

The multiplication of small posts is productive of much evil in a military establishment—it is impossible that the separation during years from the rest of mankind, should be otherwise than fatal to the mental energies of any class of individuals. Without any resources of society or books, banished to a miserable stockade enclosure (adorned with the appellation of fort) on the western frontier, or at the mouth of one of the southern rivers, surrounded with swamps and their wild inhabitants, how melancholy is the destiny of an officer in the American army! Soured by his situation, prevented from social intercourse with the few men under his command by the punctilios of service, he becomes the petty tyrant of his dependants; he seeks to divert reflection by the bottle, his habits are brutified his health is impaired—he looks with gloomy impatience to promotion, by the death of a comrade, or sinks himself into the grave, a victim to inebriation, and the abandonment to which he is condemned!

The number of men provided for by law is about 3500; but they seldom or never amount to their complement. What the reason of this is, I leave to those who know it, to explain. Instead of dispersing this force in platoons, over the whole of the United States, without the possibility of their affording the smallest protection to any part of the country, against even the most contemptible enemy, reduce them nominally to 2000; the reduction will be only in idea, for it requires no degree of scepticism to doubt their being at present that number fit for service. Let these be encamped in a body during the summer on our western line, in winter let them take post and do garrison duty in detachments of never less than five hundred men. Let the money appropriated for the remaining fifteen hundred men, be employed in raising a battalion of native American youth, of an age between fifteen and twenty years; not recruited, as is the custom, from the most ignorant, vicious and disorderly classes of life, but from the hardy cultivators of the soil and the hunters of our back-countries. Let these be placed under the command of able officers, who shall teach them every duty of the soldier—let it be an indispensable requisite for the admission into the corps that they can write and read. Let this corps encamp in summer with the other troops and in winter occupy a separate post; let them be inspected annually by officers appointed specially for the purpose and who do not belong to the establishment; let the reports be handed in to the war-office and regularly filed. Let certain honorary rewards be conferred on those who distinguish themselves by application and activity; let them, when they shall have attained the necessary instruction, be detached on command to the other battalions, and during the summer exercise let them act in rotation as non-commissioned officers in those battalions. When they shall be sufficiently acquainted with all the subaltern duties, let them be allowed to go to their homes or settle in any part of the United States they please, on condition of returning to the battalion at the expiration of a given time or when summoned so to do. Let them be furnished with a suit of uniform yearly at the expense of the government, engaging to wear it on certain days and to return with it in good order, at the time appointed for their visit to the camp. Let a set of regulations be framed for their government, whose spirit shall be to inspire the young men with sentiments of pride and honor, and let them never be exposed to the debasement of corporal punishment, unless as a previous measure to expulsion from the corps. When on leave of absence let them have furloughs written on parchment of different colors, to each of which shall be attached an opinion of credit or disgrace.—Can it be doubted that by such an establishment will be procured a stock of active and well-informed non-commissioned officers, the sinews of an army? With respect to the other denominations of troops, horse, and foot artillery, cavalry, heavy and light, &c. the same regulations may be applied with various modifications; it will only be necessary to pay more attention to the scientific acquirements of the officers of the former, or rather this will be for them a school of practice after they have progressed to a certain point in their school of theory. And of what inappreciable advantage will it be to the country generally, by such simple means, to provide the militia, and any occasional new levies, with instructors, who shall thus unite the skill of the soldier with the independence of the citizen?

Of the corps of engineers I shall say nothing; it would be indecorous to propose alterations where perhaps defects do not exist; the works of its pupils will determine the success of the West Point academy in forming officers. Of a school of artillery I shall be pardoned for only declaring my opinion negatively. It should not be commanded by men unacquainted with the service in all its details, a good officer of artillery ought to be master of the mathematics and their connection with many branches of natural philosophy; but a man may be a good mathematician and natural philosopher, and at the same time be a most ignorant artilleryman; I deny the possibility of acquiring a knowledge of that profession from theory without practice. The jealousy of the different corps should not be sedulously excited; the duty of a chief in a military institution, is as much as possible to repress the conditions of the *esprit de corps*, and to turn its stream to an honest emulation; not to stimulate prejudices. The pupils should not be admitted without examination of their

previous acquirements—they should not be children unacquainted with the elements of mathematics, and introduced merely to draw the pay given by the government—they should not be allowed to withdraw from their course of studies at the whim of their parents, and thus be an useless expense to the country, and made the tools of paltry speculations or avarice. They should not be promoted to grades in the army, without a strict inquiry into the progress they have made in their professional studies. The examinations should not take place by any members of the institution, or under their control. They should not be permitted to degrade the noble profession of arms, to the vile duties of a lacquey, by converting soldiers into menial servants.

