many erroneous reports, which are circulating.

I arrived at Washington on Sunday the 21st inst. At that time the officers of government and the citizens were very apprehensive of an attack from the British, who had landed a force on the Patuxent. Their numbers had not been ascertained, but reports were various, stating them from 4000 to 16,000. Gen. *Winder* was stationed near the Wood-Yard, with about 2000 men, hourly expecting large reinforcements from every quarter, particularly from Baltimore, 3000 men having been ordered to march immediately from that place. On Sunday, the public offices were all engaged in packing and sending off their books and the citizens their furniture. On Monday, this business was continued with great industry, and many families left the city. The specie was removed from all the Banks in the District. Reports were very current, that Winder had received large reinforcements; so that it was believed by many well-informed persons, that he would have 10,000 men embodied in the course of the week. In the expectation that there was a very considerable force collected, the President, accompanied by the Secretary at War, and of the Navy, left the City for the camp. They arrived there late that night; and the next morning finding but 3000 men, and learning that the Baltimore troops were encamped at Bladensburg, they returned to the city on Tuesday to make further arrangements.—All the books and papers were sent off, and the citizens generally left the place.

In the course of that day a scouting party from General Winder's army had a skirmish with the British advance guards, and returned to camp with such tidings as induced Gen. Winder to retire to the city, with his army, which he accomplished by 9 o'clock in the evening, burnt the old bridge which crossed the Potomac, and encamped on the hill, directly above the other bridge about one mile and an half from the Navy-Yard, and prepared to defend that passage. In the event of the British being too strong, the bridge was to be blown up, for which he had every thing prepared. At this post he remained the whole night, expecting the enemy's forces. On Wednesday morning, I walked through the army, and remained at the bridge until 10 o'clock when advice was received, that the enemy had taken the Bladensburg road. The troops were immediately put in motion, and by 12 o'clock the whole were on their march, in the hope of forming a junction with the Baltimore troops, before the enemy reached Bladensburg. This was only partially accomplished, when the battle commenced, and was contested by the Baltimore troops & the men from the flotilla, with great spirit and gallantry, until it appeared useless for so small a force, very badly supported to stand against *six thousand regulars, all picked men and well supplied*—a retreat was ordered, when the President, who had been on horseback with the army the whole day, retired from the mortifying scene, and left the city on horse-back, accompanied by General Mason and Mr. Carroll. At Georgetown, the President met his lady, she having left the city only a half hour before him, having remained with great firmness and composure at the President's house, until a messenger brought her the tidings, that the British were within a few miles of the city, and that our army were retreating without any chance of being rallied, so as to check their march.

The President and Secretary of State went to Virginia, with their families—*the other officers of government went to Fredericktown, where the government is to be formed, and where the President intends to meet his Secretaries next week.* I remained at the President's house, until all our army had passed, and ninety-nine hundredths of the citizens gone, leaving nothing but empty walls. I fell into the trail of the army, and marched about four miles on the Frederick road. Being much fatigued, I turned off into a wood, and found good quarters in a farm house, on the hill back of Pearce's. Soon after reaching there, at 9 o'clock on Wednesday evening, a signal gun was discharged, and the President's house, the capitol and many other public buildings were at the same moment, in a blaze, which continued nearly all night.

On Thursday morning, I proceeded on with the army, to Montgomery Court House, where Gen. Winder's head quarters were established. I had some conversation with him. He appeared to regret very much, that he had not been enabled to have made a greater resistance, although he was perfectly satisfied, that a successful resistance could not have been made, with the force in the neighbourhood of Washington, since, if had all been brought together before the action, it would not have been so large as that opposed to him; and our force was principally militia, and that of the enemy, all regulars and picked men.

