AMERICAN
AND
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BALTIMORE: *MONDAY, Dec.* 12.

REPORT

Of the Committee appointed on the twenty-third of September last to enquire into the Causes and Particulars of the Invasion of the City of Washington, by the British forces, in the month of August, 1814.

NOV. 29—Read and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday, the 19th of December next.

[*Continued.*]

Captain Caldwell joined the advance corps at 2 o'clock P. M. An express brought intelligence that the enemy had left Upper Marlboro that our advance had met the enemy about six miles in advance of our forces, and after a skirmish, in which capt. Stull's company had about 4 or 5 rounds, was compelled to retreat, and that the enemy was advancing. One of the aids of gen. Smith was despatched for gen. Winder: the whole army was placed in a favorable attitude of defence, in which position it continued until about *sun-set*, when gen. Winder, who had arrived some time previous, ordered the army to march to the city of Washington. The enemy was about three miles distant, and remained there that night. Having remained till the going down of the sun, the retreat to the city was induced by several considerations, stated by the commanding general. 1st. To effect a union of his whole forces. 2d. The fear of a night attack, from the superiority of the enemy, and want of discipline in his troops. And, 3d. In a night attack his superiority in artillery could not be used. The march of our army to the city was extremely rapid and precipitate, and orders occasionally given to captains of companies to hurry on the men, who were extremely fatigued and exhausted before the camping ground was reached, near the Eastern-branch bridge, within the district of Columbia.

Gen. Stansbury had arrived at Bladensburg on the 22d, and the 5th Baltimore regiment, including the artillery and rifle corps, on the evening of the 23d; and at 12 o'clock at night, colonel Monroe, in passing through Bladensburg to the city of Washington, advised general Stansbury to fall upon the rear of the enemy forthwith; as it was understood that he was in motion for the city. Gen. Stansbury having been ordered to take post at Bladensburg, did not think he was at liberty to leave it; but independent of this consideration, the fatigue of the troops under col. Sterret, made it impracticable.

It is here proper to state; that on the 22d, the secretary of war in a letter to gen. Winder, which closes their written communications previous to the 24th, except a short note of that morning, states that he had ordered gen. Douglass to march with his command to the district without seeking a rendezvous with gen. Hungerford; that a detachment of the 12th infantry had arrived; that it should be armed, equipped, and marched to the Wood-yard; that the Baltimore brigade would arrive at Bladensburg that day; and suggests the propriety of throwing Barney's seamen and some other troops on the right of Nottingham, a demonstration which would menace the rear of the enemy, and his communication with his shipping, which would, if not stop, much retard his progress. On the morning of the 24th, in a short note to the secretary of war, gen. Winder says, the information up the river is threatening; Barney or some other force should occupy the batteries at Greenleaf's point and Navy Yard, and wishes council from the government or the secretary of war. Upon this note there is an indorsemen in the hand writing of gen. Armstrong to this effect "went to gen. Winder, saw no necessity for ordering Barney to Greenleaf's point or Navy Yard, advised the commodore to join the army at Bladensburg, and ordered Minor's regiment to that place."

On the 21st, late at night, col. Tayloe arrived in the city from the Northern Neck, where he had been charged with orders in relation to the Virginia drafts, and reported himself to gen Armstrong, who issued the following general order:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Aug. 22, 1814.
12 o'clock.

"*General Order.*

"Gen. Douglass will assemble his brigade at Alexandria, and hold it there subject to orders. "*JOHN ARMSTRONG.*"

Col. Tayloe executed this order, and Tuesday night, the 23d, again reported himself to gen. Armstrong, who issued the following orders:

"*War Department,*

"GENERAL ORDER,

"Lieut. Col. Minor will repair to Washington with the regiment under his command with the utmost despatch; he will report on his arrival to Col Carberry of the 36th regt. and make a requisition for arms and ammunition."

(Signed) "JOHN ARMSTRONG."

"*War Department, Aug.* 23, 1814.

"GENERAL ORDER,

"All the militia now in and marching to Alexandria, besides colonel Minor, will march immediately to Washington: these orders will be communicated by colonel Tayloe."

"JOHN ARMSTRONG."