An excellent military institution would be a staff-corps, which should embrace the departments of the quarter-masters, paymasters, adjutants, wagon-masters, &c. Castrametation and field-fortification, might be the study of its members, who would thus furnish a numerous supply of highly useful officers.

Let us now, sir, resume the heads we have discussed and state the component parts of the proposed establishment. We shall have by the adoption of this plan, five schools, which will prepare for the service of the country military men of every grade, at the same time that they will do the duty, and answer all the purposes of the same number on the present footing of the army. The several corps of instruction will be:

	Officers	Non-com-officers	Privates
1. Staff-corps	20	—	—
2. Engineers	20	—	—
3. Artillery	50	50	200
4. Cavalry	12	12	40
5. Infantry	20	20	200
Total	122	82	44 740

Of these, all except the engineers, are substituted for the regiment of artillery now in service whose establishment is

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With regard to the mock-fortifications in the Atlantic ports, let them be left in the charge of the invalid officers and men, who must in justice be provided for by government; it will then no longer be necessary to burthen the rolls of the army, with the names which are there placed, because no provision exists for pensioning superannuated veterans.

It was my intention, Mr. Editor, to have concluded my communications to you, with some reflections on the many defects in the organization of the militia throughout the United States; these are even apparent to the less observing portion of the community—the men themselves, who in public load it with eulogies, are the first in private to laugh at the puppet.

Every nation has its peculiar genius. The inhabitant of Lapland is not more different from the Circassian in exterior appearance, than in mind & disposition. The same variety exists and is expressed in shades more or less deep, over the whole surface of our globe. Education and example widen yet more the breach which separates the countless races of mankind. Civilization has, indeed, throughout Europe, and part of America, covered the whole picture with a varnish, which deceives the eye of a superficial observer; but still the indelible stamp of national character is discernible, and becomes more marked as great interests bring it forward. In no instance does the pencil of nature inscribe the distinctive features of national physiognomy in stronger lines, than when its expression is called forth by events that involve the happiness, and sometimes the existence of the social ties which constitute one's country. The study of each government, therefore, should be to raise this expression, to mould the Colossus of defence upon it, and to give elasticity to the spring which sets in motion all its energies.

Frederick the Great of Prussia, placed in one of those critical situations which call forth the resources of superior minds, formed his armies upon this principle. The iron discipline introduced by his predecessor, left him little to do besides simplifying and accelerating the movements of his troops, the almost immediate feats of arms which they performed in the memorable Seven-years' War, manifested the success of his endeavors. Losing sight of the base on which his system rested, the other powers of Europe imitated his warlike institution—made the rival of the Holstein Charger—became the rival on the course of the fleet Arabian. Only of late years have the French abandoned this wide-spread error—their subsequent victories have wiped off with a branch of laurel the disgrace of former wars. Obstinate adherence to the Prussian systems joined to a most persevering attention to the minutæ of dress and accoutrements, is the characteristic of the British infantry: to simplicity of movements and personal comforts, they substitute an endless series of parade manoeuvres, and gew-gaw ornaments, which distress and wear out their soldiery; to this in a great measure may be attributed the inferiority in fame and achievements of their armies to their fleets. Our fathers, at the epoch of our glorious revolution, unskilled in tactics, but inspired by innate valor and patriotism, opposed with unexpected and effectual resistance their proud invaders. A code of instruction, evincing the work of hurry, but excellent in the circumstances of the moment, added method to their courage—they became under the banners of liberty and the eyes of the heroes who commanded them, regularly disciplined and at least equal to the veterans of Europe. We have reaped the harvest of their exertions—let us profit by their example and even by their faults. They experienced the advantage of the discipline which steeled their efforts, but they likewise felt its many defects.

On the foregoing truths and on observations of national character, both in ancient and modern history, might be founded an investigation of the fittest mode of organizing the national levies. I am aware, sir, that such an inquiry would take up more of your columns than could be asked for with propriety or granted with convenience.

AMMIANUS.
FOR THE FEDERAL GAZETTE.

Mr. Hewes, Observing in your paper a notification of a debate to be held at the Pantheon on Saturday last, curiosity induced me to attend the discussion. Although the audience was thin, (owing, as I was informed, to an omission in the Secretary to have the advertisement published early enough to make the thing public) yet I by no means conceived the few hours I remained there unspent, or tediously passed off.