The uncertainty, on which road the enemy intended to attack the city compelled him to keep his forces divided, and their being divided, occasioned frequent marches and countermarches, which at this hot season was quite too much for our militia, *particularly as the Quarter-Master's department was either shamefully neglected, or the officers unable to procure supplies*;—For it is a fact, that our men suffered severely, not only for accommodations, but for bread and meat; and after retreating to the Court-House at Montgomery, they could not get quarters nor provisions, *not even a tent to cover them, from the rain.*

It is to be hoped, that the officers of the army, in every part of the United States, will take warning from this sad lesson, and provide an abundance of provisions and of tents, for it is impossible for men to fight, if they are not well fed; and if they are not sheltered from the rains and the fogs, when they sleep. Our army may with truth be said, to have been beaten by fatigue, before they saw the enemy. It is indeed a very bad plan to march troops far in the hot sun, the day on which they are to fight; and it is still worse not to have them well supplied with provisions especially bread, which can so easily be baked hard, and each man furnished with a competency for several days. And as all armies are liable to be defeated, provision should be made for such a state of things; and the requisite deposits made at the proper places for the army to retire to; as when they do retire, it is to be presumed, that when they are so much fatigued and many of them wounded, and after having lost a great portion of their baggage and provisions—at such a time, they require immediate food and repose, more than at any other. Consequently more pains should be taken to provide quarters, and make seasonable deposits of provisions.

Account of the Battle at Bladensburg.

[We have received the following circumstantial account from an officer who was in the engagement.]

On Sunday the troops marched from Baltimore, and halted for the night at Elk Ridge Landing—at about 11 o'clock on Monday morning, an express arrived from Gen. *Winder*, ordering them to proceed on their march, the enemy having advanced towards Washington—they encamped for that night at the Half-way House, and on Tuesday proceeded on their march and encamped at Bladensburg, where Gen. *Stansbury* was also stationed, on the right of the upper road, leading from Marlboro'. Col. *Sterett's* command, (with the exception of Capt. *Magruder's* artillery, who were detached to *Stansbury's* encampment) being posted on the left of the same road.

On Tuesday night the pickets of Gen. Stansbury's command fired upon some suspicious men who refused to answer when challenged—the camp was alarmed and the whole force was drawn up to receive the enemy who were supposed to be advancing. I ought to have stated, that Gen Winder was in the early part of Tuesday stationed with his division considerably to the right of Stansbury's, on the lower road from Marlborough to Washington, which crosses the Bridge over the Eastern Branch, and that Stansbry's position was intended to cover Winder.

Soon after the alarm before alluded to, information was received that the British army had advanced against Winder on Tuesday, and forced him to fall back; that he had crossed the bridge, destroyed it, and reached Washington. This left General Stansbury in a perilous situation, as the enemy might advance by the river road and get in his rear, at Bladensburg, where that road fell into the main one, leading through Bladensburg to Washington.—Orders were immediately given to fall back on Washington, and after proceeding some miles and discovering the bridge in flames, an order was received from Winder for Stansbury to fall back on Bladensburg, and draw up in line of battle—that he would support him, when the attack commenced. They accordingly fell back, and formed as directed.

The Baltimore artillery, consisting of captains *Magruder* and *Myers'* companies, behind a small breast work which commanded the bridge, the riflemen on the flanks of the battery, and the infantry in the rear. The battery was directed to defend the bridge to the last extremity and to retreat if the enemy should succeed in passing it.—The infantry were directed to support the artillery. About 15 or 20 minutes before the enemy came in sight, Gen. Beall with 1000 men, and Gen. Winder with his command, came upon the ground—the army gave three cheers and the enemy advanced upon the bridge, from the river road.

The Baltimore Artillery immediately commenced firing in an able and gallant manner, and from the confusion evidently produced, and several being observed to fall, much execution is supposed to have been done. In about five minutes, the enemy who had concealed themselves in the houses at the bridge, let fly their rockets, which, however were not regarded, as they did little or no damage. The houses were then fired on by the artillery, and the rockets ceased for a time.

The enemy finding the houses were no protection, advanced fearlessly to the bridge, and although incessantly fired on, proceeded at a quick pace. A round or two of grape were then directed at them, and the artillery who were becoming very exposed to the flanking parties, retired in good order thro' the 5th Regt. M. M. and formed behind them, having lost a piece, (which was spiked) in consequence of the horses having run off with the limber.

The enemy then advanced, disregarding the fire of the Riflemen and Infantry, and came upon the 5th Regt. who after giving and receiving, in a most gallant manner, several fires, were compelled to fall back, and retire. The Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry then fled in every direction, some through Washington, and others thro' Montgomery Court-House.

