz. 2000 British troops and negroes, and the remainder Indians. He also stated that our friend, the Big Warrior, was about to join them.—This, however, does not seem probable, unless the friendly Creeks have taken umbrage on account of the arrangements proposed with regard to their lands. A clerk of Forbes' confirmed the account of the arrival of British troops, reported by Durante. He came with Durante, and gave the account on his first arrival—but afterwards denied it.

It is stated in Pensacola that a large body of Spanish troops was to have been sent for the purpose of re-occupying West Florida and Louisiana, but that their departure has been suspended by a difference between the King and the Cortes, with respect to the extent of the regal authority.

Copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Cochrane to Mr. Monroe.

His Britannic Majesty's ship, the *Tonnant*, in the Patuxent River, 18th August, 1814.

SIR—Having been called upon by the Governor General of the Canadas to aid him in carrying into effect measures of retaliation against the inhabitants of the United States, for the wanton destruction committed by their Army in Upper Canada, it has become imperiously my duty, conformably with the nature of the Governor General's application, to issue to the naval force under my command, an order to destroy and lay waste such towns and districts upon the coast, as may be found assailable.

I had hoped that this contest would have terminated, without my being obliged to resort to severities which are contrary to the usage of civilized warfare, and as it has been with extreme reluctance and concern that I have found myself compelled to adopt this system of devastation, I shall be equally gratified if the conduct of the Executive of the United States will authorize my staying such proceedings, by making reparation to the suffering inhabitants of Upper Canada; thereby manifesting that if the destructive measures pursued by their army were ever sanctioned, they will no longer be permitted by the government.

I have the honor to be, sir, with much consideration, your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed)

ALEX. COCHRANE,

Vice-Admiral and Commander in Chief of H. B. Majesty's ships and vessels upon the North American station.

The Hon. James Monroe, Secretary of State, &c. &c. &c. Washington.

Copy of a letter from Mr. Monroe to Sir Alex. Cochrane, Vice-Admiral, &c. &c.

Department of State, Sept. 6, 1814.

SIR—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 18th of August, stating, that having been called on by the Governor General of the Canadas, to aid him in carrying into effect measures of retaliation against the inhabitants of the United States, for the wanton destruction committed by their army in Upper Canada, it has become your duty, conformably with the nature of the Governor General's application, to issue to the naval force under your command, an order to destroy and lay waste such towns and districts upon the coast as may be found assailable.

It is seen with the greatest surprise, that this system of devastation which has been practised by the British forces, so manifestly contrary to the usage of civilized warfare, is placed by you on the ground of retaliation. No sooner were the United States compelled to resort to war against Great-Britain, than they resolved to wage it in a manner most consonant to the principles of humanity, and to those friendly relations which it was desirable to preserve between the two nations, after the restoration of peace. They perceived however with the deepest regret that a spirit alike just and humane was neither cherished nor acted on by your Government. Such an assertion would not be hazarded, if it was not supported by facts, the proof of which has perhaps already carried the same conviction to other nations that it has to the people of these states. Without dwelling on the deplorable cruelties committed by the Savages in the British ranks, and in British pay, on American prisoners at the River Raisin, which to this day have never been disavowed or atoned, I refer, as more immediately connected with the subject of your letter, to the wanton desolation that was committed at Havre-de-Grace, and at George Town, early in the Spring 1813. These villages were burnt and ravaged by the naval forces of Great Britain, to the ruin of their unarm'd inhabitants, who saw with astonishment that they derived no protection to their property from the laws of war. During the same season, scenes of invasion and pillage, carried on under the same authority, were witnessed along the waters of the Chesapeake, to an extent inflicting the most serious private distress, and under circumstances that justified the suspicion; that revenge and cupidity, rather than the manly motives that should dictate the hostility of a high minded foe, led to their perpetration.—The late destruction of the Houses of the Government in this City is another act which comes necessarily into view. In the wars of modern Europe, no examples of the kind, even among nations the most hostile to each other, can be traced. In the course of ten years past, the Capitals of the principal powers of the continent of Europe have been conquered, and occupied alternately by the victorious armies of each other, and no instance of such wanton and unjustifiable destruction has been seen. We must go back to distant and barbarous ages, to find a parallel for the acts of which I complain.

Although these acts of desolation invited, if they did not impose on the Government the necessity of retaliation, yet in no instance has it been authorized. The burning of the village of Newark in Upper Canada, posterior to the early outrages above enumerated, was not executed on that principle. The village of Newark adjoined Fort George, and its destruction was justified by the officer who ordered it, on the ground that it became necessary in the military operations there.—The act, however, was disavowed by the Government. The burning which took place at Long Point was unauthorized by the Government, and the conduct of the officer subjected to the investigation of a military tribunal. For the burning at St. David's, committed by stragglers, the officer who commanded in that quarter was dismissed without a trial, for not preventing it.