On the 18th of August general Van Ness ordered gen. Young to call out, en masse, the brigade under his command, including the Alexandria militia; the same day two troops of cavalry attached to the brigade were ordered to rendezvous at Bladensburg; on the 19th at four o'clock in the morning, to accompany colonel Monroe, secretary of state, and to be subject to his order. On the 20th, in the afternoon, gen. Young's brigade was ordered by Gen. Winder to cross the Potomac, opposite Alexandria, and encamp in the best position and wait further orders, which was effected. The brigade consisting of 454 men, two brass six pounders, and one brass four pounder. On the 22d, early, general Young, by order of general Winder, marched his brigade and took a position on a height near the head of Piscataway creek, about 3 miles in the rear of fort Washington, where the ground was favorable for a small detachment to defend the country against a much greater force, and remained in this position until the morning of the 24th, when several orders were given to him; first to march towards the Eastern Branch bridge; second, to cross the Potomac to the Virginia side, &c. This brigade was intended in its disposisions to aid fort Washington, the town of Alexandria, and to be in a situation to join General Winder.

On the morning of the 24th, Gen. Winder established his head quarters near the Eastern Branch bridge; detachments of horse were out in various directions as videttes and reconnoitring parties, and arrangements made to destroy the Eastern Branch bridge. Col. George Minor with his regiment of Virginia militia, composed of 600 infantry and 100 cavalry, arrived at the city of Washington in the twilight of the evening of the 23d; he called on the President who referred him to the secretary of war for orders; the secretary informed him that arms could not be had that night, but gave orders to report himself to Col. Carberry early in the morning, who would furnish him with arms and ammunition, as he was charged with that duty by gen. Winder. From early in the morning till late in the forenoon, col. Minor sought colonel Carberry diligently, but he could not be found. He rode to head-quarters and obtained an order from general Winder upon the arsenal for arms, &c. marched to the place with his regiment, and its care he found committed to a young man whose caution in giving out arms, &c. very much delayed the arming and supplying this regiment. An instance is here given when the flints were counted out by the officers of the regiment, to expedite business at this crisis, the young man would count them over before they could be obtained.

Col. Carberry arrived at this moment apologized for his absence, and informed col. Minor, that he had the evening previous ridden out to his country seat. Col. Minor was again delayed some small length of time in having to remain to sign receipts, &c. His men were ordered to capitol hill. In the mean time various reports were brought into head-quarters as to the movements and in intention of the enemy; the president and heads of departments collected at head-quarters, in the following order: The president, next secretary of state, next the attorney general, next the secretary of the navy, and last the secretary of war and treasury together. Col. Monroe had left head-quarters upon a rumor that gained ground, that the enemy was marching upon the city by way of Bladensburg, with a view of joining general Stansbury, advising him of the rumour and to aid him in the formation of a line of battle to meet the enemy. Gen. S. for reasons given in his report, had marched from his position in advance of Bladensburg, and occupied the ground west of that village on the banks of the Eastern Branch. Here the front line of battle was formed by general Stansbury and his officers, with the aid of col. Monroe, on the presumption that gen. Stansbury's brigade, and the command of col. Sterret, including the command of major Pinckney and Baltimore artillery.

There is a bridge over the Eastern branch at Bladensburg, and a large turnpike road leading direct to the city of Washington. About 400 yards from this bridge, some small distance to the left of the road, the Baltimore artillery six pieces of six pounders, occupied a temporary breast work of earth, well calculated to command the pass over the bridge. Part of the battalion of riflemen, under major Wm. Pinckney, and one other company, took position on the right of the artillery, partially protected by a fence and brush; and on the left of the battery, leading to the rear of a barn, two companies from the regiment under colonel Shutz, and the other part of the riflemen from Baltimore. Col. Ragan was posted in the rear of major Pinkney, his right resting on the road; col. Shutz continuing the line on the left, with a small vacancy in the centre of the two regiments, and col. Sterret formed the extreme left flank of the infantry. At this moment Colonels Beall and Hood entered Bladensburg, with the Maryland militia from Annapolis, crossed the bridge, and took a position on a most commanding height, on the right of the turnpike, about 300 yards from the road, to secure the right flank. In the mean time, (about 11 o'clock) certain intelligence was received at head quarters, that the enemy was in full march towards Bladensburg; which induced gen. Winder to put in motion his whole force, except a few men and a piece of artillery left at the Eastern-branch bridge to destoy it. The day was hot, and the road dusty the march was rapid to Bladensburg. The cavalry and mounted men arrived, and were placed on the left flank, and some small distance in its rear. General Winder now arrived and told Gen. Stansbury and col. Monroe, that his whole force was marching for Bladensburg, and approved the dispositions which had been made of the troops; at which moment, it had become impracticable, in the opinion of the officers, to make any essential change: for the two armies were now coming to the battle ground in opposite directions; and the enemy appeared on the opposite heights of Bladensburg, about a mile distant, and halted 15 or 20 minutes. This was about 12 o'clock.—The troops from the city were disposed of as they arrived. Capt. Burch, with 3 pieces of artillery, was stationed on the extreme left of the infantry of the first line; and a rifle company, armed with muskets near the battery, to support it. About this time the secretary of war arrived, and in a few minutes after, the president and attorney general, and proceeded to examine the disposition of the troops. In the mean time, as the enemy advanced into Bladensburg, the officers were forming rapidly the second line. The command of commodore Barney came up in a trot; and formed his mun on the right of the main road, in a line with the command under colonels Beal and Hood, with a considerable vacancy, owing to the ground.—The heavy artillery commodore Barry planted in the road; the three 12 pounders to the right, under capt Miller, who commanded the flotilla men and marines, as infantry, to support the artillery. Lieut. col. Kramer, with a battallion of Maryland militia, was posted in a wood, in advance of the marines and colonels Beall and Hood's command. The regiment under command of col. Magruder, was stationed on the left of com. Barney, and in a line with him and col. Beall. The regiment under command of col. Brent, and major Warrings battalion, and some other small detachments, formed the left flank of this second line, and in the rear of major Peter's battery; and Lieut col. Scott, with the regulars, was placed in advance of col. Magruder, and on the left, forming a line towards major Peter's battery; but in such a manner as not to mask it; other small detachments in various directions.

