

THE WAR.

"LET THE RALLYING WORD, THROUGH ALL THE DAY, BE "LIBERTY OR DEATH."

VOL. I.

NEW-YORK.....TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1813.

No. 52.

THE WAR,

IS PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING,
BY S. WOODWORTH & CO.
No. 60 Vesey-St. near the Bear-Market, N. York,
AT TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM,
PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY IN ADVANCE.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS OF THE CAPTURE OF FORT GEORGE.

Copies of letters from com. Chauncey to the
secretary of the Navy.

U. S. ship Madison, Niagara River, 27th May, 1813.

Sir—I am happy to have it in my power to say, that the American flag is flying upon fort George. We were in quiet possession of all the forts at 12 o'clock. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,
ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

U. S. ship Madison, Niagara River, 28th May, 1813.

Sir—Agreeably to arrangements which I have already had the honor of detailing to you, I left Sacket's-Harbor with this ship on the 22d instant, with about 350 of col. M'Comb's regiment on board—the winds being light from the westward, I did not arrive in the vicinity of Niagara before the 25th—the other parts of the squadron had arrived several days before, and landed their troops. The Fair American and Pert I had ordered to Sacket's Harbor, for the purpose of watching the enemy's movements at Kingston. I immediately had an interview with general Dearborn for the purpose of making arrangements to attack the enemy as soon as possible, and it was agreed between him and myself to make the attack the moment that the weather was such as to allow the vessels and boats to approach the shore with safety. On the 25th, I reconnoitered the position for landing the troops, and at night sounded the shore, and placed buoys to sound out the stations for the small vessels. It was agreed between the general and myself to make the attack the next morning (as the weather moderated, and had every appearance of being favorable.) I took on board of the Madison, Oneida, and Lady of the Lake, all the heavy artillery and as many troops as could be stowed. The remainder were to embark in boats and follow the fleet—at 3 yesterday morning, the signal was made for the fleet to weigh, and the troops were all embarked on board of the boats before 4, and soon after general Dearborn and Lewis came on board of this ship, with their suites. It being however nearly calm, the schooners were obliged to sweep into their positions. Mr. Trant in the Julia, and Mr. Mix in the Growler, I directed to take a position in the mouth of the river and silence a battery near the light-house, which from its position commanded the shore where our troops were to land. Mr. Stevens in the Ontario, was directed to take a position to the north of the light-house, so near in shore as to enfilade the battery and cross the fire of the Julia and Growler. Lieut. Brown in the Governor Tompkins, I directed to take a position near to Two Mile Creek, where the enemy had a battery, with a heavy gun. Lieut. Pettigrew, in the Conquest, was directed to

anchor to the S. E. of the same battery, so near in as to open on it in the rear, and cross the fire of the Governor Tompkins. Lieut. M'Pherson in the Hamilton, lieut. Smith in the Asp, and Mr. Osgood in the Scourge, were directed to anchor close to the shore, and cover the landing of the troops, and to scour the woods and plain whenever the enemy made his appearance. All these orders were most promptly and gallantly executed. All the vessels anchored within musket shot of the shore, and in 10 minutes after they opened upon the batteries, they were completely silenced and abandoned.

Our troops then advanced in three brigades, the advance led by col. Scott, and landed near the fort which had been silenced by lieut. Brown. The enemy, who had been concealed in a ravine, now advanced in great force to the edge of the bank to charge our troops. The schooners opened so well-directed and tremendous a fire of grape and cannister, that the enemy soon retreated from the bank. Our troops formed as soon as they landed, and immediately ascended the bank and charged and routed the enemy in every direction, the schooners keeping up a constant well-directed fire upon him, in his retreat towards town. Owing to the wind's having sprung up very fresh from the eastward, which caused a heavy sea directly on shore, I was not able to get the boats off to land the troops from the Madison and Oneida, before the first and second brigades had advanced. Capt. Smith with the marines landed with col. M'Comb's regiment, and I had prepared 400 seamen, which I intended to land with myself, if the enemy had made a stand; but our troops pursued him so rapidly into the town and fort George, that I found there was no necessity for more force; moreover, the wind had increased so much and hove such a sea on shore, that the situation of the fleet had become dangerous and critical. I, therefore, made the signal for the fleet to weigh, and ordered them into the river, where they anchored immediately after the enemy had abandoned fort George. The town and forts were in quiet possession of our troops at 12 o'clock, and the enemy retreated towards Queenstown.

