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FROM THE BOSTON PATRIOT.

TRUTH AND ELOQUENCE.

Speech of the Hon. Mr. HOLMES, *in the Senate of Massachusetts, June 8, 1814, during the debate on the answer to the Governor's Speech.*

MR. PRESIDENT,

When I considered the pernicious and unprofitable measnre adopted by the Legislature last year, it was to have been expected that gentlemen would have taken a course somewhat different from that embraced in he answer to his Excellency's address. Taught by the errors of the past, it was to be expected that they would have been careful of the future. Finding that they had neither provoked the people to opposition, driven the government from their ground, nor obtained the grace and favor of the enemy, it was reasonable to hope that gentlemen would have been cured of their frenzy—that his Excellency would have confined his observations to the business of the state, and that the answer of the Senate would have been of the same description. But we find that gentlemen are not yet discouraged. Though their inflammatory course was utterly discountenanced by the people, still they persist. We have another manifesto to be published in British papers, as evidence that Massachusetts has seceded from the Union:—and yet we find you, in this answer, boasting of the forbearance of the legislature of Massachusetts. Forbearance Sir! What is this forbearance which you boast of? All that could be done *was* done, to excite the people to opposition. Letters and emissaries were sent from this town to the remote parts of the State, informing the people that they were oppressed, urging them to get up meetings, and to pledge themselves to support the opposition which the legislature had projected. And what was the success? Some twenty or thirty towns, out of more than five hundred, and many of those totally disconnected with commerce were induced to complain. And how did you obtain even these? Sir, the people were imposed on. Even the poor fishermen were ashamed of the business, and signed a recantation.

This was the forbearance so full of merit! You *forbore*, to be sure, but it was because you were afraid to do otherwise. The last legislature missed their aim. The people were not dissatisfied with the embargo. It was a measure approved by both parties at the time. Speculators were purchasing provisions for the enemy; the country was about to be drained; this temporary check was salutary. But it disappointed two descriptions of people. The *contractors* because they could not get the money, and the *British*, because they could not get the provisions: and these were the authors of all the complaints.

But we find it again repeated, that the rulers of the nation have discovered an inveterate hostility to commerce. By this charge coming from *this state*, we should be led to conclude that *Massachusetts* was the grand mart of the trade of the world, and that *Boston* was the commercial centre. And we should further conclude, from the modest assurance of her merchants, that mercantile knowledge was exclusively confined to the people of Boston. Sir, it is with much diffidence, I confess, that I attempt a subject of which, if you take these gentlemen at their words, they are such complete masters. However, if these exclusive gentlemen will pardon me, I will call the attention of the Board to an importance of the different sections of the United States. If the *southern* or *middle divisions* of the *United States* have an interest to destroy commerce, if they view *New-England* as their competitor, there may be good ground for this charge. It will scarcely be believed that they will destroy commerce, when their manifest and immediate interest required its preservation; nor will it do for gentlemen to pretend that the rulers of the nation are opposed to the interest of the people in this thing. An administration, surely, which has discovered a uniform hostility to commerce for more than twelve years, must, it is presumed, act conformably to the wishes of the people who created them. The question returns, what are the interests of the southern and middle divisions of the United States, in regard to commerce? Let us look at their exports. I take the year 1805, because, if I remember rightly that year was peculiarly favorable to the *New England states*. The exports from New England were about twenty-four millions; of the middle states, forty nine millions; of the southern states, twenty one millions. I give the millions entire, though there were fractions of a million to each division; the largest fraction, if I mistake not, was in the southern division. But in this period, the exports of domestic growth and manufacture were, in the south, *double* those of the New England states.—What portion of these northern exports were the products of the southern and middle states, I leave to the merchants to determine. Further: In the year ending in September, 1813, the exports from *Maryland* were double those from *Massachusetts*; and this too in time of war, when the Chesapeake was infested by the enemy, and *Massachusetts* was the object of special grace and favor.

In 1811, *Baltimore* exported about ten, and *Boston* eleven millions; perhaps three out of the eleven were brought coastwise from *Baltimore*;—yet Baltimore is inimical to commerce; a mere *mob-town*; and Boston is the of prop the commerce of the word. The backwoods state of *Louisiana*, this intruder into the Union, which does not contain 60 thousand inhabitants, during 1813, exported but one third less than *Massachusetts*; and if you take into consideration what is carried coastwise, this backwoods state exports more than *Massachusetts*.

