ADDITIONAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE NAVY.

Letter from the Secretary of the Navy, to the Naval Committee of the Senate.

The number of seamen, ordinary seamen and boys, authorised by law, is indefinite and discretionary with the President, as will appear by the following reference:

The act of Congress of the 21st of April, 1806, vol. 8, page 109, limits the officers, seamen, ordinary seamen, and boys, to

13 captains,
9 masters and commadants,
72 lieutenants,
150 midshipmen—and
925 seamen, ordinary seamen, and boys.

The act of the same date, page 142, authorize the President to man and equip the gun boats.

The act of the 3d of March, 1807, vol. 8, page 307, authorises the employment of 400 additional seamen, ordinary seamen, and boys.

The act of the 31st of Jan. 1809, vol. 9 page 206, authorises the employment of 200 additional midshipmen, and 3,800 additional seamen, ordinary seamen, and boys.

The act of the 30th of March, 1812, vol. 11, page 89, authorises officers and seamen of the Navy to be increased so far as may be necessary to officer, man and equip the vessels to be put in service.

The act of the 2d of January, 1812, page 340, provides for the building, officering and manning four 74's and 6 frigates.

The act of the 3d of March, 1813, page 429, authorises the President to build 6 sloops of war, and to build or procure, such a number of sloops of war, or other armed vessels on the Lakes as the public service may require; and to appoint such officers, and to employ the number of seamen, as may be necessary for such vessels as are authorized by law to be put in commission.

The act of the 5th of July, 1813, vol. 12, page 10, authorises the president to cause to be built, equipped and manned, such number of barges as may be deemed necessary.

There is no correct data in the department, by which to ascertain the actual number of seamen, ordinary seamen, and boys, employed at one period. The largest period of enlistment being for two years, and in many cases for the flotilla service, for a shorter period; the number is constantly fluctuating; and, consequently, cannot be correctly ascertained; but it is believed from a general view of the subject by the accountant and myself, that the number employed during the year 1813, has considerably exceeded the estimate for that year.

There is not at this time, in the department, sufficient data upon which to ascertain the number of gun boats actually fit for service; some have undergone partial repairs, while others have deteriorated.

The following will show the number on each station, and their presumed condition, viz:

		GUN BOATS.
Portsmouth, N. H.	in service,	6
Newburyport,	do.	2
Boston,	do.	2
Rhode Island,	do.	9
New York,	do.	31
In ordinary, fit for service,		7
		38
Delaware Bay,	in service,	7
In ordinary, fit for service,		12
		19
Baltimore,	in service,	9
Potomac,	do.	1
Norfolk, in service, and ready for service but very lightly manned—recruiting as men offer,		23
N. Carolina,	in service,	6
S Carolina,	do.	8
Georgia,	do.	5
New Orleans,		6
		125

When it is considered that six large sloops of war have been built, equipped and manned, in our seaports, and three sloops of war and one ship of 26 guns on the Lakes within the preceding eight months; that 3 74's and 3 44's will be added this year, but *are yet to be manned*, and that provision still exists for building one 74 and three 44's as soon as suitable materials can be had; it appears to me that any further provision at present for the increase of our naval force would not add to its efficiency, and therefore is not necessary; except such as I have suggested in my letter to the Chairman of the Naval Committee of the House of Representatives, a copy of which I have the honor to enclose; and even of that description, the number ought to be very *moderate*, when the contemplated increase of our force on the Lakes, and the demand for experienced officers and seamen, which the very rapid augmentation of our force has created, are taken into view The flotilla service, moreover, is still very deficient in men. We may readily and rapidly add any reasonable number of vessels to our force, but their armament and many important parts of their equipment of every description, will be to fabricate.—The cannon founderies are few in number, and none of any note north of the waters of the Chesapeake. These have been, are now, and will be, fully engaged during the present year, in fabricating the ordnance required for the force already authorized. The private armed vessels cannot at this time procure their armament of a proper kind on any terms.