Where all behaved so well, it is difficult to select any one for commendation, yet in doing justice to lieut. Macpherson, I do not detract from the merits of others. He was fortunate in placing himself in a situation where he rendered very important service, in covering the troops so completely that their loss was trifling.

Captain Perry joined me from Erie on the evening of the 25th, and very gallantly volunteered his services, and I have much pleasure in acknowledging the great assistance which I received from him in arranging and superintending the debarkation of the troops; he was present at every point where he could be useful, under showers of musketry, but fortunately escaped unhurt. We lost but one killed and two wounded, and no injury done to the vessels. I have the honor to be, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. Wm. Jones, Sec'y of the Navy, Washington.

*U. S. ship Madison, Niagara river,
29th May, 1813*

Sir—Deeming the command of Lake Erie of primary importance, I dispatched captain Perry yesterday with 55 seamen to Black Rock, to take the five vessels there to Erie as soon as possible, and to prepare the whole squadron for service by the 15th of June. Gen. Dearborn has promised me 200 soldiers to put on board of the vessels at Black Rock, to assist in protecting them to Erie. Mr. Eckford has with uncommon exertions prepared these vessels for service since the capture of York, and I think that capt. Perry will be ready to proceed for Presque-Isle about the 3d or 4th of June. The two brigs building at Erie have been launched.

The Queen Charlotte and 3 others of the enemy's vessels came down to Fort Erie on the 26th inst. but as soon as they heard of the capture of Fort George and its dependencies, they proceeded up the lake, I presume for Malden.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. Wm. Jones, Sec'y of the Navy, Washington.

Copies of letters from Major-General Dearborn to the Secretary of war.

*Head-quarters, Fort George, Upper Canada,
May 27, 1813.*

Sir—The light troops under the command of colonel Scott and major Forsyth, landed this morning at nine o'clock. Major-general Lewis's divisions, with col. Porter's command of light artillery, supported them. General Boyd's brigade landed immediately after the light troops, and gen. Winder and Chandler followed in quick succession. The landing was warmly and obstinately disputed by the British forces: but the coolness and intrepidity of our troops soon compelled them to give ground in every direction. Gen. Chandler, with the reserve, (composed of his brigade and col. Macomb's artillery) covered the whole. Com. Chauncey had made the most judicious arrangements for silencing the enemy's batteries, near the point of landing. The army is under the greatest obligations to that able naval commander for his co-operations in all its important movements, and especially in its operations this day. Our batteries succeeded in rendering Fort George untenable; and when the enemy had been beaten from his positions, and found it necessary to re-enter it, after firing a few guns and setting fire to the magazines, which soon exploded, he moved off rapidly by different routes. Our light troops pursued them several miles. The troops having been under arms from one o'clock in the morning, were too much exhausted for any further pursuit. We are now in possession of Fort George and its immediate dependencies—to-morrow we shall proceed further on. The behaviour of our troops, both officers and men, entitles them to the highest praise; and the difference in our loss with that of the enemy, when we consider the advantages his positions afforded him, is astonishing. We

had 17 killed and 45 wounded. The enemy had 90 killed and 160 wounded of the regular troops. We have taken 100 prisoners, exclusive of the wounded. Col. Meyers, of the 49th, was wounded and taken prisoner. Of ours, only one commissioned officer was killed—lieut. Hobart, of the light artillery. Enclosed is the report of major-general Lewis.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great consideration and respect, your most obedient servant,

H. DEARBORN.

Hon. Gen. John Armstrong, Sec'y at War.

On the field, 1 o'clock, 27th May, 1813.

Dear sir—Fort George and its dependencies are ours. The enemy, beaten at all points, has blown up his magazines and retired. It is impossible at this moment to say any thing of individual gallantry—there was no man who did not perform his duty, in a manner which did honor to himself and country. Scott's and Forsyth's commands, supported by Boyd's and Winder's brigades, sustained the brunt of the action. Our loss is trifling, perhaps not more than 20 killed, and twice that number wounded. The enemy has left in the hospital 124, and I sent several on board the fleet. We have also made about 100 prisoners of the regular forces.

I am, dear sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant.

MORGAN LEWIS.

Major gen. Dearborn,

com. in chief of the Northern Army.

Head-Quarters, Fort George, May 29, 1813.

