NEW YORK, September 14.

COURT OF ENQUIRY.

The court of enquiry on the conduct of commodore Rogers, in the action between the President and Little Belt, closed the testimony in the case on Thursday.

The court, as heretofore stated, consists of Com. Stephen Decatur, president—capt. Charles Stewart—captain Isaac Chauncey—and the hon. Willliam Paulding, jun. esq. judge advocate.

Of the evidence furnished to this court on the oaths of the several witnesses, we present the following brief outline, in the order it was adduced, and leave the public, in a case where doubt is impossible, and conviction irresistable, to take its own comments.

The first witness examined was

CHARLES LUDLOW,

Master-Commandant, and acting Captain of the President.

He was on board the ship at the time of the action with the Little Belt, on the night of the 16th of May last. The Little Belt had her top-sail a-back; from his position he was uncertain who fired the first gun; but the second was from the President, and was instantly followed by three cannon and musquetry from the Little Belt.

Com. Rogers ordered to fire low and with round and grape shot.——After a short pause the Belt recommenced firing, as did the President.——The Belt soon appeared ungovernable & lay bow on towards the President, when com. R. observed that some accident must have happened to her, and ceased firing.—Her gaff was down, & her main-topsail yard on the cap, and mizen too, he thinks. The action continued 14 or 15 minutes, including the interval. There was nothing but round and grape shot fired, or on deck on board the President. The ship was not on fire, in any part of her, and did not sheer off after the action. Another broadside would probably have sunk the Little Belt. Did not know or believe that any part of the commodore's official account was untrue or incorrect.

John Orde Creighton, 1st Lieut. Was stationed at the 4th division of guns on the upper deck. Com. Rogers, hailed first, then a second time, when a shot was fired, as he believes, from the Little Belt, no gun having been fired, or provocation given, on board the President. The orders of com. R. was, to keep the guns upon half-cock, and guard against accidents. After receiving the Little Belt's broadside, was ordered to fire. The Belt was silenced in five minutes, and the President ceased. The Belt renewed the fire, and commodore Rogers returned it, and silenced her again in five minutes. Boarded the Belt the next morning; commodore R. sent a friendly message expressing regret for the occurrence, and offers of assistance. Captain Bingham said he took the President for a Frenchman. President was not on fire, and did not sheer off; nothing but round & grape shot was fired, or on deck; another broadside would probably have sunk the Belt.——Commodore's statement confirmed.

Henry Caldwell, Commandant of Marines—Heard the hailing; was looking at the Little Belt, and saw the first shot proceed from her; on which Commodore Rogers said, "What is that?"—and he answered "She has fired into us. Orders were then given to fire. Belt silenced in five minutes. Commodore Rogers was anxious to stop his fire, and did so. The Belt renewed the action, and in six or seven minutes was silenced again, when commodore Rogers was anxious to prevent mischief, and stopt his fire. No fire or sheering off. Commodore's account confirmed.

Raymond H. Y. Perry, Junior, Lieutenant and Signal Officer—Was on the quarter deck, near commodore Roger's elbow. The commodore hailed, got no reply—hailed a second time, and got none. Heard a gun, and was looking at the Belt, which fired it, previous to any gun or provocation from the President. The Belt was silenced in five minutes, and orders was sent to every division of guns on board the President to cease. The Belt renewed the fire, and the President also. In six minutes the Belt ceased firing again, and the Commodore was very anxious to stop the fire on board the President. No fire or sheering off. The Belt was in a very dangerous situation and would probably have been sunk by another broadside. Heard hailing from the Belt, and understood they said their colours were down, and so reported.————Commodore Rogers hailed, "Have you struck your colours?" and was answered, "I have, and am in great distress." Lights were up on board the President during the night. Commodore's statement confirmed.

