because their plots, in part, have succeeded; and to ask the surrender of power, into their hands, on account of the very evils they have caused? Shall they scuttle the ship, and then, forsooth, claim the command and pilotage?

Is the proof demanded, that the federal party, who now insolently claim the confience of the people for three of their ringleaders, have advocated the cause of the enemy, and have done every act which we have recited, to weaken the cause of our country? We are distracted in the choice, not at a loss in the production of proofs. They thicken on eve y page of our Congressional journals;—they cluster in the pages of every opposition newspaper;—they abound in the debates of every federal State Legislature.

Who, after voting that the hostile edicts of the two European belligerents could not be submitted to, opposed the prudent measure, which was an appeal to their interests, and finally procured its abrogation? Who opposed every measure to procure justice short of war, and when this was resorted to, opposed every measure to supply men or means for defence or prosecution? So much for their Congressional history. For their out-door efforts, what page of a Federal news-paper has been free from the most profligate attempts to dampen the national spirit, to throw contempt on our arms, to sow division in our land, in a word to urge every sentiment which the enemy, if he had had a pensioned licenser at every press, could have approved, as conducing to his interests?

And who (for these insulting claims to confidence will justify us in adding a few additional touches to the portrait of opposition) viewed with joy the approach of that storm, which has burst upon our capital? Who celebrated, with feasts, and orations, and songs, and peageantry, and parade, the very events which released from European occupation, the practised myrmydons, who have been disgorged upon our shores? Common sense and patriotism viewed with just apprehension the hordes of "well-fleshed blood-hounds," whom the *quasi* conquest of France would leave at the disposal of our enemy. Not so these sagacious politicians, who would "build their greatness on their country's ruin." So the warrior, who for years had been the terror of England, was prostrated from his high estate, and the "ancient order of things" restored, every man of them, from the loyal *Morris*, down to the fustian-spouting *Custis*, was content to shut his eyes to the consequences, and approach the precipice, so he could not see the danger. And these are the sagacious *politicians*, who ask the exclusive confidence of their countrymen. They cause the very want of preparation, under which the country suffers; they rejoice at the very events, which jeopardize its safety; and then ask to be entrusted with the conduct of affairs, by way of rewarding their patriotism and sagacity.

We have extended our strictures on this fertile subject, to a length greater than, in these days, we usually allow ourselves. It is yet far from being exhausted; but the reflections of our readers will supply the place by a volume of comments. There is something so mean, base and detestable, in making a trade of impeding the operations of government, by invective, artifice, falsehood and fraud, and then claiming a merit from having injured the country, and asking as a reward the control of its destinies, that it requires something more than the patience of Job, quietly to hear the claim—and something more than Christian charity, to forgive the outrage.

FROM THE AURORA.

## *TO THE PEOPLE.*

You have had a short period of apprehension—the rumor of Baltimore being in danger, operated like electricity on you—the most inflexible of all your muscles—the muscles of your money bags, appeared suddenly relaxed—you were ready to *give*, and the cry among you was, that no funds should be wanting for public defence—the news that Baltimore was safe, operated as a tonic—the muscles of your money bags were braced up as tight as if they had been anointed with *persimons*.

The rumor of yesterday bro't you to a kind of intermediate state, half braced, half flaccid—and proved that you are either the most inconstant or the least considerate people in creation.

You laughed—nay, you derided and abused those, who ten years ago, told you in anticipation what has now happened—You were told, that your neglect to guard against danger by timely preparation, would not only cost you the lives of your best men, but millions of your *more adored commodity*.

The advice given you now will be equally efficacious. A million or two of dollars would feed and equip men enough to protect you for the present; but you hug your dollars—and will continue to hug them till the enemy cuts the Gordian knot of your idolatry, and mulcts you 50 or 60,000,000; and perhaps desolates your City; if you do not find it necessary to example which so many of your wise ones have extolled in the case of Moscow.

Do you indeed mean to act upon the maxim, that *sufficient for the day is the evil thereof*—or that it is enough to *provide for to-day, let to-morrow provide for itself*? Do you believe that because a plan which succeeded at Washington, has been frustrated for the moment at Baltimore—do you believe that all your danger is past? Do you suppose that all the disposable force of the enemy amounts only to 5000 or 10,000 men; or that Adm. Cochrane's menace is a joke!

