WAR DEPARTMENT,
Adjutant and Inspector General's Office,
Washington, August 12, 1814.

INSTRUCTIONS

For the government of those who have claims for pay and bounty, half-pay pensions and bounty land, under the acts of Congress relative to the existing military establishment of the United States.

1st.—PAY AND BOUNTY.

THOSE persons who have claims for pay and bounty, as the legal representatives of such non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians, and privates, as die in the service of the United States, must make application to the pay master general of the army, or to his sub-paymasters, who act as his agents. All balances of pay and bounty, at the time of the decease of a non-commissioued officer, &c. will be paid by the paymaster general, or his sub-paymasters, to the widow, child or legal representative of the deceased, who must produce written and legal evidence of his or her authority to demand any receipt for the same. —— When administration is granted to a creditor, solely as a creditor, no more will be paid than is barely sufficient to cover his claim, and the balance, if any, will be reserved for benefit of the kindred or relations of the deceased. Affidavits of respectable persons, knowing the legality of the representative of a deceased soldier, will be sufficient evidence to be produced, provided the deceased died a minor, unmarried, and no administration has been granted on the estate. If any person administers for the purpose of receiving the balance due, a copy of the letters of administration must be produced. Should the deceased leave a widow, and no administration has been granted on the estate, the balance will be paid to her on her producing a satisfactory evidence that she was his wife at the time he died.

2D.—HALF-PAY PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

Widows and orphans, who have claims to 5 years half pay according to an act of Congress, must establish the following facts, before they can receive the above pension;—1st. The date of the decease of the officer or soldier, under whom they claim; this fact may be established by the records of the War Department, by the proper rolls of the army, by the testimony of military officers, or by that of other respectable persons. 2d. The legality of the marriage, the names of the children, under 16 years of age, at the father's decease, and the county, state or territory, in which she and they reside. 3d. That the widow at the time of allowing this half pay, was not married; she must also repeat that she is not married, at the time of receiving each payment, and establish the fact, by testimony of respectable persons knowing the case, as, in the event of the marriage, the half pay reverts to such of her children as are under 16 years of age. In cases of orphans only, the guardians will act for them, establish their claims as above, and receive their pensions. All these evidences must be produced to and filed in the office of the paymaster general of the army; and orders will be issued to the several district paymasters to pay the pensions on the spot where it falls due.

3D.—BOUNTY LANDS.

Claims for bounty land must be substantiated; and this must be done by the regular discharge of the original claimant, from the public service, the best voucher that can be produced. Certificates from the pay office, should be carefully preserved, as induces to the records of the original right.——If the original claimant does not personally apply for his land warrant, he must prove his identity before a magistrate, by his own affidavit, and the affidavits of two witnesses, whose credibility the said magistrate will certify; and must execute a power of attorney to whoever applies for the warrant in his behalf; the quality and signature of the magistrate, before whom the said affidavits are made, or the power of attorney is acknowledged, must be attested by the signature and seal of the county clerk, or other equivelant authority of the district in which he resides.

The power of attorney, to authorise the delivery of a land warrant, may be dispensed with, in case a member of congress, while that body is actually in session, will call at the war department, and sign a receipt for it upon the record. In this case, a letter or order in his favour, from the person who has the right to receive the warrant, addressed to the secretary of war will be deemed sufficient authority for its delivery.

If the original claimant be dead, and an heir applies in his right, he must produce legal certificates from competent authority, to prove that he is the legitimate heir by law; in which case, altho' there may be other heirs existing, a warrant will be issued in that name, adding thereto "and other heirs at law of ——— ———," &c. &c.

A land warrant will not be issued to an executor or administrator.

All claimants, for bounty lands, must make application to the war department.

JOHN R. BELL,
Ass't. Insp'r. Gen'l.

BALTIMORE, AUG. 20.

From the Merchants' Coffee House Books.

BUFFALOE, Aug. 15, 1814.

This morning at 2 o'clock the enemy attacked our army, and after two hours hard fighting, they had 500 killed and wounded, and we took 300 prisoners—and we lost 40 or 50 killed and wounded. Lieut. General DRUMMOND is among the slain. J. B. VARNUM, JUN.

CHESTER, (Penn.) Aug. 13, 1814.