Andrew L. B. Madison, Lieutenant of Marines—Was on the gangway.—Heard the commodore hail first, then wait 15 or 18 seconds, time enough for a reply, but got none, and hailed again; when the Little Belt fired a gun from her gang way. Saw the flash and heard the report; no gun or provocation had been offered by Commodore Rogers. In six seconds a gun was fired from the President, when instantly the Belt fired 3 guns, and then her broadaide & musketry. Belt silenced in 6 or 7 minutes. Firing stopped in the President. In 2 or 3 minutes Belt renewed the action, and in 4 or 5 minutes was again silenced, when commodore Rogers ordered his fire to cease, and appeared anxious to prevent damage. No fire or sheering off of the President.—Commodore's report confirmed.

Captain Caldwell confirmed the account of the first and second guns, and broadside, as given by the other witnesses.

Jacob Mull, Sailing-master—Was on the quarter deck. Commodore Rogers hailed, and got no answer but "halloo." After sufficient time hailed again, and got no reply, but a shot without provocation. In 3 or 4 seconds returned the shot, and got a general fire from the Little Belt—Thought the Belt a heavy frigate until next day. Action continued 14 or 15 minutes, including 3 or 4 minutes interval. Little Belt could have fired again, but President could have sunk her—Commodore's official account is true.

Lieutenant Creighton thought the Little Belt a frigate (excepting her feeble defence) until next day. Captain Bingham told him the President's colours were not hoisted, but recollected the pendant. It is the usage, as before stated by another witness, for the President to be prepared for action on coming along side of any armed vessel.—thought the Little Belt displayed bad management or want of conduct in her defence.

Joseph Smith, Midshipman, acting as Master's Mate—Commanding fourth division of guns. Heard commodore Rogers hail, and no reply for 5 seconds. Heard second hail, and was looking at the Little Belt when the first gun was fired by her, before a shot or any provocation was given by the President.—Then commodore Rogers fired a gun, then the Belt three, and action continued. Thought the Belt a frigate. The duration of the action, and orders, to cease, as before stated. The last order to stop firing was received by 3 different officers. Commodore Roger's statement confirmed.

Henry Dennison, Acting Chaplain—Was on the quarter-deck. Little-Belt was 70 or 80 yds. distant. Heard Com. R's. hail, and the reply,* and the 2d hail—then a gun, he thinks from the Belt, as he felt no jar in the President—and no gun or provocation had been given by com. R.—Account of com. R. confirmed.

Michael Roberts, Boatswain—Was on the forecastle—saw the flash and heard the gun from the Little-Belt, before any shot or provocation had been given from the President.—Had not seen the commodore's account.

Richard Carson, Midshipman—Was on the forecastle and gangways. Commodore R. hailed, and was answered by repeating his words; second hail was answered by a shot. Was looking at the Belt, and saw and heard the guns before any provocation from com. R.—Gun from the President was followed by the Belt's broadside, as stated by others.—Commodore's account confirmed.

Matthew Perry, Midshipman—Was on the quarter. Heard hail, reply, second hail, and gun from Belt, before any gun or provocation from President. followed by fire from Little-Belt. Statement of com. R. confirmed.

Silas Duncan, Midshipman—Was in the foretop, heard com. R. hail and second hail; then two guns in quick succession, and believe first from the Belt, but could not answer, as he was behind the topsail. Confirms the account of commodore Rogers.

John M'Clack, Midshipman—Was in the mizentop heard 1st hail, no reply, and second hail, as stated. Thought the Belt fired first, as he felt no jar at the first shot, but did at second. Confirmed com. R's. report.

Thomas Gamble, second Lieutenant—Commanded first division of guns.—Com. R. hailed "ship ahoy!" Was answered "halloo." Asked "What ship is that?" Received his own words repeated in reply. Hailed again, "What ship is that?" Then a gun from the Belt. Heard no gun or provocation from President—swears no gun was fired from his division. Nothing but round and grape fired after action commenced. Commodore's orders as before stated. When firing ceased finally. Belt was in a favorable position for firing, but another broadside from the President would probably have sunk her. Saw no colors on the Belt, and took her for a frigate of 36 or 38. No fire on board or sheering off by the President. Statement of commodore Rogers confirmed.