This is not all. In the same period, Massachusetts was down to the sixth grade in point of commerce, while she stood the fourth in point of population. Sir, it is insufferable arrogance for this section of the Union to boast of their commerce. I am aware that gentlemen may attempt to get rid of this reasoning by recurring to the imports. But this will not avail them. What are the sources of importations? The products of your *soil*, the products of your *waters*, your *manufactures*, the *labor* of your *seamen*, the *use* of your *vessels*, and the speculations of your *merchants*. These, I believe are all the sources of importation. Money is a medium, but not a source of commerce. Without your *products* and your *manufactures*, of what avail are the rest?—You may, to be sure, *let* your ships and sailors to other nations, and the small pittance of their earnings, may be converted into a return cargo, but this would be a mere trifle. This is an imperfect view of your commercial importance. These are the men who are perpetually babbling of their commerce. A fine figure would the N. England states make in the commercial world, were they cut off from the southern market, or even upon a repeal of the tonnage duty. It is not long since your ships were neglected in the southern ports, while foreigners could obtain good freights and a profitable trade. If they punished you as you deserve, you would soon be in the same situation.

Let us look at another charge against the nation.—The local aggrandizement of the south and West, is to be effected at the expense of New England. This jealousy of others is a very natural weakess. When a man sees his neighbor growing rich faster than himself, he suspects that consequently *he* is growing poor; and the weak rulers of a state will indulge the same feelings. And yet, sir, I do not perceive any good reason why the south should be hostile to the commerce of New England. They do not want to be your carriers, for you have nothing to carry. They have cargoes, and you have ships and sailors. If you will conduct with civility, it will be for their interest to employ you. It is their interest and their wish to cultivate a spirit of commercial enterprize in New-England—and why, sir, should the western people be your competitors in commerce? Have they no interest in commercial prosperity? I very well remember that in 1803, the navigation of the Mississippi was of such importance to the people who inhabited the western waters that it must be secured by a resort to *force*. Because Spain had withheld from us the right of deposit at New-Orleans, the present *peace party* called out for *war*.—Their dear brethren of the west were to be deprived of their commerce, so lucrative, so important to the nation, and so essential to their existence. We heard nothing, then, of the anti-commercial spirit of these people;—they *must* have commerce; war, immediate, energetic, decisive war was inevitable. It was even disgraceful to wait the issue of a pending negotiation. I remember a Mr. Ross, of Pennsylvania, a Mr. Morris, of New York, and, if I do not much mistake, a certain honorable *Senator* from Massachusetts, felt so much sympathy for the western people, that they were willing to spill the blood, even of New-England, to preserve their commerce. Louisiana must be ours; she who is now an *intruder*, must be *forced* into the family against her will. Our *national honour* had been insulted, and *national honour* was *national independence*, one could not exist without the other.

