reasoning, and so much mischief in the opinion it supports, that too much pains cannot be taken to shew the fallacy of the one, and entirely to eradicate the other.—It is not difficult to conceive that an army in the highest state of discipline, may be placed in such a situation by the unskilfulness of its leader as to make it an easy prey to the rudest savages.—The destruction of the Roman legions in Germany, under Varus, and the army of Braddock in America, are two out of many instances of this kind with which history will furnish us—but this same history will also inform us, that notwithstanding a battle may be gained, or even a campaign successfully terminated by undisciplined valor, acting against veteran troops, it has never happened that a nation which cultivated the military art has been subdued by one which set no value on its attainment.—The subversion of the Roman empire by barbarians forms no exception to this opinion, for those barbarians were superior to the then Romans, in every martial and almost in every civil virtue—of those legions which had conquered the world, feeble skeletons only remained; distinguished indeed by the ensigns which had once directed the skilful evolutions of a brave and free people—but which had become disgraced by the protection of effeminate slaves, who were as much unable to bear the arms and perform the exercise of Roman soldiers as to comprehend the fire of patriotism and liberty which animated the armies of Marcellus and Scipio. But although discipline and valor were no longer the characteristics of a Roman army, the tactics of the earlier ages were not entirely forgotten, a few individuals still read the immortal works of Cæsar and Polybius, and the small remains of military science, was sufficient to sustain for many ages the tottering fabric of the empire, assailed on all sides by immense swarms of warlike barbarians. Never were the effects of generalship more conspicuous than in the atchievments of Ælius and Boniface, of Belisarius and Narses—these great men placed at the head of armies which were little better than bands of undisciplined plunderers, were enabled by a series of artful manœuvres to render useless the great superiority of their enemies in numbers and valor.

But hundreds of instances are to be found in the Roman and Grecian histories to shew the great inferiority of mere courage, with the advantage of numbers, and even of skill in the management of his arms, when opposed to troops who can manœuvre well, and are commanded by a general possessing genius and science. What has been said above of the success of raw troops in the American and French revolutions, is not incompatible with this opinion, but rather tends to confirm it. The advantage of talents in the generals was certainly on the side of America and France, and they very wisely adopted their operations to the kind of troops they commanded. The alertness and activity of these troops enabled them to peform great marches with facility—they were therefore employed in a desultory warfare—to harrass the enemy and cut off his convoys and by this means time was gained to form an army capable of meeting him in an equal field. It was in this kind of warfare that the great efficacy of the rifle was first discovered, and although scarcely known in the European armies at the commencement of the American revolution, it has now become a favorite weapon, to be established as a *corps avance*, or upon the wings and rear of an enemy—But no general has ever thought of making it a substitute for the musket and bayonet. No species of troops are more to be dreaded than a good rifle corps, when acting under the cover of fences, hedges or forests—but in an open country, when opposed either to cavalry or infantry, the rifle is the most contemptible of all arms—the musket and bayonet are adapted to all situations.

The volunteers who served under you, my dear general, in the campaign of 1794, acknowledged, I think, that no number of riflemen could have resisted the charge of General Wayne's army on the 10th of August, of that year. Nothing can shew more clearly than the result of this action does, that the defeat of Braddock is not to be attributed to the kind of arms which were in the hands of his men nor to their want of valor, but to the deficiency of the general in the talents to adapt his manœuvres to the country and the enemy he had to encounter. Close order, and platoon firing, will not answer in a forest. Philip of Macedon conquered Greece, and his son Alexander the empire of Persia, by the strength of the phalanx—but this formidable body could not operate in broken or uneven ground, and whenever it was opposed by a general who had the talents to take advantage of this circumstance, and commanded by one who would suffer himself to be drawn into a situation unfavorable to its operations, its destruction was certain. If general Wayne had marched his army in close columns, instead of those long flexible columns in files, which enabled him to penetrate the woods with facility, and to present a very extended front to the enemy on every point of attack—if he had neglected to reconnoitre the country in every direction as he advanced to prevent an attack from the enemy before he completed his disposition to receive them—or if, instead of putting them up with the bayonet, and keeping up the charge until they were entirely broken and dispersed, he had permitted them to exercise their skill in distant shooting from behind trees, the 20th of August, 1794, would now have produced as melancholy recollections as the 4th of Nov. 1791.‡