I am commanded by the President distinctly to state, that it is little comports with any orders which have been issued to the military and naval commanders of the United States, as it does with the established and known humanity of the American nation, to pursue a system which it appears you have adopted. The Government owes it to itself, to the principles which it has ever held sacred, to disavow, as justly chargeable to it, any such wanton, cruel and unjustifiable warfare.

Whatever unauthorised irregularity may have been committed by any of its troops, it would have been ready, acting on these principles of sacred and eternal obligation, to disavow, and, as far as might be practicable, to repair. But in the plan of desolating warfare which your letter so explicitly makes known, and which is attempted to be executed on a plea so utterly groundless, the President perceives a spirit of deep rooted hostility, which, without the evidence of such facts, he could not have believed existed, or would have been carried to such an extremity.

For the reparation of injuries, of whatever nature they may be, not sanctioned by the law of nations, which the military or naval force of either power may have committed, against the other, this government will always be ready to enter into reciprocal arrangements. It is presumed that your government will neither expect nor propose any which are not reciprocal.

Should your government adhere to a system of desolation, so contrary to the views and practice of the United States, so revolting to humanity, and repugnant to the sentiments and usages of the civilized world, whilst it will be seen with the deepest regret, it must and will be met with a determination and constancy becoming a free people, contending in a just cause for their essential rights, and their dearest interests.

I have the honor to be, with great consideration, sir, your most obedient humble servant.

(Signed) JAMES MONROE, Vice Ad. Sir ALEX. COCHRANE, Commander in Chief of H. B. Majesty's ships & vessels, &c.

Letter of the late Secretary of War. TO THE EDITORS OF THE BALTIMORE PATRIOT.

It may be due to myself, and is certainly due to others, that the reasons under which I retired from the direction of the War Department, at a juncture so critical as the present, should be fully and promptly known to the public. These reasons will be

found in the following brief exposition of facts.

On the evening of the 29th ultimo, the President called at my lodgings, and stated that a case of much delicacy had occurred; that a high degree of excitement had been raised among the militia of the District; that he was himself an object of their suspicions and menaces; that an officer of that corps had given him notice, that they would no longer obey any order coming through me as Secretary of War; and that in the urgency of the case, it might be prudent so far to yield to the impulse, as to permit some other person to exercise my functions in relation to the defence of the District.

To this statement and proposition, I answered substantially as follows—that I was aware of the excitement to which he alluded, that I knew its source and had marked its progress; that the present was not a moment to examine its more occult causes, objects and agents; that it ostensibly rested on charges known to himself to be false, that it was not for me to determine how far the supposed urgency of the case made it proper for him to yield to an impulse so vile and profligate—so injurious to truth and so destructive of order; but that for myself, there was no choice; that I could never surrender a part of my legitimate authority, for the preservation of the rest—that I must exercise it wholly, or not at all; that I came into office with objects exclusively public; and that to accommodate my principles or my conduct to the humors of a village mob, stimulated by faction and led by folly, was not the way to promote these, and that if his decision was taken in conformity to the suggestions he had made, I entreated him to accept my resignation. This he declined doing. It was an extent, he was pleased to say, to which he meant not to go; that he knew the excitement was limited, as well with regard to time as to place: that he was now, and had always been, fully sensible of the general zeal, diligence and talent, which I had put into the discharge of my duty, and that it would give him pleasure, were I to take time to consider his proposition. I renewed the assurance of my great personal respect, and my readiness to conform to his wishes on all proper occasions.—I remarked, that whatever zeal, diligence and talent I possessed, had been employed freely but firmly, & according to my best views of the public good, and that as long as they were at the service of my country—but that the moment they were made to bow to military usurpation or political faction, there should be an end of their public exercise. We now parted, with an understanding that I should leave Washington the following morning.

It has been since stated to me as a fact (to which I give the most reluctant belief) that on the morning of the 29th and before my arrival in the city, a committee of the inhabitants of Georgetown, of whom Alexander C. Hanson, editor of the Federal Republican, was one, had waited on the President, by deputation, and had obtained from him a promise, that I should no longer direct the military defences of the district. On this fact all commentary is unnecessary.

It but remains to exhibit and to answer the several charges made against me, and which form the groundwork of that excitement, to which the President has deemed it prudent to sacrifice his authority, in declining to support mine. They are as follows, viz.