Sir—General Lewis was ordered to march yesterday morning with Chandler's and Winder's brigades—the light artillery, dragoons and riflemen, in pursuit of the enemy by the way of Queenstown. I had received satisfactory information that the enemy had made a stand on the mountain at a place called the Beaver Dam, where he had a deposit of provision and stores, and that he had been joined by 300 regulars from Kingston, landed from small vessels near the head of the lake. I had ascertained that he was calling in the militia, and had presumed that he would confide in the strength of his position and venture an action, by which an opportunity would be afforded to cut off his retreat. I have been disappointed—although the troops from Fort Erie and Chippewa had joined the main body at Beaver Dam, he broke up yesterday precipitately, continued his route along the mountains, and will reach the head of the lake by that route.

Lieut. col. Preston took possession of Fort Erie and its dependencies last evening; the post had been abandoned and the magazine blown up.

I have ordered gen. Lewis to return without delay to this place, and if the winds favor us, we may yet cut off the enemy's retreat.

I was last evening honored with your dispatch of the 15th inst. I have taken measures in relation to the 23 prisoners who are to be put in close confinement.

I have the honor to be, &c.

H. DEARBORN.

Hon. John Armstrong, Secretary of War.

EVACUATION OF FORT ERIE.

About 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 27th, an express arrived at Fort Erie from the British commander below. It is understood that the express brought orders for all the regulars to march immediately down to join gen. Vincent, on his retreat—and also,

for major Warren (of the militia) to open a fire upon Black Rock, and continue the same until the next morning, and then burst his guns, blow up the magazines, and dismiss his men. He executed his orders. The batteries below the fort immediately opened a fire upon Black Rock, which was returned, and continued at intervals during the night. Early in the morning, the destruction of their military stores commenced: all their magazines, all their barracks, public store-houses, from Chippewa to Point Abino, have been blown up or burned.

Not a person was injured at the Rock during the whole cannonade. The barracks and several private buildings received a few shot.

In the evening of Friday, Lt. Col. J. P. Preston, commandant at Black Rock, crossed over with his regiment, and entered Fort Erie. From the humane and salutary measures adopted by col. Preston, on his entrance into the enemy's territory, in discriminating between friends and enemies, and securing those well disposed in their persons and property, we anticipate that he will be very favorably received by the inhabitants of Canada.

[ADDRESSED TO THE CANADIANS.]

The commandant of Fort Erie, finding the people in its vicinity anxious to obtain special protections, deems it necessary to make a public declaration, that all those who may come forward and enrol their names with him and claim the protection of the U. States, shall have their property and persons secured to them inviolate. He invites all who mean to pursue this course to take it immediately, that they may be distinguished from the enemy; and while he assures them that their interests and happiness will be regarded by the government of the United States, he solemnly warns those who may obstinately continue inimical, that they are bringing on themselves the most rigorous and disastrous consequences; as they will be pursued and treated with that spirit of retaliation which the treatment of the American prisoners in the hands of the British so justly inspires.

JAMES P. PRESTON,

Lt. Col. 12th Regt. Inf'y, Com'g at Fort Erie.

A Return of the killed and wounded on board the squadron under the command of commodore Isaac Chauncey, in the attack upon York, on the 27th of April, 1813.

Ship Madison—John Campbell, seaman, black man, badly wounded; Richard Welch, ordinary seaman, slightly wounded; David C. Bunnell, seaman, slightly wounded.

Sch. Ontario—Benjamin Hacker, seaman, badly wounded; John Rattler, do. do.

Sch. Growler—John Stimas, seaman, slightly wounded; John Peterson, ordinary seaman, dangerously do.

Sch. Conquest—John Hatfield, midshipman, killed; Benjamin Quereau, sail-maker, do.

Sch. Scourge—Lemuel Bryant, ordinary seaman, badly wounded.

Sch. Raven—Israel Clark, ordinary seaman, black man, killed.

Sch. Fair American, — Thompson, midshipman, killed.

Total—Killed, 4. Wounded, 8.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

A Return of killed and wounded on board of the squadron under the command of commodore Isaac Chauncey, in the attack upon Fort George, on the 27th May, 1813.

Sch. Growler—William Buckley, ordinary seaman, dangerously wounded, since dead.

Ship Madison—William Wills, ordinary seaman, wounded.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

NEW-YORK:

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 15, 1813.

WAYS AND MEANS.

In the house of representatives, on Thursday, the 10th instant, Mr. Eppes, from the committee of ways and means, reported a system of internal revenue, which from its length we are obliged to defer until our next.

