

WINCHESTER ADVERTISER.

COLUMBIA UNITED, THE LAND OF FREEDOM, THE CLIME OF PEACE AND THE GRAVE OF TYRANTS.

NUM. 8.]

WINCHESTER, (KEN.) FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 23, 1814.

[VOL. 1.

THE WINCHESTER ADVERTISER.

IS PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY EVENING,

BY

MARTIN & PATTEN.

CONDITIONS.

TWO DOLLARS and FIFTY CENTS, if paid within three months from the time of subscribing, or THREE DOLLARS at the expiration of the year.

ADVERTISEMENTS are inserted at 50 cents per square the first time, and 25 cents for each continuance.

NEW-LONDON, Aug. 17.

Record of the extraordinary Attack on Stonington.

On Tuesday the 9th inst. at 5 P. M. the *Ramilies* 74, *Pactolus* 38, a bomb ship, and the *Dispatch* a 22 gun brig, arrived off Stonington, and a flag was sent on shore with the following note:

On board his Majesty's ship *Ramilies*, off Stonington, August 9, 1814.

TO THE MAGISTRATES OF STONINGTON.

Gentlemen—One hour is allowed you, from the receipt of this communication, for the removal of the unoffending inhabitants.

T. M. HARDY.

This notification was received by two magistrates, and Lieut. Hough, of the drafted militia, who went off to meet the flag. The officer was asked whether a flag would not be received on board. He said no arrangements could be made. They inquired whether Com. Hardy had determined to destroy the town. He replied that such were his orders from the Admiral, and would be done most effectually.

When the gentlemen reached the shore, a crowd waited with great anxiety for the news; which being stated, consternation flew through the town. A express was despatched to General Cushing at New-London. A number of volunteers hastened to collect ammunition; others ran to the battery, (which consisted of two 18-pounders and a 4-pounder, on field carriages, with a slight breast-work four feet high.) The sick and the aged were removed with haste; the women and children with loud cries were seen running in every direction. Some of the most valuable articles were hastily got off by hand, and others placed in the gardens, or thrown into wells, to save them from impending conflagration.

The sixty minutes expired, but the dreadful moment did not bring an attack. Nelson's hero and friend was seized with the compunctions of magnanimity; he remembered what ancient Britons were; he remembered that something was due to the character of Sir Thomas M. Hardy.—Three hours in fact elapsed, when at 8 in the evening an attack was commenced by the discharge of shells from the bomb ship; several barges and launches had taken their stations in different points, from whence they threw congrue rockets, and carcasses. This mode of attack was continued incessantly till midnight; and the fire was returned occasionally from the battery as the rockets gave opportunity, with any chance of success. The few drafted militia, which have been some time stationed there, under command of Lt. Hough, were placed in the best directions to give an alarm in case a landing should be attempted. During the night the volunteers and militia had assembled in considerable numbers; and the non-combatant inhabitants had generally removed to the neighboring farm-houses, in the momentary expectation of seeing their abandoned dwellings in flames. It was a night of inexpressible anguish to many a widow and orphan, to many aged and infirm, whose littleittance they were now apparently to lose forever. But Providence directed otherwise; this compact little village, of 100 buildings, had been for four hours covered with flames of fire and bomb shells, and not a single building was consumed, nor a person injured.

At the dawn of day on the 10th, the approach of the enemy was announced by a discharge of congrue rockets, from several barges & a launch, which had taken their station on the east side of the town, and out of reach of the battery. Several volunteers; with small arms and the four-pounder, hastened across the point, supposing the enemy were attempting a landing. Col. Randall, of the 13th regt. who at the time was moving towards the battery with a detachment of militia, ordered them to assist the volunteers in drawing over one of the 18-pounders to the extreme end of the point; the fire of which in a few minutes compelled the barges to seek safety in flight. During this time the brig was working up towards the point, and soon after sun-rise came to anchor,

short of a mile from the battery, (or more correctly the breast-work.)—Our ammunition being soon exhausted, the guns were spiked, and the men who fought them, being only 15 or 20, retired, leaving them bound for want of strength to bring them off.

