action the Wasp met a Portuguese brig, the Corea de Lisbon, on board which she placed Lt. Chambers, Mr. Jones, master, Mr. Mitchell, masters mate, & Mr. Legge boatswain, and 18 men, all of whom are badly wounded, who arrived at Plymouth on Tuesday evening, and have been sent to the Royal Hospital, with the Reindeer's surgeon to attend them. Captain Blakeley behaved handsomely to the British; but is it much to be lamented that he should have degraded himself by firing langrange, swan-shot, and other unfair species of missile instruments.——The Wasp had taken 3 vessels, the last of which was the Orange Boven; worth £30,000. She will in all probability proceed for America; where she was launched only 7 months since. The Pheasant sloop of war, Captain Palmer, sailed in quest of her on Friday. The Scylla brig sloop of war, has also sailed on the same errand. Both rated 18 guns. The Reindeer was built in 1804.

LETTER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

To the Editors of the Baltimore Patriot.

It may be due to myself, and is certainly due to others, that the reasons under which I retired from the direction of the War Department, at a juncture so critical as the present, should be fully and promptly known to the public. These reasons will be found in the following brief exposition of facts.

On the evening of the 29th ultimo, the President called at my lodgings, and stated that a case of much delicacy had occured; that a high degree of excitement had been raised among the militia of the District; that he was himself an object of their suspicions and menaces; that an officer of that corps had given him notice, that they would no longer obey any order coming through me as Secretary of War; and that in the urgency of the case, it might be prudent so far to yield to the impulse, as to permit some other person to exercise my functions in relation to the defence of the District.

To this statement and proposition, I answered substantially as follows—That I was aware of the excitement to which he alluded, that I knew its source and had marked its progress; that the present was not a moment to examine its more occult causes, objects and agents; that it ostensibly rested on charges known to himself to be false, that it was not for me to determine how far the supposed urgency of the case made it proper for him to yield to an impulse so vile and profligate—so injurious to truth and so destructive of order; but that for myself, there was no choice; that I could never surrender a part of my legitimate authority, for the preservation of the rest—that I must exercise it wholly, or not at all; that I came into office, with objects exclusively public; and that to accommodate my principles or my conduct to the humors of a village mob, stimulated by faction and led by folly, was not the way to promote these, and that if his decision was taken in conformity to the suggestions he had made, I entreated him to accept my resignation. This he declined to do. It was an extent, he was pleased to say, to which he meant not to go; that he knew the excitement was limited, as well with regard to time as to place; that he was now, and had always been, fully sensible of the general zeal, diligence and talent, which I had put into the discharge of my duty, and that it would give him pleasure, were I to take time to consider his proposition. I renewed the assurance of my great personal respect, and my readiness to conform to his wishes on all proper occasions. I remarked, that whatever zeal, diligence and talent I possessed, had been employed freely but firmly, & according to my best views of the public good, and that as long as they were left to be so exerted, they were at the service of my country——but that the moment they were made to bow to military usurpation or political faction, there should be an end of their public exercise.——We now parted, with an understanding that I should leave Washington the following morning.

It has been since stated to me as a fact (to which I give the most reluctant belief) that on the morning of the 29th, and before my arrival in the City, a committee of the inhabitants of George-Town, of whom Alexander C. Hanson, editor of the Federal Republican, was one, had waited on the President, *by deputation*, and had obtained from him a promise, that I should no longer direct the military defences of the District. On this fact, all commentary is unnecessary.

It but remains to exhibit and to answer, the several charges raised against me & which form the groundwork of that excitement, to which the President has deemed it *prudent* to sacrifice his authority, in declining to support mine. They are as follows, viz.

1st. That (from ill will to the District of Columbia, and a design to remove the seat of government,) I gave orders for the retreat of the Army, in the affair of the 24th ultimo, under circumstances not making retreat necessary or proper.

This charge has not for its support the shadow of truth.——The commanding General will do me the justice to say, that I gave him no such order, and that he was and is under the impression, that the retreat was made earlier than I believed it to be proper.——To the President I appeal, whether I did not point out the disorder and retreat of a part of the first line, soon after the action began, and stigmatize it as base and infamous.

2d. That in despite of the remonstrances of General Winder, and by the interposition of my authority, I had prevented him from defending the Capitol.