The debate was animated, and highly calculated for the entertainment of our enlightened audience. Such a society, instituted for purposes so laudable, reflects merit on its founders, and has great claims upon public favor. The funds of the society, I am told, are applied to charitable purposes, and altho' it is attended with considerable expense—250 dollars are stated to have been distributed among the poor at the dissolution of the last society, which was formed & conducted upon the same principles, and, with a few exceptions, by the same members of the present society.

Such being the fact, and as the admirers of eloquence cannot spend their Saturday evenings more agreeably, than by listening to an interesting debate, conducted by youths of promise, who may hereafter be seated in the councils of their country, they are entitled to receive every encouragement.

A SPECTATOR.
From the AUGUSTA HERALD.

AGAINST INEBRIATION.
Four ounces of bread will afford more durable warmth and nourishment, than a quart of spirits!

WASHINGTON. Convinced that many persons adopt the use of ardent spirits to warm themselves in winter, and exhilarate their spirits in summer, I beg leave to assure such deluded people, that the above sentence of our country's father, was made upon the most mature deliberation and experience; would to God my fellow-citizens, each of us would give a fair trial in so momentous a concern, which must insure sobriety, and of course heighten every mental enjoyment! On the contrary, the man who praises drinking, stands a sot convicted on his own evidence—and prates that infernal practice which murders four out of five of our citizens.

It is very common that events arise from a debauch which are fatal, and always such as are disagreeable. With all a man's reason and good sense about him, his tongue is apt to utter things out of a mere gaiety of heart, which may displease his best friends. Who then would trust himself to the power of wine, if there was no other objection against it than this, that it raises the imagination and depresses the judgment? However this tribe of people may think of themselves, a drunken man is a greater monster than any that is to be found amongst all the creatures which God has made, as indeed there is no character which appears more despicable and depraved, in the eyes of all reasonable persons than that of a drunkard. Witness Alexander, Clitus, Dionysius, amongst the ancients, and hourly instances of this deplorable vice, amongst ourselves. Which of us, my dear friends, can boast of a general sobriety, and can declare that no disgraceful instance of excess, has attended our connections; how many of us have been worse than our progenitor, in devouring the "forbidden fruit" of intemperance? How many have debased their immortal souls by gluttony and inebriation, and thereby reduced themselves beneath the most abject brute?? Let each begin the glorious work of reformation, and our country will be blessed indeed!!!

ANTI-BACCHUS.
From a London paper.

PATENT.
Mr. Ralph Wedgwood's (Burslem,) for a Composition for making glass upon new principles.

Mr. Wedgwood makes use of alkaline salt, pieces or parts of China, or earthenware, pitchers, or pieces of baked clay, old plaster moulds or calcareous earths, borax, siliceous earths, and *terro ponderosa*. The alkaline salts and borax are to be used in a state of solution, and in this solution the pieces of china or earthen ware, or baked clay, being first made red hot, are to be thrown: to these are to be added old plaster mould, or calcareous earth first slacking them in a solution of borax in water, and then the siliceous earths and *terro ponderosa* are to be added, all which articles are to be ground together, and dried over a slow fire. If the alkaline salts and borax are used in a state of powder, they are then to be used in the same manner as in the common process. When the several articles are ground together and dried, they are to be fused, and when in a state of perfect fusion, poured from the melting pot into cold water.

The proportions of the materials are from 10 to 50 parts in weight of alkaline salts, from 12 to 70 of water, of the pieces of China or earthen ware, from 50 to 150 parts, and if baked clay is used 80 to 100 parts. There are other proportions given, but an accurate regard to them is not abso-

lutely necessary: though the patentee conceives that by attending to them a greater advantage will be gained than can be had by the present mode of making glass, and with a saving of health to the labourers employed.

Mr. BOYLSTON'S Prize Questions.

With the beneficent and laudable view of improving the art of medicine, and to excite practitioners to bring those talents to light, which might otherwise be useless to the community, Ward Nicholas Boylston, esq., hath, by an instrument under his hand and seal, given the president and fellows of Harvard college, in Cambridge, bearing date January 20th, 1803, empowered and enabled that corporation to appoint annually a committee skilled in subjects connected with medical, Anatomical, physical or chymical subjects, as they deem most useful, and the several authors of the best dissertation (in the judgment of a majority of said committee) upon each of said subjects, which shall be transmitted or delivered to them, on or before the 20th of November next, after public notice given of said questions, are entitled to receive of this committee a prize medal (or the amount in money at their option) of such value, as to said committee shall seem proper; provided the value of all the medals distributed, and the money thus paid in any one year, shall not exceed one hundred dollars. And the corporation having appointed Isaac Rand, M. D. Dr. Lemuel Heywood, John Warren, M. D. Dr. William Eastis, Dr. John Brooks, Benjamin Waterhouse, M. D. Aaron Dexter, M. D. William Spooner, M. D. and Dr. Josiah Bartlett, to be a committee to propound the questions above mentioned, and to carry into effect Mr. Boylston's benevolent purpose, they do hereby propose the following questions to all who cultivate medicine, or the sciences connected with it; and do invite their attention to a discussion of the several objects here laid before them.