About half after 12 o'clock while the second line was thus forming, the enemy approached and the battle commenced: the Baltimore artillery opened a fire and dispersed the enemy's light troops now advancing along the street of the village, who took a temporary cover behind the houses and trees, in loose order, and presented objects only occationally for the fire of the cannon. The enemy commenced throwing his rockets, and his light troops began to concentrate near the bridge, and to press acoss it and the river which was fordable above. The battalion of riflemen, under major Pinkney, now united gallantly with the fire from the battery. For some minutes the fire was continued with considerable effect; the enemy's column was not only dispersed while in the street, but while approaching the bridge they were thrown into confusion, and the British officers were seen exerting themselves to press the soldiers on. Having now gained the bridge, it was passed rapidly, and as the enemy crossed, flanked, from the line and advanced steadily on, which compelled the artillery and battalion of riflemen to give away, after which major Pinkney was severely wounded. He exerted himself to rally his men, and succeeded at a small distance in the rear of his first position, and united with the fifth Baltimore regiment.

It appears from reports of several officers, Stansbury, Pinkney, Law, Sterret, &c. that the command of general Stansbury was 3 or 400 yards in the rear of the battery, and major Pinkney's riflemen and some other small corps to the left of the battery; of course this small party had to fight with the whole force of the enemy until they retired, and the enemy occupied the ground they left without any considerable resistance, as the enemy marched on without halting after the bridge was passed. Capt. Burch and col. Sterret were about the same distance, when col. Sterret was ordered to advance to support the first line. One of the pieces of artillery was abandoned, but spiked previously. The enemy soon took advantage of the trees of an orchard which was occupied or held by the force which had just retreated and kept up a galling fire on part of our line. Capt Burch's artillery and a small detachment near it now opened a cross fire upon the enemy. Col. Sterret, with the fifth Baltimore regiment, was ordered to advance, and made a prompt movement until ordered to halt, as at this moment the rockets assuming a more horizontal direction and passing near the heads of colonels Schutz and Ragan's regiments, the right gave way which was followed in a few minutes by a general flight of the two regiments, in defiance of all the exertions of generals Winder, Stansbury and other officers. Burch's artillery and the 5th regiments remained with firmness: the orchard obstructed their fire; but notwithstanding, the enemy's light troops were, for a moment, driven back by them; the enemy having gained the right flank of the fifth, which exposed it. Burch's artillery and col. Sterret, who commanded the fifth, were ordered by general Winder to retreat, with a view of forming at a small distance in the rear; but instead of retiring in order, the fifth, like the other two regiments under general Stansbury, in a very few minutes were retreating in disorder and confusion, notwithstanding the exertions of col. Sterret to prevent it. From reports of various officers exertions were made to rally the men and to bring them again to the battle, which partly succeeded in the first instance, but ultimately, and in a short time, all attemps were in vain, and the forces routed; and the first line, together with the horse, were totally routed and retreated in a road which forked in three directions; one branch led by Rock Creek Church, to Tenley Town and Montgomery court house; another led to George Town, and a third to the city of Washington. It does not appear that any movement was made or attempted by the cavalry or horsemen, although the enemy to the left were in open and scattered order, as they pursued or pressed upon our lines, and a most fortunate moment presented itself for a charge of cavalry and horsemen.