SIR,

I beg you will do me the favor to insert the inclosed letters in your paper, in order that the persons to whom they relate may govern themselves accordingly.

With much respect,
Your obedient servant,
D. PORTER.

To the Editor of the National Advocate.

(COPY.)

Office of Commissary Gen'l of Prisoners,
August 10, 1814.

SIR,

"I beg leave to transmit you, herewith, copies of three letters, of the 3d, 4th, and 9th inst. which have passed between Col. Thomas Barclay, the British agent for prisoners of war, and myself, in relation to an exchange, proposed by me, of Capt. Porter, and the officers and crew of the U. S. "late frigate Essex."

"You will remark, sir, that the British agent, although he considers, under the practice of his government, that their paroles "are null, and the officers and men at liberty to serve, in like manner, as if they had not been made prisoners;" declines to exchange them against British officers and crews similarly situated.—For these and other reasons given in my letter to him of the 9th inst. I have been instructed by the Secretary of State to declare the officers and crew of the Essex discharged from parole.

"I have, therefore, the honour to announce to you, that Capt. David Porter, and other officers, and the crew of the U. S. late frigate Essex, "captured in March last by the British ships of war under the command of Capt. Hillyar, are accordingly discharged from their paroles, taken by the said Capt. Hillyar, and as free to serve in any capacity, as if they had never been made prisoners."

I have the honor to be,
With great respect, Sir,
Your most obd't servant,
(Signed) "J. MASON."

The Hon. WM. JONES,
Secretary of the Navy.

(COPY.)

The foregoing is a copy of a letter this day received from the Commissary General of Prisoners, in conformity with which the commander and the other officers, and the crew of the U. S. late frigate "Essex," are hereby declared "discharged from their paroles, and are as free to serve in any capacity, as if they had never been made prisoners." You will, therefore, govern yourself by this declaration, and communicate it to every officer and man concerned, in order that they may hold themselves in readiness for such service as may be required of them by this Department.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) W. JONES.

Navy Department, Aug. 11, 1814.

Captain DAVID PORTER,
U. S. Navy, Chester, Penn.

The officers and crew of the U. S. frigate Essex are hereby informed, that the foregoing are copies of letters sent to me by the Hon. Secretary of the Navy of the U. States—& they are directed to govern themselves accordingly.

D. PORTER.

Chester, (Pa.) Aug. 13, 1814.

The different Editors in the U. States are requested to give the above a place in their paper.

WASHINGTON, AUG. 22.

HEAD QUARTERS, LEFT DIVISION,
Camp, Fort Erie, August 14.

SIR,

IT has become my painful duty to announce to you the loss of that brave and excellent officer, Major Morgan, of the 1st Rifle Regiment. He fell at the head of his corps in an affair with the enemy on the 12th inst. after a display of gallantry worthy of the corps, and meriting the gratitude of his country.

I had desired him to send a detachment of from 80 to 100 men to cut off a working party, supported by a guard of the enemy's light troops, engaged in opening an avenue for a battery in our rear, having directed to have his corps ready to support in case the enemy should be reinforced. The detachment was commanded by Capt. Birdsall, who attacked and drove the enemy; but when about to retire to camp he discovered a large force approaching. The firing having continued longer than the Major expected, he moved up the moment the enemy's reinforcement had made their appearance. A warm conflict ensued, in which they were forced back, but discovering additional reinforcements, and having received my order to fall back on the appearance of a large force, the Major gave the signal with his bugle to retire; at this moment he received a ball in the head; he was brought from the field together with his men who were killed & wounded. Of the former were two riflemen and a New York volunteer, who, unsolicited, accompanied the Riflemen with a small party of his corps under the command of Lieut. Goodfellow, who, I am informed has distinguished himself on several occasions, and for whom, permit me to request a commission in one of the Rifle Regiments.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
EDMUND P. GAINES,
Brig. Gen. Com.

Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG,
Secretary of War.

THE CRISIS.

