FROM THE STANDARD OF UNION.

THE TIMES.

The present session of congress is advancing. Much has been effected, but more remains to be accomplished. The security and reputation of the nation, as well as the safety of the constitution, rests with the representatives of the people.—We trust that they will guard the inestimable deposit committed to their hands.

Congress are placed in a situation of great responsibility, a responsibility which is every day increasing. We have been told that our constitution is the child of experiment, that it is adapted to the sunshine and calm of peace; but, that it is too impotent to encounter, and too fragile to endure the storms of war. We look to the event with suspense and exceeding great solicitude. A pusillanimous or temporising policy, by impairing public confidence, might or would shake our political system to its centre.

We live at a time which requires great resolution, as well as strict justice. If the strength of the constitution remains to be tried, the sooner the better. Let us meet the question like men. An appearance of timidity would invite the very evils which we deprecate. Conspirators, if there are such men among us, would grow bold, confident and fool hardy.—They would have time to prepare, mature, extend, and ripen their plots. Preventive remedies are always best. The *embrio* spark of rebellion should be extinguished.

A portion of the Massachusettss legislature is behaving unworthily. But we are not to mistake their idle scoldings for the solemn and deliberate voice of the *state of Massachusetts*. Conspirators may assemble to their midnight orgies, and be seated around the quivering flame of their "blue light" taper, until their countenance become as pale as death—they may convene at Annopolis, celebrate British victories, and drink *dagger* toasts until they are staggered, but they have neither forces nor courage to march to the field of insurrection. The citizens of Massachusetts know the value of union, they respect their own character too much, they prize the blessings obtained by a seven year's revolutionary struggle too highly, to stake them upon the desperate fortunes of a few corrupt and unprincipled adventurers. The editor of that firm and excellent paper, the Boston Patriot, knew his men, as well as the public sentiment thoroughly, when he plainly told them that they might talk of treason as much as they please, and whenever they ventured to act it, they would find a halter. Away with their vapourings.—Rebellion would discover itself a self devoted victim, to prove the strength of the constitution. The "steady habits" of New England are not to be so easily plunged without a barque, into a wild adventure, upon a boisterous and perilous ocean. It is time to speak plain. Let conspirators endeavour to rest tranquil upon their pillows, and to undream the dangerous dreams they have dreamed. The nation fears them not, it feels no danger, it totally defies their machinations. There will be many a fearful pause, and many a solemn painful calculation, before they are ready to levy and embody an army of insurgents. Sirs, to every man who could be beguiled into rebellion, ten thousand swords are ready to leap from their scabbards, to maintain the reputation and the rights, the integrity, union, and constitution of their country.

The repeal of the last embargo act is much to be regretted. It was a most unfortunate and untimely yielding. It gave Britain an idea that our government is weak, and has encouraged domestic faction ever since. That fatal misstep of repeal has been the occasion of many a subsequent misfortune, and has probably, more than any circumstance, occasioned the present war. It is not our province, and we presume not to inculcate lessons to our superiors in wisdom and experience, but we shall humbly mention one essential maxim of sound policy. *Never commit an act which is wrong—never by reason of menaces or importunity, surrender a measure which is right.* The men who now pretend to question the constitutionality of the present embargo law, are quibblers instead of reasoners, who will dispute every authority and attribute of the government. We repeat what we have mentioned before, that an embargo is not an innovation or a novelty, growing out of a "*philosopher's whim*," but a measure of an efficacious character, equally calculated to protect ourselves and to distress the enemy. We farther repeat, that it is a peace measure, calculated to prevent war, or force your antagonist to desist from it; and that even when it fails in producing that effect, it keeps your strength entire—your food from nourishing—your property from enriching—foreigners residing among you from corresponding—and your tories or blue lights, for we shall not dispute about the name, from assisting the enemy. Under Gen. Washington's administration, on the 4th June, 1794, an act of congress passed, not to lay and regulate an embargo by that honorable body itself, but to authorise Gen. *Washington*, the then President, at his own sole will and discretion, to "*lay, regulate and revoke embargoes.*" That act was commended by the voice, and vindicated by the talents of Gen. *Hamilton*, who afterwards ascribed the willingness of the British government to treat with us, to its *powerful and self denying influence*. Yet strange, that measure, so wise in its conception, so pure and honest in intention, so duly devised to consummate the best, and all purposes of the nation, is now opposed, and why? Because an unprincipled opposition, resolved to govern, is determined to condemn and *per fas aut nefas*, to hiss every noble and virtuous character from the stage.