It may be proper here to observe, that general Winder states his exertions to direct the retreating line to the capitol, with a view of rallying. This intention is corroborated by col. Sterret; but it appears as if this determination was not generally understood by the officers or men. Colonel Kramer, posted on the right of the road and in advance of commodore Barney, was next drawn from his position after having maintained his ground with considerable injury to the enemy, and retreated upon the command of colonels Beall and Hood, on a commanding eminence to the right. After the retreat of the militia under colonel Kramer from his first position, the enemy's column in the road was exposed to an animated discharge from major Peter's artillery, which continued until they came into cantact with commodore Barney: here the enemy met the greatest resistance and sustained the greatest loss, advancing upon our retreating line. When the enemy came in full view, and in a heavy column in the main road, commodore Barney ordered an 18 pounder to be opened upon them, which completely cleared the road, scattered and repulsed the enemy for a moment. In several attempts to rally and advance the enemy was repulsed, which induced him to flank to the right of our lines in an open field. Here capt. Miller opened upon him with the three 12 pounders, and the flotilla men acting as infantry, with considerable effect. The enemy continued flanking to the right and pressed upon the command of colonels Beall and Hood, which gave way after three or four rounds of ineffectual fire, at a considerable distance from the enemy, while colonel Beall and other officers attempted to rally the men on this high position. The enemy very soon gained the flank and even the rear of the right of the second line. Commodore Barney, capt. Miller and some other officers of his command being wounded, his ammunition waggons having gone off in the disorder, and that which the marines and flotilla men had being exhausted; in this situation a retreat was ordered by commodore Barney, who fell himself into the hands of the enemy.

The second line was not exactly connected, but posted in advantageous positions in connection with and supporting each other. The command of general Smith, including the Georgetown and city milicia, still remained in order and firm without any part having given way, as well as the command of lieutenant col. Scott of the regulars, and some other corps. The enemy's light troops had in the mean time advanced on the left of the road, and had, gained a line parallel with Smiths command, and in endeavouring to turn the flank, colonel Brent was placed in a position calculated to prevent it; the enemy also advanced, and came within long-shot of part of col Magruder's command, which opened a partial fire, but without much effect; and at this moment and in this situation, general Winder ordered the whole of the troops then stationary, to retreat, which was effected with as much order as the nature of the ground and occasion would permit; these troops after retreating 5 or 600 paces, were halted and formed, but were again ordered to retreat by general Winder. General Winder then gave orders to collect and form the troops on the heights west of the turnpike gate, about one mile and a half from the capitol, which order was in part executed, and the forces formed by general Smith and the other officers, when colonel George Minor came up with his regiment of Virginia volunteers, and united his forces with general Smith's command having been detained, as before stated, in obtaining arms, ammunition, &c.; but, while in the act of forming, general Winder gave orders to retire to the capitol, with an expectation of being united with the troops of the first line. Col Minor was ordered to take a certain position and disposition, and cover the retreat of all the forces by remaining until all had marched for the capitol. The troops were again halted at the capitol while general Winder was in conference with col. Monroe and gen. Armstrong.

The first line and the cavalry, except one troop of col. Lavall's, had taken a route which did not bring them to the capitol; the most of them had proceeded north of the district of Columbia, and others dispersed and returned home, and sought refreshment in the country. The commanding general represented the diminution of his force, the dispersion of a large portion of it, the want of discipline, the great fatigue of the troops, and believed that it would be impossible to make effectual resistance to the invasion of the city; nor did he think it would be proper to attempt to defend the capitol, the troops being without provisions, and which would leave every other part of the city to the mercy of the enemy, and the prospect of losing his army. In this consultation the secretaries of state and war, it appears, concurred in their views with gen. Winder, and advised him to retire and rally the troops upon the heights of Georgetown; this produced an order for the whole forces to retreat from capitol hill through Georgetown. On receiving this order the troops evinced the deepest anguish, and that order which had been previously maintained was destroyed. General Smith in his report uses this language, "when the order for a retreat from capitol hill was received, the troops evinced an anguish beyond the power of language to express." The troops were halted at Tenley town, and an attempt was made to collect them together, which only partially succeeded. Some returned home, some went in pursuit of refreshments, and those that halted gave themselves up to the uncontrouled feelings which fatigue, exhaustion, privation and disappointment produced. The force thus collected were marched about 5 miles up the Potomac, and early in the morning, Thursday the 25th orders were given to assemble the troops at Montgomery court house. Gen. Winder seems to have taken this position with a view to collect his forces, and to interpose for the protection of Baltimore, in case the enemy marched upon it as was anticipated by him.—On the 23d general Winder despatched an order to the commanding officer at Fort Washington to place patroles on every road leading to the garrison; and upon the event of his being taken in the rear of the fort, to blow it up and retire across the river. On the 26th, the army at Montgomery took up the line of march about ten o'clock towards Baltimore: general Winder proceeded on to Baltimore. On the 27th, general Smith's brigade marched to this district.