Now, sir, those very commercial people, are all at once determined to crush New-England, by a destruction of commerce. Truly, sir, we indulge in very childish jealousies. Massachusetts is, forever, exciting some groundless suspicions. I remember, that not long since, a resolution was offered to Congress by a Mr. Jackson of Virginia, for altering the Constitution so as to authorise Congress to lay an export duty: Massachusetts took the alarm, and resolved that the object was to destroy the New England commerce, and make her tributary to the southern states! when these same southern states furnished five dollars for exportation, where New England furnished one. But we are told, and I admit with some truth, that the influence of the northern states is annihilated. But how? Are we not represented agreeably to the Constitution? Sir, our representation in the Senate and House is more than equal to our *free population*—we have not one fourth of the free population, and yet we have ten senators of thirty six—and this excess will more than compensate for the loss by the slave representation in the House. It is capable of demonstration. Why is your influence destroyed? It is your wayward, contracted, inconsistent policy, which has done this; your groundless complaints against the administration of the general government; your attempting to excite local jealousies and animosities; your pertinacious adherence to the enemies of your country, have brought your state into that disrepute and contempt of which she now complains. Massachusetts has been, and of right ought to be a powerful and influential member of the union—but this influence is destroyed. The disgraceful proceedings of last winter roused the people in the neighboring states. New York, a state which you boasted would join the cabal, rose, and in the majesty of her strength bid defiance in your teeth; and instead of discovering our errors and our follies, and profiting by them, we are now publishing to England other evidence of our disposition to *secede*; and probably admiral Cochrane will, in consequence, issue another proclamation to the discontented people of Massachusetts, to abandon their tyrannical government and come and partake the sweets of monarchy. Were he here, and probably he has some agent or representative not far off, he would discover in you a total disrelish and contempt for republican institutions. He would hear gentlemen openly express their preference for the government of Great Britain, *monarchy and all*; and he would, from motives of compassion, to be sure, relieve them from the burdens, turmoils and cabals of democracy. I do not hesitate to express my *belief*, that the proclamation, this invitation to revolt, was issued in consequence of the complaints of a restless, ambitious and daring faction among us. And, sir, we have enjoyed the honorable distinction of being the object of the enemy's grace and forbearance; and consequently, we have excited the suspicions and detestation of the friends of our country. No wonder, sir, our influence is annihilated—it ought to be. The people have discovered, that you, who boast of all the commerce, talents, integrity, and patriotism, have none of either *to spare*. The proceedings of last winter are viewed with detestation and abhorrence. Massachusetts is became a by-word, and is despised by her own political friends. It is perceived that we are ready to barter away the essential rights of the people for profit. The gentleman from Suffolk (Mr. Thorndike) endeavoured to prove the injustice of the war by a calculation of debt and credit. That gentleman professes to be a merchant, and he would settle the rights of the nation as he would the proceeds of a voyage. He says, if I understand him, that we have spilt more blood, or lost more men, in this war, than we should ever lose by impressment. And his inference would be, I suppose, that we should *submit*. If G. Britain, should, in time of peace, wantonly butcher a hundred Americans, and it would be likely to cost two hundred to punish her, we ought to pocket the outrage. This is the degrading course adopted by some of our commercial politicians. If we can make money, no matter how. Sell your fellow citizens, sell your rights, your honor, your independence—any thing for *the profit*. Suppose the South and West should take you at your words; you say impressment is a British right, and ought not to be resisted; agreed. That no indemnity is due for the operations of her Orders in Council; very well. That free ships do not make free goods; no matter; let that go. That it is national law to prohibit neutral trade between an enemy's country and her colonies; very well. That the allegiance of a British subject is perpetual and unalienable—but that an American is not; we will not contend. *Now, sir, I have heard every one of these concessions advocated at this board*—and gentlemen would have no reason to complain if a peace is made upon their own terms; and if you wish it, the United States will abandon the tonnage duty and the fisheries. The South and West can as well buy British fish, and employ British ships, as to confine themselves to your custom. These concussions would not injure them—but how would you like them? And what encouragement have the people of the South and West to waste their blood and treasure for you, while you are cursing them for it?

The gentlemen in the next place tell us, that amidst all these oppressions and distresses, the people turned their eyes towards the State Legislature for relief.—This, Sir, is amusing. The people turned their eyes towards *you!* No, sir, you turned your eyes towards *them*; but they refused to look towards you. They would not engage in the project—they were alarmed lest you should attempt, for them, a relief which they did not need. And after all your artificial excitements and theatrical exhibitions of distress, how many memorials did you get up? You got back *with as good a grace as you could, and call it forbearance!*

We are next brought to the war and its objects. We are told it is founded *in falsehood*. This, I confess, I do not understand. That it is *unjust*—this I do understand. That its objects are the extension of territory by conquests, and aiding the tyrant of Europe I am not much alarmed at these charges, for I think, if I mistake not, I have heard them before.

The objects of the war are, a release of our own citizens from confinement, an indemnity for past injuries, and a suitable pledge for future security. The war is *not* unjust; its objects are *not* conquest or aid to any tyrant. We want no more British subjects or refugees to be added to the nation; we have too many already; their deleterious influence has well nigh prostrated the liberties of our country. I know very well that the British are dangerous neighbors, and I regret as much as any one, that the line of 1783, gave them a territory which will give them not only an influence over the northern states, but will enable them to urge the Indians to barbarous massacre. I perceive that the northern states are embraced by British power. The ocean, you say, is her exclusive domain: she is on the east, the north and the west; and to increase the danger, she is in the midst of us. Her partizans are numerous and powerful. I think she will make peace—for she will see, that in a few short years, she can obtain that without fighting, which may now cost her a little blood. These ties of blood, and habits of friendship, which are not broken off in time of war, will do much to effect the future subjugation of this country to British dominion; and these dear friends of Britain, these boasters of British fraternity, have the presumption to charge the people of America with French influence, and with waging war to aid the tyrant who lately governed France. But had this tyrant been the ally of England, we should have heard nothing of French influence. Now that he is fallen, we hear gentlemen express a wonderful attachment to the French people and Talleyrand, because, forsooth, they are the friends of England. The French influence seems to have gotten on the other side of the house; but there is no danger that it will continue longer than France is ruled by British policy. This charge of French influence comes with an excellent grace from gentlemen who are the incessant advocates of British rights, the servile eulogists of British justice and British magnanimity. You, who are boasting of your ties of blood, and habits of friendship with the enemies of the nation, dare to charge that nation with French partialities. Sir, there are none of these partialities. Had the *secret connexion*, which you affirm produced the war, existed, this very war would have divulged it. Not a French public ship has entered our ports, not a French officer has been appointed to the army, and our dispute with France remains in the same state of suspense as before; and yet those very men who stand on British ground, and have become the champions of British rights, and the apologists and justifiers of British wrongs, most arrogantly and insolently charge the government and people of America with French influence. Sir, it is an old artifice to become the *accuser*, in order to screen yourselves from the *assusation*. Look back upon Europe for twenty years past, and show me the nation which you have not alternately condemned and justified, as that nation has been the enemy or friend of England. The Russians, while fighting England, were barbarians; the moment they are her *ally*, they are all at once the most civilized people upon earth.