The prompt and energetic measures adopted by the commanding General for the security of this District are rapidly progressing. The 1st Columbian brigade under Gen. Smith, comprising the volunteer corps of artillery, infantry, riflemen and cavalry, with the militia companies advanced from this City on Saturday; and yesterday the 2d brigade commanded by Gen. Young, crossed the Potomac from Alexandria. On Saturday, also, the finest body of dragoons ever seen in this City, passed thro' from Carlisle, under Lieutenant Colonel Laval.—The Baltimore brigades are under arms in readiness to act, and troops are assembling below from various quarters. In a few hours thousands of brave men will be prepared to resist the host of mercenaries that now threatens us. Arrayed in defence of all that renders life a blessing, and for protecting from insult and desolation the metropolis of their country, every arm will be nerved with a vigour irresistable. Great as the public anxiety must naturally be at such a time, all look with confidence to the capacity of the commanding general, and we feel not a doubt that his foresight and activity will leave nothing undone that our security requires.

Of the enemy's strength and movements we have as usual an abundance of absurd and contradictory rumors. From correct resources, however, we learn, that the division of their shipping which had advanced up the bay have ascended the Patuxent as high as Benedict, where they have debarked a large body of men, estimated from three to four thousand—and that they have infiladed the peninsula, by establishing a line of pickets from Benedict to a point on the Potomac, at which lies another squadron of ships.

Nat. Intel.

Extract of a letter dated at Norfolk, on the 16th inst. from Capt. Charles Gordon, commanding the U. S. naval force on that station, to the Secretary of the Navy.

"At noon this day I received a dispatch from my officer at Lynhaven, stating the arrival in the Bay of 22 sail of enemy's vessels, supposed as follows—two 74's; a 64 and razee; 7 frigates, and as many transports, with 2 or 3 brigs and sch'rs.; and that they were standing up the Bay. With such a force added to what is already up the Bay, and the circumstance of their passing this place, induce a belief that some place up the Bay is their object."

IMPORTANT FROM BELOW.

Extract of a letter received yesterday morning by Express from Point Look Out.

"The fleet at Point Look Out was augmented on the evening of the 16th by 30 sail. There are now 46 sail in all at the Point, viz. 25 ships, 2 gun brigs, and 18 schooners—6 ships appear to be transport ships. Besides this force, there are 3 frigates off St. George's Island, and two on the Patuxent river, making the whole squadron at and near the Point to consist of 51 sail. Two of the line of battle ships are Admiral's—one carries a red the other a blue flag. A part of the Fleet stood up the Bay on the 17th (Wednesday) at 5, A. M.

CHAUNCEY'S FLEET.

The letter from which the following interesting extract is copied, reached town by the Express Mail on Tuesday, but did not fall into our hands until yesterday. The news is authentic as any unofficial information can be, and we have little doubt of its correctness.

"*Buffalo, Aug.* 10.

"Com. Chauncey, a few days since, fell in with one of the enemy's brigs mounting 18 or 20 guns, and pursued her so closely, that he compelled the crew to avoid capture, to run her on shore above Niagara, where she was set fire to and abandoned by the enemy—she blew up shortly afterwards. Chauncey has 3 of the enemy's vessels blockaded in the Niagara River."

INSIDIOUS DISTINCTION.

Several of the federal papers have named, in a sarcastic way, a *democrat* of New York, who is indicted on a charge of high treason, for supplying the enemy with provisions—and have suppressed the names of *two federalists*, indicted at the same time for the like offence. It is immaterial what are the *professions* of such scoundrels—they are in fact neither federalists nor republicans, in the strict meaning of those terms—and should be recognized by no other name than that of TRAITORS. *Albany Arg.*

LATEST FROM SACKETT'S HARBOUR.

A correspondent of the editor writes: "I have seen a gentleman who left Sackett's Harbour on Monday (the 5th). Our fleet was then blockading Kingston, excepting the vessels up the lake, as before stated." *Columbian.*

We are sorry to state, that previous to the above attack on Fort Erie, major Morgan, who so nobly repulsed the enemy at Black Rock, was killed in a skirmish with a party of the enemy near the Fort.

An express arrived in town last night from Washington, with accounts that six 74's, 8 frigates and a number of transports, to the number of FORTY-SIX SAIL in all, came into the bay on the 16th and 17th, and proceeded up—It is said 3 sail were in sight of Annapolis yesterday.

An express to General Smith from the President, requesting him to hold half of his brigade in readiness to march in fifteen minutes upon the order of General Winder.

Balt. paper.

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 20.

