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POETRY.

A "Hood"-y Poem.

A *sea* horse is a *sea* horse
When you *see* him in the *sea;*
But when you see him in the *bay*
A *bay* horse then is he.

Of *course* a race horse isn't *coarse*,
A *fine* is far from *fine;*
It is a saddening sight to see
A noble *pine*-tree *pine*.

A bat about a farmer's room
Not long ago I knew
To *fly*. He caught a *fly* and then
Flew up the chimney-*flew*.

"How do you do?" said Sal to John,
"*So-so*," replied he.
"How do you do?" said John to Sal,
Sometimes *sew-sew*," said she.

A kitchen *maid* is often *made*
To burn her face, or broil it;
A lady will do little else
Than *toil-it* at her *toilet*.

'Tis punishment for me to pun;
'Tis trifling void of worth;
So let it pass unnoticed
Like *dew* that's *due* to earth.

HISTORICAL.

From the National Intelligencer.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE Civil History of the War OF 1812.

BY A CONTEMPORARY.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

In the lives of most men who, after having been much engaged in public affairs, have reached a certain age, there are moments in which the memory turns back upon itself, retraces the scenes of earlier years, dwelling with fresh interest on their leading traits, and not unfrequently most of all upon those on which it had hardly bestowed a second thought at the time of their occurrence. In the depths of the night they flit before the mind with peculiar vividness, and in the dreamy hours of the day they still haunt it.

This habit of recalling to memory and meditating upon scenes which, fifty years ago, the writer was not a spectator merely but (in a subordinate capacity) an actor, will serve to account for the appearance of the following sketches of the hitherto unwritten History of the Declaration of War between the United States and Great Britain in the year 1812.

The main purpose of the writer in presenting these papers to the public is, whilst affording to the younger class of readers a condensed and familiar view of certain portions of actual history which may have escaped their attention, to put upon record, for the information of readers of all classes, a variety of facts and circumstances, occurring chiefly in the early years of Mr. Madison's Administration, some of which essentially depending upon the memory of the writer, or upon evidence which he alone has it in his power to produce, would, if not now committed to paper, in all proaability never meet the public eye.

THE KINDLING OF THE WAR.

What first seriously suggested to the public mind the probability, or even the possibility, of the United States becoming engaged in hostilities with Great Britain, was an incident which developed a settled purpose on the part of that Power then claiming the sovereignty of the seas, to employ her naval strength not only in conflict with her wonted and ancient European adversaries, but also in enforcing a systematic proscription of the freedom of the seas to all neutral flags, including of course that of the United States, and asserting the right of impressment from neutral vessels, as well national as private, of all seamen claimed to be of British birth. The incident alluded to was the unprovoked and altogether lawless and wanton assault, on the 22d of June, 1807, off the Capes of Virginia, by the British frigate Leopard on the United States frigate Chesapeake, by which a number of the seamen of the latter were killed and wounded, and several of the remainder forcibly taken from her decks on the plea of their being Englishmen: after accomplishing which purpose the Leopard rejoined the squadron of heavy armed British vessels lying at anchor in Hampton Roads, from which she had the moment before parted.

The outrage thus perpetrated, within the waters of Virginia, was itself an act of War, and would have justified the instantaneous infliction of a signal retribution. Had Fulton's invention of the Torpedo (a projected means of submarine explosion, in which Mr. Jefferson, about that time, placed more faith than the issue of the experiment justified) been a success instead of a failure, the occasion would certainly have warranted its employment. But, as far as regarded the condition of our few vessels of war for active service, it may be assumed that the entire effective naval force of the country at that time, had it been concentrated in Hampton Roads, would not have been adequate to the task of expelling these hostile invaders from their defiant attitude within the waters of the United States.