The Hon. member from Suffolk, Mr. Thorndike, would send Mr. Madison to the Island of Elba; this would require a little more *power* than that gentleman and his friends possess; but this sentiment is worthy of that gentleman and his party. We have discovered his drift; out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. He probably finds that this business of election is unprofitable; that he and his party are continually subjected to discomfiture and defeat; that there is *now* no way to put down the present administration but in the way it was put down in France, by *foreign force*. *Domestic force* you have tried without success. If this project is original in the gentleman, it is proof, of what his patriotism consists; if copied from British newspapers, it is proof, of his fidelity to the British nation.——But, sir, I assure that gentleman, that the people of this country will not be intimidated by threats of this kind. Your foreign aid and domestic opposition united, can never destroy the American government.

But we are told, sir, that the manner of carrying on the war is evidence of its injustice. I confess, Sir, that this is to me a new and strange proposition. Suppose, Sir, that our operations by land had been, as you say, attended with disaster, defeat and disgrace, is this evidence that the war is unjust? Were our continued disasters and defeats, during the two first years of the revolutionary war, evidence of the injustice of our cause? Sir, it is not true that our operations by land have been so disgraceful as is pretended.——There have been instances of skill and valor, never surpassed by any troops in any country. I know very well, and I regret it, that our situation has been unfavorable to successful military enterprize. The cause is to be found, not in the want of native intelligence and bravery of our citizens, but the lack of experience, which thirty years of peace have rendered indispensable.

You had no officers and soldiers, because you had no wars; but we have already nearly surmounted the difficulty, and officers and soldiers will rise up out of the exigencies of the times. But one part of our operations, must, I presume, be *just*, because it is successful. Our naval operations, whether on the ocean, where we received the injury, or on the Lakes, for the purpose of reducing the "unoffending" inhabitants of Canada are all right. Surely, gentlemen would not toast, feast and reward these conquerors of the Lake—they were murderers?

You are remarkably modest, notwithstanding you are wishing, hoping, praying and acting for our disasters, yet the moment we have a little success, you claim it as your own. The gentleman from Hampshire, Mr. Mills, who drew this answer, tells us that the navy is the offspring of a better policy, and insinuates that it was checked and discouraged in its origin by the Jeffersonian policy. This is not the fact. I have the law before me, and it is signed by John Adams, and was passed by the two houses, each having a majority of the present pretended friends of the navy, by which many of our vessels were ordered to be sold, others to be laid up in ordinary, and six only retained in actual service as the peace establishment. The same gentleman tells you that the navy has preserved the drowning honor of the country. No such thing—our honor has never been drowning; though that gentleman and his friends have hung like a millstone about its neck, it is not, and I trust will not be drowned.

And how comes it, sir, that after twelve years of anti-naval, anti-commercial policy, we should, at the commencement of this war, have a navy better conditioned, officered and manned, than any navy in the world? The answer states that we have given this war a sanguinary character. Barbarity, sir, is not a trait in the American character. If we have been reduced to the painful necessity of retaliating the cruelties of the British, it has been with much reluctance and regret. But gentlemen have no "bowels of compassion" for an American citizen—They can weep for a Briton, administer comfort, throw open the prison doors, but have no charity to "begin at home." The barbarities at Havre-de-Grace and Hampton, and elsewhere, the conflagrations, murders, rapes, are looked on in the calm lights of mild philosophy. Britons may burn defenceless villages, murder unresisting citizens, wantonly abuse defenceless females, and defile a church in the name of the bulwark of our religion, and this is all well; but the moment a little retaliation is administered, gentlemen grow wonderfully compassionate, they weep, and in extreme anguish of soul, cry out, barbarity!