Commodore BARNEY still continued, as we understand, bravely to defend himself, and after a most heroic resistance in which much slaughter was made, he was wounded and taken prisoner.—We understand that not more than half the British force was engaged in the Battle. The enemy proceeded to Washington, and you know the rest.

SOME FURTHER PARTICULARS.

The editors of the Baltimore Patriot have just conversed with an intelligent gentlemen, who has been at Washington from Monday until yesterday. He states that all public buildings in Washington are *destroyed by the enemy*, except the *General Post Office*, which was preserved by mistake, the *sign having been taken down.* The Navy Yard was destroyed by our troops. Ad. *Cockburn* said he was glad of it, as it saved him the trouble.

The troops that marched to Washington, amounted to 6,000, commanded by major general *Ross*—whose horse was shot under him by persons in Mr. *Gallatin's* house. The general then *caused the house to be immediately burnt.*

The soldiers were posted outside the city, and when they set fire to the buildings, small parties of them were marched in to perform the service. The soldiers are of all nations, and "*the most hellish-looking fellows, that ever trod God's earth,*" in the words of our informant.

After the public buildings were destroyed, *Cockburn* mounted a small grey horse, and rode about the city. He met our informant, and asked him for the *Printing Office of Mr. Gales*—said he must destroy it, as his friend Gales *had told tough stories about him.* Our informant said he was a stranger in the city, and did not know the office. Two citizens coming up, he enquired of them for the office. They equivocated—he said, show me the office, or I will seize you. The office was then pointed out to him. He ordered it to be burnt. Some ladies come out to intercede, who lived near the spot, as their houses must likewise fall. He then countermanded the order, and sent a large file of soldiers to strip the office, which they did, and carried off the presses and types.

Our informant further states, that when he left Washington, the enemy were retiring, and it was supposed, they would re-embark for some other place. *He was confident they would not advance to the attack of Baltimore by the way of Washington.*

The Marine Artillery, from Philadelphia, arrived at New Castle last evening. This corps, consisting of sea captains, take charge of the flotilla in the absence of commodore Rodgers.—*Del. Gaz.* 25.

Gen. WINDER arrived here on Saturday morning.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER, DATED

Washington City, August 27.

"I am almost fatigued to death since Sunday last. I slept little, eat little, and marched till my feet are all blistered, and after the whole we are completely disgraced. The enemy took possession of the city, burned the Capitol, the President's House, Treasury, and War Offices, and some private houses—but to give the Devil his due, his conduct here was as orderly as could have been expected. The little conflict which took place on Wednesday last at Bladensburg, afforded the gallant Baltimoreans an opportunity of distinguishing themselves. They fought bravely and made havoc among the British—the fact is, little was done except by them and Com. Barney's Flotilla men. I do not say that thousands who were present, who never fired a shot during the action, would not have behaved as well as they did, but for some reason a retreat was ordered, and although three fourths of our forces were eager to fight, they were never permitted to make a stand, but marched to the high grounds about three miles from Georgetown, where they encamped for the night—next morning they marched to Montgomery Court House; yesterday they marched towards Baltimore, which place they will arrive to-night or to-morrow. I was neither wounded nor had a chance to kill or wound one of the enemy; the first order given to our regiment was to retreat, though in my opinion we were well posted and willing to do our duty.

About 400 of the British came in that evening and commenced the work of destruction, and proceeded to it in the most orderly manner; none of the public stores or vessels were taken by them—they were destroyed on their arrival. Yesterday the enemy marched rapidly from this place to their vessels in the Patuxent; it is supposed they did not wait to bury their dead or take off their wounded. The British were commanded by General Ross, and assisted by Admiral Cockburn; their force is stated variously from 3 to 9000.

If the British visit Baltimore I have no doubt you will receive them in American style—we are disgraced."

Dedicated to the Citizens of Baltimore

MILITARY ANECDOTE.