But I am persuaded that from a particular examination of the campaigns and battles which took place in the course of the war between the people of the Western country and the Indians, it would appear that whenever the former have been successful, a considerable portion of that success is to be attributed to the military knowledge of their leaders, and that when this was wanting, their valor and great accuracy in shooting the rifle did not always secure them from defeat. Your own, and the campaigns of Clark and Wilkinson, are instances of the former, as the defeats of Crawford, Lougherty & the Blue Licks, are of the latter. I have examined the grounds which was the scene of the defeat at the Blue Licks, and if I was correctly informed as to the disposition of the two armies, it appears to me that nothing could have been more easy than to entrap the Indians in the very toils which they had prepared for their adversaries. The ambuscade was well arranged to ensnare a rash and imprudent enemy, but the smallest degree of military skill upon the part of the Kentucky commander would have been sufficient to put the Indians in the very *cul du sac*, which proved so fatal to himself and his men. I am far from thinking so unfavorably of the rifle, as our valued friend, the late general Wayne.—The covert fighting which that arm requires, was so contrary to the ardor of his disposition, which was for deciding every thing with the bayonet, that he always declared, that the use of the rifle would make cowards of the bravest troops. Instead of wishing to see the rifle banished from our armies, considering the nature of our country, and the great predilection of the people of the western states in its favor, I would recommend at least two thirds of the militia of this section of the union should be armed with it.—The prejudices which have been nourished by long habit are very difficult to remove—our back wodsmen could not easily be induced to give up their favorite arm, nor indeed does there appear any necessity for it. If the western states were to form a separate nation, it would be proper to organize its force as to have all the various descriptions of troops which compose a modern army; but as the tie which unites us to the Atlantic States, is, I hope, indissoluble, the whole militia of the union should be considered as one great army, and in the distribution of the several corps particular regard should be had to the manners, the habits, and even the prejudices of the people. The circumstance has been attended to with great advantage by every military nation, and in every age.

A Roman army was thought to be most formidable when the strength of the legions was supported by the velites or light troops of the neighbouring allies—the Numidian horse (the hussars of the ancients) the cavalry of Thesaly, and the slingers of the Balloæcanisles. Even in the formation of the present European armies the habits of the people are particularly regarded in their military destinations—neither the Emperor of Germany or France, or the king of England would think of recruiting their cavalry in the mountains of Tyrol, the cantons of Switzerland or the high lands of Scotland—nor would the former of these princes find his account in reducing to infantry battalions those fine bodies of hussars with which his Hungarian Polish provinces supply him. The people of the latter countries have been accustomed for ages to make war on horseback—they make the finest light cavalry in the world, but contemptible infantry.—In the formation of a grand army of the union, the militia of the western country might compose the *corps avance*, consisting of mounted and dismounted riflemen, and all the various descriptions of light cavalry—the eastern and middle states would furnish the artillery of the line—and those of the South, cavalry of the line and light infantry. No cavalry in the world would excel those, my dear general, which our native state could produce—for fleetness and fire, the horses are equal to those of the ancient Capadocia or Thesaly, and for grace and dexterity in the management of them, the natives are unrivalled. Possessing as we do then the materials for forming a national militia which shall unite all the desirable qualities of the best appointed European army—why do we not give them that polish of which they are so eminently susceptible? It is admitted by all, the times are portentous.—The storm which has so long desolated the old world has never presented to us an aspect more threatening—Its violence has yet reached that only which to lose is not death. Shall we bewail the loss of our commerce when competency and liberty remain? But the latter can be preserved only by the arms and discipline which obtained it. Why then is there so much indifference manifested upon this all-important subject? Why is year after year suffered to roll away without the adoption of some efficient plan? If there is difficulty in the thing, is not that difficulty constantly increasing as the devouring hand of time continually deprives us of these from whom we could derive instruction? The heroes of the revolution are fast declining to the grave. Shall we not seize the moment when enough are left to animate us by either precept & example to the attainment of those military accomplishments, which are so necessary for the defence of our country? Will a nation of free men suffer themselves to be outdone in any honorable pursuit by the vile instruments of ambition and tyranny, which compose the armies of Europe? "A band of mercenaries whose only hope is that of pay, whose only fear is that of punishment."

