THE WAR IN THE WEST.

Copy of a letter from Brigadier General Benjamin Howard, to the Secretary of War.

Head-Quarters, St. Louis,
October 28th, 1813.

SIR,

I had the honor of expressing to you the opinion during the last summer, that a movement of troops to dislodge the Indians at the head of Peora Lake, was indispensable to guard against that presure upon our frontier in autumn which I believed would take place. It was with pleasure I found the measure approved. In pursuance of the plan, on the 19th of september the effective rangers of Missouri and Illinois, with about 100 from Indiana, 250 mounted men furnished by the executives of Missouri, Illinois, were concentrated at Tower Hill, east of the Mississippi, 30 miles above the frontier. In embodying these troops, the immediate safety of the frontier was steadily kept in view, by moving detachments in such directors as would enable them to discover and dislodge any parties which might be upon our borders. The 1st regt. commanded by col. M'Nair, was marched on the west side of the Mississippi, and crossed just below the rendezvous; the 3d, commanded by colonel Stephenson, was marched on the east side of the river, crossing the Illinois, a few miles above its mouth; a detachment of about 200 regulars, under the command of lieut. col. Nicholson, of the 1st regt. U. S. infantry, at the same time ascended the Illinois in armed boats.

It was soon ascertained, upon the arrival of those several detachments at points a little beyond the settlements, that the enemy had descended the Illinois to invade the frontier. A skirmish took place between some of col. Stephenson's commanding and a party of Indians; the latter were driven. From appearances in the route of the first regiment some parties had crossed to the west side of the Mississippi, upon the approach of the troop. I have no doubt of the Indians having returned to their canoes in the Illinois, when they found lieut. col. Nicholson rapidly ascending the river, and fled before him without injuring a single citizen. Believing that the frontier would be safe for the moment, I marched the mounted troops up the Mississippi bottom to Christy's creek, passing opposite the encampment of the Sac nation, who have professed themselves friendly, but many of whom I believe have taken part in the war against us, while others were undecided.

At this time, Mr. Boilvain, Indian agent, was in the neighborhood, sent by gov. Clarke to conduct them to the Missouri, where they had agreed to winter. However unsettled their neutrality might have been before, the display of troops in their vicinity soon confirmed it; they immediately descended the Mississippi to the Portage de Sioux, from whence they were sent up the Missouri from Christy's creek. The army was marched across the country towards Pioria, and on the evening of the 28th arrived within a few miles of the Old Village. That night three men were sent to discover whether the command of Lieut. Col. Nicholson had arrived, and bearing a letter to that officer, stating my position, and calling for such information in regard to the enemy as he might possess. During the night he descended the Illinois to my encampment, and reported to me, that the day before, an attack was made upon his command at Pioria, where he had commenced building a fort agreeably to my orders; however the enemy were soon dispersed by a well directed discharge of musquetry, with the aid of a 6 pounder from 2 unfinished block-houses. It was evident that the assailants suffered in this attack; but to what extent could not be ascertained. None of our men were killed, and only one wounded.

On the 29th the mounted troops arrived at Pioria; and as soon as provisions could be drawn, were marched up the Illinois to the villages at the head of the Lake, which was the direction in which the enemy appeared to have retired from Pioria. Upon my arrival at those villages, I found them deserted. From the examination by reconnoitering parties, I had no doubt of the Indians having ascended the Illinois in canoes, which is so situated, from swamps on both banks, that it is impossible to pursue them by land.—The villages were destroyed, and some property of inconsiderable amount taken.

The army then returned to Pioria, and remained until the garrison was put in a state of defence. Shortly after my return, I sent a detachment in two armed boats, under the command of Maj. Christy, in pursuit of the enemy. This detachment ascended the Illinois above the mouth of the Vermillion to the rapids, and within 70 miles of Chicago; but it was impossible to come up with the Indians, notwithstanding the great efforts of the commanding officer and his command. Soon after the departure of Major Christy, Major Boone was sent with about 100 men in the direction of Rock river, to examine whether there were any parties in that quarter. He penetrated the country northwardly from Pioria, in my opinion, within 45 miles of Rock river, and reported that there were several encampments on the Moquine which appeared to have been deserted about the time the army arrived at Pioria.