QUESTIONS.

1st. For the best dissertation on the difference between mortification produced by an external cause, and shot, which arises from a constitutional defect of the diagnostics, and proper mode of treatment of each.

2d. For the best dissertation on the structure and physiology of the skin, or external surface of the body, with a view to the diagnostics, and cure of diseases usually denominated cutaneous.

3d. What are causes of the varieties observed in dysentery, and what the method of treatment adapted to the cure of these varieties?

At a meeting of the committee on the Boylston prize questions, at Boston, Dec. 31, 1806.

A dissertation on the first question, relative to mortification, and one on the second relative to dysentery, having been read and considered, the question was taken, whether they were respectively entitled to the premiums offered, and determined in the affirmative.

On opening the papers accompanying the dissertation, it appeared that the one on mortification was written by Dr. George Cheene Shuck, of Templeton, in the county of Worcester; and the one on dysentery, by Dr. James Mann, of Wrentham, in the county of Norfolk.

Extract from the record, ISAAC RAND, Chairman. Boston, Jan. 1, 1807.

From *Mungo Park's Travels in Africa*. In a village near Sigo, the capital of Bambara, where he is said to have met his fate, he speaks thus of his situation in his former travels:

"I was obliged to sit all day without victuals, in the shade of a tree; and the night threatened to be very uncomfortable, for the wind rose, and there was great appearance of a heavy rain; and the wild beasts are so very numerous in the neighborhood, that I should have been under the necessity of climbing up the tree, and resting among the branches. About sunset, however, as I was preparing to pass the night in this manner, and had turned my horse loose, that he might graze at liberty, a woman, returning from the labors of the field, stopped to observe me, & perceiving that I was weary and dejected, inquired into my situation, which I briefly explained to her; whereupon, with looks of great compassion, she took up my bridle & saddle, and told me to follow her. She lighted a lamp, spread a mat on the floor, & told me that I might remain there for the night. Finding that I was very hungry, she said she would procure me something to eat. She accordingly went out, and returned in a short time with a very fine fish; which, having caused to be half-broiled upon some embers, she gave me for supper. The rites of hospitality being thus performed towards a stranger in distress, my worthy benefactress (pointing to the mat, and telling me that I might sleep there without apprehension) called to the female part of her family, who stood gazing on me all the while in fixed astonishment, to resume their task of spinning cotton, in which they continued to employ themselves great part of the night.

They lightened their labors by songs, one of which was composed extempore; for I was myself the subject of it. It was sung by one of the young women, the rest joining in a sort of chorus. The air was sweet and plaintive, and the words, literally translated, were these—The winds roared, and the rains fell. The poor white man, faint and weary, came and sat under our tree. He had no mother to bring him milk, no wife to grind his corn. Chorus—Let us pity the white man; no mother has he, &c. &c. Trifling as this recital may appear to the reader, to a person in my situation, the circumstance was affecting in the highest degree. I was oppressed by this unexpected kindness, and sleep fled from eyes.

In the morning I presented my compassionate landlady with two of the four brass buttons which remained on my waistcoat, the only recompence I could make her."

BY THIS DAY'S MAIL.

BOSTON January 13.

Communication.—When Brennus, commander of the Gauls, had taken Rome, he was offered a sum of money to leave the city. While the citizens were weighing it out, Camillus returned from an expedition, and observed to the French general, that it had ever been the custom with the Romans to ransom their country with steel instead of gold. Immediately after, Brennus was overthrown in a pitched battle. Our Camillus is dead, and we have paid the tribute to the Gauls.

January 15. The Maine bank, at Portland, was forcibly entered in the night between Saturday and Sunday last, and two thousand dollars in gold and silver stolen from thence—500 dollars reward is offered by the president of said bank, for the detection of the thief or thieves and the security of the money.

SPRINGFIELD, (Mass.) Jan. 7.

On Friday, the mail stage, in attempting to pass Connecticut river on the ice, about a mile below the bridge in this town, broke through. As the sleigh as well as the horses were plunged in six feet depth of water, it may be considered a happy circumstance, that there were but three passengers in it—they escaped the danger without injury, by jumping on to the ice. Had the stage been crowded with passengers, as is often the case, it would have been hardly possible for those seated in the back part of it to have saved their lives. The horses and sleigh were got out without material injury, though not without great difficulty and risque. This breaking in, happened at a small distance from the spot where the ice gave way and let in, a sleigh about three weeks ago, by which accident a young woman was drowned.

