JOEL BARLOW.

Translated for Relf's Gazette.

FROM A FRENCH PAPER OF THE 10TH OF MARCH.

Biographical notice of Mr. Joel Barlow, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, near the French Government.

Mr. Barlow was born in 1755, in the town of Reading, in the state of Connecticutt. He received an excellent education, and shewed at an early age a decided preference for the belles lettres, which he has since cultivated with success, and to which he owes a share of that glory which will descend with his name to posterity. He was still engaged in his studies at the period of the rupture between England and her colonies. Young Barlow possessed too much elevation of soul to remain an indifferent spectator of an event which involved the dearest interest of his country. He appeared several times as a volunteer in the field of honor, & his companions in arms, among whom were four of his brothers, did justice to his patriotic zeal and intrepidity.

In 1778, he took the degree of batchelor of arts, and applied himself to the study of the law, in the leisure moments which events left at his disposal; however he engaged in a different career from that of the bar. He accepted the place of chaplain of brigade, which was offered to him by the state of Massachusetts. It may be observed, that among the Presbyterians of New England, the priesthood is only a kind of civil ordination. He who receives it may engage in other avocations, and it is not uncommon to see young men preach the gospel, in order to procure the time & means necessary to qualify them for another profession.

In this new capacity of chaplain, Mr. Barlow followed the army until the conclusion of peace in 1783. It was during this tempestuous period, that he sketched and in a manner finished his beautiful poem of the Columbiad, which secured him an honorable station mongst the eminent poets.

He had married, in 1781, Miss Baldwin, of New Haven, sister to the senator of that name; as distinguished for the superiority of her mind as for her amiable qualities, and who was worthy of the husband she had chosen.

When the Independence of the United States was acknowledged, Mr. Barlow went to Hartford, where he recommenced the study of the law. In 1785, he was admitted to the bar, where he distinguished himself in such a manner as to attract the notice of his fellow citizens.

In 1787 he published the vision of Columbus, or the Columbiad, of which we have already spoken. The merited reputation of this poem soon spread from America to Europe, and it was even reprinted in London a few months after its spectable men, with the greatest part of whom he had been acquainted in the army, bought from Congress an immense tract of land, situate on the banks of the Ohio. It was proposed to sell a part of these lands to foreigners, and to divide the rest among the members of the company. Mr. Barlow was requested to assist in the execution of this project, and to proceed for that purpose to Europe. He consented to it the more willingly, as the voyage was in perfect consonance with the liberality of his taste, and with the desire which he had long cherished of seeing and studying the celebrated countries of the old continent, whose genius had brought every art to perfection. Soon after his arrival in England, he went to France, where he attended with success to the interest of his employers. The establishment, of which he became one of the first proprietors, was begun in 1788, and increased so rapidly through the influence of the American colonists, that in 1812, it contained a population of 280,760 souls. The State of Ohio, admitted among the members of the federal union, now forms the seventeenth province of the American republic.

During the first years of the French revolution, Mr. Barlow resided in London where published different works, remarkable for the depth of his views, and the merit of their style, which procured for their author the applause of statesmen and of men of taste. Mr. Fox himself gave testimony of the talents of Mr. Barlow, and pronounced his eulogium in the House of Commons.

A special mission to the French government, carried Mr. Barlow back to Paris in 1792: it was at that time he had the honor of being made a French citizen, together with his countrymen, Washington and Hamilton. Political and commercial affairs caused his presence for some time in the north of Europe, and he soon after received from the American government, a most important mission to the coast of Africa. After surmounting many obstacles, he succeeded in concluding advantageous treaties with the states of Algiers, of Tunis, and of Tripoli, and in delivering his fellow citizens who had long groaned in captivity. This was one of the periods of his life, the recollection of which was always most agreeable to him.

These negociations being concluded, he returned to France, where he resided from 1797 until 1805; he then quitted France and went to England, where embarked for the United States. On his return to his native country, he was occupied in projects of public utility, and published the last edition of the Columbiad, the most magnificent specimen of typography which has yet issued from the American press.

Mr. Barlow was destined to revisit Europe, and there to finish his honorable career. In 1811 the present President of the United States, Mr. Madison, appointed him Minister Plenipotentiary near the French government. Motives of the highest importance carried him to Wilna last October. He was on his return from that town, when an inflamation of the lungs carried him off suddenly, at Zarnow, near Cracow. His loss will be severely felt by his fellow citizens, and by all those who are capable of appreciating the union of genius and virtue.

