FROM THE AURORA.

We have already considered the object of the war, as it respects the contending powers, & we find the claim of the war is impressment. The British cabinet, as we have seen, do not assert any claim over real American citizens, and the American government do not insist that his majesty shall give up the right (if he has it) of impressing his own subjects. If they expect us to believe their declarations, they must believe ours. Taking both these points for granted, viz. that his majesty does not wish to impress real Americans, and the President is willing he should impress his own subjects to any extent he pleases, the occasion of the war is certainly the most extraordinary that is to be found in history.

Dr. Franklin expressed in some of his writings, a wish, if it was possible, to return to his country after he had been dead an hundred years I suppose he had a desire to know what the people would then be about. If that venerable philosopher and patriot could be permitted to visit his native country, now, when he has been dead about one forth part of that time, I am sure he would be astonished to find two christian nations had gotten into war and were fighting each other, because they looked so much alike. They ought, certainly, to be some criterion agreed on between the two nations, and as our features and language are so perfectly similar that his majesty's officers are liable to so many mistakes in judging, I have proposed that the mind should constitute the distinguishing characteristic between a real American and a British subject.——Here the difference is very striking, for as much as the people of the two nations resemble each other in face, it is notoriously evident that there are some in America whose souls are perfectly British, and it is believed there are some in Britain who are Americans at heart. As there is no visible difference of body and such a striking difference of mind, I think that the criterion should be fixed where the difference exists. It would be evidently unjust to allow his majesty the voluntary services of thousands in America, and at the same time a right to the forced services of his natural born subjects while our friends in England (if we have any) are not permitted to volunteer in the cause of America. It is the mind that makes the man, and therefore every man in both nations who thinks like an American, is, in a political view, an American, and *vice versa*. It is not where a man was born, or who he looks like, but what he thinks, which ought at this day to constitute the difference between an American & a British subject. It is next to impossible for most men to prove where they were born, and it is of no consequence to know whom they look like; but it is an easy matter for a man to declare what he thinks, if he dare to do it, or even to prove where he permanently resides.

I have heard of a mother who had twin daughters so exactly alike, that to distinguish them she used to make one of them wear a piece of paper around one of her fingers—hence it often happened, that one of them, who was rather mischievous, would commit a fault, and by getting or destroying the only mark of distinction, render it altogether uncertain whether the innocent or guilty should be punished for the crime.——What an unfortunate circumstance it is when an honest person happens to look so much like a rogue!

This little affair has often brought to mind the paper protections which our sailors used to take with them to sea, to enable them to prove their citizenship. It was intended to indemnify persons, but in practice it was found not to answer that purpose. This American paper, which was a mark of inferiority rather than of distinction soon grew into such high repute among British subjects, that many of them it is said would find means to procure it if they even had to hire some person to swear for him.——Hence this paper, instead of becoming a protection, as it was called, soon became a matter of contempt, and American citizens were forced into the British service notwithstanding they produced the legal proof of their citizenship.—It was not the pleasure of his majesty (I must suppose) that his officers should impress Americans, and it was not the will of our government that any by fraudulent means should become possessed of this paper criterion. If there was any crime, individuals on both sides, or one only, were in fault, and consequently ought not to be considered a cause of war. The great crime was, that there were some persons not entitled by law to freedom, who had such an inordinate desire for *liberty*, that they would even hire another, if they could, to perjure him or himself in order that they might obtain that blessing. This shows that the criterion was an improper one, both because it led to an evil which was not intended, and because it did not prevent the evil which it was intended to prevent.

It ever appeared to me, as we claim no right to impress our own citizens any where, and as his majesty does claim the right to impress his subjects when found on the seas, that the proof ought not to rest with us, but with him. If his majesty has such a right (which I neither affirm nor deny) it certainly ought not to extend over all such as we cannot prove to be American citizens, but to be restricted to only such as he can fairly prove to be British subjects. It farther appears to me that the mark of distinction should be such as that no individuals in the two nations, if they desired it, should be able to counterfeit. The paper put around one of the fingers of one of the twin daughters would have enabled the mother to have distinguished between them, but both been honest. But a thing so easy to be put on and taken off was no mark of distinction at all; it was rather a matter of delusion and chicanery. These considerations put me into a deep study last week, to see if no mark of distinctions between the two nations could be hit on, that would be more indelibly characteristic. As the proof ought to rest with his majesty, it occurred to my mind that if his subjects in Britain who think he has an indubitable right to impress them at pleasure would but consent to wear a crop on the right ear in token of their subjection, it would be such a mark when they once got it, that they would never get clear of it, and at the same time an Englishman who believes that the King has no such right (if there be any such in Britain) would never be tempted to hire another to cut off one of his ears for him, in order that he might be entitled to a privilege which he did not desire.