The intense excitement and resentment which pervaded the minds of the people throughout the country wherever the news of this encounter spread may be readily comprehended. It was as much as the Administration and its friends could do, by the sage expedients it employed for the purpose, to calm down the spirit of the People, amongst whom, indeed everything like party feeling was merged in indignation and patriotic sentiment. "Nothing would have been easier (justly remarks the historian of Mr. Jefferson) than for the President to improve the present occasion into a war with Great Britain, if he had been at all actuated by the motives ascribed to him by his opponents, or if it had not been his settled policy to preserve peace so long as it could be done without dishonor. He determined, therefore, to give Great Britain the opportunity of disavowal and reparation, and to do nothing to pledge or commit the nation to war rather than to moderate measures of retaliation."

A stronger justification than this of the course of the President in this emergency is to be found in the fact that the systematic policy of his ewn Administration had left him no alternative. Buffeted between the heated partisans in the Republican and Federal parties, the Navy had, when Mr. JEFFERSON attained the Presidency, already lost some portion of its popularity. One of the first duties of the new President was to carry into execution an act passed in the last days of the preceding Administration, directing the sale of the smaller vessels of the Navy and the dismantling of the larger half of the few frigates of which the Navy was then composed. Nothing loth, he promptly and diligently discharged this duty, having in the first annual Message, less than a year after his coming into office, informed Congress that five of the seven frigates directed to be *laid up* had been brought and laid up here, (at Washington,) where, he added—facetiously, one would say, if he had been in the habit of jesting with serious things—"besides *the safety of their position*, they are under the eye of the Executive Administration as well as of Congress." &c. Recurring to the subject in his second annual message, having discovered that vessels which lie in water and are exposed to its action are inevitably subject to rapid decay, he proposed to Congress to add to the navy-yard here a *dry-dock*, "protected from the sun," to save them from their perishing condition—a proposition which, says his truthful biographer, was assailed by his political adversaries, in every form of ridicule and argument, with such effect that it seemed to the people, and was even conceded by the silence of his friends, to be an impracticable scheme. The consequence to the Navy of such trifling as this with that invaluable arm of the public service was lamentably illustrated in the inability of the Government to make even an effort to expel the offending squadron from the waters of the Chesapeake. Nor was that other description of naval force, authorized by Congress on the Executive recommendation, in any better plight than the Navy proper. The *Gun-boat* system would have been forgotton by this time were it not for the witticisms and drolleries which it extorted. Whatever use the wags made of the system, it proved itself in this emergency to be worse than useless for any other purpose. In his annual Message in December; 1806, the President had informed Congress that the *gun-boats* ordered at the preceding session would be "ready for service in the ensuing spring." The vernal season had come and gone, when the President, in a letter to the Governor of Virginia, concerting means for the common defence, after authorizing him to order upon immediate duty such portions of the militia as he thought necessary for the defense of Norfolk, reported as follows the condition of the gun-boats for service: "We have, moreover, four gun-boats *hauled up* at Hampton, and four others *on the stocks* in Matthews county, which *we consider in danger;*" and the Governor was requested to order "such aids of militia to their protection as he might think adequate to their safety!" This is about the last we heard of the "gunboat system."

It wanted only the last trait to complete the picture of the lamentable helplessness to which, for any purpose of maritime defence, the Administration had, not designedly, of course, but inevitably, reduced the country.

Under the actual circumstances in which the Government found itself, as we have briefly sketched them, the course pursued by the Executive was certainly the only one within its power.

On the 2nd of July, accordingly, the President issued his proclamation, in which after reciting the outrage, he interdicted all armed vessels bearing British commissions from the harbors and waters of the United States; all officers, both civil and military, being called upon to aid in executing these orders. Besides the large body of the militia, already detailed for the protection of Norfolk, one hundred thousand men in the several States were required to hold themselves in readiness, under the authority of a law passed at the preceding session of Congress. An armed vessel was dispatched with instructions to the American Minister in London to ask of the British Government satisfaction for the injury received and security for the future. On the 30th of July—more than a month after the outrageous assault upon the Chesapeake—Congress was required to assemble on the 26th of October following being three months from the date of the summons, and *four months* in all after the exciting cause of it.