The report of William Jones, acting secretary of the treasury, is also deferred.

LATEST FROM THE ARMY.

A gentleman arrived at Albany from the frontiers, reports, that gen. Lewis, with a considerable force, had crossed over to York, for the purpose of cutting off the enemy's retreat, and that gen. Winder, with about 2,000 men, was in pursuit of gen. Vincent, who with about 1500 regulars had made a halt at Forty Mile Creek, and being thus placed between two fires, it was confidently expected he would be compelled to surrender.

A letter to a gentleman in this city, dated at Fort George, June 4, says: "The provisions taken from the British we find to be about 2,000 barrels of flour, 150 of pork, and 20 of whiskey."

COM. DECATUR'S SQUADRON,

Is safe moored in New-London harbor, 5 miles above the town, and the British squadron, consisting of the Ramilies, 74, Valiant 74, and the Acasta and Orpheus frigates, continue to watch them. The citizens of New-London have been under great apprehensions from an attack during the past week, and in consequence have removed their most valuable effects out of danger, and the shipping have gone up the river. The harbor has been put into a respectable state of defence, and governor Smith is on the spot, with a considerable force of militia, among which are his guards, consisting of several uniform and well disciplined companies from Hartford. Two companies of U. S. troops are in the forts. Upon the whole, we think the enemy has abandoned the idea of attacking New-London, notwithstanding some of their officers have declared, that they "meant to have the Macedonian, if they followed her into a cornfield;" for if they were to destroy the city by bombardment, it would not contribute in the least to the capture of our ships. The officers of the Valiant have been ashore at Gardiner's Island, and took off 20 head of cattle, for which they offered pay, but Mr. Gardiner refused it.

Chesapeake and Shannon.

The cartel Agnes, capt. Barrett, has arrived at Boston with 130 American prisoners, from Halifax. On the 6th of June, two days after sailing, she fell in with the Sceptre, of 74 guns; the La Loire, 38, and a gun-brig. On passing the brig, was informed that they had parted the day before with the Shannon frigate, in company with her prize, the Chesapeake, which she had taken after an action of two hours. We are of opinion that capt. B. mistook the person hailing, who probably informed that she was captured two hours after leaving port, as several hundred persons witnessed the British flag flying on board the Chesapeake over the American, immediately after the explosion. We shall probably receive the particulars by a boat which was to leave Halifax for Salem two days after the cartel.

Disaster on Lake Champlain.

Lieut. Smith, having the command of two of our armed sloops, the Growler and Eagle, on the 2d inst. left Plattsburgh for the purpose of attacking some British gun-boats, which had been in the habit of coming over the line, and annoying our small craft. On the morning of the 3d, he discovered three of the enemy's gun-boats, which he gave chase to, and unfortunately followed them so far into a narrow channel, that it was impossible to return. It appears that the enemy had received information of the sailing of the sloops, as they had drawn up their forces from Isle-aux-Noix, and placed them on both sides of the channel, and opened a heavy fire from 24 pounders and musketry on our sloops. The Eagle, not being sufficiently strong for her weight of metal, became unmanageable, and went down. The water being shoal, all hands were saved. The Growler was compelled to surrender.

SUMMARY.

The captain of a vessel arrived at Portland from St. Salvador, informs, that the U. S. frigate Essex and 3 American privateers were blockaded in that port when he left it.

Capt. Brewster, arrived at Plymouth, Cape Cod, picked up two boats, supposed to have belonged to the Chesapeake. One of them was much injured, being full of shot holes—the other not the least hurt, and had in her an old sword, marked U. S. and a large shot—was about 25 feet long.

During the action between the Chesapeake and Shannon, a fishing boat from Plymouth was so nigh, that some of the shot went over her, and at 12 o'clock, the same night, a boat from Plymouth was in great danger of being run down by the Chesapeake. The Chesapeake was ahead of the Shannon.

The mayor of New-Haven has ordered the artillery to do duty in the fort for the protection of the town from an apprehended attack.

Col. Backus, who was supposed to have been mortally wounded in the action with the British troops in their attack on Sacket's Harbor, we are happy to hear, is likely to recover.

Capt. Stewart, of the Navy, left Washington on Tuesday morning for Boston, where he is to take command of the noble frigate Constitution, whose name is "fam'd in story." Capt. Gordon, we believe, succeeds captain Stewart in the Constellation.