The Buffalo express has this moment brought the following glorious news:

Copy of a letter from Brigadeier General GAINES to the Secretary at War, dated

Head Quarters, Fort Erie,
U. C. August 15, 1814.
7 A. M.

DEAR SIR,

My heart is gladdened with gratitude to Heaven and joy to my country, to have it in my power to inform you that the gallant army under my command has this morning beaten the enemy commanded by Lieutenant General Drummond, after a severe conflict of near three hours, commencing at 2 o'clock A. M. They attacked us on each flank, got possession of the salient bastion of the old Fort Erie, which was regained at the point of the bayonet, with a dreadful slaughter.

The enemy's loss in killed and prisoners is about 600—near 300 killed. Our loss is considerable, but I think not one-tenth as great as that of the enemy. I will not detain the express to give you the particulars. I am preparing my force to follow up the blow.

With great respect and esteem,
Your obedient servant,
EDMUND P. GAINES,
Brig. Gen. command'g.

Hon. John Armstrong,
Secretary of War.

From the Columbian Extra, Aug. 21.

THIRD GLORIOUS VICTORY ON THE NIAGARA.

The first information of the event of which the following are details, was received by last evening's mail, from the Utica Gazette extra, and is confirmed this morning in a variety of accounts by the steam boat. Colonel (or rather lieutenant colonel) G. Drummond, stated to be killed or wounded, is a major general in the line, as well as lieutenant colonel of the 8th regiment, and commanded a party of the 104th in the battle of Bridgewater: he is said to be a nephew of lieutenant general A. J. Drummond. In the blowing up of our battery, the example set at York by the enemy, is repaid with interest, and the death of PIKE and his fellow heroes greatly avenged.

FROM THE UTICA GAZETTE EXTRA.

Buffalo, August 15, 1814,
5 *o'clock P. M. (Monday.)*

Our army gained a most brilliant victory over the enemy this morning. Lieutenant general Drummond attacked our troops at Fort Erie, about half past two o'clock. The battle was obstinately contested for more than two hours. The British fought hard, but were beaten at every point, with a loss of more than 500 killed and wounded, besides nearly 300 prisoners. Colonel Drummond and many other officers are among the slain.—Our loss does not exceed 50, killed and wounded.

FROM THE ALBANY ARGUS EXTRA.

Saturday, A. M. August 20.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE BATTLE OF ERIE.

Extract of a letter to the Editor of the Argus, dated

Buffalo, August 15.

An express has just arrived to general Scott, at this place, stating that the British, under lieutenant general Drummond, last night at 3 o'clock, or rather this morning, attacked Fort Erie. General Drummond marched up in two columns. The fire from our men was tremendous. Seven times the enemy attacked and was repulsed. Finally he succeeded in taking our principal battery—*Lieutenant M'Donough cleared it of our men, and with the most intrepid heroism, put a match to the magazine, and blew up himself with three hundred of the enemy.* The enemy immediately retreated, leaving between 7 and 800 killed and wounded, and 300 prisoners. Lieutenant colonel Drummond was killed.—Our Spartan band lost only from 15 to 20. A gentleman per mail has informed me, he saw our troops this morning following the enemy down the river.

The enemy took two of our schooners at Erie the night before, by stratagem. Finding our provision boats were permitted to pass, they came down with boats—our schooners hailed them—they answered provision boats, and drifted across the bow of the schooners, cut their cables, bearded them, and took them down the river.

Postcript to a letter to a gentleman in this city, dated

Buffalo, August 15, 1814.

I have only time to mention, that we were attacked about 3 o'clock this morning, at Fort Erie, by the whole British force on the peninsula, and repulsed them with a loss, on our part, not exceeding *twenty*, in killed, wounded and prisoners. The enemy left on the ground, in killed and wounded, somewhere near 300. We have between 2 and 300 prisoners—They leave this to-day for Greenbush. Thus have they suffered for their temerity.—General Gaines will probably pursue him this evening—His aggregate loss is said to be near 1000.

