

our officers and soldiers at present would endanger the liberties of their country. No, sir, such is not my meaning, and I beg the House not to believe me as conveying the most distant idea of the kind. The present army has neither the numbers nor the disposition to engage in so unhallowed a work. All I contend for is this, that the government and people of the United States should not, in opposition to the advice of our forefathers, acquire a habit of fondness for, and dependence upon a standing army; that, to avoid this habit, it should be a settled rule in time of peace, to reduce the army as low as the situation of the country will permit; that the question should not be "how many men can we retain in the service," but how many can we dispense with; that we should not keep in service as many as possible, but as few as possible. Now, sir, I ask whether it is necessary to continue in service an army of ten thousand men? In my judgment it is not; we want just so many men as will garrison our posts and fortifications. I hold in my hand a statement, from which it will appear, that a little upwards of six thousand men will be amply sufficient for this purpose, any greater number involving a risk of contracting that dangerous habit of fondness for a standing army, to which I have alluded. The indulgence of the House will I trust, be extended to me while I read the statement—it was furnished by one in whose military knowledge I have the utmost confidence. If gentlemen are not equally disposed to confide in it, they have only to produce other statements, and the candor and intelligence of the House will determine between us.

The statement exhibited to the House had gone very much into detail, and Mr.

Mr Williams then read to the House the number, situation, and names of our forts and other public works; and the number and description of force necessary to be placed in each, as follows:

Fort Hawkins—At this fort one company of infantry is necessary to prevent the white people from intruding on the Indians, and also to preserve the factory established for the purposes of trade.

Town of Savannah—One company of artillery, to keep the fort in repair; the cannon and small arms in order, and also to aid the revenue officers, if occasion should require.

Charleston—At Charleston there are Fort Moultrie, Fort Johnson, and Castle Pinckney. At these places two companies of artillery will be necessary, for the same purposes as at Savannah.

Fort Johnson, below Wilmington, in North Carolina—The works at this place are very important, and scarcely merit the attention of a garrison; but, to swell the estimate, we will assign to that fort one company of artillery.

Norfolk—Fort Nelson and Fort Norfolk, are the only works—There may be a water battery on Crane Island, erected during the war, but it is not necessary to garrison it in time of peace. At these works two companies of artillery may be necessary to keep them in repair; to preserve the cannon, small arms, and munitions of war, and occasionally to aid the revenue officers, as at Savannah.

Baltimore—Fort M'Henry; one company of artillery, for the same purposes.

Philadelphia—Fort Mifflin; one company of artillery, for the same purposes.

New-York—Here there is a fort called Castle Williams, with two or three other forts, the names of which are not recollecting, and which are not material. At these places three companies of artillery would do the ordinary garrison duties, but we will say four.

Newport, Rhode-Island—Fort Trumbull, it is believed, is the name of the works—At this place one company of artillery may be necessary.

Boston—The name of the works unknown; but, from the extent of them, as generally understood, two companies of artillery will be quite sufficient.

New-London, Connecticut—one company of artillery.

Plattsburgh—Rouse's point, near Plattsburgh, is in the neighborhood of Isle de Noix, in Lower Canada; and, lest at some unguarded moment, the enemy might possibly make a dash upon it, we will assign to this place two companies of artillery and two of infantry.

Sackett's Harbor—One company of artillery.

Niagara—One company of artillery.

Detroit & its dependencies, Mackinaw, Greenbay, and Chicago—Fort Detroit, three companies of infantry and one company of artillery; Fort Mackinaw three companies of infantry, a subaltern's command of artillery; Fort Greenbay, two companies of infantry, & a subaltern's command of artillery; For Chicago, two companies of infantry. It is necessary there should be a larger force at Detroit than the other places, for the purpose of escorting supplies of provisions and munitions of war to Mackinaw, Greenbay, and Chicago.