As a statesman, Mr. Barlow has rendered essential services to his country, and as a man of genius and a friend of humanity, he does honor to his age; as a man of deep research, he has left works which will always be sought after by true philosophers; as a poet, he was signalized by a great work, the rising literature of his country: his glory will exist as long as the language which served to illustrate his name.

In private life he possessed all the essential qualities which could contribute to his own happiness and that of the persons by whom he was surrounded.—Having attained by his merit the exercise of high offices, he was free from the ridiculous weakness of some men, who affect to despise literary success, without which they would still have remained in impenetrable obscurity. He spoke of his works without pride and without false modesty. The strokes of his wit flowed frequently from a sprightly disposition. His judgment was always correct and just. Under a grave and perhaps austere exterior, he concealed an ardent and feeling mind. His openness, invited confidence. Unshaken in his attachment, sincerely beloved by all those whom he admitted to his society, he has felt universal regrets, and it would be utterly impossible to describe the grief of his wife and family. She has lost the object in which all her affections centered. There are losses for which no earthly consolation exists. If any thing could assuage such piercing sorrows, it would be the thought, that the memory of Mr. Barlow is dear to all good men, and that the remembrance of his virtues and talents will never perish.

NEW YORK, May 5.

SPLENDID NAVAL DINNER.

On Tuesday, agreeably to a vote of the Common Council, a dinner was given to capt. Lawrence of the Hornet and his gallant crew. The dinner was given at that splendid edifice Washington Hall. It is the first entertainment; and it was remarked as a pleasing and appropriate circumstance, that the first opening of the Hall should be devoted to a festival in honor of the victories of our navy.

The seamen came in barges from their ship at 2 o'clock. They marched, attended by the elegant band of the 11th regiment of the first brigade of Artillery, through Pearl street, Wall street and Broadway to Washington Hall, cheered in every street they passed by the huzzas of their admiring and grateful countrymen. At half past three o'clock the petty officers, seamen & marines, set down to a most plentiful dinner, prepared for them in the ball room, the most splendid room on the continent

Paintings representing the victories of Hull, Decatur, Jones & Bainbridge decorated the walls, and over the chair of the presiding officer, was an elegant view by Holland of the late brilliant action of captain Lawrence, in the Hornet, with the British ship Peacock. The table was decorated with a great variety of flags, with emblems appropriate to the occasion, painted by a young man of this city.

After the meats were removed a visit was made them by the members of the Common Council, accompanied by capt. Lawrence—at the sight of their gallant commander they rose, cheered him with three times three, in a style that evinced it came from the heart.—The boatswain of the Hornet presided at the entertainment, and though the bottle, the song and the toast passed in jocund glee, yet the most perfect order and decorum were observed.

In one of the dining rooms on the first floor, a dinner was prepared for the corporation. Among the guests were capt. Lawrence & all his officers—the commanders of the ships of war on this station, the judges of the courts, and col. Swift commander of the corps of engineers.

The room was decorated with various emblematic paintings, by Mr. Holland, descriptive of our Naval Victories, and complementary to the gallant commanders who have achieved them. The viands of the table and of elegance that did great credit to Mr. Crocker. Though it is but a few days since he opened his house, every thing that could gratify the lovers of good cheer, and the man of taste and fashion were there to be found.

In the evening the Theatre was brilliantly illuminated, and the proprietors having politely set apart the pit for the gallant tars of the Hornet, they went from their dinner table to the Theatre at 6 o'clock. The pieces selected for the evening, being of a naval character, the men were highly amused and entertained with them. Captain Lawrence and the Corporation Committee of Arrangement, visited the Theatre also—& on Captain Lawrence's entering, his jolly tars again gave him three welcome huzzas, in which the audience most heartily joined them.

In fine the whole of this exhibition was conducted in a way that must be highly gratifying to every American. To reward, by every possible demonstration of respect and gratitude, those gallant men who have so nobly supported their country's honor, is both our duty and our interest:—And our common council who have thus studiously sought out such occasion for evincing the grateful feelings of our citizens to our gallant countrymen, have done honor to themselves and to the city which they represent.