These several measures, and the procrastination of the appeal in this emergency to the sentiment of the Representative Branch of the Government, must be regarded as conclusive proof that War, even in the distance, was not within the contemplation of the Presidednt or his official advisers. Nothing could be more unjust, to him especially, than the imputations made by his political adversaries to the contrary.

The circumstance which left the premeditated onslaught on the American frigate without the possibility of justification, was the fact of its being perpetrated whilst the two nations were not only on terms of professed amity, but had been for some time engaged in negotiations having for their object the continuation and perpetuation of friendly relations between the two countries. How little the People or government of the United States were calculating upon such an act of violence may be inferred from the language of the annual Executive message to Congress at the opening of its session on the 3d of December preceding: "I have the satisfaction to inform you," said the President, "that the negotiations between the United States and the Government of Great Britain is proceeding in a spirit of friendship and accommodation which *promises a result of mutual advantage*." &c. The negotiations went on in the same spirit until, notwithstanding the intervening death of Charles James Fox, (the Minister charged with the negotiation,) a Treaty was concluded on the 31st of December and forwardrd to the United States so as to reach the President's hands on the day before the adjournment of Congress on the third of March, 1807.

This Treaty, concluded after long and laborious exertions on the part of Messrs. MONROE and PINKNEY, the American Ministers, and being, as they assured the Executive, the most advantageous for the United States that could possibly be had, was most ungraciously received by the President on its arrival at Washington. Though it reached this city in time to have been transmitted to the Senate and acted upon by that body, (by prolonging, if necessary, the continuance of its sitting beyond the termination of Legislative session of Congress,) the President took the responsibility of *declining to bring it to the notice of the Senate;* and so struck the Treaty dead!

Though that Convention, signed by the appointed negotiators of both parties, might have been in some particulars justly exceptionable, and especially in that it was accompanied by a note from the British Ministers, by which their Government reserved the right of releasing itself from the stipulations in favor of neutral rights if the United States should submit to the Berlin decree (of France) or other invasions of these rights by the Government of France; yet there is a way of doing almost all things, which, as it is in good taste or in bad, determines the character of the actions as well of Governments as men. In the instance before us, the reader will perhaps agree with us, it was due as well to the dignity of our own country as to that courtesy which ought ever to distinguish international intercourse, if it was not also required by the spirit of the Constitution of the United States, that this Treaty should have been laid before the Senate for its consideration before being summarily rejected by the President. Being so submitted to that body, if by it disapproved, the fact might, without any sacrifice of principle, have been made known to the British Government in a more respecful manner than it was.

For the attack upon the unwarned vessel of the United States by the full-armed British frigate in our own waters (after having lain in wait for her for several days with a squadron of other heavy armed ships) we repeat, as we have already intimated there could be neither excuse nor palliation. Yet, looking back upon the antecedents of that barbarous act, the mind is forced involuntarily to connect it with the angry feeling which may not improbably have been excited in the breasts of the British Ministers, if not in that of the aged King himself, by the contemptuous rejection of a Treaty which this Government had not only proposed, but which its Ministers to London (such men as JAMES MONROE and WILLIAM PINKNEY) had, at the instance of this Government, prosecuted with the most assiduous zeal for several months, until, in procuring the consent of the British Government to the measure, they achieved a success they had hardly hoped for.

Such, indeed, seems to have been the impression of the intelligent friend of President JEFERSON, (Professor TUCKER, of Virginia,) who, in his "Life of Jefferson," thus alludes to the circumstance: "From the moment it was generally understood that the President did not mean to ratify the treaty made by Messrs. Monroe and Pinkney, commerce and shipping *were made to feel the naval ascendancy of Great Britain more frequently and vexatiously than ever*, until at length it was exhibited in an exertion of power (in the attack on the Chesapeake) which electrified the country to its 'utmost extremities.'" Our Ministers in London, expecting the ratification of the Treaty, were almost as much wounded by the rejection of it as the Government of Great Britain is supposed to have been.