Letters from the army state, that general Boyd is to command the late general Pike's brigade. One of the letters remarks, "he is a fine officer: we put the utmost confidence in him; and since we have been so unfortunate as to lose the brave Pike, there is no other general we would as soon have over us."

Major-general Hampton, and suite, have left Norfolk for the northern army, in which it is said he is to have an important command.

Five hundred troops, enlisted in North Carolina and at Norfolk, for the 5th and 10th U. S. regiments, have marched for the north, under command of capt. G. M. Brooke. They are all hearty, robust young men.

Lieut. Edward Trenchard, and 5 or 6 naval officers, with 80 seamen, in high spirits, arrived in Utica on Monday last, on their way to Sacket's Harbor.

The British force in the Delaware are very strict in enforcing the blockade. Two Portuguese brigs from Lisbon and Oporto, they

have taken possession of, and landed the crews at Cape May.

Gen. Hislop, and the surviving officers and crew of the Java, have arrived in England, in a cartel. They acknowledge the Java had 24 killed and 109 wounded. The cartel was boarded March 18, off the Western-Islands, by the French frigate Arethuse.

The officers and crew of the privateer ship General Armstrong, of Charleston, who were imprisoned on a charge of mutiny, have been set at liberty by order of the secretary of the navy, the matter having been referred to his decision.

All the licensed vessels in the ports of the Chesapeake, which cleared out previous to the promulgation of the blockade, are permitted by the admiral on that station to proceed to their original ports of destination, and are getting ready to depart with full cargoes of flour for the British armies in Spain and Portugal!!

Gen. Sheaffe, and his suite, have arrived at Kingston from York.

The new British frigate Sir George Prevost, of 30 guns, was launched at Kingston on the 2d inst.

Great Britain has ceded to Sweden the islands of Guadalupe and St. Martins.

A Bermuda paper of May 12, says, "This harbor is full of American vessels, prizes to the English, and numbers are continually coming in, and they sell very low. The Tartarus and Arethusa, with two millions of dollars, sailed the 6th with a convoy of American prizes for England." Should commodore Rodgers, with the President and Congress, chance to meet them, he will no doubt ease the frigates of at least a part of their burthen and care.

The British brig Emulous and sch. Bream, have captured a number of eastern coasters.

PRIZE LIST.

The privateer Governor Tompkins, capt. Smith, of this port, has arrived here through the Sound. Off Fisher's Island, was chased by a frigate, one of the New-London blockading squadron, which at one time was so near that she fired several shot over the privateer. It falling calm, boats were dispatched after her, but she escaped by using her sweeps. On the 31st March, the Governor Tompkins captured the British brig Ajax, with coal, brick, tiles, and dry-goods—took out the latter, and manned out the brig and ordered her for New-York. April 3d, off Cape St. Vincent, captured the British packet ship Mary, after an action of 48 minutes. She mounted 10 guns, and had 35 men, besides 4 passengers, one of whom was lord John Talbot—was from Malta for Falmouth, with the mails, which were thrown overboard, but saved by the G. T.'s officers. The packet had one man killed—none hurt on board the G. T. May 8th, captured the British brig Hartley of 2 guns, in ballast—took out the guns, prisoners, &c. and burnt her. May 20, had a severe engagement with an English brig of war of 22 guns, for one hour and a half, in which they were both disabled. The G. T.'s head-stay being entirely shot away, she was obliged to keep before the wind, to secure the masts. The enemy could not make sail after her. In this action the G. T. lost Mr. William Butterfield, first lieutenant, and George Leekey, seaman, killed; and two others wounded.

May 24, took a small droger near Grenada, put all the prisoners on board of her, and sent them on shore. The G. T. was often chased by the enemy's cruisers, but outsailed them with ease.

The British Brig David, from Waterford for Newfoundland, with provisions, prize to the Governor Plumer, has arrived at Portsmouth.

The privateer Globe, capt. Moon, of Baltimore, has arrived at Ocracoke, after a cruise of 4 months, during which she has captured a ship, 3 brigs and a schooner, all with valuable cargoes. The ship is called the Venus, laden with salt and wine from Cadiz; she has arrived at Beaufort, N. C. One of the brigs called the Kingston Packet, from Kingston bound to St. John's, laden with rum, sugar, molasses, coffee and cocoa, has arrived at Ocracoke.