Congress possesses the power of declaring war. The nation has, exclusively, entrusted that honorable body with the power of raising armies, and with every other means to carry it on. Shall the interests of this great community, the liberties and precious rights of eight millions and an half of free men, be sacrificed to an Essex junto—a British faction—a set of men who preferring to "reign in hell, rather than serve in Heaven," stand ready, if they cannot govern, to abandon their country to its base and bitter enemy? There always will be factions among us. They spring from the freedom of our institutions. It is a price which we shall always have to pay for our liberties; but the evil is not the less to be guarded against. It must always be expected that malcontents will have a majority in one or more states of our general confederacy, and should the national government yield to local clamor, great national purposes never would be executed. It is charitably hoped, that no serious internal movements are meditated in favor of the foe; and surely it may here, emphatically, be mentioned, that if there are gentlemen who have any constitutional points to discuss and settle, it would be much more patriotic and becoming, to unite in the first place, to conquer the enemy; and let us Americans adjust these matters between ourselves, when the war is over.

Shall the third campaign terminate prosperously, and every branch of the government be supported? This is the great point immediately to be decided.—When Scipo delivered the Romans from the great Hannibal, his first step was to carry the war into the enemy's country. Battles must be fought somewhere. We must invade the enemy or they will invade us. The further the scene is removed from our own homes, the safer and better it will be for us.

Our subject is to be continued.

FROM THE STANDARD OF UNION.

IS THE FIRST BLOW STRUCK!

What does Governor Strong, what does Mr. Otis mean? To what lengths will disaffection proceed? Are these gentlemen governed by mere party spirit, or by something that aims at bolder and deeper views? If they really side with the enemy in the great commercial and maritime questions which agitate the country, or if it is their wish to dissolve the Union, it is hoped they will have the magnanimity to say so at once, and put the voice of the country, and the strength of the government, to a trial. If the malcontents of Boston meditate an insurrection, they are requested to remember the fate of Shays. We are writing the history of the tories; where dis *Governor Strong* stand last war? We have read his last speech, and possessing a perfect knowledge of characters, his Excellency's merits shall not pass unnoticed.

We read in Gordon's history, vol. 1, p. 190, that in the year 1763, when Bernard was Governor, and Hutchinson Lieutenant Governor, there were two gentlemen of the name of Otis, to wit, Colonel James Otis the father, and Mr. James Otis the son. Colonel James, the father, who was repeatedly returned for Barnstable, in Plymouth county, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts, which had been made to prevent it on account of his siding with government, being a lawyer, had been promised by Mr. Shirley, when in the Chair, to be made a judge of the supreme court upon an opportunity's offering.—The first vacancy which happened, was filled by the appointment of the Secretary's son-in-law; for which Mr. Shirley apologised by pleading a promise made to the Secretary, and his having forgotten the former one. Mr. Otis was satisfied with a fresh assurance of the next vacancy, which was considered by him in the light of a governmental promise—and it was expected that whenever a vacancy happened, Mr. Otis would be appointed. There was no new vacancy till a short time after Governor Bernard entered upon his administration, when Chief Justice Sewall died. Upon this death, Mr. James Otis, the son, expressed himself as follows; "If Governor Bernard does not appoint my father judge of the supreme court, I will kindle such a fire in the province, as shall singe the Governor, though I myself perish in the flames." Mr. Hutchinson, however, hurried to Mr. Bernard, procured a promise, which being once given, the Governor would not retract, and got himself appointed Chief Justice. It is asked whether the Mr. Otis who made such a flaming speech, was an ancestor of the Mr. Otis, who now threatens to kindle so destructive a fire in the State of Massachusetts?

Again also, in the said first volume of Gordon's history, p. 314, we discover an account of a certain Col. Pickering, in the words following, to wit: "Colonel Pickering, of Salem, had the command of a fine well exercised provincial regiment; had he pushed on with his men, so as to have headed the British before they had gained Charlestown neck, and he was near enough, they must have clubbed their firelocks; for they were quite wearied out with the services of the day, and had but a round or two of ammunition remaining. No satisfactory reason has been assigned for the want of greater alertness in Col. Pickering's regiment." We respectfully enquire of the present Mr. Pickering, whether he is acquainted with the Colonel Pickering, who makes so shining a figure in the above history?—And, since we presume that Mr. Shays is dead, whether the Colonel would discover more bravery and alertness, at the head of a body of insurgents.