The old story of cruelty to the Indians is again told.—From the frequent expressions of tenderness of his Excellency towards these children of the forest, one would suppose that we were connected with them also "by ties of blood, and habits of friendship." The Hon. Member from Suffolk (Mr. Thorndike) to prove, *incontestibly*, that the United States wished to get away their lands, has told us a story, that while he was at Washington, a proposition was made by a member to establish a line of military posts; and when it was objected, that this would deprive them of their lands, this member said, (either in or out of Congress) that *this was what he wished*. The Hon. gentleman did not mention this member's name, so that he is in no danger of contradiction, *but the proposition was not adopted*. How wonderfully this gentleman has succeeded in his proof! You commiserate these Indians and charge the government with cruelty towards them. Here again is discovered the same indifference towards their measures. The Creeks had progressed in improvements; they had no cause of quarrel with *us; they* began the contest, and the first act of barbarity is unparalleled. Fort Mims was taken by assault, every man was inhumanly butchered, and to complete the scene of horror, they put thew omen and children into the houses, set them on fire and performed a war dance round them, while these *innocents* were expiring in the flames. The gentlemen, however, have no tears to shed for these victims. They can witness the flames, the blood, the shrieks, and the groans, and hear the savage yell without one thrilling, or even tender emotion. But when these ferocious, blood thirsty wretches are chastised for this atrocity, and do not receive the mercy which they have denied the innocent, and which they refuse to accept, what an infernal affection of compassion do we witness! Great GOD! are these men *Americans?*

The downfall of Bonaparte seems to give the gentleman great joy and exultation. That Britain should rejoice at the downfall of her enemy, is not unnatural; that her friends in America should join in her joy, is *nothing new*. But whether a citizen of the United States, a friend to their prosperity and happiness, should rejoice at these events, demands a doubt. That France should remain a principal power was not only for the safety of Europe, but America. It would have contributed much to the safety of the world could France and England have been *balanced*. But how stands the case now; France is a mere colony of England. The king acknowledges that he owes his crown to G. Britain. The balance of Europe is destroyed; Russia is *exhausted*; Austria and Prussia are *drained*; Spain is a *desert*; Holland a *bankrupt*; Sweden has enough to do to reduce the frozen regions of Norway to subjection; and Denmark may look for her maritime power in *British ports*. If commercial men can see much consolation in this, I am not disposed to disturb their tranquility.

Great Britain has now a large disposable force. Her army and navy must have employ. Her trade is blood, and this "froward people" must be reduced to "unconditional submission." In the present state of Europe, what prevents G. Britain's taking this course? And I am not sure, sir, but many in this country are exulting at the prospect. Men who are enemies of all revolutions; men who hope for a restoration of the ancient order of things, and who, finding that nothing but *force* can effect their object, may expect some foreign aid to overturn the government. But this will not do. How does it happen, that this wicked administration still command the confidence and support of the people? What ever may be your opinion of the understanding of the multitude, you will not pretend that they are mere *oysters* and cannot *feel*. You have not been wanting in exertion to undeceive them. You have all the talents and property and morals and religion on your side, and with these you have compassed sea and land to make proselytes, and yet strange to tell, the administration are growing popular. How is this to be accounted for? Upon your hypothesis, there is but one way, and that is this: Bad as the administration and their friends are, you are so much *worse*, that the people will adhere to us, as the less of two evils. You ought to be *accused* instead of the *accuser*. Your rash, intemperate, headlong measures of last winter, have awakened the people, and *New York* has taught you a lesson which you will long remember.

