we forgot for a moment that it was but a straggling Village, defended by an inadequate force - by Militia hastily drawn together a few hours before, fatigued & worn down by extraordinary exertions, and we felt as if a vital blow had been struck at our national existence.

It was discovered that our foes had thrown aside the restraint of civilization, and were resolved on the most cruel & barbarous warfare. This was unequivocally displayed, in the wanton destruction of private property and in the mutilation of the most splendid monuments of the arts of which this new world could boast. In their hasty retreat from the conflagration of Washington, it was easily perceived that Baltimore was destined to be the next victim. When the name of that hero & statesman whose illustrious example is no longer the exclusive right of any portion of the globe but belongs equally to the whole human race, could afford no protection - what was to be expected by Baltimore, the peculiar object of their enmity, their most active and enterprising foe?

The return of our fellow Citizens from the unsuccessful attempt to defend the unfortunate Capital, brought to us the afflicting account, which spread a gloomy pannic over our City now thought to be already in the deadly grasp of her unsparing enemy. It is not to be wondered at, that the first sensations experienced on this awful occasion were those of despondency. A powerful fleet & veteran army, urged on by the prospect of booty, were every moment expected to make their appearance before our City at that moment in a state almost defenceless.

In this situation of the public mind, assailed as it was by terrors from which there appeared no possible

escape, our Citizens determined on a Defence; each endeavoured to distil the feelings of despondency by the example of his resolution: new energy was inspired, and we were taught, that a people contending in defence of their families & their homes, ought never to despair! The period of despondency was not of long duration - it soon yielded to the busy & anxious note of dreadful preparation. Ignoble & coward thoughts vanished, and each one with alacrity took the post assigned him. Much was to be done in order to place a large open town in a situation to be defended by inexperienced militia. Excepting the Fort which defended the entrance to the harbor, this City, which had grown up in an interval of peace, was without a single military work. What an interesting spectacle did she exhibit, in the sudden transition of the employments of her industrious inhabitants, from the avocations of peaceful life to the turbulent scenes of war! - the Merchant, the Mechanic, the professional man labouring together in the same trench, serving the same piece of artillery, or exposed to the most inclement weather, and performing the duty of veterans!

Such was the scene which Baltimore exhibited previously to the powerful attack by the forces of Great Britain. We behold a peaceful City transformed on a sudden into a martial camp; its inhabitants throwing off their civic habits, and feeling all at once the ardor of the patriot soldiers of Greece or Rome. We behold friends & neighbours, brothers, & even father & son, old men & boys scarcely able to wield a musket, mingled in the same company; united in the defence of all that is dear to the human heart.

Notwithstanding this determined attitude which Baltimore assumed, the contest was yet regarded as most doubtful, its probable result was indeed against her. Assailed by land & sea by so powerful a force, to contend with troops flushed with recent victory, under perfect discipline, and impelled by the hope of obtaining a rich booty, with

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