When the safety of a nation is at stake, said *Junius*, suspicion is a just ground for inquiry.———We perceive events which excite something more than suspicion. America, nurtures and nourishes too many faithless sons in her bosom.—There is no project too base or vile for the tories. They would serve their master, through fire and through water. If they durst attempt it, they would drench the country with kindred blood, to bring it to subjection to the king—let us compare a few circumstances together, and stand prepared to resist every attempt, which can be made by men who had rather "rule in hell than serve in heaven." *Henry*, writes that the British might calculate upon the alliance of Vermont; accordingly, we find that when the virtuous sons of that state array themselves in the defence of a beloved country, Chittenden, the Governor, exercised a most irregular usurpation of authority, endeavors to control, and seduce them from their allegiance. The noble spirited and able reply of the officers, ought to have convinced Mr. Otis, and every candid federalist, that the conduct of Chittenden, instead of deserving support, merited the utmost execration. And now, when congress is investing the subject, and deliberating upon the propriety of directing an appeal to the laws of the land, Mr. Otis and his coadjutors, think proper to volunteer the whole force of Massachusetts, not in defence of his country, but to support Chittenden against his country These are fine doings Mr. Otis, and will read about as well in history, as the facts which we have just selected, and cited from Gordon. But, what do you mean, Mr. Otis, do you wish, sir, that troops should be raised in Boston, and for what purpose?—You, who would discourage the regular recruiting service, you, sir, who would be unwilling to permit your militia to march to the defence of a sister state, to protect your brothers from the scalping knives, and swords of a barbarous and cruel foe; are you now ready to march to Vermont, encourage insurrection there, and to kindle the unhallowed fire of civil war, though you may be singed by the event? Do you wish, sir, that Massachusetts should withdraw from the union? Do you really prefer the fugitives of Halifax, and Port Roseway, to the inhabitants of Pennsylvania and New York? If there should be gentlemen who meditate such desperate schemes, we conjure them to desist, and to spare themselves and their country from the shocking consequences of a civil conflict. In the spirit of charity we trust that no such designs are seriously meditated; that the language of the resolutions in question, is only held out *in terrorem*. We trust that government will consider it in that light, and not suffer itself to be deterred from an honorable and dignified course. Massachusetts was the cradle of the revolution. She abounds with faithful and virtuous sons, and tho' alas! too many of her children have become degenerate, we feel convinced that the great majority will rally around the standard of the union, and constitution of their country. At all events, let us know the worst—let the question be fairly tried; if the union is a rope of sand, if the constitution is a reed instead of a rock, if the government does not possess the power to confer that safety and protection upon the whole nation, which was the principle and great end of its establishment, then it would become entirely useless, and we should deceive ourselves if we trusted to its guardianship. We are as little disposed to usurpation, and as much attached to proper state privileges as Mr. Otis can possibly be; and if that gentleman really entertains doubts with respect to the powers of the general administration, we cannot but think that he would discover more wisdom, as well as patriotism, by advocating wholesome amendments to the constitution, than by introducing disorganizing resolutions in a state legislature.—We view those resolutions with exceeding great alarm. We think they merit the utmost reprehension. We consider them unjust in point of principle; ill timed; calculated to assist the enemy, to encourage him to preserve in his favorite scheme of dismembering our empire.—To prolong the war—to invite invasion—to enfeeble our own government—to diminish national confidence in our political institutions, and, in fine, to introduce a train of calamities, which we scarcely dare to contemplate. We drop the pen—to our beloved constitution we say *esto perpetua!* Let the fatal hand of disunion be stayed.

NORFOLK, FEBRUARY 5.

We have before us a letter from one WM. H. HARGROVE, dated at Fort Cuba (Havana) the 15th of November, 1813.—The writer states, that in the year 1794 he went from the county of Norfolk, where he was born, to the western country; that he was living in the county of Baldwin, Mississippi Territory; that about three years since, he, with some others, were seized by a party of Spanish soldiers and conveyed to the Island of Cuba, and that he has been confined in the above named Fort ever since, for what cause he has not been informed.—As we shall forward this letter to the representative in Congress for the Mississippi Territory, we shall not state further particulars.

WASHINGTON CITY, FEB. 10.