The mounted troops remained near Pioria from the 2d until the 16th of October, during which time they were actively engaged, together with the United States infantry, in erecting Fort Clarke, which stands at the lower end of the lake completely commanding the river. This important Fort was erected under many disadvantages—the weather being unusually cold for the season, and without the aid of a single team the timbers were hauled by the troops a considerable distance to the Lake (nearly a mile in width) and rafted over. The Fort is unquestionably one of the strongest I have ever seen in the western country, and certainly highly important to the safety of the 3 Territories with the defence of which I have been entrusted. On the 15th the mounted troops moved from Pioria for the settlements, pursuing generally a south course until they arrived at Camp Russell on the 21st inst. when the mounted militia were discharged. The Indiana Rangers on the march were sent across from the old Kickapoo towns to Vincennes under the command of Captain Andre.

The safety to the frontier which was anticipated from this movement has been fully realized, and the same enemy that kept our exposed settlements under continual apprehensions of danger was compelled to fly before a force in their own country less than that assigned by the government for the immediate defence of the frontier. It is with pleasure I acknowledge the energetic and intelligent execution of my orders by those officers to whom I confided the command of detachments, and laudable conduct of the officers and men generally during the campaign, but more particularly on those occasions (not unfrequent) when it was hoped and believed by all that the enemy had determined to give us battle.

I am, Sir,
With high consideration,
Your humble servant,
BENJAMIN HOWARD.

The hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. I have delayed the transmission of this communication until I heard of Capt. Andre, who was sent across direct from the Kickapoo Towns to Vincennes—he has reported to me his safe arrival. B. H.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE WAR.

The following concise view of the war, was made in conversation a few evenings ago in a public office, by a man of an intelligent and comprehensive mind:

It has been frequently observed that our government ought to have been better prepared for war. I admit that every nation ought to be prepared for war; but from the nature of our government it is morally impossible; it will never be the case in this country previous to war being declared. A declaration of war will always produce a correspondending disposition to provide for it. This is the principle of our government, and verified by the result of the present war.—Munitions of war have been provided, loans have been filled, armies have been raised, and the credit of the government has risen under the pressure of war, and in opposition to a combination of prejudice, and a vast opposing interest. On the ocean we have been successful beyond all calculation.——With 130 enemy's ships on our coast, we have sustained but little injury, except the plunder of some hams of bacon, a few chickens, and some furniture destroyed at *Hampton*. We have captured 700 sail of their merchantmen, three of their best frigates, and several sloops of war; and we have lost but one frigate. At *Crany Island* we resisted, with 600 militia, the enemy's force of 3000 regulars, and compelled them to retreat in disgrace. On *Lake Erie*, we have captured a whole fleet, in a manner glorious and honorable to the nation. On the land we have been successful beyond all human expectations; we have taken *York*, *Ft. George*, and captured all PROCTOR'S army, and separated the Indians from their savage allies for ever. We have resisted the enemy in every attack: at *Sackett's Harbor*, at *Fort Meigs*, at *Sandusky*, at *Craney Island*, and every place where they have attempted invasion.

Faction has lowered its tone—the credit of the nation stands high—our active resources for offensive and defencive war are fully developed, and better understood. In fact, we are in a better situation than the most sanguine mind of the government could have expected when the war was first declared. We have full and ample reason to be satisfied with the progress of the war, and the best hopes and expectations of a final result, glorious and honorable to the nation.

Boston Patriot.

FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PATRIOT.