I have now shown the cause of the war, which is impressment, and by the occasion of the war, which is the great bodily likeness of the two people.——I have likewise laid down a criterion by which to distinguish an American from a true born British subject, & suggested marks of distinction more indelibly characteristic than paper protection.—As I am a friend of peace, I most sincerely wish, that the two nations would not war against each other, because their people look so much alike——If we resemble each other so much when living, I am afraid that we shall look more alike when dead. If the marks which I have recommended should not be acceptable to those Americans, who are pleading the cause of their royal master, I have hot of another this week, which I hope will be pleasing to men of all parties—in this I am not satirical but sincere——I have, however, but barely room on my present sheet to describe the mark, it is that the flag of each nation should be the distinguishing mark on the ocean between the citizens and subjects of America and Britain: this being acceded to on both sides, we might soon hope to see an end put to the present distressing war.

AN AMERICAN FARMER.

---

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT]

NORFOLK, June 22.

On Friday last the enemy's ships got under way and stood up towards Hampton Roads—Two 74's and one frigate, with a number of smaller vessels, came to and anchored off Willoughby's Point, and three frigates proceeded into the Roads. The headmost frigate came up nearly as high as the Quarantine Ground, when perceiving some vessels coming down James River, she dispatched a couple of barges to cut them off. Fortunately, however some of the gun boats that were ordered down to Craney Island, got under way in time to defeat their purpose, and one throwing a few shot at them they put back to the frigate. In the evening the two sternmost frigates rerogaded as far as Old Point, under which they came to anchor; the headmost one anchored about two or three miles higher up. The position of the ship afforded a favorable opportunity to the gun boats to prove their utility or uselessness & either to wipe away the reproach so generally and liberally bestowed on them, or sink into utter insignificance and disgrace.

Commodore *Cassin*, who commands the navy yard and flotilla at this place, determining to avail himself of this opportunity, mustered all the gun boats that could be manned, amounting in number to 15, and ordered them down to Craney Island on Sunday. In the afternoon of that day it was pretty generally understood, that an attack would be made by the gun boats on the enemy's uppermost frigate, in the course of the night; and as this was the first time they had a tempted any thing, anxiety and eager curiosity for the result was depicted in every countenance; every one was impatient to know how Mr. Jefferson's *bull dogs* would acquit themselves; and whether the philosopher's system would prove upon trial, a monument of his wisdom or his folly.

The ebb tide making about 2 o'clock on Sunday morning, capt. Tarborough, to whom the command was given, waited until then before he got under way. There could not have been a more favorable time for the enterprize; there was not a breath of air stirring & the water was perfectly smooth. Under cover of night they swept down till within a mile and a half of the object of attack. At half past 3 they commenced the action, and had two good fires at the frigate before she returned a single shot. But after slipping her cable and setting all sail, she opened her fire on the boats. The cannonading thus commenced on both sides, was kept up with very little intermission for about an hour and a quarter, when the frigate ceased firing, and our anxious tars were cheered with the brilliant prospect of a complete victory. Much however to their mortification, the lower ships, which at the beginning of the engagement had crouded all sail and sent their boats ahead to tow up to the assistance of their consort, just at this flattering moment caught a breeze, and in a few minutes were within effective gun shot of the boats, and joined the silenced frigate. All three of them opened a tremendous fire upon our little armada, which they returned in a spirited style for half an hour, when there being no further prospect of injuring the enemy, from his great superiority of force and the wind by this time having sprung up, which militated greatly against the gun boats, the commodore conceived it necessary to relinquish the contest and return with the flotilla to Craney Island, having for an hour and a quarter fought 15 guns against 50, and for half an hour against 150!

The injury sustained on our side was unusually and unexpectedly small; a mere bagatelle. On board of No. 136, commanded by Sailing Master *Horace Smith* one 18lb ball struck the main mast, and killed.——Allison, master's mate. No. 154, S. M. *John Nance*, one 32lb. ball between wind and water; the aperture was instantly plugged up and the boat continued firing. Some of the other boats were a little decomposed in their rigging but not a man killed or wounded except the one before mentioned. Of course the damage done to the enemy cannot be ascertained; but it was no doubt considerable from the superiority of the boats in point of metal, and the coolness and deliberation with which the guns were managed.