It is stated in the English papers that "the superiority of the Americans consists in their precision and quickness of firing, the result of exercising their guns every day for SIX OR SEVEN YEARS IN SUCCESSION." Their precision and quickness John Bull can attest; but, that they have been exercised daily for six or seven years is notoriously false.—Every man acquainted with our naval service, know that the crews of our frigates are DISCHARGED every two years, & are at liberty to go where they please. This is one of the glorious rights that they possess in common with every freeman in the country; there is no press-gang to seize them as soon as discharged, and convey them to another ship—it is this, and the humane treatment which they generally meet with, that inspires them with that courage which they have so eminently displayed in their late contests, in opposition to those who are goaded and confined for years in the floating prisons of Great Britain, without enjoying the pleasure of visiting their friends and families. Be it known to the British sailors, that the American tars enter for two years at most, receive from twelve to eighteen dollars per month, have the privilege of leaving monthly orders for half of their pay, to support their wives and children—and when in port, visit their families, or go to the theatre for recreation.—This is the difference between us—WE ARE FREEMEN.

A SAILOR.

Port of Happiness,
Philad. May 7, 1813. *Dem. Press.*

SACKETT'S HARBOR

Is the name given to a handsome village situated at the east end of Lake Ontario, about 18 miles from the river St. Lawrence. It was first taken possession of, by purchase, by Mr. Sackett, of Jamaica, Long Island, in 1799. In 1801 only three families had settled there. Previous to this period, a great degree of prejudice existed against the lake shore, as unhealthy, from an erroneous idea that the neighborhood of fresh water lakes was more unhealthy than the sea shore; without ever reflecting that the Lake of Geneva is celebrated for its healthfulness, and that it is only shallow fresh waters, just enough to cover rotten vegetables, that are unhealthy.

The village of Sackett's Harbor now contains a number of large and elegant built houses, and it is settling so fast that half acre house lots have sold for from 12 to 1500 dollars, and since it has become a military post, for twice that sum.

The most interesting part of this settle harbor. This bason of water is hardly so large as our mill pond was before they began to fill it up. Melish says it contains but ten acres—we believe it to be more than twice that size The entrance to it is about a quarter of a mile wide, for here two opposite points approach towards each other like the Punto and Moro Castle at the entrance of the Havanna, leaving the passage or entrance before mentioned.—Indeed Sackett's harbor is the harbor of the Havanna in miniature. Its entrance is strongly fortified. Besides a respectable fort, there are four block houses round this singular bason of deep water, which is bordered by a natural wall of lime stone, of about 30 feet high.

Boston Pat.

The attack upon Havre de Grace was unquestionably one of the most wanton and unjustifiable outrages ever practised in modern warfare. The town, it now appears, was not wholly destroyed, but partially burnt and generally plundered in a manner that would have disgraced a band of pirates. This destruction of private property was without any possible object. The United States had done no act for which it could be a retaliation; there were no public works at the place inviting assault—on no ground can it be justified; and it can be considered in no other light than as a base and dishonorable violation of the law of nations and of honorable and civilized warfare. Let the object be what it might,. The destruction of the iron works, or the stoppage of the mails, which we allow to have been ligitimate objects, neither of these, nor any other pretence can palliate the unnecessary depredations which have taken place. Private property is respected in war unless where retaliation justifies its destruction, or where it is destroyed inevitably in an attack on the fortifications, public or private armaments, or public works; or where destruction is necessary to the attainment of a great public object. The bombardment and conflagration of towns has long been ranked among the barbarisms of our forefathers, and exploded in war as disgraceful and dishonorable. It has remained for the British nation, "the bulwark of our religion," which boasts of its magnanimity and generosity to its foes, to revive the savage war against women and children, and the wanton devastation of private property on our sea board; and to excite a war of murder and pillage by their allies, "regulars and militia" in the interior. The effect of these repeated outrages will unquestionably be to aggravate the hostility towards Great Britain already pervading the country; and to throw impediments in the way of the conclusion of an honorable peace. A few more such affairs as the massacre at the River Raisin, the bombardment of Lewis, and the conflagration of Frenchtown and Havre de Grace, and there will no longer be any difference of sentiment in the nation.

Nat. Intel.

Extract of a letter, dated Georgetown ⋈ Roads, May 7.

"Yesterday morning I witnessed a scene that surpasses all description. It was the little villages of Georgetown and Fredericktown, all in flames. It would have excited sympathy in any human breast, except a savage, or a still more ferocious Englishman; (and they, you know, are so inured to villainy and destruction, that there is no mercy in their composition.) It was Admiral Cockburn himself who led on the more than tyger banditti who committed the devastation.—In the afternoon I repaired to the smoking, ruins, and found only a few houses standing that had been spared at the intreaties of the women and aged: and these few with one or two exceptions, nearly plundered of their all; desks, bureaus, clocks, looking glasses and such things as could not be carried off broken to pieces, and even beds cut open, the ticking taken off and the feathers scattered to the winds. Even negroes' cabbins were reduced to ashes, or plundered of their scanty pittance of furniture and meat.