St. Louis and its dependencies, Fort Edwards, fort Armstrong, fort Crawford, fort Clarke, fort Osage, and a fort to be established on the Arkansas. To these places may be assigned ten companies of riflemen and one of artillery, to be disposed of as follows, viz: Fort Edwards one company of riflemen; Fort Armstrong, two companies of riflemen, and a subaltern's command of artillery; Fort Crawford, three companies of riflemen and a subaltern's command of artillery; Fort Clarke, one company of riflemen. The fort to be established on the Arkansas, one company of riflemen. The depot at St. Louis, one company of riflemen, and the residue of the force to keep the stores in readiness, and to supply to the outposts, when necessary, on the Potomac, one com-

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Williams said, he must apologize for having so long occupied the attention of the gentlemen. It appeared to him necessary that a statement of the kind should show the different positions of the garrisons, and the various uses to which they must be applied. If this were done, those not inclined to a reduction of the army could more easily point out the errors contained in any statements made to the House, and he hoped this consideration would justify him for having consumed so much time by minute details of this part of the subject. It is obvious from this statement that an army containing about six thousand two hundred men will be entirely adequate to every purpose. He must then, in the seriousness and soberness of the most heartfelt conviction, say, that the army should be reduced; that he would adopt the maxim that standing armies in time of peace were dangerous to liberty, and that no act of his should ever induce the government to form a habit different from that maxim by continuing in service a greater number than is absolutely wanted.—This, he said, is the point to which we should always go, and beyond which we ought never to pass, because the least extravagance in this matter involves the most dangerous consequences.

But gentlemen contend that it would be improper to reduce the army in the present unsettled state of the world. Sir, I consider their fears on this head as perfectly visionary; for we cannot, I think, entertain apprehensions of another war within any short time. On the Canada frontier, Great-Britain is the weaker power in relation to the United States. She cannot act with such a want of wisdom, with so much precipitation, as to commence war upon us in that quarter. The same remark applies to Spain on our South-Western frontier; in addition to which the state of her South-American provinces will be most ample security for her pacific dispositions. It is not likely, therefore, that hostilities will be commenced against us in any part of our territories so as to make it necessary that we should retain in service more than a peace establishment.

There is one other point of view in which this subject ought to be considered, and in which it becomes a matter of good policy, if not of imperative duty to reduce the army. It is, that a reduction now will conduce hereafter to the more efficient and substantial defence of the country. I well know that it is invidious to draw comparisons, and I wish not to be understood in what I shall say as meaning the least disparagement to any description of troops during the late war; they all did their duty. But as there are three degrees of comparison, I would ask whether the officers and soldiers enlisted a long time prior to the late war, or those enlisted immediately before war and during its continuance, won the battles which have done so much honor to the country. Brown and Jackson and the officers and soldiers who fought under their banners, were not of the old military establishment. It is a rule which, I believe, will generally hold good throughout the late war, that the officers and soldiers of the new establishment contributed most to the defence of their country. The same remark applies to the troops of other nations. When troops have been enlisted just before war, as to be perfectly disciplined and no longer, they fight best; after they have become enervated by all the irregularities of a campaign, they are not so much to be depended on. Taking, then, these data, it becomes both a duty and a matter of wise policy, in regard to the future defence of our country, to curtail the army. Suppose we remain at peace ten years, we have now an army of ten regiments, costing the government annually \$500,000 each. If we reduce the number to five, we shall in ten years save \$25,000,000 if we continue the additional five, we shall in that time expend \$25,000,000. These twenty-five millions of dollars would keep in service fifty regiments for one year or twenty-five regiments for two years.—Then, by reducing the army, we shall at the end of ten years be able to employ fifty regiments for one year, or twenty-five regiments for two years. Now, sir, I would ask whether, by reducing the army, we shall not, at the end of ten years, be better able to defend the country with fifty regiments or with twenty-five, as the case may be, in the manner above stated, than if we do not reduce it, and at the end of ten years have only the ten old regiments, worn out and enfeebled by all the irregularities of a campaign not so much to be relied on. I will not say, that my view is exactly correct in all its details; but that the principle of it is true cannot be doubted. Were it, therefore, only for the purpose of saving twenty-five millions of dollars, and of being thereby better able at the end of ten years to defend the country, I should vote to reduce the army. But when, in connection with this view of the case, we reflect on the danger of a standing army unnecessarily large in time of peace, we should not, in my judgment, hesitate a moment as to the course which ought to be pursued.