The brig now continued deliberately to pour her 32 pound shot and grape into the village, without our having the power of returning a shot for an hour, and the bomb-ketch occasionally threw in shells. A fresh supply of ammunition being obtained, the 18-pounder was withdrawn from the breast-work, vent drilled, and the piece taken back again, when such an animated and well directed fire was kept up, that at 8 o'clock the brig slipped her cable and hauled off, with her pumps going, having received several shots below her water line, and considerable damage in her spars, &c. During this action between the 18-pounder and the brig, Mr. Frederick Denison was slightly wounded in the knee by a fragment of a rock, and Mr. John Miner badly burnt in the face by the premature discharge of a gun. The flag which was nailed to the mast was pierced with 7 shot holes, the breast work somewhat injured, and 6 or 8 of the dwelling houses in the vicinity essentially injured. At this time a considerable body of militia had arrived, and Brig. Gen. Isham had taken command; the inhabitants had recovered from the consternation of the first movements; and were deliberately moving off their furniture and goods. At 11 o'clock the *Ramilies* and *Pactolus* had taken stations about two and a half miles from town; when resistance appeared hopeless, the magistrates as a last resort, applied to the general for permission to send a flag off, being impressed with the opinion that there must exist some latent cause of a peculiar nature to induce a commander who had heretofore distinguished himself for a scrupulous regard to the claims of honorable warfare, to commit an act so repugnant to sound policy, so abhorrent to his nature, so flagrant an outrage on humanity.—The general, we understand, would not sanction, nor did he absolutely prohibit a flag being sent. They therefore, on their own responsibility, sent on board the *Ramilies*, Isaac Williams, and William Lord, Esqs. with the following letter.

(COPY.)

STONINGTON, AUG. 10, 1814.

To Sir Thomas Hardy.

SIR—Agreeable to notice received of you yesterday, this town is cleared of "unoffending inhabitants," and they, feeling anxious about the fate of their village, are desirous to know from you your determination respecting it.

Yours, &c.

AMOS DENISON, Burgess,
WM. LORD, Magistrate.

The deputation proceeded on board the *Ramilies*, and shortly after an officer informed the boatmen that they might return to the shore, as the gentlemen would be landed in a boat from the ship; and that Capt. Hardy declared that no further hostilities would be committed against the town. After remaining on board an hour or more, the deputation were conveyed in a flag from the ship, which was met by one from the shore. They brought with them a very singular and extraordinary communication. An exact copy cannot at present be obtained, as official etiquette will not permit it; but having read it when it was received on shore, as far as memory will serve us, it was as follows:

On board H. M. Ship *Ramilies*, off Stonington, Aug. 10.

GENTLEMEN—You having giving assurances that no torpedoes have been fitted out from Stonington; and you having engaged to exert your influence to prevent any being fitted out, or receiving any aid from your town; if you send on board this ship by tomorrow morning, at 2 o'clock, Mrs. Stewart, wife of James Stewart, Esq. late H. M. Consul at New London, and their children, I engage that no further hostilities shall be committed against Stonington; otherwise I shall proceed to destroy it effectually. For which purpose I possess ample means.

T. M. HARDY, Captain.

This letter was received indignantly. No answer was given. It was a fact well known, that no torpedoes have been fitted at Stonington, and that the inhabitants are unfriendly to the system; but neither individuals nor the town have power to prevent their resorting to that place. The condition *sine qua non* is truly *tragi-farical*.—Neither the town of Stonington, or the state of Connecticut, had any legal power to comply with it, which Capt. Hardy well knew. And if Stonington-Point, with its rocky foundations, had been in danger of being blown up, scarcely a voice would have been raised to

have saved it upon such disgraceful terms. The first duty of a citizen, we are taught in Connecticut, is to obey the laws. Mrs. Stewart is under the protection of the government of the United States, and the petition of her husband, for a permission for her departure, is in the hands of the proper authority, who will undoubtedly decide correctly in the case.