When war was first declared, it will be recollected that the delegation of Congress from the western states, who to a man were in favor of a war with Britain, were much flouted by the federal party in Congress—they were represented as great boasters, ready to wage a mighty war of words, but who wished others to fight the battles—they were represented as not only ignorant of the art of war, but the veriest cowards.——As Kentucky "backwoodsmen" have with the federalists been more a subject for reproach than those of any other State, we will take as a sample the Kentucky delegation, more than one half of whom, either as officers or private soldiers, have volunteered and marched to the scene of war: among these we mention, *Johnson*, *Ormsby*, *Desha* and *M'Kee*, each of whom voted for the war, and was ready, when his country called, to march to its defence. *Stephen Ormsby* was a volunteer aid to Gen. Wilkinson, and having served in that capacity till the northern army went into winter quarters, appears at his post at the commencement of Congress, equally ready to assist in devising ways and means to pursue the war with energy, as to bare his breast to its dangers. The brave Col. *R. M. Johnson*, of Kentucky, who with a heroism and bravery seldom equalled and never exceeded, rode up in front of Proctor's intrenched army near Moravian towns, who in that gallant exploit deliberately shot the celebrated chief Tecumseh with his pistol, and received five wounds; this gentleman, who has *twice* volunteered and appeared in the tented field, deserves particular mention and the warmest encomiums of a grateful country. It will be remembered by those who have read the debates in Congress that in answer to a speech of Col. Johnson accusing the British with having, previous to the declaration of war, instigated the Indians to the murder of our defenceless frontier inhabitants, the puissant Mr. Randolph denied the charge and pledged himself that he would march with Col. J. against them whenever they should invade the American territories. This was in the summer of 1812: soon after Col. Johnson did march and fought the Indians; and he did not fail on the succeeding session to remind Randolph of his pledge. And after the close of the extra session last summer he returned to his State, and appeared as it were in a moment 800 or 1000 miles distance, fighting, conquering and driving the allied British and American savages from their strong holds in Upper Canada. We hope this veterans covered with scars, may again appear in Congress, to put to blush those men who have reviled and abused him—we hope he may appear, to silence by his eloquence the abuses which have been heaped on the people of Kentucky by British advocates there, as the same Kentuckians have silenced the war-whoop of the ferocious British savages who have been opposed to them. With what face can the *Hansons*, *Shipherds*, *Grosvenors* and *Websters*, stand up and accuse that brave man and his valiant brethren in arms with cowardice—with mercenary motives in commencing and pursuing this second contest for American independence?—With what face can these puny whipsters, who would tamely submit and crouch under every indignity and injury rather than nobly contend for our rights, reproach Col. Johnson for precipitating the nation into a war in which neither himself or his constituents were to participate, but which was to be borne exclusively by the eastern states?——We reiterate a wish that he may so recover from his wounds as to again appear on the floor of Congress—that he may

"Strip up his sleeves and show those scars
"He for his country has received"—

and that those scars, "dumb mouths," may speak to the understandings of the opposition a conviction and confusion that all the thunders of eloquence have hitherto failed to enforce.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE SECRET SESSION.

We have seen an intimation in the Federal Republican newspaper, and had it travelled no further, we should assuredly have thought it not worth notice, that the representation of the confidential proceedings of the House of Representatives, as published by us was incorrect. We aver the contrary; and that, as far as it went, the Journal was entirely correct. We did not entirely copy all the frivolous motions, that were made; but we are assured we copied quite enough of them to disgust all reasonable men.

In all other free countries, the opposition in the legislative body tries its strength, in relation to the principle of any measure submitted for decision.——Failing in destroying any principle of a measure, its advocates are permitted to amend it and make it as perfect as they can. Such is the course, which reason and urbanity alike prescribe.

What, on the other hand, is the character of the proceeding in the House on the late Embargo bill, and indeed on every measure of moment which has for several years past been before that body? What do they present but as series of attempts to weaken the force of the act about to be passed; to abridge its penalties, to relax its provisions, to make it less effectual? We are not therefore surprised that the party are mortified at the naked statement of facts which appears on the Journal. As to the policy of an Embargo law, we admit there might be honest differences of opinion. As to the expediency of making that law efficient, when passed, there could surely be none. Who does not feel for the character of the National Legislature, when he finds a proposition made in it, and sanctioned by forty or fifty votes too, that *a law* about to be passed *shall not violate the constitutional rights* of the citizen! Who before heard of bolstering up the constitution by legal provisions? Such puerility is unworthy the Legislature of a free people—it is unworthy of men of sense or character. We are not at all surprized, therefore, as we said before, at the party being ashamed of it, or at their attempt to bolster up the votes; by their speeches, a labor they have already undertaken. Our readers, we have no doubt, will readily perceive that the duty of the friends of the embargo measure, in the house, was to act, not to speak; whilst the obvious policy of those, who wished to frustrate its object by delay, was to speak, not to act. Of course the debate which took place was principally in opposition to the measure. But let not the Republicans of the nation therefore suppose, as the factious prints dare to insinuate, that the conclave patriotism was silenced or overawed by factious violence. The insinuation is false. Whilst they respect the rights of the minority, the majority know their own. They know their rights, and they have proved that they have the spirit to assert them.