The privateer Rolla, Dooley, of Baltimore, arrived at Beaufort, N. C. on the 4th inst. Was chased off Jamaica by a frigate, and escaped by throwing all the guns over but one. Has captured the brig George Provost, laden with naval stores, &c. from Halifax for Jamaica, and ordered her to New-Orleans, besides the licensed ship which she sent into St. Jago.

The letter-of-marque schooner Siro, capt. Gray, has arrived at Portland, from France, with a valuable cargo of brandy, wine, silks, &c. On her passage she captured the British ship Loyal Sam, of 10 guns and 30 men, besides passengers, from Nassau for Glasgow, with coffee, dye-woods, cotton, and some specie. Took out of her 16 boxes containing gold and silver, 4 seroons of indigo, and 2 long nine pounders—manned the ship, and ordered her for a southern port. Mr. Sloan, a passenger in the Siro, is the bearer of dispatches from our charge des affairs in France to government.

The letter-of-marque schooner Bellona, arrived at New-Bedford from France, captured on her passage a British transport ship from Lisbon for England, with sick and wounded prisoners, whom she parolled for exchange, and redeemed the vessel.

LATEST FROM HALIFAX

From papers received at Boston by the cartel Agnes.

Halifax, (N. S.) June 2, 1813.

Arrived, the Rifleman, with 7 transports, from Martinique, with the 13th and 64th regts.

May 24. Several vessels belonging to the Cork convoy arrived here yesterday. They sailed from Cork 25th April, being 90 sail in all, and off the harbor were joined by the Bellerophon, 74 guns, vice-admiral Keats, Niobe 38, Loir 38, Comet 20, and 2 brigs of war; with about 60 sail of merchantmen from the English channel, making in the whole 7 armed vessels, and 150 sail of transports and merchant vessels bound to Newfoundland, Quebec, Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick. On the 17th parted with the fleet on the banks in a fog.

The transports (14 sail) with the 18th regt. of light dragoons, 2d bat. 42 regt. for Quebec, were left off Cape Ray, the 6th inst. under convoy of the Cygnet. These with the 2d bat. 89th regt. a company of royal artillery, together with *De Watteville's* regiment, 1540 strong, and 400 seamen from England, will powerfully reinforce the troops in Canada. *The principal part of these sailed from Halifax the 25th May, and have arrived at Quebec.*

LATE FROM FRANCE.

The schooner *Bellona*, of Philadelphia, has arrived at New-Bedford from Nantz, with a valuable cargo. She left Nantz on the 28th April. Her passengers inform, that Bonaparte arrived at his head-quarters at Magdeburgh on the 20th April; and that the emperor of Austria had agreed to furnish him with 80,000 men, 40,000 of which are to be cavalry, and to receive in compensation the Tyrol, the port of Trieste, and the province of Silesia.

THE CHESAPEAKE AND SHANNON.

Copy of a letter from com. William Bainbridge, now at Boston, to the Secretary of the Navy.

Navy Yard, Charlestown, Mass. 2d June, 1813.

Sir—It has become my painful duty, as commanding officer on this station, to convey to you the unpleasant intelligence of the capture of the frigate *Chesapeake*, by the British frigate *Shannon*. The particulars of this unfortunate occurrence are, from what I have been able to collect, as follow:

Yesterday forenoon, the frigate *Shannon* appeared in the bay, full in sight from the harbor. At meridian, the *Chesapeake* got under way from President Roads, and stood out with a fair wind. Mr. Knox, the pilot on board, left her at 5 P. M., the light-house bearing W. half N. distance 6 leagues, the *Shannon* then in sight, and the *Chesapeake*, prepared for action, standing for her. At 6 P. M. Mr. Knox informs, the *Chesapeake* opened a fire, which was returned; and at 12 minutes past 6, both ships were laying along side of each other as if in the act of boarding; at that moment an explosion took place on board the *Chesapeake*, which spread a fire on her upper deck from the fore-mast to the mizen-mast, apparently as high as the tops, and enveloped both ships in smoke for several minutes. After the smoke cleared away, they were seen separated, with the British colors on board the *Chesapeake* over the American, both ships standing to the eastward.

The well proved courage and skill of captain Lawrence, and the bravery of the officers and the crew, justify a full belief that the loss of the *Chesapeake* has been entirely owing to some fortuitous event happening on board of her, and not to any superiority of skill and bravery in the enemy. But should they improperly impute it to the latter, they will find it necessary to give more than one solitary instance to convince our officers and brave tars that they are superior. We have lost one frigate, but, in losing her, I am confident we have lost no reputation.