This charge contains in it a total perversion of the truth. When the head of the retiring column reached the Capitol, it was halted for a moment. Gen. Winder here took occasion to state to Mr. Monroe and myself, that he was not in condition to maintain another conflict and that his force was broken down by fatigue and dispersion. Under this representation, we united in opinion, that he should proceed to occupy the heights of Georgetown.

3d. That I had withdrawn the covering party from the rear of Fort Washington, and had ordered Captain Dyson to blow up the Fort without firing a gun.

This charge is utterly devoid of truth. The covering party was withdrawn by an order from Gen'l. Winder and Capt. Dyson's official report shews, that the orders under which he acted, were derived from the same source, tho' no doubt, mistaken or misrepresented.

4th. That by my orders, the navy yard had been burned. This like it's predecessors, is a positive falsehood.

Perceiving that no order was taken for apprising Com. Tingey of the retreat of the army, I sent Major Bell to communicate the fact & to say, that the navy yard could no longer be covered. The Commodore was of course left to follow the suggestions of his own mind, or to obey the orders, if orders had been given, of the Navy Department.

5th. And lastly, that means had not been taken to collect a force sufficient for the occasion.

As the subject of this charge may very soon become one of Congressional enquiry, I shall at present make but a few remarks:

1st. That no means within reach of the War Department had been omitted or withheld—that a separate military district, embracing the seat of government, had been created; that an officer of high rank and character had been placed in charge of it; that to him was given full authority to call for supplies and for a military force of *fifteen thousand men*; that to this force was added the 36th Regiment of the line, a battalion of the 38th, detachments of the 12th, of the artillery, and of the dragoons, the marine corps, & the crews of the flotilla, under the special command of Com. Barney—making a total of 16,300 men.

Gen. Winder's official report of the engagement of the 24th ult. shows how much of this force had been assembled, and the causes why a greater portion of it had not been got together. These will be found to have been altogether extraneous from the government, and entirely beyond its control: and

2d. That from what is now known of the enemy's force, of the loss he sustained in the enterprise, of the marks of panic under which he retreated, &c. &c. it is obvious, that if all the troops assembled at Bladensburgh, had been faithful to themselves and their country, the enemy would have been beaten, and the Capitol saved.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Baltimore, 3d Sept. 1814

THE BATTLES BELOW.

From several of our gallant officers, under PORTER and our other naval heroes, who were stationed at the White House, a few miles below Mount Vernon, on the Virginia side, we learn, that a very severe engagement commenced between the enemy's armed vessels, & the battery stationed at the former place, about 2 o'clock on Monday evening. The battle lasted for some time, and ended in the loss of about 12 killed and 17 wounded on our side, principally sailors; amongst the number however of the killed and wounded were two or three marines, and two or three of the rifle corps of Captain Humphreys, from Jefferson, Virginia, who behaved with much gallantry.

The seamen distinguished themselves by their usual intrepidity & coolness, and the militia stood their ground with much firmness. The British must have suffered severely from every indication, but their very superior force gave them the power of disabling our small battery, and enabled them to pass the White House in comparative safety, after dismounting all our guns but one.

About 4 o'clock on Monday evening the contest commenced between them and the battery under the command of Capt. PERRY at Indian Head on the Maryland side, lower down, which was kept up with great vigor until dark, and was renewed at day-light yesterday morning. We have not yet heard how it terminated, but there is no doubt but Perry has severely mauled the enemy, and, upon the whole, that his vessels have been so severely handled he will not hastily venture up this River again. He never before met with so warm a reception in any of his marauding parties.

Gentlemen who were present at and near Com. Porter's battery, bestow the highest praise on the conduct of his men and of those who were associated with them. Com. Rodgers, who has been engaged in the most perilous enterprizes for some days past, and who was at and near the scene of action, returned early yesterday morning, and Captains Porter and Creighton arrived about the middle of the day.

A fire ship was sent down on Monday afternoon by Com. Rodgers, which had very nearly encountered one of the frigates of the enemy, but was grappled and towed out of the way by his barges.——A torpedo was sent down on Monday evening, after the British fleet passed Porter's battery, and exploded about 9 at night, with what effect is not yet known.