With the rapid increase of our naval force, the promotion of young officers has been *necessarily very rapid*; and those whose experience and talents have exalted our flag are comparatively few in number. Therefore, however desirable it may be to give the senior lieutenants separate commands in which they would be useful to their country and acquire honor to themselves, it will leave our 74's and frigates, and squadrons on the Lakes, without officers of sufficient experience. This has been a subject of serious solicitude with some of our commanders; and the tenacious policy of our naval system precludes the admission of talent and experience from any other source than lineal promotion. It is true, sailing masters have been promoted to lieutenants, under special circumstances; and I perceive no good reason why this experienced and valuable class of officers should not be as regularly entitled to promotion as midshipmen.

With these views the Committee will be enabled to appreciate the arguments which I have deemed it proper to offer for their consideration.

I also beg leave to suggest the propriety of augmenting the marine corps from the present establishment 1,862 to 2,642, and to increase the number of commissioned officers in the same proportion as in the infantry of the army.

It is not necessary to recal the recollection of the honourable committee to the gallant part of this distinguished corps has acted in all the noble victories which have been achieved; nor to its character for discipline, valor, patient endurance, of the most severe service on the Lakes, in which it has suffered excessively; suffice it to say, that it is not surpassed by any body of men in service of the U. States though seen only in the back ground of the picture, and without the ordinary inducements to noble actions—a reasonable prospect of promotion, with a sprig of the laurel which it may help to gather. The augmentation which I recommend, will be actually necessary for the force now authorised, as will be illustrated by the estimate which accompanies this.—This corps is, moreover, exceeding useful at our several naval stations, and from its amphibious character calculated to render important services in every situation.

We have a right, sir, to anticipate during the ensuing summer, the most urgent occasion for the vigorous employment of the flotilla for the defence of the waters of the U. States—and it has become a very interesting question, how that force is to be commanded with the best effect. That service is, at best, unpopular with the regular officers of the navy; and the service of those officers, who are qualified for separate command, are required to meet the increased command for the regular naval force, particularly on the Lakes, which is very pressing.—Those officers who are deficient in experience, are justly averse to the flotilla service: because they can acquire but very little useful professional knowledge; and indeed, it is a service in which those, who are to form the officers for the ships of war, ought not to be engaged.

There are other intrinsic difficulties in this service which are unknown on board our ships of war. The temptations to insubordination and vice are much greater in this scattered and amphibious kind of force: and the rigors of naval discipline, unless tempered with judgment and great moderation, discourage the recruiting for this service.

Bay and river craft men, seamen, ordinary seamen who have families, riggers, and naval mechanics out of employ, will engage in this service under a local commander of capacity and influence, when they will not engage for the regular naval service.

As rank in our naval service can only be attained by regular gradation, commanders of talents, local knowledge, influence, and distinguished courage, cannot be commissioned for this service under the present regulations. The necessity of the case, from the reasons which I have assigned, has induced the employment of a few acting officers with command; but without rank, in two of the most important situations, viz. N. York harbor, and the Chesapeake bay. These appointments appear to have given great confidence in these districts, and the success in recruiting for the service on these stations, considering the unequal competitions of the military and private service, has been favorable.

I would, therefore, take the liberty of suggesting the utility of providing by law, for the appointment of four captains, with the same relative rank and authority in the flotilla service, and the same pay and emoluments, as captains in the navy; and twelve lieutenants with the same relative rank and authority in the flotilla service, and the same pay and emoluments, as lieutenants in the navy; but limited to the temporary employment of the flotilla without rank in the navy, other than in the flotilla in which they may serve, and subject only to the orders of the President of the U. States; in all other respects to be governed by the rules and regulations provided for the government of the navy.

There is an object of great importance, to which I could have wished to draw your attention. I mean the reorganization of the navy department; for the necessity of which, no one can be more sensible than myself; but, really, my faculties have been so closely engaged with the multifarious objects, & the current and incessant labors of the department, during a period of the most active and important operations, that I have had no leisure to deliberate upon, and digest a system satisfactory to myself, or such as I can present to you at this time.—And, as it is better to labor with known evils than to hazard a premature and inadequate system, I have tho't it best to postpone the subject for the present, respectfully submitting, however, to the wisdom of Congress to revise the system if it shall deem it now necessary.