But gentlemen say the army is not greater now than it was in the administration of Mr. Jefferson, and from thence argue that it ought not to be reduced.—It is, sir, a very unsatisfactory mode of defending any measure, to say that something of the kind has existed in times past. Upon that principle, not only the foibles, but the enormities of almost every government might be defended. The fact, however, is not as it is alleged to be. Mr. Jefferson's peace establishment consisted only of 3000 men, and he got on very well with that number; when an aspect of war suddenly appeared in our horizon it is true that the number was increased. If in a course of years after the proposed reduction, a prospect of war should again appear, we can imitate the example of Mr. Jefferson, and increase the number. A great error has arisen amongst us, from supposing that the maxims of policy in relation to standing ar-

mies in Europe are applicable to our situation; whereas, directly the contrary is the fact. In Europe, great, powerful and hostile nations border upon each other; they are always disposed to take an advantage, and often commence wars without permitting their adversaries to have any notice of such designs. But with us, although our government is composed of separate independent sovereignties, yet they are bound together in one common union of peace and friendship.—We are separated from the nations of Europe, the only power that can attack us, by an ocean of immense extent; no war can be undertaken against us without giving us reasonable time for preparation. The maxims, therefore, in favor of standing armies in Europe do not apply to the government of the United States; and the question for us now to decide is not whether the army was as great during the administration of Mr. Jefferson as it is at present, but whether it is not now greater than necessary. I have produced statements to support the affirmative of this proposition, and I call upon gentlemen to disprove them. If it can be shewn to my satisfaction that the present establishment of ten thousand is necessary to the defence of the country, I pledge you my word, sir, that I will not vote for reduction. Prove this, and my opposition ceases from that moment. But, believing that the number now in service greatly exceeds that which is necessary, I must persevere in the course I have marked out.

I will now conclude, Mr. Speaker, with remarking to the House, that these observations have been entertained, not out of any respect I could entertain for the calls made upon me by different gentlemen when this subject was slightly agitated on Friday last. For those calls, sir, I could not possibly feel any respect, and my remarks at present have been submitted to the House from a sense of duty to myself and to the nation, more than from any other consideration. The time has now arrived, when, by the vote of this House we shall determine, whether the government of the United States is hereafter to confirm its measures to the characteristic purity, simplicity and economy of its institutions; or whether we shall go as other nations have gone, and run equally with them the race of taxation and extravagance.

FOREIGN NEWS. LATEST FROM FRANCE.

New-York, May 17.

By the fast sailing brig Ocean, in 21 days from Havre, we have Paris papers to the 18th ult. They furnish some articles of interest. Mr. Weiss, formerly Secretary to the Austrian Legation at Stockholm, has been appointed by the Austrian government Consul General to the United States of America.

Letters from Naples speak of a conspiracy that had been detected in that kingdom. The Grand Seignor is upon the best footing with the Deys of Algiers, of Tunis, and of Tripoli. It is generally supposed that he will avail himself of this circumstance to act with vigor against the rebel Bashaws of Egypt. The Dey of Algiers has re-established his fleet. He has already a considerable number of vessels, which according to the last accounts were preparing for a cruise.

A friend at Havre, under the date of the 20th of April, informs us, that the trifling disturbances which took place at Paris, in the performance of the new tragedy of Germanicus, have been greatly magnified in the English papers; all that passed on that occasion was of no great importance to government, and it all ended after a few duels between some royalists and persons of the opposite party.

Passengers in the Ocean, from Havre. Col. Grouchy, Capt. Victor Grunichy, Col. Faby Fany, Col. Adolph Pontecoulont, Marshal Belange, Louis Hondeu, and Charles Laisne, all of France.

HAYRE, APRIL 20.