The attack on us commenced a little after day with 20 barges and about 700 men; canister, grape, rockets and 18 pound balls flew over the town and fields in every direction. We fortunately had no men killed, and have their admiral's acknowledgement that 6 of his men were wounded. I believe if the truth could be ascertained, he had more wounded and killed. I am now fully satisfied in my own mind that they cannot take Baltimore, if your troops are only in tolerable subordination; & I believe 100 disciplined troops commanded by experienced officers would have saved us. If you maintain your ground firmly in the onset, you will be in little danger; if you are driven back, it will be your ruin. I think I saw and heard four rockets flying at once, and they were to be sure to ear and eye most terrific, but they all fell harmless, and are now objects of but little terror to our militia men. One of their men deserted to us, and another on the Cecil side of the river. The former informed me that fifteen came off in the same barge with him, but we have not heard any thing more of them. Mrs ———'s dwelling is among the number consigned to destruction, and she lost about 100 dollars worth of property.

Mr. Joshua Ward's and one or two more farm houses were also burnt."

Fed. Gaz.

On Sunday last, a flag was sent by general Miller, with dispatches from our government to admiral Warren; the gentleman who had charge of the dispatches, overtook the admiral's ship below the mouth of the Patuxent; they were politely received by the admiral, who immediately answered the dispatch; the contents of which and of his answer are not ascertained.—The flag returned to this city yesterday afternoon, and the admiral's answer was immediately transmitted to Washington. Admiral Warren intends to proceed immediately to Bermuda, (not Halifax, as mentioned on Monday) and the command of the fleet in the Chesapeake will devolve on admiral Cockburn.

In conversation with the gentlemen who went down with the flag, admiral Warren expressed his decided disapprobation of the party who burned the towns at the head of the bay; the intended object of that expedition he stated to be the destruction of col. Hughes's Furnace, the destruction of the towns were without his orders.

The Barossa, a new British frigate, is said to be off the mouth of the river—the blockade of our port is therefore likely to continue; and, as admiral Cockburn, who has proved himself the willing instrument of destruction, will now have the command, we may expect that every wanton depredation in the power of the enemy will be committed.

Fed. Gaz.

INTERESTING.

EXTRACT TO THE EDITORS—DATED *Chillicothe, May 5.*

"An express has this moment reached town, bearing dispatches from Gov. Meigs at Franklington, to Brigadier General M'Arthur, now at this place The Governor states that he has just received an express from General Harrison, stating that Fort Meigs is under close siege, surrounded by about 3000 British and Indians, which cuts off all intercourse between him and the frontiers, and requests immediate assistance from this state to open the communication; in consequence of which the light companies, and all the mounted volunteers who can possibly be raised, are to march immediately for the Rapids—The drums are now beating to arms; and no doubt need to be entertained but that the "Backwoodsmen" will do their duty. Clay, with 1500 Kentuckians, is now at Portage river, 18 miles from the Rapids. It is hoped he will not attempt to go through until reinforced. It is thought that Harrison's effective force does not exceed 1500 men; yet with this number in a strong garrison, well supplied with provisions, ammunition, and cannon, there is little fear of his sustaining a defeat."

"P. S. It is about 2 hours since the express came in; a respectable company is raised and will march in the morning. Ohio is true."

Enclosed in the above was the following letter from Governor Meigs to Gen. M'Arthur:

DELAWARE, [O.] May 3.

SIR,

By the return of an express from this to Upper Sandusky, it is ascertained that Fort Meigs is besieged—General Harrison has sent to Fort Findley, to sink a boat loaded with cannon ball, and not to have any mail attempt to pass.

The British and Indians, &c. &c. are computed at 3000. I understand, that Gen. Clay and the Kentucky troops had not arrived when the bombardment commenced on the 30th ult. I have just returned from Norton, and I am calling out mounted volunteers, in every contiguous direction, to rendezvous at this place and Norton immediately—with respect to the advancing of the one year's troops, raising under your and Gen. Cast's superintendance, you will dispose of them as you may judge best. Forage and provision can be furnished at this, and in advance, by the United States. On this occasion you are desired to exert your authority and influence to bring all the mounted men you can. My object is to attempt to force through to Fort Meigs, if necessary, and in an event, to secure the public stores at Upper Sandusky, and relieve the frontier inhabitants from a panic which has seized them. In case Gen. M'Arthur is absent, Gen. M'Lane is directed to raise the men. In haste,

R. J. MEIGS.

Gen. M'Arthur.