1st. That (from ill-will to the District of Columbia, and a design to remove the seat of government) I gave orders for the retreat of the army, in the affair of the 24th ult. under circumstances not making retreat necessary or proper.

This charge has not for its support the shadow of truth. The commanding general will do me the justice to say, that I gave him no such order, and that he was and is under the impression that the retreat was made earlier than I believed it to be proper. To the President I appeal, whether I did not point out the disorder and retreat of a part of the first line, soon after the action began, and stigmatise it as base and infamous.

2d. That, in despite of the remonstrances of Gen. Winder, and by the interposition of my authority, I had prevented him from defending the Capital.

This charge contains in it a total perversion of truth. When the head of the retiring column reached the Capital, it was halted for a moment. Gen. Winder here took occasion to

state to Mr. Monroe and myself, that he was not in condition to maintain another conflict, and that his force was broken down by fatigue and dispersion. Under this representation, and united in opinion, that he should proceed to occupy the heights of Georgetown.

3d. That I had withdrawn the covering party from the rear of Fort Washington, and had ordered Capt. Dyson to blow up the fort without firing a gun.

This charge is utterly devoid of truth. The covering party was withdrawn by an order from General Winder, and Capt. Dyson's official report shews, that the orders under which he acted, were derived from the same source, though, no doubt, mistaken or misrepresented.

4th. That by my orders, the Navy-yard had been burned. This, like the predecessors, is a positive falsehood. Perceiving that no order was taken for apprising Commodore Tingey of the retreat of the army, I sent Major Bell to communicate the fact and to say, that the Navy Yard could no longer be covered. The Commodore was of course left to follow the suggestions of his own mind, or to obey the orders, if orders had been given, of the Navy Department.

5th. And lastly, that means had not been taken to collect a force sufficient for the occasion.

As the subject of this charge may very soon become one of Congressional enquiry, I shall at present make but a few remarks:

1st. That no means within reach of the War Department had been omitted or withheld—that a separate military district, embracing the seat of government had been created; that an officer of high rank and character had been placed in charge of it; that to him was given full authority to call for supplies and for a militia force of fifteen thousand men; that to this force was added the 36th regt. of the line, a battalion of the 38th, detachments of the 12th, of the artillery and of the dragoons, the marine corps, and the crews of the flotilla, under the special command of Commodore Barney—making a total of 16 300 men.

Gen. Winder's official report of the engagement of the 24th ult. shews how much of this force had been assembled, and the causes why a greater portion of it had not been got together. These will be found to have been altogether extraneous from the Government, and entirely beyond its control: and

2d. That from what is now known of the enemy's force, of the loss he sustained in the enterprise, of the marks of panic under which he retreated, &c. &c. it is obvious, that if all the troops assembled at Bladensburg, had been faithful to themselves and to their country, the enemy would have been beaten, and the Capital saved.

JOHN ARMSTRONG

Baltimore, 3 September, 1814.

Boston, September 5.

A gentleman from Portland, informs that yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock an express arrived with intelligence to Gen. Chandler, that on Wednesday a British force of 24 vessels, the largest of which was a sloop of war, took possession of Castine and Belfast. The number of troops is said to be 2,000, probably the troops which were lately at Halifax.

HATTERS BUSINESS.

THE Subscriber, thankful for the very liberal encouragement heretofore received, informs his friends, that he continues to carry on the above business, in Person county, N. Carolina, fifteen miles north of Hillsborough, where all orders will be faithfully attended to and executed in the most workmanlike style. Having a considerable assortment of Hats on hand and a large stock of Fur, he is anxious to engage two or three good Journey-men, to whom he promises constant employ and the highest wages.

S. COCHRAN.

2d September.

STRAYED

FROM the Subscriber's pasture on the 24th inst. a small Sorrel Horse, very low in flesh, his right eye blind, bob-tail and the hairs on his weathers somewhat rubbed. The horse was drove to my house in a chair by Elder Jesse Read, and borrowed of Mr. Robert Jells of Halifax, N. C. Any person that will be so kind as to take up said horse and send him to either of the above gentlemen or myself, or give us such notice that enable us to get him, shall be reasonably rewarded for their services.

JOHN CAMPBELL

Harmony Hall, Orange county, August 26th, 1814.

NOTICE

TO all those who stand indebted to the subscriber by book debt or otherwise, that they come forward immediately and settle their accounts. Those who do not avail themselves of this notice may expect to find their accounts in the hands of an officer for collection.

JOHN ALLISON

Hillsborough, Sept. 10.