Wheat and flour continue very high, and notwithstanding frequent importations from the Mediterranean and England of the former, it keeps up at 100 a 120 fr. per 200 kil. or 6 bushels. Flour 135 fr. per 325 lbs. Rice has been down to 40 francs, and about 1000 tierces were sold at that price; some orders from Paris, where contracts have been made, deliverable in the course of the present month, at 50 fr. have brought forward some purchasers, and it is now at 45 francs.—The arrival of the Isabella from Charleston, daily expected with a full cargo, will probably again bring it down to 40 francs.

Cottons are scarce, and demanded—uplands at 45 a 42, Louisiana 51 a 52. Our stock is decreasing very rapidly; and it is calculated high prices will be obtained throughout the year. The advices sent from here in February, March, and April, were very discouraging to shipments, whilst those from Liverpool promised high prices; so that the bulk of the crops will naturally have been directed to the latter port, and what may arrive here hereafter, will be of bad quality.

LONDON, APRIL 12.

It is said that Ministers have received and entertained a proposition from the King of Spain, to become a Mediator between him and the Independent Provinces of South-America,

in return for which his Majesty offers us a limited commerce with certain ports on the coast. Report adds, that Sir George Cockburn is to command a squadron destined for the coast of South-America, for that purpose; and that preparations are already making for carrying it into effect. If Ministers have really determined upon this course, the result may be easily anticipated. Mr. Croker will be soon again upon his war salary.

APRIL 16.

We received last night Hamburg papers to the 9th of April. They notice the conclusion of a Treaty between Sweden and the United States of America; but it will not be published until the ratification shall have been received from America. The other articles in these papers, respecting Sweden, extol the prudent government of the Crown Prince, and boast the wealth which the country has derived from his subsidiary treaties with foreign nations.

APRIL 17.

The Duke of Wellington is preparing to quit Paris in eight days, for London, where he expected to be on the 25d, on which day the Pr. Regent will give a grand fete in honor of St. George, the patron of England. His Staff will leave Paris on the same day for Cambry, to which his Grace will proceed, after a short stay in England.

The Country Assizes, now just terminated, have presented a list of criminals quite unparalleled for magnitude in the history of this country.—At no former period have they amounted to more than a fourth or a third part of their present number. From fifteen to fifty capital convictions have taken place in almost every county; in some counties where an execution was formerly the wonder of the age.—At Lancaster Assizes, 46 persons received sentence of death. This county, besides Liverpool, Manchester, & many manufacturing establishments, is the head-quarters of sedition. There were twenty indictments for forging and uttering, or for being possessed of a quantity of forged notes of the Bank of England. None of the cases were remarkable. At Warwick, which includes Birmingham, there were ten such cases of forgery; and it was supposed, at all our assizes, there have not been less than one hundred indictments for different criminal acts, in putting forth forged Bank of England notes into circulation; a trade to which the state of country Banks has afforded considerable impunity.

The French King has, by an ordinance, disbanded the third company of the Gardes de Corps, the company of Noailles. Insubordination is stated to be the cause.

Nearly the whole of the fifth part of the Army of Occupation has quitted the French territory.

Constantinople has been again a prey to the ravages of Fire. On the 18th of Feb. 300 houses were burnt; and on the 21st another Fire broke out in the same quarter, which destroyed all those which the first conflagration had spared. Whether this terrible visitation was the effect of accident or design, is not mentioned.

APRIL 18.

A mail from Hamburg arrived this morning, with Paris papers to the 13th instant. The Swedish government is actively employed in devising means for its security—among these, it has resorted to the conscription. Steam-Boats are coming fast into use on the continent. One of these vessels arrived on the 8th, at Hamburg, with passengers from Berlin.

The marriage of Madame Murat with Gen. Macdonald has been celebrated at Vienna. The ci-devant queen has just purchased the Lordship of Koningbrom, four leagues from Vienna, in the neighborhood of Berlin.

FROM AMSTERDAM.

Baltimore, May 17.