NEW YORK ELECTION.

Notwithstanding the vain boastings of the *British party*, we can announce with certainty, that his excellency governor TOMPKINS is re-elected by the very handsome majority of upwards of 3000! Last year the republicans had a commanding majority in the senate; this year they have an augmentation of three members: and in the house, so far as we have heard, there is a republican gain of 44!

The result of this important election, in this great and powerful state, is most fortunate for our country, and deadening to the hopes of Britain, and her willing instruments on this side the Atlantic. It thunders in their ears this important TRUTH—that the PEOPLE are determined to defend their persons and national right, at all hazards; and it puts a black seal upon the mouths of those noisy traitors, who are on all occasions when federalism is in the least successful, threatening a dissolution of the Union. These disgraceful menaces, which have heretofore disturbed the quiet of weak nerves, are now scouted and despised by the great body of the PEOPLE. The acclamation is universal, that the lurking insidious advocates of disunion, cannot be "KICKED into the measure."

Boston Patriot.

The ship Neptune sailed yesterday from New Castle having on board the Embassy to Russia and their suite. They carry with them the news of the capture of York, which we apprehend will be as efficient in the negociation as any thing they carry with them. The first war against England was happily *concluded* by the capture of Yorktown in Virginia; the second war is happily *commenced* by the capture of Yorktown in Upper Canada.

CAPTURE OF THE JAVA.

HOUSE OF LORDS, March 30.

NAVAL MISMANAGEMENT.

Lord *Darnley* adverted to the capture of another of our frigates by the Americans, which convinced him of what he before suspected, viz. that Parliament had been extremely remiss in its attention to the administration of the Navy. The noble Lord at the head of the Navy Department was not in his place, but he thought it his bounden duty to take the earliest opportunity of giving notice, that he should upon an early day, submit to their Lordships a motion relative to the naval administration of the country. Their lordships ought no longer to refrain from instituting the proper inquiries.—He, at least, would bring the subject before them; and in doing so, he was actuated solely by a sense of duty, and a deep conviction of its necessity

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From the London Star of March 20.

It is our painful duty to record another humiliating sacrifice to the Americans, in the capture of the Java, ONE OF THE FINEST BRITISH FRIGATES WHICH WAS EVER LAUNCHED! The Dauntless has arrived at Plymouth from Gibraltar, with the melancholy intelligence.

While we lament this additional misfortune, it is some satisfaction to know that the brave men who composed the crew of the Java, did their duty. Her colors were not struck until her bowsprit and masts were literally blown out of her. She was a fine French built ship, 7 or 8 years old, and was captured after a gallant action, from the French in the East Indies, about 2 years and an half ago.

Our readers will perceive that the subject has been promptly taken up in Parliament. Lord Darnley last night gave notice of a motion, which will probably have the effect, if not of explaining where the blames lies, at least of quickening those operations by which the American navy is to be kept in check in future.

From the London Pilot—March 20.

We lament most deeply to have to state that another British frigate, the Java, has been taken by the American frigate Constitution. The Java was on her passage to the East Indies, having on board lieutenant general Hislop, who was going out as commander in chief to Bombay, together with his suite, and a number of recruits and passengers, including some additional lieutenants of the navy, in so much that *there appears not, on this occasion, that deficiency in point of numbers which, in the prior instances, passed for the principal cause of the success of the Americans.* The action was obstinately maintained; and the immense proportion of loss on our part, while it consoles us with the assurance of the unimpaired state of the characteristic bravery of our seamen, affords an additional—(yes an additional)—reason to lament the unhappy result that we have announced, and an additional ground to reflect and also to enquire seriously into the strange causes which have rendered our relative circumstances, with respect to this new enemy, so different from what they have been, touching all others, that we have hitherto to contend with. We have not room to enter into this important subject this day. But the mourning of our hearts which commenced on the first capture of a British ship by an American, and has been rendered deeper and more melancholy by every successive instance, and most deep by this last affecting event, can never be laid aside, till the honor of the British flag shall be redeemed by establishing the same triumphant superiority over all the nations that traverse the seas.