Do you suppose that because they have been unsuccessful with a smaller force, they will neglect to bring a larger force?

How are we prepared—by resources—by men disciplined—by minds prepared for on emergency involving your own liberty and property—and your prosperity.

The enemy could not, consistent with the state of the war in France, detach a large force sufficiently early to act in the present season.—The enemy knows that soldiers must eat, and the armies cannot move without depots to subsist, and provide them; a larger army, sent after the *denouement* of the French revolution, must have starved or surrendered; but they may provide considerable detachments of from 5 to 10,000 men. They will subsist those detachments by the aid of *traitors* among you———by enterprizes such as those upon Alexandria and Eastport; merchants devoted to England are found in every sea-port; one of them a few days ago, at the Coffee House in Philadelphia avowed his sorrow when the American arms triumphed, his joy when the British were victors; this traitor was no foreigner, but a native born Philadelphian.

A merchant of Alexandria addressed the British naval commander, and made a proposition to buy all the vessels captured at that place, and to pay for them, by accepting bills for the amount, drawn on Alexandria, *provided* the British admiral would convoy them, and deliver them to his order at Halifax! This merchant boasted of his services in defiance of the American laws, and enumerated the ships which he had laden in defiance of the embargo, by the cargoes of which he saved the British colonies; he boasted that he was entitled to this favour because he had rendered every service in his power to the British government, in exciting hostility to the American government, and supporting the influence of England. Such men abound in every city on our seaboard; and in those cities sedition is preached up every day, written by the very men who are engaged in the masquerade of providing for the public safety

The truth must be told of them, since shame, nor honour, nor love of country, have been sufficient to bring them to that state of generous feeling, which ought to actuate every good and wise man.

The the danger of the country is extreme—and it requires all its wisdom and its energy to maintain the public liberties. Those who countenance sedition and treason, must answer to themselves for their conduct, whether it be active or passive; and a crisis may arrive when desparation of the injured and betrayed cannot be restrained from assuming the power of retributive justice.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON CITY, TUESDAY, *Sept.* 20—1 *o'clock P. M.*

This day the President of the United States transmitted to Congress, by Mr. Edward Cole, his Secretary, the following

### MESSAGE:

*Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives,*

Notwithstanding the early day which had been fixed for your session of the present year, I was induced to call you together, still sooner, as well that any inadequacy in the existing provisions for the wants of the treasury might be supplied, as that no delay might happen in providing for the result of the negociations on foot with Great Britain, whether it should require arrangements adapted to a return of peace, or further and more effective provisions for prosecuting the war.

That result is not yet known. If, on one hand, the repeal of the orders in council, and the general pacification in Europe, which withdrew the occasion on which impressments from American vessels were practised, suggest expectations that peace and amity may be re-established; we are compelled, on the other hand, by the refusal of the British government to accept the offered mediation of the Emperor of Russia, by the delays in giving effect to its own proposal of a direct negociation; and, above all, by the principles and manner in which the war is now avowedly carried on, to infer that a spirit of hostility is indulged more violent than ever, against the rights and prosperity of this country.

The increased violence is best explained by the two important circumstances, that the great contest in Europe, for an equilibrium guaranteeing all its States against the ambition of any, has been closed without any check on the overbearing power of Great Britain on the ocean; and that it has left in her hands disposable armaments, with which, forgetting the difficulties of remote war against a free people, and yielding to the intoxication of success, with the example of a great victim to it before her eyes, she cherishes hopes of still further aggrandizing her power already formidable in its abuses to the tranquility of the civilized and commercial world.

But whatever may have inspired the enemy with those more violent purposes, the public councils of a nation, more able to maintain than it was to acquire its independence, and with a devotion to it, rendered more ardent by the experience of its blessings, can never deliberate but on the means most effectual for defeating the extravagant views or unwarrantable passions, with which alone the war can now be pursued against us.