In this state of political depravity, you profess to be the disciples of Washington, while you despise his precepts, and reject his councils. You are all gone out of his way. Take not his name into your lips. Should he descend to the U. States, purified (if purification were necessary) in the rich fountains of eternal love, he would weep over the follies and frailties of his children, who have wandered from his precepts. "The United States, he would say, was once my paradise, my garden, in which grew a flower, and that flower was Freedom. It sprang up by my planting—it grew by my culture. It flourished, it spread its beauty to the morning sun; and its fragrance was wafted on the breeze. It was hastening to a consummation of its perfection, but the cruel spoiler came;—the *fiend faction* infused into it his poison, it dropped its lovely head, it withered, it *died!* This spot has now no charms for me. Its gates, which were *union*, and its walls, which were *strength*, are broken down. "The stream is removed from its place by the falling of the wall, the thistle shakes there its lonely head, the moss whistles in the wind, the fox peeps out of his window, and the rank grass of the wall waves around his head." Such would be the effusion of a heart, overwhelmed with disappointment at a dereliction of patriotism.—But, sir, amidst all this decay of republican feeling, and republican virtue in Massachusetts, I think I can discover some glimmering hope, that you will be brought back to revolutionary principles. Should we obtain PEACE, your opposition would be hopeless; if not, you would find it necessary to unite against the power of G. Britain. Sir, we shall not be slaves. The sun of Patriotism will rise, with healing in his wings and majesty in his beams, dispel the mists which surround us, warm and reanimate your Country's friends, and scorch and consume the advocates of her foes.

NEW-YORK, June 17.

By the steam boat Paragon, which arrived yesterday from Albany, we learn that the new frigate MOWHAWK, was launched at Sackett's Harbor on Saturday last.

Extract of a letter dated on board the U. S. ship Madison,

SACKET'S HARBOR, June 11.

"The British fleet have left us, and gone to Kingston, where we shall return the visit I hope in a short time, in a manner they won't like. The SUPERIOR is now complete and ready for sea—she is one of the finest vessels I ever saw. This day our frigate of 54 guns will be launched. When she is ready we shall be complete, (to look for Sir James) which will not be long, as her rigging and guns are all here. By the 10th of July you may begin to look out for hard knocks from this quarter—Part of the crew of the frigate Congress have arrived here."

From the Correspondent of the Editor of the Columbian.

PROVIDENCE, June 14—Evening.

Sir—The Newport mail brings a letter from the post master, dated this morning, an extract from which follows:

"An express has just arrived from NBedford, bringing the melancholy news that the English sent in their barges to the town of Wareham (Mas.) yesterday, and burnt the whole town, about 60 houses, and all the manufactories to the ground.—the fleet could not get within 3 miles of the town. They attempted to get into New Bedford, but the wind blowing ahead, they proceeded to Wareham."

In a postscript, we are told—"Look out at Providence; the English have sent us word that all the towns in *this state*, near the water, shall be destroyed."

A gentleman belonging to Wareham informs us, that the village is situated about 16 miles from NBedford, 44 from this town, and 50 from Boston; and contains 30 houses; that about half a mile from the village are 10 or 15 elegant buildings, a large cotton manufactory, an iron factory, fulling and clothing mills, &c.; that within 2 miles, there are perhaps 20 farm houses—all of which it seems are destroyed, together with the shipping moored there, amounting to a large sum. This gentleman also states, that since the declaration of war, not a single inhabitant has engaged in the contest, although there are 50 hardy seamen among them

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NEW LONDON, June 8.

Since our last, the enemy have not troubled our coast. The shores and creeks of Long Island have been much infested of late by barges, and several small craft destroyed. The fishing smacks have been for some days past annoyed by the Liverpool Packet; and some were obliged to be redeemed, and others only plundered of small articles.

A small coaster which plies between this and R. Island, owned and commanded by Mr. Parker Clarke, was last Friday captured by the Nimrod, off Naraganset. She was loaded with lime only. A reasonable ransom being agreed upon, and one of his men taken on board the Nimrod as a pledge, capt Clarke was permitted to proceed.

Two or three British ships continue to appear daily off our harbor.

PROVIDENCE (R. I.) June 14.

FIRE!—Between 3 and 4 o'clock this morning, just as this paper was ready for the press, the alarm of fire was given. It proved to be in the elegant Church belonging to the Benevolent Congregational Society, which was entirely consumed. It is supposed to be the diabolical work of an incendiary. The devouring element prevailed, in defiance of the animated exertions of the citizens, and that building, late an ornament of the town, exhibited an awfully sublime spectacle, enveloped in smoke, and wrapt in flames. The fall of the bell was accompanied by one deep and solemn knell, which "*passed heavy o'er the heart.*" A part only of the superb organ was preserved.

We are sorry to add, that the Rev. Mr. EDES, the worthy pastor, was injured—we hope not materially—by the fall of one of the timbers. We have not time for further particulars.

WASHINGTON, June 20,

THE ENEMY AGAIN.

About 3 o'clock yesterday morning an express reached this city from the Patuxent bringing authentic intelligence that the enemy were again ascending that river, in twelve or fifteen