The distance from Benedict to the city of Washington, by Bladensburgh, is upwards of fifty miles. The enemy was without baggage waggons or means of transportation—his troops much exhausted with fatigue, many compelled to quit the ranks, and extraordinary exertions used to keep others in motion: and as if unable to pursue our forces, remained on the battle ground; the enemy's advance reached the city about 8 o'clock in the evening, the battle having ended about 2 o'clock, or before.——The main body of the enemy remained on the heights west of the turnpike gate.

Doctor Catlett, the superintending surgeon, who was admitted to attend upon the wounded, and who passed through the enemy's camps and remained at Bladensburg until the city was evacuated, had the best opportunity of estimating the loss on both sides, as well as a good opportunity to ascertain the number and force of the enemy. His estimate is as follows:

Of the enemy.—On capitol hill 700; turnpike hill 2000; wounded at Bladensburg, 300; attendants, 300; wounded and attendants in the city of Washington, 60; killed at Bladensburg and the city, 180; total force, 3540. This statement is corroborated by all the information in his power, besides his own observations. Mr. Law estimated the enemy on its march, at 5000; but from the best information, his estimate would be about 4,500. Col. Monroe, who viewed the enemy on his march, estimated the number at about 6000. Gen Winder states that the best opinion at the Wood-yard, made the enemy from 5 to 7000. *Our forces*, are variously estimated; and indeed, from the manner of collecting them, and their dispersion, makes it difficult to ascertain the number with perfect accuracy. Gen. Stansbury represents col. Ragan's regiment at 550; col. Schutz's regiment at 800; colonels Beall's and Hood's at 800; col. Sterret's regiment at 500; major Pinckney's command, including two companies of artillery, 300; making 2953. But general Winder estimates colonel Beall, 6 or 700; deduct 100, this leaves 2853. To which add the command of general Smith, and militia that united with him at the Wood-yard, Battalion Old-fields, &c. the regulars under lieut. col. Scott. Barney's command, the cavalry, &c. 3200; making an aggregate number of 6053. Besides this force, several detachments are spoken of by general Winder's officers, not known, amounting to several hundred. But as a small detachment was left at the Eastern branch bridge, others, particularly some of the cavalry, were on detachment, reconnoitring, &c. the number of our forces may be estimated at least 6000, including about 20 pieces of artillery, 2 eighteen pounders, 3 twelves, and the balance six pounders. Our loss on the field of battle, killed, is estimated by the superintending surgeon, at 10 or 12, and the wounded, some of whom died, at about 30. General Winder's official report estimates our loss at about 30 killed and 50 wounded.

The probable estimate of British forces on the 25th August: Total, 4,500. Killed at Bladensburg and in the city, 150; wounded at both places, 300. American forces, 6000. Killed, 20; wounded, 40; besides the regiment under command of colonel Minor, 600 infantry and 100 horse, which met the retreat on the west of the turnpike gate; and gen. Young's brigade, about 500, which was ordered to remain on the banks of the Potomac, about 12 miles from the city of Washington, until the evening of the 24th, when he crossed over to Alexandria, and proceeded to Montgomery court house, to join the main army.

The enemy, on the evening of the 25th, made the greatest exertion to leave the city of Washington. They had about 40 indifferent looking horses, 10 or 12 carts and waggons, one ox cart, one coach, and several gigs; these were sent to Bladensburg to move off the wounded; a drove of 60 or 70 cattle preceded this party. Arriving at Bladensburg, the British surgeon was ordered to select the wounded who could walk; the 40 horses were mounted by those who could ride; the carts and waggons loaded, and upwards of 90 wounded left behind. About 12 o'clock at night the British army passed through Bladensburg; and parties continued until morning, and stragglers until after mid-day. The retreat of the enemy to his shipping was precipitate and apparently under an alarm, and it is supposed that it was known to him that our forces had marched to Montgomery court house.