It is the opinion of all the officers, that the frigate the attack was first made on, must have been completely cut in her hull, as they could perceive many of the shot strike her side. Had the weather continued calm a little longer, so as to prevent the coming up of the lower frigates, she would have inevitably fallen into our hands; as it is, however, we have the consolation of knowing, that the little naval force placed at the disposal of Com. Cassin, has been employed in a manner creditable to the bravery and enterprize of the American character: The gun boats have so far succeeded, on this occasion as to gain a favorable opinion even from their most violent opposers.

The cannonading was distinctly heard in town from its commencement to its close; & vast crowds of citizens hurried down to Lambert' and Sewell's points, the Quarantine House &c to behold the (to them) novel spectacle, which, to one who never witnessed such an exhibition, was awfully sublime.

This daring and provoking attack, has no doubt, enraged the proud spirit of the enemy to its highest pitch, and as the notorious *Cockburn* is chief in command he will probably attempt to satiate his vengeful malignity by the performance of scenes similar to those of Havre de Grace, &c but he may be assured, that he will meet with a far different reception. Every Soldier, and every Citizen, will be at his post; will meet him on the strand, & dispute every inch of ground. Nothing serious, however, is apprehended by any one.

*A reinforcement.* A fleet consisting of 4 seventy fours and 7 frigates came in from sea on Saturday under a press of sail and proceeded up as high as Crumps hill, when the wind commenced to blow a smart gale from the westward, they dropped anchor for the day. On Sunday at 10 A. M. the three frigates remaining in the roads after the attack of the gun boats were joined by 7 others, and in the course of the day 3 sail more moved up above Willoughby's making in all six 74's and twelve frigates and sloops of war; they are moored in a line from Willoughby's up to Hampton bar.—Two frigates left the bay last evening and went to sea.

Admiral Warren is at anchor off Hampton. Cockburn has shifted his flag to a frigate. Three of the frigates, 6 schooners, & 50 or 60 barges are full of troops.

For the present there can be no communication by water between James and Nansemond rivers and this place, without imminent danger. During a severe thunder gust on Sunday afternoon the mainmast of the new ship Indian Chief, lying at Murray's wharf, was struck with lightning. The main top mast, from the doubling down to the cross trees, was shivered to atoms, and the fragments scattered in every direction. A piece flew to a great distance in the air, fell upon an adjacent warehouse and broke entirely through the roof. The electric fluid continuing its course downward flaked the main mast from the cross trees to the truss, & making a gash of about 3 feet struck again & rived the mast down to the tie of the mizzen stay when it again skipped & entered the hold a man almost imperceptible aperture between one of the pumps and its comings; then forcing its way up through the deck by bursting up the planks it pursued its way over the ship George Washington.

---

WASHINGTON. June 24.

*Copy of a letter from Maj Gen* LEWIS, *to the Secretary at War, dated*

NIAGARA, June 14 1813.

SIR—You will perceive by the enclosed copy of orders marked 1. that Gen. Dearborn, from indisposition, has re-resigned his command, not only of the Niagara army but of the district. I have doubts whether he will ever again be fit for service. He has been repeatedly in a state of convalescence; but relapses on the least agitation of mind.

In my last I mentioned the unfortunate circumstance of the capture of our two Brigadiers, Chandler and Winder. The particulars are detailed in the report of Col. Burn, which he gives from the best information he could collect. His corps lay a considerable distance from the scene of active operation, as you will perceive by the enclosed diagram, which is on a scale of about 100 yards to an inch. The light corps spoken of were Capt Hindman's, Nicholas's and Biddle's companies of the 2d artillery, serving as infantry. These three gentlemen and Captains Archer and Towson of the same regiment, and Leonard of the light artillery, are soldiers who would honor any service. Their gallantry and that of their companies was equally conspicuous on this occasion as in the affair of the 27th ultimo. A view of Gen Chandler's encampment will be sufficient to show that his disaster was owing to its arrangement. Its centre being its weakest point, and that being discovered by the enemy in the evening, received the combined attack of his whole force and his line was completely cut. The gallantry of the 5th, 25th, and part of the 23d, and light troops, saved the army.—On the 5th it is said, that when the day broke not a man was missing—and that a part of the 23d under Maj. Armstrong was found sustaining its left flank. Their fire was irresistible—and the enemy was compelled to give way—Could he have been pressed the next morning, his destruction was inevitable. He was dispersed in every direction, and even his commanding general was missing, without his hat or horse. I understand he was found the next morning almost famished, at a distance of 4 miles from the scene of action.