Capt. Conklin, arrived yesterday from Amsterdam, in 33 days, informs us, that all kinds of business there was in a very depressed state. Tobacco and other articles of American produce were very low, and Gin had fallen from the last quotations.—Fourteen sail of vessels were preparing to take out upwards of 5000 Swiss and German passengers, who were about to seek an asylum in America. The ships were destined principally for Philadelphia.

PERNAMBUCO.

Boston, May 17.

It gives us great pleasure to be able to announce the safe arrival in this

town, on board of the brig Gipsy, of the Patriot ANTONIO GOSZALVO, of the Provincial Government of Pernambuco, one of the principal cities and provinces of the Brazils, in South-America. Like our illustrious ADAMS and HAWKCOCK, this distinguished gentleman, was, with four other Patriots, proscribed by the Royal Governor. After a long and arduous journey, he issued a proclamation, offering the grade of Captain to any soldier, and rank, to whoever should deliver up to him, dead or alive, the five gentlemen named in the proclamation! In less than twenty hours, however, the Governor was obliged to capitulate, and we have already been apprised of the liberal and magnanimous manner in which he was treated. The Patriots, exulting in the success of their glorious cause, disdained to retaliate, and notwithstanding his barbarous treatment, he was permitted to embark with his family, his partizans and property, for Rio Janeiro.

The Ambassador, his Secretary and Suite, confirm all the favorable accounts heretofore received of the wisdom, humanity, moderation, and unanimity, which have marked the progress of the Revolution at Pernambuco, and given it a character of brilliancy far superior to any which has yet taken place in South America.

We consider the appointment of this gentleman to be extremely judicious on the part of the provisional government.—His political importance and high standing at home—the advantages he derives from his former travels in England, France, and other European countries—together with his gentlemanly, affable, intelligent & dignified deportment, peculiarly qualify him for this important station.

The Provisional Government consists of a Council Board, and an Executive of five members, taken from the professions of agriculture, commerce, the military, the clergy, and mechanics. This state of things will continue until a Constitution is framed. The Clergy are represented as being very patriotic, singing *Te Deum*, and animating the people, as our clergy did in 1775, to resist tyranny and establish liberty and independence.

The Pernambuco flag, when first hoisted, was represented to have had an *Iris* in the centre, surmounted by a *star*, indicative of the State of Pernambuco; other stars to be added as other provinces join the patriot cause. Another province having already joined, two stars now appear upon it in full brilliancy. It is expected they will multiply rapidly. Under the *Iris* is a *sun*, figuratively indicating the citizens of Pernambuco to be children of the sun; and below is a *cross*, to designate the primitive name of the Brazils when first discovered, being that of *Santa Cruz*, the *HOLY CROSS*. The whole appear to be very ingenious and beautiful designs.

We further learn, that before the patriotic Ambassador left Pernambuco, all titles of nobility had been abolished. He is therefore not willing, nor can he consent to continue the title of "Excellency." Patriot and compatriot are the only titles known at present.

The provisional government have determined to organize and maintain a regular army of 15,000 men, which, in the province of Pernambuco alone, will be seconded by a well-regulated militia of 40,000. The pay and rations are the most liberal that have ever before been known in any country.

Thus the new world is destined by all bounteous Providence, as an asylum for the persecuted of all nations, and the residence of that noblest of all productions, a free and independent race of men. Already is the standard of Liberty waving triumphantly in Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, the Provinces of Buenos Ayres, Paraguay, Chili, and Peru, cannot long resist the example of so glorious a combination. May despots of every description be speedily deprived of the power to oppress, and may liberty extend its genial sway to the remotest corners of the earth!—*Pat.*

INDIAN NEWS.

Of the settled and inveterate hostility of the Florida Indians, against the citizens of this state, there is daily confirmation. In reply to a late communication on this subject, from the executive of Georgia, General Gaines observes, that, although the principal part of the force under his command have been particularly designated, for the present, to the section of country where he is, (the Eastern frontier of the Mississippi Territory) he anticipates the early receipt of an order to check the depredations of the savages, and effectually subdue them. Should it be necessary to pursue them to their towns, a requisition will be made on this state for two battalions of infantry to co-operate with