I have the honor to be, &c.

W. JONES.

Hon. JOHN GAILLARD,
Chairman of the Naval Committee of the Senate.

From the Boston Palladium of April 8.

FROM QUEBEC.

☞ *Quebec* and *Montreal* papers to the 26th ult. have been received at Boston, by which we learn, that the parliament of Lower Canada has been dissolved, and a new one ordered to be immediately chosen. The following paragraphs are extracted from Gov'r. PREVOST's speech on the occasion:

"It would have afforded me sincere gratification to have witnessed that unanimity and dispatch among yourselves, and that liberal confidence in me, which the emergencies of the times, the situation of the Province, and assurances contained in your addresses, gave me a right to expect from you, and I have seen with regret that my disappointment in this expectation has been attended with serious inconveniences to the public service.

"I cannot lament but that the course of proceeding adopted by you, has occasioned the loss of a productive Revenue Bill, and of the liberal appropriations you had made for the defence of the Province, and for ameliorating the situation of the Militia; and I regret that in sacrificing those desirable objects, you should have been swayed by any considerations, which seemed to you of higher importance than the immediate security of the country or the comfort of those engaged in its protection.

"The pacific rumors which have prevailed since I last addressed you, not affording any certain ground for belief that peace is at hand, our vigorous and united exertions will still be required to maintain the decided ascendancy with which the Divine Providence has been pleased to bless our efforts in the present contest."

A great number of Indian Chiefs had been at Quebec. Among them Chiefs of the Ottawas, Chippewas, Shawanees, Delawares, Mohawks, Sauks, Kickapoos, Foxes and Winnabagos. They were well received and entertained, and had valuable presents made to them.—They agreed to fight against the Americans, but to spare women and children prisoners.—They had all returned to their tribes. Tecumseh's sister was also at Quebec, and Lady Prevost gave her many presents, including mourning ornaments.

In the speech of the warriors to Gov. Prevost, they said—

"*Father.* Listen. You have told us by the talk of your Warriors, once Father, twice Father, that we were to fight on the flanks and in the rear of your Warriors; but we have always gone in front; and it is in this way we have lost so many of our young warriors, our women and children.

"*Father.* Listen. Your Red Children want back their old boundary lines, that they may have the Lands which belong to them; and this, Father, when the war began you promised to get for them.

"*Father.* Listen. Your Red Children have suffered a great deal; they are sad; indeed they are pitiful. They want your assistance, Father. They want arms for their warriors and clothes for their women and children.—You do not know the numbers of your Red children, Father. There are many who have never yet received any arms or clothing. It is necessary, at present, Father, to send more than you formerly did.

"*Father.* Listen. At the beginning of the war you promised us, when the Americans would put their hand forward you would draw yours back. Now, Father, we request when the Americans put their hand out, (as we hear they mean to do) knock it away, Father: and the second time when they put out their hand, draw your sword—If not, Father, the Americans will laugh at us, and say our great Father, who lives beyond the great Lake, is a coward, Father.

"*Father.* Listen. The Americans are taking our Lands from us every day. They have no hearts, Father. They have no pity for us. They want to drive us beyond the sitting sun. But, Father, we hope, although we are few, and are here as it were upon a little Island, our great and mighty Father, who lives beyond the Great Lake, will not forsake us in our distress, but will continue to remember his faithful red children."

Extract from the Governor's answer.

"*My children.*—I thank the Great Spirit that I see you in my own dwelling, and converse with you face to face:—Listen to my words, they are the words of truth—you have already heard this from my Chiefs, and I now repeat them;—we have taken each other by the hand and fought together.—Our interests are the same.—We must still continue to fight together—for the King our great Father considers you as his children, and will not forget you or your interests at a Peace;—but to preserve what we hold, and recover from the enemy what belongs to us—we must make great exertions, and I rely on your undaunted courage, with the assistance of my Chiefs and Warriors, to drive the Big Knives from off all our Lands the ensuing summer:

My Children—Our great Father will give us more Warriors from the other side of the Great Water, who will join with you in attacking the enemy, and will open the great road to your Country, by which you used to receive your supplies, and which the enemy having stopped, has caused the distress and scarcity of goods you complain of—for I have never been in want of goods for you, but could not send them.