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* Some landmen (like the reporter) might mistake the manner of hailing, which was thus:

Pres. The ship ahoy? *L. Belt.* Halloo.
Pres. What ship is that?
Little Belt. What ship is that?
Pres. What ship is that?
Little Belt. Answers by a gun!

Alexander James Dallas, third Lieutenant—Com. 3d division gun. Heard 1st hail, and 2d, and question repeated back from Little Belt: then 3d hail and gun. Was looking at the Belt when she fired when no gun or provocation had been given from the President. Was in the bridle-port, when the Belt fired, and after the shot was received got into the port and fired a gun in return, from general orders, without particular direction. A broadside from the Belt immediately succeeded. None but round and grape used in his division, and no fire or sheering off. A broadside more would probably have sunk the Belt. Com. R. was very anxious to stop the firing. The Com. statement confirmed.

John M. Funk, 4th lieutenant—Com. third division, gun deck. Heard hail, reply, second hail, and gun from Belt, as before. Heard no gun or provocation from President, and certainly was none from his division. Gun from Belt returning from President, in 5 or 6 seconds, and broadside from Belt ensued. Orders of com. R. as before. Round and grape only fired. No fire or sheering off. Another broadside would have sunk the Belt. Com. R. exerted himself to stop the firing. Com. R's official account confirmed.

Peter Gamble, Midshipman.—Was on gundeck, at 3d division. Was looking at the Belt, and saw and heard the 1st gun from her. No gun or provocation had been given by the President. Com. R's. account confirmed.

Lieut. Creighton testified that lights were hoisted on board the President the night after the action.

Mr. Mull testified that the damage on board the President was, 1 boy wounded, shot in the main mast, and another in the foremast, with some of the backstays cutaway; but not a single shot of any kind from the L. Belt struck the hull of the President.

Edward Rutledge Shuerick, Midshipman—Was forward on gundeck, at 1st division. Was looking at the Belt, and saw and heard the first fire from her, before any gun or provocation from the President, and confirms the com. account.

Philip Dickerson Spencer, Midshipman—Was on gun deck, at 3d. division. Was confident the first shot came from the Little Belt. No gun had fired from his division, or provocation had been given by com. R. Heard no hail from the Belt. Confirms the commodore's statement.

Breasted Barfes, Carpenter.—Was on gun deck, to attend pumps, and looking at the Belt, when she fired the first shot, before gun or provocation from com. R. The President did not receive a shot of any sort in her hull but one in her main mast and another in her fore mast.

John Neese captain of first gun—in the first division on the gun deck, was looking at the Little Belt, and saw and heard her first fire.

Eliphalet Carr, gun No. 2, gun deck, testifies exactly the same as Neese.

John Jones, (captain absent) was at gun No. 3, and testifies the same.

James Beach, captain No. 4, testifies the same.

Trophemus Davis, captain No. 5, testifies the same.

John Layfield, captain No. 6, testifies the same.

Benjamin Brown, (1st and 2d captains absent) was at No. 7, and testifies the same.

Edward Fitzgerald, captain No. 8, testifies the same.

James Cornwall, captain No. 9, says Little Belt fired first, to the best of his knowledge.

John Fitch, captain No. 10, was looking at the Belt, and saw and heard the first gun come from her.

Richard Thompson (captain absent) was at No. 11, and saw the Belt fire first.

John Mason, captain No. 12, testifies the same.

James Thompson, captain No. 13, testifies the same.

David Lawson, captain, No. 14, testifies the same.

James Lee, captain No. 15, declares the same.

Edward Walker, captain of 1st gun, 4th division, forecastle; from hearing the report and feeling no jar, believed the first shot came from the Belt.

Moses Dunbar, 2d captain (1st absent) 2d gun, 4th division, was looking at the Little Belt, and saw her first fire.

George Simmons, 2d captain (1st absent) 3d gun, 4th division, declares precisely the same.

William Campbell, captain 1st gun, 4th division, quarter deck, declares the same.

