

died thousand men, who were to serve "not exceeding six months".
 The proper construction of this act, is, that it required them
 to serve any term between three & six months, as might
 be thought best; & that the term of service might be ex-
 tended even to six months, if in the opinion of the Pres-
 ident the publick service demanded it, but not beyond it.
 This law expired by its own limitation, two years after, on
 the 18th of April 1814; and, although the six militia-
 men were not enlisted until the 28th of June following,
 & of course did not ^{come} under the operation of this law, yet
 as the order from the President under which they were
 afterwards enlisted, was ~~expected~~ issued before it expired,
 to inquire what was the previous practice of the gov-
 ernment, in regard to militia, under that law, will
 throw much light on the operation of the law of the
 18th of April 1814, under which they were enlisted.
 Gov. Blount, in his letter to the Secretary of War, dated
 the 10th of December 1813, in reference to the Militia
 who were engaged in the war with the Creek Indi-
 ans, and who were enlisted under the act of 1812, says,
 "Under these circumstances, & from a desire felt here
 "to promote the good of the service, it would be accepti-
 "ble to the men in service to be informed how long they
 "are expected to serve, & if they are to be discharged,
 "by whose order, & how their places are to be sup-
 "plied." The Secretary of War, in his reply of the 3rd
 of January 1814, informs him that "the militia may be
 "considered as having been called out under the laws
 "of 1795 which limits the service to three months. The
 "President is the more disposed to make this decision,
 "as the State law provides that a period of three months
 "shall be deemed a tour of duty, and of the spirit all