preparations of defence made in the greatest possible haste, her situation, had she taken a moment to weigh the chances of war, must have appeared desperate indeed.

The Defence thus manfully undertaken under circumstances so discouraging, cannot but heighten the merit of Success. Scarcely had there been time allowed for these hasty preparations for the reception of the enemy, when on the 12th of September 1814, he made his appearance at the mouth of the Patapsco with a fleet of ships of war & transports amounting to fifty sail, besides a great number of smaller vessels. On the same day the land forces to the number of at least Seven thousand men, the veterans of Wellington, debarked at North Point, and on the day following advanced toward our City.

The Baltimore Brigade composed of citizens of the place, claimed the honor of being the first to meet the invader, and check his insolent march. They accordingly went forth to give him a foretaste of the manner & spirit with which he might expect to be received.

The enemy was unexpectedly met by an advanced party of the Brigade, and in a skirmish which ensued, their commander in chief General Ross was killed. At first disconcerted, then exasperated by this unforseen & signal misfortune, they rushed forward under the orders of the next in command, to revenge the death of their leader. The Brigade, altho' not more than fourteen hundred strong, received with coolness the onset of a force so superior in numbers & discipline.

They maintained a brave fight, and made considerable slaughter amongst the enemies of our Country; holding their ground untile the enemy approached within twenty paces, when prudence dictated that they should retire to the post assigned them in the general line of defence. Many of our most worthy & now lamented fellow citizens on that day, offered up their lives as a sacrifice on the altar of their Country, for the protection of our firesides, and to

secure to us that safety & prosperity which we now enjoy. Shall these men ever be forgotten? Shall we shew ourselves ungrateful by neglecting to pay due honor to their memories? Or rather, what honors can our gratitude devise, commensurate with the blessings they have procured us?.

One hundred & sixty three of our fellow citizens, nearly one eighth of the force engaged, bled on that occasion! This is no summer parade of patriotism.

The immediate consequence of this affair was to check the progress of the British army, and to prove to them, that a resistance was to be expected very different from that which they had anticipated. Their accounts of the battle shew in what light it was regarded by them. They magnified our force to "Six thousand men", and vauntingly told of their having "put one thousand hors de combat"! Their loss was double ours, according to the most reasonable estimate, and it was greater even according to their own acknowledgements: so that, when we add to this the loss of their Commander, they could boast of but a barren victory. But to us, it was attended with all the effects of a real victory; it infused new courage & confidence in our troops too much disposed to magnify the prowess of their foes. Their Chief was no more. The invincibles of Wellington had been withstood by raw militia.

The effect of this affair on the result of the contest was signally beneficial. The Enemy cautiously approached the entrenchments lined by freemen, and after viewing their position, and having already formed some estimate of the resolution with which they were animated, deemed it prudent to retire.

Our City was still more awfully threatned from another quarter. But for the unexampled defence of Fort McHenry, all our efforts on the land side would have been vain. On the 13th of September 1814, the most eventful day that Baltimore ever knew, the enemies ships formed a crescent round the Fort,

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