Thomas Taylor, captain 2d gun, qr. deck, saw Little Belt fire 6 seconds first.

Philip Warner, captain 3d gun qr. deck, was looking at the Little Belt and saw her fire first.

Samuel Brown, 2d captain (1st absent) 4th gun, 4th division, qr. deck, declares the same.

Richard Cockley, 2d captain (1st absent) 5th gun-quarter-deck, saw the Little Belt fire 3 or 4 seconds first.

Edward Patterson, captain 6th gun, qr. deck, declares the same.

Jas. Anderson, capt. 7th gun, qr. deck, declares the same.

Jas. Welch, capt. 8th gun, qr. deck, declares the same.

Lieut. Creighton testified further, that when the Belt was silenced the second time, she luffed up towards the commodore, instead of keeping away, as she should have done to fire at the President, and would have done if her rudder had been free. Commodore. R. expressed much humanity and anxiety to stop the firing.

Mr. Mull testified that the commodore displayed great humanity.

Lieut. Dallas heard two reports, one the shot against the President's mast, and the other the report, of the gun from the Little Belt.

Silas H. Stringham, midshipman, saw the Belt fire first.

James H. Dudlow, midshipman, saw the same.

David Gelston Ingraham, midshipman, saw the same.

Lieut. Creighton testified to the offers of assistance from commodore Rogers to the Little Belt the next morning.

Here the examination closed, having, as we understand, embraced every deck officer, as well as captains of guns, now on board the President, who were present during the action.—The hours when the chase and action took place, with the courses steered, and some technical sea terms, are omitted as unessential to the material objects of the inquiry.——[*Columbian.*

FREDERICK TOWN, Sept. 14.

COURT MARTIAL.

The officers appointed on the Court for the trial of General Wilkinson, assembled in this town on Monday the second of this month. The Court originally constituted, consisted of

Brigadier Gen. Gansevort, President.
Colonels Burbeck, Williams, Russell, Kingsbury, Beall.
Lt. Colonels Freeman, Wharton, Bacchus, Macomb, Smith.
Majors Porter, Nicoll.

Owing to some difficulty in procuring a convenient room for holding the sessions of the court, they did not proceed to business until Wednesday following. On that day the General appeared before the court, & after a short address surrendered his sword to the President, Gen. Gansevort. He appeared to feel much sensibility, to use his own words, "In giving up the sword which had been the companion of his side for twenty five years, which he had determined never to yield to a foe, and which he had fondly hoped would never have been taken from him by a friend."

The court then adjourned until next day, the furniture of the room not being ready.

Thursday & the greater part of Friday, was occupied in deciding on challenges, made by the prisoner, to particular members of the court. Col. Burbeck, Lt. Cols. Freeman and Bacchus, were challenged by gen. Wilkinson, on the ground of having expressed opinions on the guilt of the accused, on some one or more of the charges before they were summoned to the court. The two former, we understand requested leave of the court to withdraw and were allowed to do so; and the cause of challenge to the letter was ruled good by the court. The places of the members whose seats were vacated were supplied by majors Swift, Stoddart & Armistead.

The court were then constituted and sworn as follows:

Brig. Gen. Peter Gansevort, President.

Cols.	Williams,	Majs. Porter,
	Russell,	Nicoll,
	Kingsbury,	Swift,
	Beall,	Stoddart,
Lt. Cols.	Whartan,	Armistead.
	Macomb,	
	Smith.	

Walter Jones, Judge Advocate.

The charges and specifications were then read by the judge advocate, and gen. Wilkinson pleaded, not guilty.—The court were engaged until Tuesday in the discussion and decision of some incidental points; on Wednesday the sickness of the judge advocate, prevented any business being done, and on Thursday the examination of testimony was began.

One very interesting question before the court, was whether under the 88th article of war, they had power to go into the examination of any offence charged to have been committed more than two years before issuing the order for the court martial. Gen. Wilkinson expressly abandoned any right to shelter himself under a statute of limitations, and declared himself ready and anxious to meet all the charges against him—to rest his defence on the merits of the case—and stand, or fall by the decision of the court.