Tell your brother Warriors, whom I may not see, that these are my words, and that although they are to destroy their enemies in battle, they must spare and shew mercy to women, children, and all prisoners.

My Children—I have but one thing more to recommend to you, which you will not forget—You know that the only success the enemy gained over us last season, was owing to the want of provisions—There was much waste at Amherstburg—the consequence was, that you and my warriors were forced to retreat. In future you must be careful of provisions, and use of them only what may be necessary; for in war they are the same as powder and ball—We cannot destroy our enemies without them.

Montreal, March 26.

On Monday evening last, Gen. M'Comb, with about 800 American troops, took possession of the village at St. Armand—they have also brought on seven or eight pieces of cannon, and, it is supposed, intend to fortify and garrison the place. A great number of the inhabitants having left the place, the Gen. has issued a proclamation inviting them to return, promising them protection of persons and property.

We understand that a respectable force has marched for St. Armand under Major Gen. Sir Sidney Beckwith, to attack the American brigands under General M'Comb, who are posted at Philipsburg, 1000 strong. From the recent depredations committed by the Americans on our frontier, in violation of the laws of war, this government is again at full liberty to retaliate; and the public will be disappointed, if vengeance be not speedily taken on the unprincipled foe.

Commodore BARCLAY, late of the Erie fleet, was at Montreal, in good health.—It will be recollected he has lost both arms.

Gen. WINDER had returned to Quebec, and it was said had effected nothing favorable to prisoners.

The House of Assembly of Upper Canada have resolved that the Proclamation of General de Rottenburg, declaring Martial Law was an arbitrary and unconstitutional measure, tending to destroy the laws of the Province.

A Montreal paper says, it is not expected the British naval force will be superior to the American on Lake Ontario the ensuing summer.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

In the more lights the late abrogation of the restrictive system is viewed, the more promising appear to be the prospects of advantage likely to result from it to the nation at large, whatever momentary or individual hardship it may, at the onset, unfortunately involve. This is ever liable to happen in the complicated and unforeseen emergencies incident to a state of war, in which the course of the ship cannot be laid as in a trade wind, but must prudently be steered to meet the shiftings of the storm.—The helmsman must be on the look out, and take care to ride lest he be dashed by the coming wave.—The repeal shows, among other things, the faithful attention paid by the government to the interests of commerce, opening the door to its revival at the moment the circumstances of the country are seen to hold out to the measure any adequate motive of encouragement and hope. We well know, indeed, how strenuously the allegation has been brought forward, and with what persevering and often disingenuous zeal kept up, of the hostility of the government to this great branch of the national industry. But to the reflections of the candid mind this charge appears in the mere light of thoughtless crimination, with no just base on which to rest, and as effectually repudiated by the obvious improbability of any such intention ever having had birth, as contradicted by the more positive evidence of a train of opposite facts leading to opposite conclusions. The very system which is charged as aimed at the overthrow of commerce, was demonstrably directed to its momentary, precarious, evanescent preservation; with its canvass expanded or furled; its riches poured out or locked up; its conditions prescribed; its privileges narrowed or tolerated; one day ignominiously spoiled, the next day rudely prostrated, as suited the changing mandates of caprice or power. No; but to a preservation which more nobly and magnanimously sought, through temporary self abridgements, its ultimate and durable freedom. And when the restrictive measures of the present day, a period so extraordinary & eventful, shall be on all hands traced to their only true motive, and judged of through the cooler medium of time, they will be found to redound purely to the unsubdued & manly firmness of their authors.