COTTON MANUFACTURES AT BALTIMORE.

There are now running in Baltimore, or rather in the city and its vicinity, about 9000 spindles; 1500 or 2000 more go into operation before the first of January next, and from the works *already in great progress*, there will be about 20,000 in the whole, by the end of the ensuing year.—*Three years ago we did not make a thread.*

These works on the average, will require 35,000 lbs. of cotton *per day*, to keep them going; and reckoning 300 days in the year, will consume, *per annum*, 1,050,000 lbs. of cotton, rather more than *one eighth* of the *whole export* of the article from the United States in the year 1805; when trade, in general, was nearly at its height; though the cultivation of that commodity has greatly increased since then.

This cotton will make about one million lbs. of yarn, which sells for an average price of 70 cents equal to $700,000 *per annum* for the cotton, in its first state of improvement.

But this yarn will be wove into three millions of yards of cloth, worth on the average 45 cts. per. yard, making the final value of 1,62,000 dollars *per annum*.

So much for the "devoted city." Besides the Union Manufacturing company will commence the *third* mill, as soon as the building of the *second* is done—and begin to count up the *fourth*. They have seats for *sixteen* mills in the space of a few hundred yards, to be turned by the *Patapsco*. Other works by other companies are contemplated.

We have also many valuable manufactories in the neighborhood, the property of which is in citizens of *Baltimore*, as well as several in the city. We shall at this time only notice a machine at *Ellicott's* mills that *cuts* (please to observe, I do nos say *will* cut, but *cuts*) *twelve hundred* nails in *one minute*, more perfect than any heretofore furnished.

From the facts that have come to my knowledge (and though I am very curious about such things, I am convinced that I am not fully informed) I venture to say, that the *domestic manufacturies of cotton, wool, copper, brass, nails, and glass*, (ONLY SIX ARTICLES) appearing to Baltimore, will give an ultimate value of more than *two millions of dollars* for the year 1815, without taking into calculation any other than those works now in operation or actually finishing or erecting; wresting that mighty sum immediately from the enemies of the United States. And *much* is done in a *small way* in making many other goods that 3 years ago were received from *Great Britain*, to the amount of perhaps $150,000 a year.

Verily, verily, these things will provoke a "*home influence*," and hasten the political millenium when we shall regard all nations as enemies or as friends, as they may behave themselves to us.—In additional to these more weighty considerations, we exultingly make the remark, that every person engaged in these manufacturies is rapidly adding to his wealth. *Niles' Register.*

FROM THE AURORA.

Mr. Wilson—I send you the New York Evening Post of Thursday, in order that you may, if you think proper, copy from it the confession of British party, through their mouth piece, Coleman, *that the opposition of the federalists originates in an extreme desire to possess the powers of the government*—and that the return of peace, if it has not this effect, "*would be the heaviest of curses.*"——Very many of the democrats have had the charity to believe the opposition of the federalists generally, to be produced by *honest* motives, and that they had the good of the country really at heart—the federalists have also had the same opinion of *their leaders*. Perhaps the following exact copy of the confession of the field marshal of the federal, or tory (or "*blue light*") editors—who is the humble organ of the wooden-headed and wooden-legged politicians in N. York—and is a native himself of the land of *blue-lights* and *blue-laws*—perhaps his confession will at length convince those *charitable* men among ourselves—and those *peace loving folks* among our opponents—that the opposition of the federalists has always been base and groundless——that, when in power, they endeavoured to destroy our republican institutions by force, so now they are endeavoring to effect the same object by slandering the government, and aiding the enemy—that the object of the federal leaders is not *Peace*, except that peace will bring a greater calamity on the country than the most disastrous war could possibly do—in the ascendancy of men, who approve and promulgate such sentiments as the following:

"*What would be the value of a peace, if not attended with a change of those rulers who are driving this country headlong to ruin? A peace, if such be its effects, would be the heaviest of curses:* there is no event that could happen, no possible condition of things that can be imagined, which ought not to be deplored, dreaded and avoided, as the greatest of calamities, of its tendency is to perpetuate power in the profligate hands that for sixteen years have governed this unhappy country." *Evening Post.*

COM. ISAAC CHAUNCEY, commander of our squadron on Lake Ontario, has arrived at New-York.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

Copies of the following letters have been politely communicated to us for publication, by an officer of Gen. Harrison's, staff, who has the originals in his possession. *Nat. Intel.*

FROM GEN. PROCTOR TO GEN. HARRISON.