In the year 1687, when Austria, Poland, and Venice, united in a formidable confederacy against the Turks, the Polish General entering Moldavia, laid siege to the fortress of Nemez. This important place, which had been abandoned by all the inhabitants (by order of the Governor, and bad calculation of ignorant officers) was garrisoned only by 19 Moldavian chasseurs, whom accident had brought thither. These brave men raised the draw-bridges, shut the gates, and refused to surrender. The Polanders, ignorant of the weakness of the garrison, connonaded the place for four days successively. The chasseurs defended themselves courageously, and killed a great number of the besiegers, among whom was the Master of Artillery. On the fifth day, having lost ten of their number, this little garrison demanded to capitulate.—An honorable capitulation was immediately granted, with liberty to retire wherever they pleased. As soon as the articles were signed, what was the astonishment of the besieging army, in beholding six men, who supported on their shoulders three others that were wounded. At this instant, all the sentiments of admiration, of shame, and of indignation, were successively uppermost in the bosom of the Polish General. For some moments he remained thunderstruck. The dictates of honor, however, at length prevailed; and, strictly adhering to the capitulation, he dismissed the brave besieged, with every mark of military applause.

SIR JOHN NARBOROUGH.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 27.

FOURTH MILITARY DISTRICT.

Head Quarters, Philadelphia, Aug. 26, 1814.

GENERAL ORDER.

The Militia of the City of Philadelphia, who have volunteered their services, and the Militia who have been drafted, detailed and organized under the requisition of the President of the U. States, of the fourth of July last, and general orders of the commander in chief of Pennsylvania, of the twenty second of the same month, will parade this Morning at 10 o'clock, in Sixth street, right on Chesnut street, equipped completely for the field.

By order of General Bloomfield.

WILLIAM DUANE, Adjt. Gen.

FOURTH MILITARY DISTRICT.

Head Quarters, Phila. Aug. 26, 1814.

AFTER ORDERS.

The captains will proceed with their companies with all possible expedition to Kennet's Square, Chester county, where they will encamp and be mustered.

The contractor will supply provisions on the returns of the commanding officers of companies, until further orders.

The quarter master general will furnish transportation.

By order of General Bloomfield,

WILLIAM DUANE, Adt. Gen.

AMERICAN MARINE LIST.

Newport, August 20. Five enemy's ships and two brigs, were at anchor off New London, about 4 miles from the shore, on Thursday morning; and at sunset, one of the ships and a brig got under way and proceeded for Block-Island.—One of the ships off New London is a three decker.

Nine Vineyard open boats, with flour, ar. here on Thursday from New York; they left Stonington on Wednesday evening, at which time no enemy's vessels were off there.

No enemy's vessels have been in sight from this town from Saturday to Wednesday last.—On Thursday afternoon a frigate came in sight from the eastward, and proceeded for Long Island sound.—No enemy's vessels were in sight yesterday.

Boston, Aug. 24. Arrived, schooner John Barnard, Swanton, 30 hours from Bath, Me. Saw no armed vessels.

A topsail schr. Oakes, master, with wood and bark, bound to Boston, was captured off Squam, on Saturday last, by a 74, the Spencer in co. which she offered to ransom for $800. The captain went ashore and returned, unable to procure the ransom money, when he was again sent ashore, and ordered to get what money he could. In the afternoon some fishmen went into Squam stated, that they saw a top-sail schr on fire, supposed to be the one mentioned above. The same afternoon, the Spencer fired a number of shot upon Squam; one struck the chimney of a small house and knocked it over, but did no other damage.

It is now stated that the Adams landed her prisoners at Camden on Thursday last, instead of Castine, and on the next day proceeded up the bay to Belfast. On Wednesday night it being very dark she struck on the Isle of Holt ledge, and was near being lost. A hole was beaten through her bottom, so that she made 5 feet of water per hour. She lost her anchors, and sent on shore to get refurnished at Camden.

Philadelphia, 26. The sloop Judith, bd. from Egg Harbour to Philadelphia, was captured on Sunday last by a British man of war brig, about 20 miles north of Cape May. The same brig took a schooner the next day, and sent them off.

GIG FOR SALE.

An elegant new fashionable GIG, with Harness compleat, all strong and well made—the price $450 cash. Enquire of the printers.

aug 26 d4t

American Artillerists!