Copy of a letter from Brig. Gen'l. Claiborne, of Volunteers, to the Secretary of War, dated

Fort Claiborne, East Bank of Alabama, 85 miles above Fort Stoddert, Jan. 1st, 1814.

SIR,

On the 13th ult. I marched a detachment from this post with the view of destroying the towns of the inimical Creek Indians, on the Alabama, above the mouth of the Cahaba. After having marched about 80 miles, from the best information I could obtain, I was within 30 miles of a town newly erected on ground called Holy, occupied by a large body of the enemy, under the command of Witherford, the Half Breed Chief, who was one of those who commanded the Indians that destroyed the garrison at Mims in August last, and who has committed many depredations on the frontier inhabitants. I immediately caused a stockade to be erected for the security of the heavy baggage and sick. On the morning of the 22d the troops resumed their line of march, chiefly through woods without a track to guide them near the town on the morning of the 23d, my disposition for attack was made. The troops advanced in 3 columns. With the centre column I advanced myself, ordering Lester's Guards and Wells' troop of dragoons to act as a corps of reserve. About noon the right column, composed of 12 months' volunteers, commanded by Col. Joseph Carson, came in view of the town called Eccanachaca (or Holy Ground) and was immediately vigorously attacked by the enemy, who were apprized of our approach, and had chosen their field of action.

Before the centre, commanded by Lt. Col. Russell, with a part of 3d regt. of U. S. infantry and mounted militia riflemen, or the left column, which was composed of militia and a party of Choctaws under Pushamuttaha, commanded by Major Smoot of militia, who were ordered to charge, could come generally into action, the enemy were repulsed & were flying in all directions, many of them casting away their arms.

Thirty of the enemy were killed, and judging from every appearance many were wounded. The loss on our part was 1 Corporal killed, and 1 Ensign, two Sergeants, 1 Corporal and two privates wounded.

A pursuit was immediately ordered; but from the nature of the country, nothing was effected. The town was nearly surrounded by swamps & deep ravines, which rendered our approach difficult, and facilitated the escape of the enemy. In the town we found a large quantity of provision and immense property of various kinds, which the enemy flying precipitately, were obliged to leave behind, & which, together with 200 houses, were destroyed. They had barely time to remove their women and children across the Alabama, which runs near where the town stood. The next day was occupied in destroying a town consisting of 60 houses, 8 miles higher up the River, and in taking & destroying the enemy's boats. At the town last destroyed was killed 3 Indians of distinction. The town first destroyed was built since the commencement of hostilities, and was established as a place of security for the inhabitants of several villages. The leader Witherford, Francis, and the Choctaw Sinquistur's son, who were principal Prophets, resided here. Three Shawnese were among the slain.

Col. Carson of the volunteers, Lt. Col. Russell of the 3d regt. U. S. infantry, and Major Smoot of the militia, greatly distinguished themselves. The activity and zeal of the Assistant Dep. Quarter Master General, Capt. Wert, and of my Brigade Major, Kennedy, merit the approbation of government. I was much indebted to my Aid de Camp, Lieut. Calvit, of volunteers, to Lieut. Robeson of the 3d regiment, and Major Caller of militia, who acted as my Aids on that day, for the promptness and ability with which they performed their several duties. The officers of the different corps behaved handsomely, and are entitled to distinction. Courage animated every countenance, and each vied with the other in rendering service. I have taken the liberty of communicating to you directly, in consequence of the distant station of the General commanding the district, and also for the purpose of forwarding to you the enclosed original document which was found in the house of Witherford. It shews partially the conduct of the Spaniards towards the American government.

The 3d regiment has returned to this place, and volunteers are on their march to Mount Vernon near Fort Stoddert for the purpose of being paid off & discharged, their terms of service having generally expired.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your excellency's most
Obedient servant,
FERD. L. CLAIBORNE.
Brig. Gen. of Vols.

His Excellency John Armstrong.

Copy of a letter from Brig. Gen. FLOYD *to Maj. Gen.* PINCKNEY, *dated*

Camp Defiance, 48 miles west of Chatahouchee, Jan. 27th, 1814.

Major Gen. PINCKNEY,

SIR—I have the honor to acquaint your Excellency, that this morning at 20 minutes Past 5 o'clock, a very large body of hostile Indians, made a desperate attack upon the army under my command. They stole upon the centinels, fired upon them, and with great impetuosity rushed upon our lines: in 20 minutes the action became general, and our front, right and left flanks were closely pressed; but the brave and gallant conduct of the field and staff officers, and the firmness of the men, repulsed them at every point.