It is to obtain your protest, my dear sir, against the inefficient and ridiculous systems of discipline with which the people have been so long and so uselessly harassed, which has induced me to trouble you with the foregoing observations.

Your state possesses an advantage which is scarcely left to any other in the union, of three distinguished revolutionary officers to direct the efforts of its citizens in the attainment of military information. The exertions of a Scott, a Hopkins, and a Posey, might be sufficient to put into operation a system that would soon pervade the continent, which would vindicate the American character for having neglected that to which Rome and Athens were indebted for their glory, and without which no republic can long exist—*a disciplined militia.*

That you may be amongst the last of those who may be called to enjoy in another world the hapiness you have deserved for contibuting to emancipate a nation in this, is the sincere prayer of

Dear sir,

Your friend,

WILLIAM H. HARRISON.

His excellency Charles Scott,
Governor of Kentucky

‡ Gov. St. Clair has been unjustly blamed for the defeat on the 4th of November, 1791. With such troops as composed the greater part of his army, it was impossible to conquer.

NEW-YORK, Oct. 17.

LATEST FROM PORTUGAL.

By captain Doane, of the ship Traveller, from Lisbon, from whence he sailed on the 6th of September, we learn that Almeida surrendered to the French on the 27th of August, in which the British lost three of their best regiments.

Several transports had arrived at Lisbon from England and Cadiz. Two Scotch regiments from Cadiz arrived at Lisbon on the 4th Sept.

An Austrian corps was daily expected to reinforce the French army, which consisted of upwards of 100 000 men. The British army consisted of 30,000 men, and between 70 and 80,000 Portuguese.

Every thing was tranquil at Lisbon.

Captain D. further states, that about 5000 Portuguese troops who were in the garrison at Almeida, were made prisoners and sent to France.

The news of the repeal of the French decrees had been received at Lisbon.

Admiral Berkely commands the Portuguese fleet.

We have received a Lisbon paper of the 3d of September, which we understand contains the official account of the surrender of Almeida, which we shall give a translation of in our next paper.

At a late hour last evening, the brig Savannah Packet, Jocelin, arrived from Liverpool, which place she left on the 2d of September. Captain J. has obligingly furnished the editors of the Mercantile Advertiser with a file of London papers to the evening of the 31st of August—Lloyd's Lists to the 29th, and Liverpool papers to the 30th, from which we have made the following extracts.

Our London papers are four days later than hitherto received.

The schooner Laura, captain Chase, arrived here this morning in 39 days from London. By her we have received files of English papers to tho 6th ult. inclusive. The captain and passengers inform that a report reached London the day previous to their sailing, which stated that all the American property sequestered at St. Sebastians, had been restored to the owners. They likewise inform, that an American ship had been admitted to entry into the port of Eckinford to Holstein, from which it appeared that trade in that port was about to be permitted.—Flour and wheat had fallen in London.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

LONDON, Sept. 4.

The regency of Spain has published an order, delaring the Carraccas in consequence of the late revolution in that settlement, in a state of rigorous blockade. It appears from the order, that part only of the province has declared itself independent; and that neither the capital and province of Maracaibo, that of Coro, nor even the interior of Carraccas itself, have joined in the proceeding. A civil war will therefore probably be the consequence of the present state of things.—The two sail of the line which lately proceeded from Spain to the Carraccas, went out to enforce this order of blockade.