I have the honor to be, sir, with the greatest respect, your most obedient servant,

WM. BAINBRIDGE.

Hon. Secretary of the Navy.

CONSCIOUS INFERIORITY!

The late action between the *Chesapeake* and *Shannon*, may justly be considered as a victory on the part of the Americans. While it was conducted upon fair and honorable principles, the advantage was evidently on the side of the *Chesapeake*. That her fire was much more vivid and effectual is proved by the fact of its having carried away the jib boom and fore and mizen royal-masts of the enemy, while it does not appear that the *Chesapeake* lost a single spar. When the frigates closed, the *Shannon* threw on board the *Chesapeake* an immense body of combustibles and inflammable matter, like an infernal machine of new and horrible construction, which enveloped the *Chesapeake* in a volume of flame to her very tops! Of the destruction and confusion which must have ensued, it is not probable that any one who was not present can form an adequate idea. Immediately after the explosion the *Shannon* boarded; and from the destroying effect of the combustibles, had little else to do but take quiet possession.

It is said all stratagem is justifiable in war; yet in cases like this, the maxim will not apply. Had the *Shannon* been a vessel of inferior force, it might have been admissible; but as she was unquestionably superior, her conduct has disgraced the British flag. When we reflect that the *Shannon* was a 38 gun frigate of the first class, the *Chesapeake* only a 36; that the former sent a challenge to the latter, and of course must have been in perfect preparation, exclusive

of the "infernal machine;" and that her commander was an old experienced officer who had long been accustomed to a frigate; we cannot but look upon the "explosion" as base and cowardly in the extreme. It proves that they felt themselves inferior to the Americans, and were afraid to contend with them on any thing like equal terms. Had the *Shannon* conquered the *Chesapeake* by fair fighting, although she is a heavier frigate, and probably had a greater number of men, we would have acknowledged it to be a victory. But as it is, it must be viewed as a striking evidence of conscious inferiority on the part of the British, and that they dare not engage upon equal, manly, and honorable terms. The British officers feel that their naval energies are rapidly on the decline, and they resort to dishonorable means to preserve the appearance of their former superiority.

NAVAL COURT OF ENQUIRY.

According to general usage, in such cases, a court of enquiry has been held on the conduct of lieut. John D. Henley, late commander of the U. S. brig *Viper*, and his officers and crew, in surrendering the said brig to his Britannic Majesty's frigate *Narcissus*. The following opinion of the court, approved by the secretary of the Navy, is submitted to the public:

OPINION.

The court having heard the statement and evidence in this case, and maturely considered the circumstances attending the surrender of the U. S. brig of war the *Viper*, of 12 guns, while under the command of lieut. J. D. Henley, esq. to his Britannic Majesty's frigate the *Narcissus*, rated at 32 guns, under the command of capt. Lumby, are unanimously of opinion, that there was no impropriety of conduct on the part of said lieut. J. D. Henley, or the officers and crew of the said brig *Viper*, on occasion of said surrender; but that every exertion was made by the said lieut. J. D. Henley, and the officers and crew of the said brig *Viper*, to preserve her from capture, after they discovered the enemy to be a frigate; but from the superior force and sailing of said frigate, all exertions to save the said brig, the *Viper*, were unavailing.

A like enquiry has been hold, and the same proceedings had, relative to the surrender of the U. S. brig *Vixen*, while under the command of master commandant George W. Reed, to his Britannic Majesty's frigate *Southampton*. The following is the opinion of the court, approved as above, respecting the same.

OPINION.

The court having heard the statement of lieutenant Drayton and the other evidence, and maturely considered the same, are unanimously of opinion, that there was no impropriety of conduct on the part of the officers and crew on the occasion of the surrender of the U. S. brig of war the *Vixen*, of 14 guns, while under the command of master-commandant George W. Reed, esq. to his Britannic Majesty's frigate *Southampton*, rated at 32 guns; and that every exertion was made and the most proper means adopted, by the commander, officers and crew, of the said brig *Vixen*, to escape from the said frigate *Southampton*, after the force and size of said frigate were discovered.

NOTICE.

To persons employed on board private armed vessels.