The steady firmness and incessant fire of Captain Thomas's artillery and Capt. Adams' riflemen preserved our front line: both of these companies suffered greatly. The enemy rushed within 30 yards of the artillery, and Capt. Broadnax who commanded one of the picket guards maintained his post with great bravery until the enemy gained his rear, and then cut his way through them to the army. On this occasion Timpoochie Barnard, a half breed, at the head of the Uchies, distinguished himself and contributed to the retreat of the picket guard; the other friendly indians took refuge within our lines and remained inactive, with the exception of a few who joined our ranks. So soon as it became light enough to distinguish objects, I ordered Majors Watson's and Freeman's battallions to wheel up at right angles with Majors Booth's and Cleaveland's battallions [who formed the right wing] to prepare for the charge. Captain Duke Hamilton's cavalry [who had reached me but the day before] was ordered to form in the rear of the right wing, to act as circumstances should dictate: the order for the charge was promptly obeyed, and the enemy fled in every direction before the bayonet. The signal was given for the charge of the cavalry who pursued, and sabred fifteen of the enemy, who left thirty-seven dead on the field: from the effusion of blood and the number of head-dresses and war-clubs found in various directions, their loss must have been considerable, independent of the wounded.

I directed the friendly Indians, with Meriwether's and Ford's rifle companies, accompanied by Capt. Hamilton's troop, to pursue them through Calibee Swamp where they were trailed by their blood, but succeeded in overtaking but one of their wounded.

Col. Newman received three balls in the commencement of the action, which deprived me of the services of that gallant and useful officer. The Assist. Adj. Gen. Narden, was indefatigable in the discharge of his duty, and rendered important services: his horse was wounded under him. The whole of the staff was prompt, and discharged their duty with courage and fidelity: their vigilance, the intrepidity of the officers and the firmness of the men, met my approbation and deserve the praise of their country. I have to regret the death of many of my brave fellows, who have found honorable graves in the voluntary support of their country.

My aid de camp in executing my orders, had his horse killed under him.—Gen. Lee and Major Pace, who acted as additional aids, rendered me essential services with honor to themselves and usefulness to the cause in which they have embarked. Four waggon and several other horses were killed, and two of the artillery horses wounded. While I deplore the losses sustained on this occasion, I have the consolation to know that the men which I have the honor to command have done their duty.

I herewith transmit you a list of the killed and wounded, and have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) JOHN FLOYD,
Brig. Gen.

[Here follows a list of the killed and wounded in the above action, which is omitted in the Star from the want of room.]

Total killed, 17; total wounded, 132.

(Signed)
CHARLES WILLIAMSON,
Hospital Surgeon.

N. B. One of the wounded since dead—5 of the friendly Indians killed, fifteen wounded.

BOSTON, Feb. 1.

In regard to the *British provincial parliament*, now sitting in this town, nothing is to be apprehended. The violence of the poor impotent wretches who are now venting their malignant ravings against the nation, will, most certainly cause a reaction. The honest and well meaning, and the moderate of the federal party are entirely dissatisfied with the conduct of these infamous British partisans. A few days since, when Mr. Quincy was delivering his language in the senate chamber, the hon. Jonathan Mason was present, and expressed his great dislike to the promulgation of such sentiments, and said they were calculated to ruin any party. He said the doctrines advanced were fallacious, the arguments weak and flimsey, and the delivery ranting and boisterous, without ease or dignity. Mr. Mason, you will recollect, is a federalist, but does not hold communion with the junto—he is in sentiment with the honorable Mr. Dexter. It is a fact, that the question was agitated in the *federal caucus* recently held at the coffee house, whether it would not be advisable to raise an army of 50,000 men—borrow in the first instance, *two million* of dollars of the respective banks, pledging the state as security for the purpose of carrying their project into effect, of violating the embargo and thereby create civil war. This shocked many of the *country members*, who said they could not accede to no such proposition—that they felt bound to *obey*, not to *violate* laws. This mad and wicked and foolish project was brought forward by the *leaders* of the party, but, I presume you know too much of these contemptible cowardly braggarts, to feel the least concern for the issue. I do assure you, and you may rely upon it, that nothing will be done. Our tories will threaten and bluster and *talk big*, and all will end in *smoke*, as usual. In case of