The objection considred insuperable by Mr. JEFFERSON against the Treaty—that it included no provision against Impressment—was not a sufficient reason for its peremptory rejection by this Government. It might with propriety have been submitted to the Senate, and also ratified by that body and by the President; leaving the desired provision against impressment to form the ground of future negotiation. The Senate might even have *amended* the Treaty, so as to conform it to their views, as they did on a late occasion, in regard to a Treaty with the same nation. Nothing worse could have resulted from such a course than has resulted in the case just referred to. The Treaty would probably have fallen through, and the negotiators would in all likelihood have set themselves to work to frame a new one.

Mr. JEFFERSON, however, not realizing the hazard to which he had, by repudiating the Treaty, exposed the commerce and even the peace of the country, instructed our Ministers at London to *renew the negotiation* with the new Ministry, in the view of obtaining a better Treaty than the one which he had refused to sanction. This, as the reader will readily believe, could not be a very promising undertaking on their part.

During the time that the rejected treaty was on its passage to and fro across the Atlantic, a change of the British Ministry had taken place, and Mr. CANNING had become the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. That change was fatal to the idea of obtaining any better treaty than the one which Mr. Jefferson had rejected.—"In the interviews which the American Ministers had with Mr. Canning after the Ppesident's rejection of the treaty reached England (says Mr. Tucker) it soon appeared that there was little probability of more successful negotiation; and from a view of the diplomatic correspondence between the two nations, we can hardly suppose their differences would have been adjusted if subsequent occurrences had not presented new obstacles to such an adjustment."

After these premonitions of the state of feeling existing in the British Government it is more than remarkable—it is indeed marvellous—with what equanimity and placidity the Executive members of this Government awaited the course of events. One-half of the Cabinet Ministers were absent on journeys of business or recreation when the news of the affair of the Chesapeake reached the Seat of Government, and the President appears to have had for his sole aid and counsel in this emergency the ever-faithful MADISON. We may well imagine the astonishment with which the news was received. The President himself, in his message to the called Congress, introducing the event of the day, gives the best idea of the state of mind in which he and his Cabinet councillors received the tidings of it. We quote from it: "The question whether a Treaty should be accepted in that form could have admitted but one decision, even had no declarations of the other party impaired our confidence in it.—Still, anxious not to close the door against friendly adjustment, new modifications were framed." &c., "and our Ministers were instructed to resume their negotiations on these grounds *On this new reference to amicable discussion we were* REPOSING *in confidence* when, on the 22d day of June last," &c. &c.

Obedient to the last instructions of their Government, the Ministers of the United States at London did address, on the 24th of July, to Mr. CANNING a note proposing a renewal of the negotiation, and stating the principles upon which, in that negotiation, they were required by their Government to insist; the first of which was in these terms: "Without a provision against impressments, sudstantially such as is contemplated in your original instructions, no treaty is to be concluded."

To this note—the affair of the Chesapeake intervening—no reply was received until the 22d of October, when, in a note to the United States Ministers, Mr. CANNING "protested, in behalf of his Government, against a practice altogether unusual in the political transactions of States by which the American Government assumes to itself the privilege of revising and altering agreements concluded and signed on its behalf by its agents duly authorized for that purpose; of retaining so much of those agreements as may be favorable to its own views; and of rejecting such stipulations, or such parts of stipulations, as are conceived to be not sufficiently beneficial to America." He therefore informs the American Ministers that the proposal "for proceeding to negotiate anew upon the basis of a Treaty already solemnly concluded and signed *is wholly inadmissible*."

However the Government of the United States may have regretted or even resented this determination on the part of the British Cabinet, it could hardly have controverted the principle of the protest upon which it was founded. Be that as it may, the note of the British Secretary of Foreign Affairs put an end, of course, to any further *negotiation* on the subject.