ALBANY, January 10.

On Saturday afternoon last, one of the most afflicting and melancholy occurrences took place in this vicinity, that it has ever been our painful duty to record. Miss Jane Ann Lansing, eldest daughter of Sanders Lansing, esq. of this city, being on her way to Shadock, in a sleigh, in company with Gerrit Y. Lansing, esq. and two young ladies, her connections, was drowned. The sleigh, it seems, fell through the ice very suddenly, on one of the branches of the river about ten miles below town—and in the terror and confusion of the moment the unfortunate Jean Ann was lost sight of by her companions. She is supposed to have sprung or been thrown out of the sleigh, and to have sunk immediately under the ice. Providentially her companions were saved from sharing in her untimely and much lamented fate. Her body was taken up in about an hour after the catastrophe, and was brought to town on Sunday afternoon.

NEW-YORK, January 19.

Arrived, the brig Generous Friend, Barber, 26 days from Aracabessa, (Jam.) Left at Aracabessa, brig Second Attempt, Williams, arrived December 14, from Philadelphia. At Rio-Bonao, brig Pallas, West, 30 days from New-York, arrived December 19. At Falmouth, ship Favorite, Mackie, of New-York, to sail in 6 days for Savannah. At Montego-Bay, brig Washington, Waages, 17 days from New-York; brig Georgia Packet, of New-York, to sail in 8 days for Savannah. The brig Little William, Cornell, of Nantucket, sailed from Aracabessa, on the 10th ult. for Exuma. The brig Olivia, Teubner, from Guadaloupe, and 23 days from Antigua, where she was sent by the British. Passengers, H. Pailhes, H. Kirwan and A. A. Gauthier. Spoke, Dec. 25, lat. 28. 21, long. 67, sloop Blackbird, 8 days from Norfolk for Barbados; 26th, lat. 29, 11, long. 68, ship Draper, 10 days from New-York for Jamaica. Jan. 2, lat. 32, 30, long. 69, 30, sch'r Henry, 3 days from Baltimore for St. Bartholomew; 5th, sch'r Three Friends, 8 days from Norfolk for Grenada; 10th, a schooner, 10 days from Boston for Georgetown. The sch'r John, Catral, from Guadaloupe for N. Y. had been sent into Antigua by a privateer. [Part of the Olivia's cargo was condemned.]

The brig Argonaut, Folger, 47 days from Port-Antonia, Jam. The brig Sally, Pratt, had arrived in 16 days from N. Y. The British brig Lady Nugent, wasto sail in 10 days for N. Y. Jan. 10, in lat. 37, long. 73, 50, spoke the sloop Argus, Wiswall, from Long-Island for Georgetown. Left at L. Island, Dec. 28, brig Victory, Macey; sch'r Gilbert, Foswick, of Nantucket; capt. Talcott, from St. Thomas for N. London, and capt. Berry, for Charleston, all loading with salt. Jan. 10, about 30 leagues from Sandy-Hooks, was boarded by the British cutter Sylvia, from N. Y. and had John Crow, of Amboy, and James Pratt, seaman, pressed. The boat of the Argonaut was ordered along-side of the cutter, with the brig's papers—on her return, the boat filled and sunk, and it was with difficulty the people in her were saved. Capt. F. then hailed the cutter, said he was in distress for provisions, but they answered that they had no boat, and stood off. The treatment which capt. F. received, he states as inhuman and abusive.

The brig Georgia, Jocelin, 8 days from Savannah.

The brig Governor Trumbull, Burr, 8 days from Charleston.

The sch'r Rliza, Augur, of N. Haven, 19 days from St. Thomas. Left brig Greyhound, Smith, of N. Haven, to sail 29th, for Barcelona; ship Manning, Salter, of Portsmouth; brig Celia, McKenzie, for N. York. Jan. 11, spoke ship Jupiter, 24 hours from Charleston for Europe.

The schooner Betsy, Hughes, 21 days from St. Jago-de-Cuba. Sailed in co. sch'r Greyhound, Helmes, for Baltimore, and Welcome Return, Hurst, for Baltimore, for Charleston, and spoke the former on the 11th inst. and parted from her the next day in lat. 30, 26, long. 80. The sch'r Nancy, Grafton, of Salem, sailed 13 days before for Philadelphia. Left, sch'r Experiment, Rogers, 9