In the event of the present campaign, the enemy, with all his augmented means, and wanton use of them, has little ground for exultation, unless he can feel it in the success of his recent enterprizes against this metropolis and the neighbouring town of Alexandria; from both of which his retreats were as precipitate as his attempts were bold and fortunate. In his other excursions on our Atlantic frontier, his progress, often checked and chastised by the martial spirit of the neighbouring citizens, has had more effect in distressing individuals, and in dishonouring his arms, than in promoting any object of legitimate warfare. And in the two instances mentioned, however deeply to be regretted on our part, he will find, in his transient success, which interrupted for a moment only the ordinary public business at the seat of government, no compensation for the loss of character with the world, by his violation of private property, and by his destruction of public edifices, protected as monuments of the arts by the laws of civilized warfare.

On our side, we can appeal to a series of achievements, which have given new lustre to the American arms. Besides the brilliant incident in the minor operations of the campaign, the splendid victories gained on the Canadian side of the Niagara, by the American forces under Maj. Gen. Brown, and Brigadiers Scott and Gaines, have gained for those heroes and their emulating companions the most unfading laurels; and having triumphantly tested the progressive discipline of the American soldiery, have taught the enemy that the longer he protracts his hostile efforts, the more certain and decisive will be his final discomfiture.

On our southern border victory has continued also to follow the American standard. The bold and skilful operations of Maj. Gen. Jackson, conducting troops drawn from the militia of the States least distant, particularly of Tennessee, have subdued the principal tribes of hostile savages, and by establishing a peace with them preceded by recent and exemplary chastisement, has best guarded against the mischief of their co-operation with the British enterprizes which may be planned against that quarter of our country. Important tribes of Indians on our north western frontier have also acceded to stipulations, which bind them to the interests of the United States, and to consider our enemy as theirs also.

In the recent attempt of the enemy on the city of Baltimore, defended by militia and volunteers, aided by a small body of regulars and seamen, he was received with a spirit which produced a rapid retreat to his ships, whilst a concurrent attack by a large fleet was successfully resisted by the steady and well directed fire of the fort and batteries opposed to it.

In another recent attack by a powerful force on our troops at Plattsburg, of which regulars made a part only, the enemy, after a perseverance for many hours, was finally compelled to seek safety in a hasty retreat, with our gallant bands pressing upon him.

On the Lakes, so much contested thro'out the war, the great exertions for the command made on our part, have been well repaid.——On Lake Ontario, our squadron is now, and has been for some time, in a condition to confine that of the enemy to his own port; and to favour the operations of our land forces on that frontier.

A part of the squadron on Lake Erie has been extended to Lake Huron, and has produced the advantage of displaying our command to that Lake also. One object of the expedition was the reduction of Makinaw, which failed with the loss of a few brave men, among whom was an officer justly distinguished for his gallant exploits. The expedition ably conducted by both the land and naval commanders, was otherwise valuable in its effects.

On Lake Champlain, where our superiority had for some time been disputed, the British squadron lately came into action, with the American, commanded by Capt. M'Donough. It issued in the capture of the whole of the enemy's ships. The best praise for this officer and his intrepid comrades is in the likeness of his triumph to the illustrious victory, which immortalized another officer, and established at a critical moment, our command of another Lake.

On the Ocean the pride of our naval arms has been amply supported. A second frigate has indeed fallen into the hands of the enemy, but the loss is hidden in the blaze of heroism with which she was defended. Captain Porter who commanded her and whose previous career had been distinguished by daring enterprise and by fertility of genius maintained a sanguinary contest against two ships, one of them superior to his own, and under other severe disadvantages, till humanity tore down the colors, which valour had nailed to the mast.—This officer and his brave comrades have added much to the rising glory of the American flag, and have merited all the effusions of gratitude which their country is ever ready to bestow on the champions of its rights and of its safety.

Two smaller vessels of war have also become prizes to the enemy; but by a superiority of force which sufficiently vindicates the reputation of their commanders; whilst two others, one commanded by Capt. Warrington, the other by Capt. Blakely, have captured British ships of the same class, with a gallantry and good conduct, which entitle them and their companions, to a just share in the praise of their country.