No material change took place in the position of things, within or without the borders of the United States, from the date of the President's first Proclamation up to the meeting of Congress on the 26th of October following: the British squadron remaining all the while within the waters of the United States, in defiance of the authority of this Government

No. II. of the "RECOLECTIONS" is intended to appear within a few days, and the remaining numbers at short intervals thereafter.

Revolutionary Recollection.

In the autumn of 1777, when Lord Howe had possession of Philadelphia, the situation of the Americans, who could not follow their beloved commander, was truly distressing, subject to every day insult of cruel and oppressive foes. Bound to pay obedience to laws predicated on the momentary power of a cruel and vindictive commander, it can be better pictured than described.

To obtain the common necessaries of life, particularly flour, they had to go as far as Bristol, a distance of eighteen or twenty miles, and even this indulgence was not granted them until a pass was procured from Lord Howe, as guards were placed along Vine stseet, extending from the Delaware to the Schuylkill, forming a complete barrier; beyond these, through the wood, extending as far as Frankford, were stationed the picquet guards—thus rendering it in a manner impossible to reach Bristol mills unless first obtaining a pass.

The commander-in-chief of the American force was then encamped at Valley Forge, suffering from cold and hunger, and the inclemency of the season. The British rolled in plenty, and spent their days in feasting, their nights in balls and riots, and dissipation; thus resting in supposed security while the American chieftain was planning a mode for final extirpation.

A poor woman with six small children, whose husband was at Valley Forge, had made frequent application for a pass.—Engagement rendered it impossible for her cruel tormentors to give her one.—Rendered desperate from disappointment and the cries of her children, she started alone without a pass, and by good luck eluded the guard and reached Bristol.

It will be remembered by many now living, that six brothers, by the name of Loales or Doale, about this time committed many acts of heroic bravery, but more in the character of marauders than soldiers. They were men full six feet high stout and active; a fearless intrepidity characterized their deeds, and they always succeeded in making their escape. A marked partiality for the Americans rendered them obnoxious to the British, and always welcome to the former, to whom they conveyed what information they could glean in their adventures.

Our adventurous female having procured her flour in a pillow-case, holding about twenty pounds, was returning with a light heart to her anxious and lonely babes. She had passed the picquet guards at Frankford, and was just entering the woods a little this side, when a tall stout man stepped from behind a tree and putting a letter in her hand requested her to read it. She grasped with eager joy the letter bearing the character of her husband's hand writing. After a pause he said:

"Your husband is well, madam, and requested me to say that in a short time he will be with you; money is a scarce thing among us—I mean among them, but on account of your husband's partiality to our cause of liberty, I am willing to become his banker." So saying he handed her a purse of money. "My means, madam, are adequate, or I would not thus lavish," seeing she was about to refuse it.

"You said, sir, my husband would see me shortly; how do you know that which seems so impossible? And how did you know me, who never—"

"Hush, madam, we are now approaching the British guard; suffice it to say, the American commander has that in his head which, like an earthquake will shake the whole American continent, and expunge these miscreants; but hush! take the road to the left—farewell!"

So saying he departed. She gave one look, but vacancy filled the spot where he stood. With a slow, cautious step, she approached Vine street. Already her fire burnt beneath her bread when the awful word "halt," struck her to the soul. She started, and found herself in the custody af a British sentinel.

"Your pass, woman!"

"I have none, sir, my children are—"

"D—n the rebel crew, why do you breed enemies to your king? this flour is mine—off, woman, and die with your babes!"

A groan was her only answer. The ruffian was about departing, when the former messenger appeared. His whole demeanor was changed—humble simplicity marked his gait—he approached the guard with a seeming fearfulness, and begged him in a suppliant voice to give the poor woman her flour.

"Fool, idiot!" exclaimed the guard, "who are you? See yonder guard-house—if you interfere here, you soon shall be its inmate."

"May be so, sir; but won't you give the poor woman the means of supporting her little family one week longer? Recollect the distance she has walked, the weight of the bag, and recollect—"

"H—ll and fury sirrah! Why bid me recollect? you plead in vain; begone, or I'll seize you as a spy."