Lieut. M'Chesney's gallantry recovered a piece of artillery and prevented the capture of others. He merits promotion for it.

On the evening of the 6th June, I received the order No. 4, and joined the army at five in the afternoon of the 7th. I found it at the 40 mile creek, 10 miles in the rear of the ground on which it had been attacked, encamped on a plain of about a mile with its right flank on the lake, and its left on the creek which skirts the base of a perpendicular mountain of a considerable height—On my route I received Nos. 5 and 6 enclosed.

At six in the evening the hostile fleet hove in sight—though its character could not be ascertained with precision. We lay on our arms all night. At dawn of day struck our tents, and descried the hostile squadron about a mile from the shore. Our boats which transported the principal part of our baggage and camp equipage lay on the beach—it was a dead calm—and about 6 the enemy towed in a large schooner which opened her fire on our boats. As soon as she stood for the shore, her object being evident, I ordered down Archer's and Towson's companies with four pieces of artillery, to resist her attempts. I at the same time sent Capt Totten of the engineers (a most valuable officer) to construct a temporary furnace for heating shot, which was prepared and in operation in less than thirty minutes. Her fire was returned with a vivacity and effect (excelled by no artillery in the universe) which soon compelled her to retire. A party of savages now made their appearance on the brow of the mountain (which being perfectly bald, exhibited them to our view) and commenced a fire on our camp. I ordered Colonel Christie to dislodge them who entered on the service with alacrity, but found himself anticipated by Lieutenant Eldridge, the adjutant of his regiment who with a promptness and gallantry highly honorable to that young officer, had already gained the summit of the mountain with a party of volunteers, & routed the barbarian allies of the defender of the christian faith. This young man merits the notice of government.

These little affairs cost us not to a man. Sir J. L. Yeo being disappointed of a tragedy, next determined, in true dramatic style, to amuse us with a farce. An officer with a flag was sent to me from his ship, advising me, that as I was invested with savages in my rear, a fleet in my front, and a powerful army on my flank, he, and his Britannic Majesty's land forces, tho't it their duty to demand a surrender of my army. I answered that the message was too ridiculous to merit a reply.

No. 7 was delivered to me about six this morning; between 7 and 8 o'clock the 4 waggons we had being loaded first with the sick and next with ammunition, &c. the residue of camp equippage and baggage was put in the boats and a detachment of 200 men of the 6th regt. detailed to proceed in them. Orders were prepared to be given them to defend the boats, and if assailed by any of the enemy's small vessels, to carry them by boarding. By some irregularity, which I have not been able to discover, the boats put off without the detachments, induced probably by the stillness of the morning. When they had progressed about 3 miles a breeze sprung up, and an armed schooner overhauled them; those who were enterprising kept on and escaped, others ran to the shore and deserted their boats; we lost twelve of the number principally containing the baggage of the officers and men.

At ten I put the army in motion on our return to this place. The savages and incorporated militia hung on our flanks and rear throughout the march, and picked up a few stragglers. On our retiring the British army advanced, and now occupies the ground we left.

The enemy's fleet is constantly hovering on our coast, & interrupting our supplies. The night before last, being advised of their having chased into 18 mile creek two vessels laden with hospital stores, &c. I detached at midnight 75 men for their protection. The report of the day is (though not official) that they arrived too late for their purpose, and that the stores are lost.

I have the honor to be, &c.

MORGAN LEWIS.

Hon. John Armstrong,
Secretary at War.

No. 5, referred to in the Report of Gen. Lewis.

(COPY.)

*Niagara, June 5, 1813.*

Dear General,—A ship having appeared this morning steering towards the head of the Lake, which is undoubtedly one of the enemy's ships; and as others are appearing, you will please to return with the troops to this place as soon as possible.

Your's with esteem,

H. DEARBORN.

P. S. The object of the enemy's fleet must be either to cover the retreat of their troops, or to bring on a reinforcement. H. D.

Report of the killed, wounded and missing, in the action of the 5th June, at Stoney Creek.

Killed—1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 15 privates.

Wounded—1 captain, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals and 34 privates.