We shall possible hear from Perry's battery at Indian Head before the paper is put to press; and, if we do, shall not fail to communicate the result to our readers. We have yet received no official accounts of these affairs.

National Intelligencer.

THE REPUBLICAN STAR,
AND
GENERAL ADVERTISER.

EASTON:

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPT. 13, 1814.

ENEMY UP THE BAY.

On Saturday last thirty six sail of the enemy's vessels passed up the bay, 26 of which were of the large size, the rest smaller—Of their movements or stop we are not advised, and leave the conclusion to the better judgment of our readers; but hope those in their vicinity may be prepared to meet their movements as near the water's edge as circumstances may permit The times are perilous, and the cause of the country calls on every man to do his duty. A knowledge of the fact, that the enemy is in our vicinity, is deemed all sufficient to prepare the patriot's mind (after a perusal of the President's proclamation in the opposite page) for action.

OFFICIAL.

Copy of a letter from Colonel PHILIP REED, to Brigadier General BENJAMIN CHAMBERS, dated

Camp, Belle Air, 3d Sept. 1814.

SIR,

I avail myself of the first moment I have been able to seize from incessant labour, to inform you that about half past 11 o'clock, on the night of the 30th ult. I received information that the barges of the enemy, then lying off Waltham's farm, were moving in shore. I concluded that the object was to land and burn the houses, &c. at Waltham's, and made the necessary arrangements to prevent him, and to be prepared for an opportunity, which I had sought for several days, to strike the enemy. During our march to the point threatened, it was discovered that the blow was aimed at our camp—Orders were immediately given to the Quartermaster to remove the camp and baggage, and to the troops to countermarch, pass the road by the right of our camp, and form on the rising ground about three hundred paces in its rear, the right towards Caulk's house and the left resting on the road; the artillery in the centre, supported by infantry on the right and left.

I directed Capt Wickes and his 2d Lieut. Beck, with a part of the rifle company, to be formed so as to cover the road by which the enemy marched—and with this section determined to post myself, leaving the line to be formed under the direction of Major Wickes and Captain Chambers. The head of the enemy's column soon presented itself, and received the fire of our advance party, at seventy paces distance, and being pressed by numbers vastly superior, I repaired to my post in the line, having ordered the riflemen to return and form on the right of the line The fire now became general along the whole line, and was sustained by our troops with the most determined valour. The enemy pressed our front—Foiled in this, he threw himself on our left flank, which was occupied by Capt Chambers's company; here too his efforts were equally unavailing. His firing had nearly ceased, when I was informed that in some parts of our line the cartridges were entirely expended, nor did any of the boxes contain more than a very few rounds (although each man had brought about twenty into the field); the artillery cartridges were entirely expended. Under these circumstances I ordered the line to fall back to a convenient spot, where a part of the line was formed; when the few remaining cartridges were distributed amongst a part of the line, which was again brought into the field, where it remained a considerable time, the night preventing a pursuit.—The artillery, and infantry for whom there were no cartridges, were ordered to this place. The enemy having made every effort in his power, although apprised of our having fallen back, manifested no disposition to follow us up, but retreated about the time our ammuniton was exhausted.

When it is recollected, that very few of our officers or men had ever heard the whistling of a ball; that the force of the enemy (as the most accurate information enables us to estimate) was double ours; that it was commanded by Sir Peter Parker, of the Menelaus, one of the most distinguished officers in the British navy, and composed (as their officers admitted in a subsequent conversation) of as fine men as could be selected from the British service. I feel fully justified in the assertion, that the gallantry of the officers and men engaged on this occasion could not be excelled by any troops. The officers and men performed their duty—It is, however, but an act of justice to notice those officers who seemed to display more than a common degree of gallantry—Major Wickes and Capt. Chambers were conspicuous; Capt. Wickes, and his Lieut Beck, of the rifle corps; Lieut. Eunick and Ensign Skirvin, of Capt. Chambers's company, exerted themselves, as did Capt. Hynson and his Ensign Grant; Capt Ussleton (of the brigade artillery) and his Lieuts. Reed and Brown; Lieut. Tilghman, who commanded the guns of the volunteer artillery in the absence of Capt. Hands (who is in ill health, and from home) was conspicuous for his gallantry; his Ensign Thomas also manifested much firmness.