September 6.

The fall in the price of English cloth is perhaps the greatest ever known. The finer sorts from Wiltshire, which were last year sold at two guineas per yard, are not now worth 28s. and at some late sales a the auction mart, some of the best Yorkshire cloths did not fetch above 4s. per pard—so beneficial has been the late impor a ion of Spanish wool.

A treaty of commerce has been arranged with the deputies from the Carraccas, in the 4th article of which, we understand that Great Britain, on her part, engages to protect the trade of those settlements against any hostile attempt that may be made to destroy it; a singular embarrassment thus arises from the late Blockading Proclamation of the Regency of Spain.

The money market continues to experience much depression.

RIGA, August 8.

An express arrived yesterday from St. Petersburg, with the news that the fate of the ships from Teneriffe, under embargo, is now decided. It is his imperial majesty's pleasure, that all the imported goods are to be placed under sequestration; but the ships may sail with Russian products——freight will therefore be lower.

LONDON, August 30.

Two Gottenburgh mails arrived this morning. It is confidently stated in accounts from Orebro, where the States are assembled, that the choice of a successor to the present king of Sweden will fall upon Bernadotte. Other accounts are in favor of Duke Frederick Christian of Holstein Augustenburg, eldest brother of the late crown Prince. The object of the journey of the ex-king of Sweden to Berlin, was to procure the succession for his son, the prince Gustavus—but he received no encouragement.

King Louis of Holland was so ill at Topliz in the early part of the present month, as to be confined to his chamber. The Dutch vice admiral Bloys Van Trelslong accompanied his majesty to Toplitz, and remained there on the 13th instant.

The St. Petersburgh Court Gazette contains an account of some actions between the Turks and Russians before Schumla, in the latter end of June.

An article in the Swedish papers, dated Gottenburgh, 20th Aug says.—

"Intelligence has been received here, that the prince of Ponte Corvo, (Bernadotte) has been elected crown Prince."

We have received Paris papers to the 21st inst. The Moniteur of the 20th inst. contains two decrees of Bonaparte relative to the formation of a Council of Marine, to assist the minister at the head of that department.

We have received New York papers to the 7th inst. The contents are not important.

The Elizabeth cartel arrived on Tuesday at Dartmouth, from Morlaix, with two American gentlemen, charged with dispatches from gen. Armstrong to Mr. Pinkney.

August 31.

There is to be but one newspaper in every department in France, the Seine excepted, and is to be under the orders of the prefect. Great freedom of discussion, of course, may be expected!

Some important commercial information was yesterday received from the coast of France, in letters dated the 28th inst. They mention that the ports of depot, or ports into which importation is to be permitted, are limitted by an order of Bonaparte to five, namely—Ostend Rouen, Rochelle, Nantes and Bordeaux. The licenses were known to have been issued for the admittance of vessels into these ports—but on the condition that their return cargoes consist of half wines or brandies. The new licences, in addition to the articles allowed to be imported by the old, extend this privilege also to all kinds of indigo, cochineal, nutmegs, cloves and cinnamon. Sugar and coffee will be objects of particular licences: the advantages resulting from the importation of which, will it is supposed, be exclusively conferred on the United States in case of any arrrangement with that government.

The commissary at Ostend was lately arrested and conveyed to Paris, on an accusation that he had afforded too much facility to trade.

Another decree has been issued by the Danish government for the purpose of placing additional fetters on commerce. The following are extracts from of our Swedish letters:

"*Gottenburgh, Aug.* 20.

"About 4000 French have left Hamburgh to march to Stralsund. It is tho't that this measure is owing to orders receive from the emperor of France, that such a force should attend the election of a new Crown Prince of Sweden."

Another letter from Gottenburgh of the same date, assigns a different occupation for these troops:—

"The 4000 men advancing upon Stralsund from Hamburg, are gone for the express purpose of seizing all the English property in the former."