In spite of the naval force of the enemy accumulated on our coasts, our private cruizers also have not ceased to annoy his commerce, and to bring their rich prizes into our ports; contributing thus, with other proofs, to demonstrate the incompetency and illegality of a blockade, the proclamation of which is made the pretext for vexing and discouraging the commerce of neutral powers with the U. States.

To meet the extended and diversified warfare adopted by the enemy, great bodies of militia have been taken into service for the public defence, and expences incurred. That the defence every where may be both more convenient and more economical. Congress will see the necessity of immediate measures for filling the ranks of the regular army; and of enlarging the provision for special corps, mounted and unmounted, to be engaged for longer periods of service than are due from the militia. I earnestly renew, at the same time, a recommendation of such changes in the system of militia, as, by classing and disciplining for the most prompt and active service the portions most capable of it, will give to that great resource for the public safety, all the requisite energy and efficiency.

The monies received into the Treasury during the nine months ending on the 13th day of June last, amounting to 32 millions of dollars, of which 11 millions of which were the proceeds of the public revenue, and the remainder derived from loans. The disbursements for public expenditures during the same period exceeded 34 millions of dollars, and left in the Treasury, on the first day of July, near 5,000,000 of dollars. The demands during the remainder of the present year already authorised by Congress, and the expences incident to an extension of the oporations of the war, will render it necessary that large sums should be provided to meet them.

From this view of the national affairs, Congress will be urged to take up without delay, as well the subject of pecuniary supplies as that of military force, and on a scale commensurate with the extent and character which the war has assumed. It is not to be disguised, that the situation of our country calls for its greatest efforts. Our enemy is powerful in men and money; on the land and on the water. Availing himself of fortuitous advantages, he is aiming, with his undivided force, a deadly blow at our growing prosperity, perhaps at our national existence. He has avowed his purpose of trampling on the usages of civilized warfare, and given earnests of it, in the plunder and wanton destruction of private property. In his pride of maritime dominion, and in his thirst of commercial monopoly, he strikes with peculiar animosity at the progress of our navigation and of our manufactures. His barbarous policy has not even spared those monuments of the arts and models of taste, with which our country had enriched and embelished its infant metropolis. From such an adversary, hostility in its greatest force and in its worst forms, may be looked for. The American people will face it with undaunted spirit which in their revolutionary struggle defeated his unrighteous projects.——His threats and his barbarities, instead of dismay, will kindle in every bosom an indignation not to be extinguished in the disaster and expulsion of such cruel invaders. In providing the means necessary, the National Legislature will not distrust the heroic and enlightened patriotism of its Constituents.—They will cheerfully and probably bear every burden of every kind, which the safety and honour of the nation demand. We have seen them every where paying their taxes, direct and indirect, with the greatest promptness and alacrity. We see them rushing with enthusiasm to the scenes where danger and duty call. In offering their blood, they give the surest pledge that no other tribute will be withheld

Having foreborne to declare war until to other aggressions had been added the capture of nearly a thousand American vessels, & the impressment of thousands of American sea-faring citizens; and until a final declaration had been made by the government of Great Britain, that her hostile orders against our commerce would not be revoked, but on conditions as impossible as unjust; whilst it was known that these orders would not otherwise cease, but with a war which had lasted nearly twenty years, & which, according to appearances at that time, might last as many more; having manifested on every occasion, & in every proper mode, a sincere desire to arrest the effusion of blood, and meet our enemy on the ground of justice and reconciliation, our beloved country in still opposing to his persevering hostility all its energies, with an undiminished disposition towards peace and friendship on honorable terms, must carry with it the good wishes of the impartial world, and the best hopes of support from an omnipotent and kind Providence.

JAMES MADISON.

*Washington, Sept. 20th*, 1814.

FROM THE ALBANY REGISTER OF SEPTEMBER 17.

An intelligent and respectable gentleman who left Buffalo on Sunday morning last, informs, that on Friday and Saturday nights 3,000 New York militia crossed over to Fort Erie, with a fixed determination to join the regulars, and follow the destinies of our brave troops now in that Fort—and that, on his way from Buffalo, he met about 3,000 more, on their march thither, all of whom appeared highly animated and determined to follow their brethren in arms.