I am indebted to Capt. Wilson, of the cavalry, who was with me, for his exertions—and also to Adjutant Hynson, who displayed much zeal and firmness throughout. To Dr. Blake and Dr. Gordon, and to Isaac Spencer, Esq. (who was accidentally in camp) I am indebted for their assistance in reconnoitring the enemy, on his advance.

You will be surprized, sir, when I inform you, that in an engagement of so long continuance, in an open field where the moon shone brilliantly on the rising ground occupied by our troops, while the shade of the neighbouring woods, under the protection of which the enemy fought, gave us but an indistinct view of any thing but the flash of his guns; that under all the disparity of numbers against us, and the advantage of regular discipline on the side of the enemy, we had not one man killed, and only one sergeant, one corporal and one private wounded, and these slightly. The enemy left one Midshipman and eight men dead on the field, and nine wounded, six of whom died in the course of a few hours—Sir Peter Parker was amongst the slain; he was mortally wounded with a buck-shot, and died before he reached the barges, to which he was conveyed by his men. The enemy's force, consisting of marines and musqueteers, was in part armed with boarding pikes, swords and pistols, no doubt intended for our tents, as orders had been given by Sir Peter not to fire—Many of these arms, with rockets, muskets, &c have fallen into our hands, found by the picket guard under Ensign Skirvin, which was posted in the battle ground for the remainder of the night. Nothing but the want of ammunition saved the enemy from destruction.

Attached are the names of the wounded—and as an act of justice to those concerned, I enclose you a list of the names of every officer and soldier engaged in the affair. Certain information from the enemy assures us that his total loss in killed and wounded was forty two or forty three, including two wounded Lieutenants.

I am, sir,
Your most obdt. humble servt.
PHILIP REED,
Lt Col. commanding.

Brig. Gen. Benj. Chambers,
6th Brigade Md. Militia.

NAMES OF THE WOUNDED.

Of Capt. Chambers's Company—

John Maynor, sergeant—slightly in the thigh.

Philip Crane, corporal—a ball between the tendons and bone of the thigh, near the knee.

Of Capt. Henry Page's Company—

John Glanville, private—in the arm.

Washington City, Sept. 8.

THE BATTLE BELOW.

From the battery under Com PERRY, at Indian Head, we yesterday learnt, that the enemy passed it on the morning of the day before, having received little injury from our battery, which was too light and weak to dispute his passage with effect. Our loss was only one man wounded, and that was in the retreat from the shore.

At Indian Head, as well as at the White House, the enemy expended a great quantity of ammunition in firing random shot and shells on shore, and in the woods, to disperse the militia, &c. after the cannonade from our little batteries had been silenced.

The following account of the manner in which the enemy moved down the river, is forwarded us by a friend who witnessed it from the Maryland shore:

"The British squadron (assembled at Mr. Marshall's Point and a little below Mount Vernon) began to move downwards about two o'clock on Monday, at the pitch of the high tide and a most favorable fresh wind at N. E. The preceding ship was the Commodore in the Sea Horse frigate of 38 guns, with the first division of the prize craft, firing but a few guns towards the Virginia shore, and the high bluff of Belvour;—the fort previously and at the same time constantly and spiritedly annoying them with their shot. The Euryalus frigate of 36 guns went next, and distinguished herself for the most active firing of any of the fleet. Those two vessels, after passing the bluff, hauled up in the wind nearer to the Maryland shore, and continued their firing, particularly the Euryalus which then became headmost, until all the fleet had passed close in below the fort, the channel there being deep and close in under the cliff; the third was the Etna bomb; the Rocket ship, and after them the Manly armed brig of 14 guns, which had passed up the river and joined the lower squadron in the evening of the 1st inst. after receiving some shot (four in number, one of which passed through her) from the Bluff battery; after those went in succession the remaining prizes, the Meteor bomb, and lastly the Devastation; none of the bombs appearing to fire as they passed the heights; the result was not known A fire ship with a party under Com. Rogers, could not overtake the rear of the fleet in time for full effect, they being peculiarly favoured by a most favourable wind to carry them the lower reach of the channel. It was on fire and went seemingly in a good direction for the Euryalus frigate, but grounded on the point.