October 8th, 1813.

SIR,

The fortune of war having placed the private property of the officers and several families of the right division of the British army in Upper Canada, in your power; as also letters, papers and vouchers of the greatest consequence to individuals, without being of any to the cause of the captors; I do myself the honor of applying to you in their behalf, hoping that agreeably to the custom of war, you will avail yourself of this favorable opportunity to alleviate private feelings, by causing the said property and documents to be restored. I must also intreat, that every consideration in your power be shewn for private families, not of the army. I trust that with the same view you will permit the bearer hereof to ascertain the fate of individuals, and that you will facilitate the retreat of any families that may unfortunately have been interrupted in the attempt.

I have the honor to be, &c.
(Signed) HENRY PROCTOR,
Maj. Gen. in H. B. M's. Service.

Maj. Gen. Harrison, or officer commanding the army in the service of the U. S. at Moravian Towns.

FROM GEN. HARRISON TO GEN. VINCENT.

Head Quarters, Fort George,
3d Nov. 1813.

SIR,

Lieut. Le Breton, an officer in your service, arrived at Detroit on the 15th ult. bearing a flag and a letter to me from Gen. Proctor, requesting humane treatment, for the prisoners in my possession and the restoration of private property and papers. This letter was directed to me at the Moravian Towns; and as the subject was not of the importance to authorize the Lieutenant's pursuing me to Detroit, I was somewhat surprized at his doing so. It did not appear to me proper to permit him to return in that way, and as I was upon the point of setting out for this frontier by water, I conceived that mode of conveyance would be full as agreeable to him, and would enable him to meet Gen. Proctor as expeditiously as by the land route. I regret that the badness of the weather and other causes which he will explain, have detained him until this time.

Understanding that you are the senior officer, I have determined to address my answer to you. With respect to the subject of Gen. Proctor's letter, those which I have the honor to enclose you from the British officers, who were taken on the 5th ult. to their friends, and the report of Mr. Le Breton, will satisfy you that no indulgence, which humanity could claim in their favor, or the usages of war sanction, has been withheld. The disposition of the property taken on the field of action or near it, was left to the commanding officer at Detroit. The instructions given to that gentleman and the well known generosity of his character, will insure to the claimants the utmost justice and liberality in his decisions. In making this statement, I wish it however to be distinctly understood, that my conduct with regard to the prisoners and property taken, has been dictated solely by motives of humanity, and not by a belief that it could be claimed upon the score of reciprocity of treatment, towards the American prisoners, who have fallen into the hands of Gen. Proctor. The unhappy description of persons who have escaped from the tomahawk of the Savages in the employment of the British government, who fought under the immediate orders of that officer, have suffered all the indignities and deprivations, which human nature is capible of supporting.—There is no single instance that I have heard of in which the property of the officers has been respected. But I am far from believing that the conduct of General Proctor has been thought an example worthy of imitation by the greater part of the British officers; and in the character of Gen. Vincent, I have a pledge that he will unite his exertions with mine to soften as much as possible the fate of those, whom the fortune of war may reciprocally place in our power.

But, sir, there is another subject upon which I wish an explicit declaration.——Will the Indians, who still adhere to the cause of his Britannic majesty, be suffered to continue that horrible species of warfare, which they have heretofore practised against our troops, and those still more horrible depredations upon the peaceable inhabitants of our frontiers? I have sufficient evidence to show that even the latter have not always been perpetrated by small parties of vagrant Indians, acting at a distance from the British army.——Some of the most atrocious instances have occurred under the eyes of the British commander, and the Head of the Indian Department. I shall pass by the tragedy of the River Raisin, and that equally well known which was acted on the Miami River, after the defeat of Colonel Dudley—and select three other instances of savage barbarity committed under the auspices of gen. Proctor:—In the beginning of June, a small party of Indians, conducted by an Ottowa chief, who I believe, is now with the British army under your command, left Malden in bark canoes, in which they coasted lake Erie, to the mouth of Portage River; the canoes were taken across the Portage to the Sandusky bay, over which the party proceeded to the mouth of Cold Creek, & from thence by land to the settlements upon that river, where they captured the