Missing—2 Brigadier Generals, 1 Major, 3 Captains, 1 subaltern, 9 sergeants, 4 corporals, 80 privates.

Total killed, wounded and missing—154.

Correct return from the Reports of the different corps in the action of the 6th inst. at Stoney Creek.

J. JOHNSON, Ast. Adj. Gen.

---

CAPTURE OF THE CHESAPEAKE.

The painful suspence, in which the public has so long remained, with regard to the issue of the late naval combat, has at last given place to more painful certainty. The particulars of the engagement, as given in the Halifax papers, were received on Friday evening, and inserted in our paper of this day.—The bloody record contains a description of carnage unparalelled in Naval History, and its perusal would have excited lively sensibility, had neither of the combatants been our countrymen.——How must our feelings be lacerated, when we find among the dead, our gallant LAWRENCE, who so lately hung in the Temple of Fame, the proudest trophy of our country's glory; and of whose future services the nation cherished the fondest expectations.

BALLARD, BROOME and WHITE, are also numbered with their slain; but their virtues will long live in the remembrance of the many, to whom that frank and liberal character, which adorns the companion, and indicates the hero, justly endeared them.

The younger officers, who fell in the engagement, had gained the friendship of numbers in this place, & many of the gallant tars who perished, had relatives in our vicinity.

Public sympathy has never been more excited; and although the result of this desperate engagement tarnishes not the lustre of our Naval character, it creates a pang of universal sorrow.

During the whole of Saturday, the flags were hoisted at half mast at the Forts, at the Navy Yard, at different flag staffs in town, and on all the public and private American ships in the harbour.

In the late sanguinary conflict between the Chesapeake and Shannon, we have, beside the death of the gallant LAWRENCE, to lament the loss of Lieutenant BALLARD, 4th officer of the Chesapeake, and Lieutenant Broome, of the Marine Corps. By the deaths of these gentlemen, our country has lost the services of brave and skilful officers, and society been deprived of respectable, amiable, and intelligent young men. We will not, however, indulge in unavailing regrets—"The first duty a soldier owes his country is to die," and a grateful country will cherish and respect their memories.

Hundreds of persons, who witnessed the late rencontre between the Chesapeake and Shannon, unanimously attest to the ascension of an immense volume of smoke, mast high, which induced a well founded belief that some dreadful accident had happened on board our ship, or that some unknown stratagem has been practised by the enemy. The silence of the letters which have been received upon this subject raises a presumption, that no explosion took place and that no combustible materials were precipitated upon our deck. The solution of the phenomenon is probably this: When the enemy boarded, our men *fired down* from the tops; and the enemy *fired up* at our men. The vertical fire from the musketry, might produce an effect very different from the horizontal fire of the great guns.

The bugleman being killed early in the action, whose express duty it was to call the boarders to assail, or repel, undoubtedly occasioned a delay of some minutes at the most important period of the conflict which gave the enemy, after the unexampled destruction of our officers, an almost unresisted possession of the span deck. *Boston Gazette.*

---

It is now well known to be the prevalent federal doctrine in relation to the impressment of seamen from on board American neutral vessels, in time of peace, by G Britain, that she cannot & ought not to relinquish the practice; that very few American seamen suffer by it; & that if some do, we out to submit to the partial evil for the general good it produces to the "bulwark of our holy religion" and the *great protector* of the civilized world. It is almost unnecessary to remark on this doctrine, that it is a deep disgrace to those who hold it; that it is a violation of the fundamental principle of all societies, by which the whole are solemnly bound to protect every class and each individual in their lawful pursuits; and that the federalists, in encouraging England to persevere in impressment, are guilty of a great portion of the sin committed in that nefarious practice. We understand that a reverend member of congress the other day gave the minority in the house a most just admonition on this subject. He proved from holy writ, that man stealing was a crime for which the offender ought to be put to death. G. B he said, had for many years been in the habit of stealing American seamen, and under the lash consigned them to cruel bondage. He maintained the correct position, that the minority had been accessories to the crime before and after the fact.—We decidedly coincide with the reverend gentleman in this assertion; and we go further, and contend that the federal party are aiding and co operating with the enemy in such a manner as to protract the calamities of war. What do the opposition say?—They tell Great Britain that she is right in that practice against which the war on our part is continued; that she ought never to relinquish it; that to give it up would ruin her; and that the people of America are of these opinions; but the government [illegible]