To enable those who may be wounded, or disabled, in any engagement with the enemy, to obtain certificates entitling them to pensions, the like regulations and restrictions as are used in relation to the navy of the United States, are to be observed, to wit:

That the commanding officer of every vessel having a commission, or letters of marque and reprisal, cause to be given to any officer, or seaman, who, during his cruise, shall have been wounded, on board, to be approved and signed by such commanding officer, describing the nature and degree, as far as practicable, of such wound, or disability, naming his place of residence and the rate of wages, if any, to which he was entitled at the time of receiving such wound, or disability; and that such certificate be transmitted to this department.

The widows, or orphans, where the wife is dead, of those persons who may be slain, in any engagement with the enemy, on board such vessels, will be entitled to pension certificates, upon forwarding to this office a certificate from the commanding officer of the vessels to which such persons were attached, of their having been slain as aforesaid; and the certificate of

a justice of the peace, for the country in which such widows or orphans may reside, that they actually stand in that relation to the deceased.

Navy-Department, Washington, June 5.

British Account of the Attack made on Sacket's Harbor.

From the Kingston Gazette Extra. Sunday, May 30.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-quarters, Kingston, Adjutant-general's office, May 30th, 1813.

His excellency the commander of the forces, considers it an act of justice due to the detachment placed under the command of col. Baynes, to express his entire approbation of their conduct in the recent attack made upon Sacket's Harbor, at day-break on the morning of the 29th inst.; the regularity and patient firmness exhibited by the troops under circumstances of peculiar privation and fatigue, have been exceeded only by their intrepid gallantry in action, forcing a passage at the point of the bayonet, through a thickly wooded country, affording strong positions to the enemy, but not affording a single spot of cleared ground favorable for the operations of the troops. The woods were filled with infantry, supported by field-pieces, and an incessant heavy and destructive fire, from a numerous and almost invisible foe, did not arrest the determined advance of the troops; who, after taking three field-pieces, 6 pounders, from the enemy, drove him by a spirited charge, to seek shelter within block-houses of the enclosed forts, and induced him to set fire to his store-houses. Unfortunately light and adverse winds prevented the co-operation of the larger vessels of the fleet; the gun-boats under the direction of captain Mulcaster, rendered every assistance in their power, to support the landing, and advance of the troops, but proved unequal to silence the guns of the enemy's batteries, or to have any effect on their block-house, and it being found impracticable, without their assistance and the co-operation of the ships, to carry their post by assault, the troops were reluctantly ordered to leave a beaten enemy, whom they had driven before them for upwards of three hours, and who did not venture to offer the slightest opposition to the re-embarkation of the troops, which was effected with perfect order.

The grenadier company of the 100th regiment, commanded by captain Burke, to which was attached a subaltern's detachment of the Royal Scots, led the column with undaunted gallantry, supported by a detachment of the king's, under major Evens, which nobly upheld the high established character of that distinguished corps; the detachment of the 104th regiment, under major Moodie, behaved with the utmost gallantry and spirit, and their example was followed by captain M'Pherson's company of the Glengary light infantry. The detachment of Canadian Voltigeurs, under major Harriot, behaved with a degree of spirit and steadiness, so as to justify expectations of their becoming a highly useful and valuable corps.

The two divisions of the detachment were most ably commanded by colonel Young of the King's, and major Drummond of the 104th regiment.

Commodore sir James Yeo, conducted the brigades of boats to the attack, and accompanying the troops on their advance, directed the co-operation of the gun-boats. The enemy had a few days before received strong reinforcements of troops, by the report of the prisoners, and a corps of 500 men arrived the night preceding the attack; and from every source of information, his force must have been quadruple to that of the detachments taken from the garrison of Kingston.

Captain Gray, acting deputy-quarter-master-general, was killed close to the enemy's block-house. In him the army have lost an active and intelligent officer. Returns of killed and wounded have not yet been received from the corps. By his excellency's command.

EDWARD BAYNES, Adjutant-general.

The fleet have returned this morning, and landed the troops, with four American officers, and about 150 soldiers, prisoners of war.

By letters which we have seen, we learn that no more than 750 men of the British troops were engaged in the attack, of whom 150 were killed or wounded. Capt. Gray of the quarter-master-general's department, capt. Blackmore and ensign Gregg, of the king's, were killed. Major Evans, capt. Tyeth and lieut. Nutall of the same regt., majors Drummond and Moodie, and capt. Shore and Leonard, of the 104th regt. and capt. Mac Pherson of the Glengary light infantry, are among the wounded.