Messenger Office, August 16,
9 *o'clock P. M.*

By this evening's western mail, we have received the glorious and heart-cheering intelligence of a splendid victory obtained on the 14th instant, by our heroic army at Fort Erie, under generals Gaines and Porter. It appears that, after a bombardment of more than 48 hours, without intermission, the enemy made a most desperate attempt to carry Fort Erie by storm; but they were met by the heroes of Chippewa and Niagara, with the most determined bravery and characteristic valor of American soldiers, and defeated them with the loss of nearly ONE THOUSAND, killed, wounded and prisoners. Our loss was from 15 to 20 killed and wounded—among the former, the brave lieutenant M'Donough, 2d artillery. This information is contained in a letter from the postmaster at Buffalo to the postmaster in this village. It is given below.

Buffalo, August 15.

The enemy have kept a constant fire from their batteries upon Fort Erie, for 48 hours past—This morning, half past 3 o'clock A. M. they commenced a general attack on Fort Erie, with their whole force. The result is glorious to the arms of the United States. He left SIX HUNDRED killed and wounded on the field—Three hundred prisoners are now passing from Fort Erie to this place—The enemy must be weakened at least ONE THOUSAND.

The above information is from major Hogan, who was sent over this morning by colonel Miller, and has just returned. A colonel Drummond, of the enemy, is among the wounded.

We have to lament the loss of Lieut. M'Donough, of the artillery, otherwise our loss is not great, but the particulars we have not obtained.

Colonel Miller, who commands on this side, has this moment received an order to cross with the regulars to Fort Erie. It is supposed general Gaines means to follow up the victory. It will take nearly all the militia at this place to guard the prisoners to the eastward. Now is the time for the militia to rise en masse, and follow up the stroke.

On the night of the 13th instant, two of our armed vessels, carrying one gun each, and lying off Fort Erie, were boarded by the crews of six boats, fitted out at Long Point for the purpose, and made prizes without the loss of a man on either side—The vessels were towed down the river below Squaw Island, where they lie at anchor.

Batavia, August 13.

A considerable reinforcement from up the lake joined our army at Erie a few days since—8 or 10 hundred more are daily expected from that quarter.

General Brown's family arrived in this village a few days since, and on Thursday were visited by the general, who left here this morning for Canandaigua—The general is fast recovering from his wounds, and in a few days calculates to conduct, in person, the operations of the army. Gen. Scott continues in this village—his wounds are doing as well as can be expected.

Two deserters from Fort Niagara, came in here yesterday—they state the the force in the Fort to consist of 120—that provisions are very scarce, and the army on short allowance—that there was not five rounds of cartridges per man—that the vessel which Chauncey run on shore was said to contain the ammunition intended for the fort.

In the British official account of the battle of Bridgwater, the number of prisoners lost, is stated at *forty-two!* It is a fact, that upwards of *two hundred* prisoners, taken on that occasion, have passed through this city, and are now at *Greenbush.* Is this a fair sample of *British official intelligence?* Or have they chosen the softer term of "*missing*," to conceal the number actually taken?

Albany Register.

Extract of a letter, dated

Utica, August 15.

"The main body of our fleet is blockading the British fleet in Kingston—part of it is watching the force of the enemy at Niagara—one of the vessels of the enemy bound thither, with stores and ammunition, was run on shore, near Niagara, and destroyed—She mounted 15 guns."

The editor has received a letter from the postmaster at Utica, corroborating the above. The express who must have brought down this information, stated at Geneva, that the British army were falling down to Fort George. It is understood the enemy are very much pinched for provisionr, and he probably resolved on a desperate effort against Fort Erie, ere famine, or the arrival of reinforcements under M'Arthur, should compel him to retire. A small reinforcement had arrived at Buffalo, from Erie, Pa.

Albany Argus.

We learn from various sources, that an extreme scarcity of provisions prevails in Upper Canada—Beef is said to be $40 per Cwt. We have recently had satisfactory information of two droves of cattle being on their way towards Ogdensburgh, to *feed the enemy's forces that are devastating our frontiers!* And yet these droviers and their friends are constantly declaiming against th government for not affording efficient protection to the frontier inhabitants. If martial law was enforced ten miles on our frontiers, it would stop this business, and add much to our security. Honest and patriotic men would not complain, because it would contribute to their safety; the admirers of "*legitimate princes*" ought not to murmur, because in Canada, under the government they so much admire, every man and beast has been subject to martial law for more than two years; and have been kept in almost constant requisition, to the neglect of agriculture and personal interest. *Ibid.*