The members of this company who were in the late engagement at Bladensburg and have returned to Baltimore, are ordered forthwith to report themselves to me at my quarters, No. 53, South Charles street.

Those who are wounded, if any, will notify me of it through some of their friends.

RD B. MAGRUDER, Capt.

aug 26 d4t

SHARP SHOOTERS

Attend.

Such members of the First Baltimore Sharp Shooters as have arrived in town, will report themselves to me at my quarters immediately, No. 11. Pitt st. O. T.

ED. AISQUITH, *Captain.*

August 26

SALE BY AUCTION.

ON TUESDAY,

The 30th inst. at Swan street, Horse Market, at 11 o'clock,

75 head of horned Cattle,

AND

150 *HEAD OF SHEEP.*

The Stock is likely and in good order, and fit for the Butcher or Farmer.

C. R. GREEN, Auct.

aug 29 G d2t

A HORSE,

Calculated for Saddle or Harness, will be sold at the Horse Market, at 11 o'clock on Wednesday next.

aug 29 3t

A MUSKET.

Some one of the troops returning to Baltimore at about twelve o'clock, on Friday last, took by mistake, at Peck's Tavern, a French Musket, the name of the subscriber is written on the breech, which can be descried upon close examination, and left in its place a Musket manufactured at Harper's Ferry—A re-exchange is requested, for which if required, Five Dollars will be paid.

JAMES PURVIANCE.

aug 29 d3t

EDUCATION.

The subscriber has this day recommenced the instruction of youth of both sexes, at his school room in Sharp near Market-st. where he teaches with accuracy Reading, Writing, English Grammar, Arithmetic, the various branches of the Mathematics and Geography, with the use of the Globes, &c. &c.

N. B. Night school to commence on Monday evening, September 26th.

WM. KESLEY.

aug 29 1aw8t

Washington Blues,

You must be punctual in your attendance at parade This Evening, at 4 o'clock. You will then report to me the names of any respectable young men who desire to join the company; if approved, they shall be admitted.

G. R. STEUART, Capt.

aug 29 1t

REGIMENTAL ORDER.

Members (not having furloughs) attached to the corps under the command of Capts. Myers and Magruder, will forthwith report themselves to their respective captains, at Gen. Winder's encampment. Vigorous measures will be adopted against all delinquents.

By order of the Lieut. Col.

U. S. HEATH, Adj't. 1st A. regt. 3d Brigade, M. M

aug 24 d4t

BATTALION ORDER.

All Riflemen belonging to the First Baltimore Rifle Battalion, are ordered to report themselves to their Captains, who will immediately organize and equip for service their respective Companies. By order,

WILLIAM PINKNEY, Jr.

aug 27 d4t

Sale by Auction—Postponed.

The sale of the Valuable Estate of the late James Clarke, as advertised by C. Dugan and P. Bentalou, Esqs. Ex'rs. for the 29th inst. is POSTPONED until further notice.

WM. VANCE & CO. Aucts.

aug 27 d4t

FOR SALE,

A handsome light COACHEE, finished of the best materials, and warranted good.

ALSO—A plain finished GIG.

Do second hand do.

DANL. STEEVER, Coachmaker.

aug 27 d4t

United Hose & Suction Engine Company.

It is respectfully requested that during the present alarming times such citizens who are exempt from military duty, and whose residence renders it convenient, will immediately on the cry of fire repair to the engine house of the above company, and render their assistance. This request becomes the more necessary, as the members generally are engaged in military duty. Such as desire it will be furnished with badges on application to Henry Shomberg, No. 29, South Liberty street, or

JOHN WERDEBAUGH, Sec'y.

No. 19, North Howard street.

aug 26 d4t

Fell's Point Riflemen.

The members of this company who were in the late engagement at Bladensburg, and have returned to Baltimore, are ordered forthwith to report themselves to me at my quarters, No. 35 Fell's-street, Fell's Point.

Those who are wounded, if any returned, will notify me of it thro' some of their friends.

PETER FOY, Lieut. Com.

aug 27 d4t

A Substitute Wanted,

To perform a tour of duty. Apply at this office.

aug 26 d4t