"From 6 o'clock till dark a firing of heavy cannon from below was heard and supposed to be from Indian Head 10 or 12 miles below the Belvoir Bluff. Some of the shot hit the Sea Horse, and her mizen top sail was seen to fall on the deck as she passed the point."

Washington City, Sept. 3.

We are happy to learn that measures are already taken for fitting up rooms for the temporary accommodation of Congress at their approaching session, and also for the accommodation of the several departments and public offices. The building formerly called Blodget's Hotel, occupied by the General Post Office, Patent Office, &c. and which was not destroyed by the enemy, is selected for the accommodation of Congress, and was yesterday inspected by the President, who directed the necessary preparations to be made, which will be commenced forthwith—the public offices will be accommodated in houses which have been tendered by their proprietors for that purpose, and will immediately re commence the usual routine of business.

FROM THE ENEMY BELOW.

The enemy's vessels dropt down the river from Alexandria on Friday night, and on Saturday Com. RODGERS had possession of that unfortunate town.—On Saturday two or three fireships were sent down to the frigates then lying off Warburton, but did not take effect on them. The river was immediately covered with barges, thirty or forty in number, and these dangerous objects were towed out of the way of the vessels.—The scene was witnessed from the high grounds of the city and was very interesting—the river being covered with vessels and boats of almost every description. The frigates opened a heavy fire on the ruins of the old fort, or, on the shore near which they were lying, with what view we have not heard, nor have we heard any particulars of the damage done. Rockets were seen and firing heard down the river at intervals on Saturday night. Several of the vessels were seen below yesterday. The enemy's vessels evidently expect to be severely handled on their return, and doubtless will be, attempt it when they may.

Nat. Intel.

We are sorry to learn, from the northern frontier, that on the 29th ult Gen. Gaines was very severely (not dangerously) wounded in four or five different parts of his body, by a shell thrown by the enemy, which fell into his quarters. Other persons, among whom was the person from whom this information was derived, in his tent or room at the time, received no injury. *Ibid.*

We are well aware, that it is not the pecuniary loss to the nation by the late incursion of the enemy which is most to be deprecated But, as that loss has been greatly overrated in some of the public prints, it may be proper to state that the public property, of every description, cannot be fairly estimeted to amount to more than two millions of dollars, perhaps not even so much.

Ibid.

It is stated, we perceive, in some of the northern prints, that the cannon at the Navy Yard were destroyed This is a mistake. The enemy was in so great a hurry to retrace his steps, that he only spiked two brass pieces, not touching several hundred iron pieces which lay in the yard. It is also stated that the Arsenal near the Navy Yard was destroyed. The enemy did not take time even to destroy that valuable depot.

Many of the enemy's wounded yet remain in Bladensburg, the people of which place and its neighborhood suffered considerably from the depredations of the enemy. Many wanton outrages marked the progress of his army through the country, principally perpetrated by non commissioned officers and privates. *Ibid.*

Fourteen waggons full of our noble seamen, the first surmounted with the well known standard of "*Free trade and Sailors' Rights*," the whole preceded by the Hero of Valparaiso, and cheered by their boatswain's whistle, passed thro' this city on their way to Baltimore on Tuesday evening. *Ibid.*

Sufferers by the pillage and burning of Washington City by the British.

Mr. Sewel's house burnt
Mr. B. Sprigg's house, plundered
Mr. Boon's do
Mr. Birch's do
Mrs. Hamilton's house and furniture burnt
Mr. Ball's do
Mr. Frost's do
Mr. Philip's do
Mr. Tomlinson's do
Mr. Long's tavern, plundered
Mr. Rapine's house do
Mr. D. Waterson's do
Mr. M'Cormick's stored plundered, loss near 10,000 dollars
Mr. Caldwell's house, plundered
Mr. Wm. Elliott's do
Mr. B Burnes's do
Mr. Pick's do
Mr. G. Burnes's do
Mr. Campton's store do
Messrs. Gales & Seaton's types destroyed, and office much injured
Mr. Heath's twine walk, burnt
Mr. T. Ringgold's rope walk, do
Mr. J Chambers do
Com. Tingey's house, pillaged
Col. Wharton's do

Public Property Destroyed.

Capitol
President's House
War Office
Treasury Office
Fort and Magazine at Greenleaf's Point
Public Stores, &c. at the Marine Barracks.