The precedent for this system, hastily branded as a novelty, was set by our illustrious forefathers of the revolution: whose example in this respect, as indeed in so many others now-a-days, it has become, it seems, both unwise & reproachful to copy. Twice by a non-importation act did the sages and statesmen of that glorious day force the pride and the power of Britain to bend; and that the same weapon gave the first shock to the Orders in Council in 1812, no dispassionate and intelligent mind, who recollects the evidence before the House of Commons, can doubt. But for the sudden and prodigious changes so recently superinduced upon the face of Europe, there is every reason for supposing it would still have continued an instrument of useful co-operation with our arms at the present juncture. After declaring independence and standing upon the footing of open war, the patriots of the revolution gave up their non importation act; and we, with like adaption to events, have laid down ours. So of the Embargo; while the original imposition of the one and the other, as precursors of an appeal to arms, serve as a signal to other nations, that in defence of their just rights upon the ocean the American people know how to put forth the active heroism of an immortal little navy; or if need be, and for a time, to resort to this more passive weapon of annoyance. As a permanent weapon no one ever imagined the latter was to be wielded.

It has been thought by some, that the benefits of the repeal, as respects trade immediately our own, as well as that to be carried on through neutrals, will be abridged or entirely cut down by G. Britain, who will direct against us her fleets, and apply to neutrals her license system under rules of injurious or capricious discrimination. As to the first, it is abundantly shown, that, armed with her thousand ships, she cannot effectually suppress our maritime activity, which will burst through confinement and return again in streams of some extent at least, and enriching where they flow the husbandman, the merchant, and, in numerous cases, the mechanic too, tho' watched and pursued by the hostile prowes of her immense navy.—As regards neutrals, the more we dwell upon the subject, the slighter are our apprehensions, that under the present circumstances of the world, she will be likely to act a part so impolitic and unfriendly The interesting and delicate relations in which she now stands towards the most distinguished and powerful of them; the unparalleled and astonishing benefits, strictly of a commercial character, which, through their instrumentality, are at this moment actually pouring it upon her lap; the knowledge she has, founded upon an official declaration, that Russia aims at a participation of our trade upon just and honourable terms, are motives which we think cannot be without their operation in an appeal to her liberality, her interests, and her discretion against pursuing such a course. While, too, she will be left in possession of all her just rights as a belligerent, some of the neutrals have their immunities placed upon a footing of the most distinct and intelligible definition, whereby all embarrassments will be the more easily avoided. In the convention, for example, between Russia and the court of London, signed at St. Petersburgh on the 17th of June, 1801, is to be found the well-known and valuable definition of blockade, which, as the convention is before us, we will copy: "That "in order to determine what character-"izes a blockaded port, that denomination is given only to the port where there "is, by the disposition of the power that "attacks it with ships *stationary* or *sufficiently near*, an evident danger in en-"tering."

Under this restriction, with that extension to its equitable effects, which will flow from keeping within fair limits the law of contraband, we anticipate from that decision of the Congress upon the late executive message which now appears to be placed beyond doubt a speedy, honorable & gainful interchange of products with neutrals.

THE BRITISH INCENDARIES.

The following account from Saybrook, of the burning American property by the British, contains all the particulars we have heard of the affair, excepting some indistinct accounts from which we partly (for we can hardly say positively) understand, that the enemy, in 7 barges, of about 30 men and a piece of cannon in each, went up the River in the night of Thursday, and set fire to the shipping before they were discovered, and retired to an Island, on which they continued during the day. In the meanwhile, it is said, the militia in the neighborhood collected, and Commodore Decatur sent a party with 2 pieces of cannon from New London, to the old fort at Saybrook.—No attack, however, that we have heard, was made on the enemy, who having waited till dark, came down and went out of the river without molestation. Saybrook lies opposite Lyme, (14 miles from N. London) at the mouth of Connecticut River, which is a mile wide at the ferry, Pettipaug is the middle parish of the town on the river, 4 miles above the Ferry, and 7 from the mouth of the River.—There are companies of artillery in the neighborhood, and a numerous population and other militia. We are anxious for a correct statement of this daring expedition, and what the British may possibly call a *brilliant* commencement of the campaign in Long Island Sound.

Columbian.

NEW-YORK.

The electioneering campaign in this state has opened with great vigor. Both parties are straining every nerve, and each confident of victory. We think it highly probable the Republicans will come off conquerors. T. T. Am.