The hon. Richard Rush, gen. Stansbury, major Wm. Pinckney, Dr Catlett, and Mr. Law, all remark, that gen. Winder was active and zealous, encouraged the men and exposed himself, and acted as a man of firmness during the engagement, and endeavored to rally, with other officers, the lines as they gave way.

There seems to be a general concurrence of statement, that our forces were much fatigued, and worn down with marching, counter-marching, and their strength much exhausted, during their service, by remaining under arms much of the night, as well as the day, by false alarms, and otherwise. Nor does it appear that it was generally known, among the officers and men of the first line, that the forces from the city were formed behind in the second line, to meet the enemy and support them. This statement is made by general Stansbury, major Wm. Pinkney, and some other officers of the first line.

[*To be Continued.*]

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9.

The bill from the House for laying additional duties on carriages and carriage harness, was, as amended in Senate, ordered to a third reading.

The bill making additional appropriations for the service of the year 1814, and the bill requiring the staff officers of the army to comply with the requisitions of marine and naval officers in certain cases, were ordered to be read a third time.

The engrossed bill to incorporate the Subscribers to the Bank of the U. States of America, was to read a third time. The question 'Shall the bill pass?" was decided by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs, Anderson, Bibb, Bledsoe, Brent, Chase, Condit, Lacock, Morrow, Roberts, Robinson, Smith, Tait, Taylor, Turner, Walker, Varnum, Wharton—17.

NAYS—Messrs. Brown, Daggett, Dana, Fromentin, Gaillard, German, Goldsborough, Gore, Dorsey, Hunter, King, Lambert, Mason, Thompson—14.

So the bill was passed and sent to the House for concurrence.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9.

Mr. *Eppes of Va.* from the committee of Ways and Means, reported according to order, a bill "to provide additional revenue for defraying the expences of the government and maintaining the public credit, by laying duties on various goods, wares and merchandize manufactured within the U. States'—which bill was twice read and committed.

Mr. *Eppes* also reported a bill 'to provide additional revenues for defraying the expences of the government and maintaining the public credit, by laying duties on household furniture, on horses kept exclusively for the saddle or carriage, and on gold and silver watches.'

Mr. *Chappell of S. C.* from the committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, made an unfavorable report on the petition of William Wilson; and favorable reports on the petitions of Joseph Merrill and John Troyer; which were all read and concurred in.

The bill from the Senate for the relief of John C Hurlburt, was twice read and committed.

MILITIA DRAFTS

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Pleasants in the chair, on the bill authorizing the President of the U. States to call into service 80,430 militia for the defence of the frontiers of the U. States.

The motion to strike out the first section being yet under consideration—

Mr. *Duval of Ky. Mr. Barnet of Geo. Mr. Ingersoll of Pa.* and Mr. *Rhea of Tenn.* at considerable length, opposed the motion, which was supported by Messrs. *Shipherd of N. Y.* and *Webster of N. H.* also in speeches of some extent.

After a short but animated speech of Mr. *Johnson* of Ky. in opposition to the motion—

The question on striking out the first section of the bill was decided in the negative, ayes 44.

And the committee rose and reported the bill to the house; who immediately adjourned.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 9.

Head-Quarters, 4th Military District, Philadelphia, Nov. 24, 1814.

GENERAL ORDERS.

The commanding general acknowledges with pleasure and with pride, the many flattering testimonials he has recently received from the generals and other officers of the different corps under his command, of their progressive improvement in discipline, and the ardent desire of all to meet the enemy.

But the enemy, with his boasted invincible force, is not to be found, or found only in a pitiful incendiary species of warefare and pillage, against unarmed men and helpless women and babes! If he should venture to appear in force at all this season, we shall have the pleasure to meet him in a few days; after which we may safely leave him to combat with the storms of winter: But, in the mean time, we must remember, that the *field of battle* is not the only place in which a true patriot and soldier can evince his bravery: This he may do in the ceaseless midnight watch, the endurance of cold and rain, the long and toilsome march, the privation of food and rest; and all borne not only without a murmer, but with a soul resolved to suffer—to proceed—to conquer, or to die. Thus may every man prove himself a hero, even if the enemy should not have the temerity to invade our beloved country.

The troops will hold themselves ready to march and ready for action.

(Signed) EDMUND P. GAINES,
Major General commanding.

CHS. J. NOURSE, *asst. adjt. gen. U. S. army.*