[*Wash. City Gaz.*

Philadelphia, Sept. 5.

A letter from M. Daschkoff, to his Secretary in this city, dated at New York, has endorsed on in the Russian language, "I have just received advices that *Spain has declared war against the United States.*"

People of Maryland—

Remember the most ostensible defence (beyond the point of the bayonet) you can bring against the enemy now on your borders, will be to put men in office who will rally round their government, and administer that aid so long and so shamefully withheld by those to whom the affairs of the State have been entrusted for the last two years.

The issue of the election in the town of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, has redounded to the cause of republicanism, by an overwhelming majority, though rejected by federalists last fall—the rest of the State is to be heard from—may they return the like defenders of the people's rights throughout.

In pursuance of a proclamation of Governor TOMPKINS, the Legislature of New York will convene at Albany on *Monday* the 26th inst.

The Legislature of Virginia will also convene by Proclamation of the Governor on the second Monday in October next.

☞ The persons employed in the office being subject to that military duty so necessary while the enemy are up the bay, the Star will in future be issued on a half-sheet, or otherwise, as circumstances may authorise.

HILLSBOROUGH SCHOOL.

THE trustees of this Institution respectfully inform the public that it is now open for the instruction of youth, in Greek, Latin, and general English education, under the charge of Mr Myrick, a gentleman sufficiently recommended for literary and moral attainments from Dartmouth University. The very moderate terms of board and tuition at this place holds out to parents and guardians, on the ground of expence, a superior advantage in this school over many others.

Henry Downes.

Hillsborough, sept. 8, (13) eo3

REMOVAL.

THE subscribers respectfully inform the public in general, and their customers in particular, that they have removed their Boot and Shoe establishment, from their old stand to their new building adjoining Mr. David Nice—where they mean to carry on the Boot and Shoe business, in all its various branches, in the best and most fashionable manner; and they hope, by their strict attention to business, to merit a share of public patronage.

N. & J. Valiant.

N B. They have on hand a complete assortment of *BOOTS* and *SHOES*, of the best quality: also a large and general assortment of the best Philadelphia materials for Boots and Shoes.—Measures taken for Boots and Shoes, and made at the shortes notice and in the best manner.

N. & J. V.

sept. 13

WOOL CARDING.

THE subscribers, for the accommodation of those who are disposed to favor them with their wool to card, have made an arrangement with Messrs. Sangston & Hardcastle, merchants at Denton, and William Hudson & Co at Bridgeville, to receive the parcels of wool—where they will send and receive them, and return the rolls twice per month.

The rolls will be nicely carded, and packed so as to make them portable to any part of the peninsula.

Samuel & Allen Talbott.

Milford, Del. june 21 13

WAS COMMITTED

To the gaol of Harford county, as a runaway, on the 4th inst. a negro man who calls himself *Thomas Mayho*, about 26 years old, 5 feet 7 1 2 inches high; has a flat nose, broad face, small month, thick lips, and is very square made; has a black cloth coat, black cloth waistcoat, corduroy pantalets, fine muslin shirt, a pair of boots and shoes, and a variety of other clothing. Had in his possession, when taken up, two horses, and said he was going to Philadelphia for a carriage belonging to William Williams, of Mecklenberg county, Virginia. Says he was set free by William Mayho, of the county of Mecklenberg, in the State of Virginia. The owner of said negro is requested to come and release him, otherwise he will be sold to discharge the prison fees, agreeably to law.

Benj. Guyton, sheriff
Harford county.

august (sept. 13) 8

WAS COMMITTED

To the gaol of Harford county, as a runaway on the 18th inst. a negro man named *Charle*—about 28 years old, 5 feet 11 1 2 inches high, has a thin visage, thick lips, very slender made; has a scar near the left eye, his left thumb larger than the right one, his two small toes on the left foot vide upon the next toe. His clothing are a summer coat made of cotton, linen shirt and trowsers, a pair of shoes—Says he belongs to Joseph Merriot, of Anne Arundel county, near the Frederick turnpike road. His owner is desired to release him, otherwise he will be sold to discharge his prison fees, agreeably to law

Benj. Guyton, sheriff
Harford county

august (sept. 13) 8