By a vessel which reached Falmouth from New York, after the short passage of 16 days we have letters and papers from the United States to the 11th inst. It is said in the Journals, that the American government had rejected a treaty which had been for some time negociating between Mr. Pinkney and the Marquis Wellesley.

HAMBURGH, Aug. 3.

Since the union of Holland, the magazines of Heligoland find no longer any vent, and are quite choaked up. The quantity of merchandize which is lost is inconceivable. Every moment we see new magazines formed, but are all full, and most of the bales remain unpacked. This example is singular, and shews to what a degree the distress of England extends. Under this point of view, it cannot be doubted but that the union of Holland is a terrible blow to the commerce of England; and it remains to be asked, why that measure has been so long delayed? It is evident, that if Holland had been formally united, England would have sooner experienced the horrible crisis in which her commerce is now placed. Bankruptcies succeed each other in London. Her exchange loses 40 per cent. and her bank paper has ceased to possess the character proper to that kind of paper. It is now only a paper money, which is every day further discredited.

Twenty vessels of war, with 600 merchantmen, have entered the Baltic—having no other object than to smuggle and deposit the cargoes of these ships on the continent. The Danes have captured 50, the cargoes of which are estimated at 20 millions. The Russians have confiscated 80. These vessels sail under false colours: they have also false papers, false destination, and French license.—They call themselves Americans, Spaniards and Hamburgers.—They have even false certificates of origin from French consuls. They stick at nothing—but all this only succeeds in part; and if, as is reported, Russia carefully interdicts the entrance of colonial produce, and if French troops occupy Mecklenburg, where English merchandize has so good a market, and where the contraband trade is carried on with such activity, English commerce will experience by these measures new obstacles.

The Wagram privateer has just been captured by the English in the port of Stralsund. This circumstance will prove still more fatal to their commerce. It affords the French the best reasons for taking possession of the coasts of that country; and in future the contraband traders will be pursued with more certainty and greater safety.

PARIS, Aug. 22.

A telegraphic dispatch, transmitted at six o'clock in the evening of the 13th inst. has announced to the Prince Viceroy, that Gen. Count Menou, Governor of Venice, died there that morning, after an illness of 16 days.

Imperial Customs.—The decree of the 5th inst. encreasing the duties on the colonial goods therein mentioned, is to be put in force at the moment that it is officially received. The duties are payable without any execution whatever.

The regulations formerly established respecting the importation of colonial produce, remain in full force, without any change whatever.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 3.

The accounts of the success of the Russians have thrown the inhabitants of this city into the greatest consternations. It was the less expected, as the highest confidence was reposed in the talents of Pehlivan Aga. The Sultan, however, is not dejected, but makes every possible effort to reinforce the army of the Grand Vizier. New commissaries have been sent off to procure fresh supplies of provisions for it. The fleet which consists of 16 sail of the line, has received orders to proceed, with all possible dispatch to take on board the troops that are coming from Asia.

VIENNA, Aug. 8.

We learn by letters from Constantinople, that the standard of Mahomet has been raised there: that the Grand Seignor has declared, that the empire was in danger; that it was the duty of every Mussulman to take arms in its defence; and that he would put himself at the head of his brave and faithful subjects. The people, on this, pledged themselves to shed the last drop of their blood in defence of the ancient glory of the empire. The intelligence was received there, that the Russians had raised the siege of Warna.

Extract of a letter from Odessa, July 6.

"We are inclined to think that there will be concluded, between the Russians and the Turks, by means of the cession which this last power will make of the country, situated on the left bank of the Danube. The Porte must, it says, be convinced that it never can, notwithstanding all its efforts, reconquer Moldavia."

Captain Lake, of the British navy, for landing and leaving Robert Jeffrey, a British seaman, on the uninhabited island of Sombero, for some petty offences, has been tried by a court martial, found guilty, and dismissed his majesty's service. *For murdering American seamen and citizens, British officers, instead of being dismissed, are promoted.*

Amer. Mercury.