The court after much deliberation, decided that the limitation was only a privilege to the party accused, and being waved by him, they had a right to examine and decide, on all the charges exhibited against him.

The following honorable testimony against the charge of 'French influence,' controling the affairs of our government is from the pen of JOHN ADAMS, formerly President of the United States, elected by the federal party. Those who have impartially viewed the public conduct of that gentleman, will certainly never charge him with French attachments. It is extracted from his correspondence now publishing in Boston, from the last Boston Patriot.—This extract demands the serious attention of every reader. The charge of '*French influence*' is a *spectre*, got up in the political drama to conceal from the weak and ignorant, the existence of an '*Influence*' which goes, if prosperous, to sap the foundation of Liberty, and shipwreck our political barque on the shoals of arbitrary power: [*Sun.*

Extracts from the Boston Patriot.

"It (the system of neutrality) has been the fundamental principle and invariable system in the conduct of the United States towards foreign nations. through the four administrations of the national government. It is said that President Washington began it; but there is nothing less understood than the real views of that great and good man. The truth is, he was smitten with the charms of the French revolution, & offended and disgusted with the English for violating the treaty of peace by withholding the posts on the frontiers, &c. &c. &c. that he was strongly inclined to enter into closer connections with France, and a treaty offensive and defensive against G. B. I know the time and place in which, and the reasons by which, he was first shaken, when Congress sat at New-York in 1789, in his first thoughts and inclinations, and bro't seriously to deliberate on that system of neutrality, which he afterwards adopted, but not till four years meditation on the subject. In 1794, he first declared by Proclamation his adoption of the system of neutrality. And indeed after he had adopted the system of neutrality, he could not restrain himself, some years afterwards, from expressing to a French minister his ardent admiration of the exertions of the French nation, in favor of liberty.

"I will say nothing at present of that administration which has had the singular fortunate to be reprobated by the nation. But God knows that aliances offensive and defensive, with either France or England, were never an object of desire to the head of that administration, *whatever it might have been to some of his ministers, to some of the the Senators, and some of the representatives to Congress in his time.*

"Mr. Jefferson's administration of 8 years was governed, as far as I can understand and it, by the same system.

"Mr. Madison has presented the same—how long the national government will be able to maintain an impartial neutrality, I know not, It has cost us great sacrifices. But the question is, whether war with either of the belligerent powers, would not have cost us more?

"The base and wicked insinuations that *Jefferson* or *Madison* have been bribed or intimidated by *Bonoparte*—*have my utmost detestation—I should believe it of WASHINGTON as soon as of either.*—There is more reason to suspect that both of them, and *Washington* too, were too much overawed by the terrors of the British navy, than by any fears of *Napoleon.*"

Federalists are fast losing their best men.—In a short time, Col. Pickering could scarcely muster as many partizans in the whole country, as he had soldiers under him when he let the British escape from Lexington. The reason of this *falling-off* is evident.——The leaders go too far. In opposing the republican administration their followers might adhere to them—but in upholding the British ministry they cannot accompany them. Mr. PINKNEY and Major MILLER (a Methodist Preacher) of Maryland—AMOS FULLER, Esq. of New York—and WHEELER MARTIN, Esq. of Rhode Island—have, within the present year, publiclv abandoned that party and joined the Republicans—and no doubt thousands besides have done so, who have not thought it proper or necessary to make the change public. Union increases as its necessity approaches—and a few months will find but two parties in the country, the same as in the former contest with Britain, *Whigs* and *Tories.*

Tren. Tru Amer.

In favor of our *non-importation system* it may be said, that while it keeps much money at home and greatly encourages Domestic Manufactures, it operates more powerfully on the interests and apprehensions of our enemies than any fleet that we could fit, it sacrifices no lives and spills no blood.—It is then the most cheap and humane, as well as effectual mode of warfare.—[ib.