"You won't give the poor woman her flour?"

"No."

"Then, by my country's faith and hopes of freedom, you shall!" and with a powerful arm he seized the guard by the throat and hurled him to the ground.—"Run, madam, run—see the guard-house is alive—seize your flour, pass Vine strect and you are safe."

'Twas done. The guard made an attempt to rise, when the stranger drew a pistol and shot him dead. He then gazed around him with a fearless intrepidity.—There was but one way of escape, and that through the woods. Seizing the dead man's musket, he started like a deer pursued by hounds.

"Shoot him down! down with him!" was echoed from one to the other.

The desperado was lost in the woods and a general search was commenced; the object of their pursuit in the mean time flew like lightning; the guard was left behind, but the whole picquet line would soon be alarmed—one course alone presented itself, and that was to mount his horse which was concealed in the bushes, and gallop down to the Delaware; a boat was already there for him. The thought was no sooner suggested than it was put into execution.

He mounted his horse, and eluding the alarmed guards, had nearly reached the Delaware. Here he found himself headed and hemmed in by at least fifty exasperated soldiers. One sprang from behind a tree and demanded immediate surrender.

"'Tis useless to prevaricate—you are now our prisoner, and your boat, which before excited suspicion, is now in our possession."

"Son of a slave! slave to a king! How dare you address a freeman! Surrender yourself—a Doale never surrendered himself to any man, far less to a blinded poltroon—away, or die," and he attempted to pass. The guard leveled his gun, but himself was leveled to the dust; the ball of Doale's pistol had been swifter than his own.

His case was now truly desperate; behind him was the whole line of guards—on the north of him the Frankford piquets and on the left of him the city of Philadelphia, filled with British troops.

One way, and only one, presented itself, and that was to cross the river. He knew his horse,—plunged in—a shout succeeded, and ere he reached half the distance, twenty armed boats were in swift pursuit. His noble noble horse dashed through the Delaware, his master spurred him on with double interest, while the balls whistled around him. The tide was running down; when he reached the Jersey shore he found himself immediately opposite the old slip at Market street. On reaching the shore, he turned round, took out a pistol, and with steady aim fired at the first boat; a man fell over the side and sunk to rise no more. He then disappeared; his pursuers gave one look, one curse, and returned to the Pennsylvania shore, fully believing that if he was not the devil he was at least one of his principal agents.

HOG CHOLERA OR HOG CONSUMPTION.—In Johnson county, Indiana, the fatal hog disease is very prevelent, but the symtoms, it is stated, are more those of consumption than of cholera. Out of fifteen hundred hogs put in one inclousre, fifty a day were dying. The New York Tribune says:

The first symptom noticeable is a slight cough, which is soon followed by a drooping, stiff appearance; the nose and lips, and sometimes the jaws and ears, turn blue and swell up, and finally purging, and sometimes vomiting, follows, and ensues speedily. Hogs, in every stage of the disease, have been killed and examined for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the disease, and the result establishes the fact beyond scruple that the disease here is inflamation of the lungs, those in the first stages showing a congested condition in a portion of the lungs, while those further advanced had a more extensive engorgement, and in the last stages of the disease the lungs were dark, dry and solid, with some ulceration of the lungs and throat. The stomach and intestines show no signs of disease. The disease prevails fatally in Massachusetts and Rhode Island among hogs brought there from the West.

STRYCHNINE IN WHISKY.—The dangerous and infamous use of strychnine in the manufacture of whisky, resorted to because a bushel of corn, from which, by an honest distillation, about two and a half gallons are extracted, is made to yield four or five gallons by this means, is attracting attention everywhere, and stringent laws are demanded for public protection. A writer in the Richmond Enquirer calls the attention of the Legislature to the practice, and asks for the inspectors—scientific and practical chemists—to examine every barrel of Virginia manufactured or imported whisky before it is allowed to be offered for sale.—This, with strong penalties against the adulteration, will effectually prevent it.