*OFFICIAL.*

Copy of a letter from Commodore MACDONOUGH, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

*U. S. ship Saratoga, Off Plattsburgh, September 11.*

SIR,

THE Almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal victory on Lake Champlain, in the capture of one frigate, one brig, and two sloops of war of the enemy.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully, Sir,
Your obedient servant.
T. MACDONOUGH, *Com'r*

Hon. W. JONES,
Secretary of the Navy.

*Copy of a letter from Gen. Macomb (just received) to the Secretary of War, dated*

FORT MOREAU, Sept. 12, 1814.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that the British army, consisting of four brigades, a corps of artillery, a squadron of horse, and a strong light corps, amounting in all to about 14,000 men, after investing this place on the north of the Saranac River since the 5th inst. broke up their camp & raised the siege this morning at 2 o'clock.

They are now retreating precipitately, leaving their sick and wounded behind.

The enemy opened his batteries yesterday morning, and continued the cannonading, bombarding, and rocket firing until sunset; by this time, our batteries had completely silenced those of our opponents.

The light troops and militia are now in full pursuit of the enemy, making prisoners in all directions. Deserters are continually coming in, so that the loss of the British army in this enterprize will be considerable.

A more detailed report will be made of the siege, and circumstances attending it, as early as possible.

The officers and men have all done their duty. The artillery and the engineers have performed their functions with a zeal and precision highly creditable to themselves and honorable to their country.

Our loss is trifling indeed, having only 1 officer and 15 men killed, and 1 officer and 30 men wounded.

The militia of New York, and the Volunteers of Vermont, have been exceedingly serviceable, and have evinced a degree of patriotism and bravery worthy of themselves and the State to which they respectively belong.

The strength of the garrison is only 1500 effective men, rank and file.

I have the honor to be,
With perfect respect, sir,
Your most obd't. servant,
ALEXANDER MACOMB.

The Hon. the Secretary of War.

Copy of a letter from Major General S. SMITH, to the Acting Secretary of War, dated

*Head Quarters, Baltimore, 15th September*, 1814.

SIR,

I have been so incessantly occupied, that it has been impossible for me to convey to you the information respecting the enemy, which it would have been proper for you to have received from me. A detailed statement will be forwarded as soon as it can be made out; in the mean time, I have the pleasure to inform you, that the enemy embarked their rear guard, about 1 o'clock, & that their ships, a few excepted, are out of the River; their destination unknown.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,
SAMUEL SMITH,
*Maj. Gen. Com'g.*

Col. JAMES MONROE,
*Acting Secretary at War.*

Copy of a letter from Major General S. SMITH, to the Acting Secretary of War, dated

*Head Quarters, Baltimore, September 15th*, 1814.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose to you, for your disposal, two letters from British officers, received by Dr. M'Culloch (garrison surgeon) whom I had sent to the battle ground to attend our wounded.

I have also the honor to send you enclosed a list of wounded who were made prisoners, and of the agreement made by Dr M'Culloch respecting them.

I have the honor to be,
Your most obd't servant,
SAMUEL SMITH,
*Maj. Gen. Com'g.*

Col. JAMES MONROE,
*Acting Secretary of War.*

In consequence of the humanity shewn to the following American prisoners of war, I do promise upon honor that they shall not directly or indirectly serve against the British until regularly exchanged.

| | |
|---|---|
| Jas. H. M'Culloh, | John Pidgeon, |
| Henry Brice, | Luther A. Norris, |
| George Repert, | David Davis, |
| Sacob Noyle, | William Collings, |
| John Robinson, | John Lamb, |
| James N. Marriott, | James Davidson, |
| Charles Goddard, | Wm. Keane, jun. |
| Walter Muskett, | James Gibson, |
| Bryan Allen, | Richard K. Cook, |
| George Reintzell, | Robert Smith, |
| Jacob Hubbard, | John Jephson, |
| Benj'n. Fletwood, | George Bennett, |
| Thos. Brengman, | Conrad Euler. |

And I do further engage to get the above 26 Americans exchanged as soon as possible for a like number British left at Bladensburg.

JAMES H. M'CULLOCH, Jun.
*Garrison Surgeon U. S. Army.*

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