Our countrymen at a distance, from the importance Capt. Hardy has attached to the circumstance of Mrs. Stewart's being sent off to the British squadron, may possibly apprehend that she has received insult, or stigmatized some fears for the personal safety of herself and children. So far from this being the fact, no lady ever experienced greater civilities from the citizens; as no one has better deserved them.—And her feelings, during the proceedings at Stonington, demanded the sympathy of her friends.

By the terms offered by Capt. Hardy, it was impossible to discover, whether he was most doubtful of his ability to accomplish the destruction of the town, or desirous of a pretext to save it. He assured the gentlemen who accompanied the flag, that this was the most unpleasant expedition he had ever undertaken.

The truce on the part of the enemy having expired at 8 o'clock on Thursday morning, a flag was soon after observed at the battery to be coming on shore, and there not being sufficient time to give information of the fact at headquarters and receive instructions, it was determined by the officer then commanding to send a boat off to receive the communication. Mr. Faxon, of Stonington, took charge of the boat, met the flag, and offered to convey the dispatch agreeable to its directions.—The British officer, Lieut. Claxton, questioned his authority to receive it; inquired whether Mrs. Stewart would be sent off; and said he would go on shore. Mr. Faxon replied, that he knew nothing of Mrs. Stewart; and that if he attempted to proceed for shore, he would undoubtedly be fired on. He continued his course, when a sentinel was directed to fire forward of the boat, but the ball passed through the after sail. They immediately put about, and steered for the ship; the Lieut. swearing revenge for what he termed an insult to a flag.

An explanation of the circumstances was immediately transmitted by Gen. Isham to Capt. Hardy, which he received as satisfactory.

At this moment a flag had started for the *Ramilies* from the civil authority of the town, which was received on board; by which was sent the following letter:

To Thomas M. Hardy, Esq. Commander of H. M. Ship *Ramilies*.

SIR—Since the flag went into New London for Mrs. Stewart and family, General Cushing, who commands at New London, has written, we understand, to the Secretary of War on the subject, and it is our opinion that the request will be complied with. But whatever may be the result of the communication from Gen. Cushing, you will be satisfied that it is not in our power to enter into any arrangement with you respecting her.

From yours, &c.

ISAAC WILLIAMS, } Magistrates.
WILLIAM LORD, }
ALEX. G. SMITH, }
JOSEPH SMITH, } Warden,
GEO. HUBBARD, } Burgesses.
AMOS DENISON, }

To this letter Capt. Hardy replied verbally, that he should allow till 12 o'clock for Mrs. Stewart to be brought on board. At this time the principal part of three Regiments of militia had arrived, and the town was perfectly safe against a landing.

At 3 o'clock the bomb ship recommenced throwing shells in the town; and being out of reach of our cannon, the General withdrew the militia, excepting a guard of 50 men, who were ordered to patrol the streets for the extinguishment of fire, should any happen. The bombardment continued till evening.

On Friday morning the bomb ship renewed her operations a little before sun-rise, while the *Ramilies* and *Pactolus* were warping in. At 8 o'clock the frigate opened her fire, and was soon followed by the *Ramilies*. At this time the cannon were ordered to be removed to the north end of the town, where they would have been serviceable if an attempt had been made to land under cover of the ships.—This was a very hazardous service, as the party would be entirely exposed to the fire of the enemy. Volunteers in sufficient numbers instantly offered their services; among them were upwards of twenty of the Norwich artillery. The command of the party was

entrusted to Lieut. Lathrop, of that corps. They marched to the battery, and brought off the pieces without the smallest accident; exhibiting all the steadiness which characterises veteran soldiers.

This tremendous cannonade and bombardment continued till nearly noon, when it ceased; and at 4 o'clock the ships hauled off to their former anchorage.

During the succeeding night a large force was kept on guard, in the expectation and hope that a landing would be attempted. The militia, during this afflicting scene, discovered the very best disposition, and were eager to take revenge of the enemy, or to sacrifice their lives in the contest.

It may be considered miraculous, that, during the several attacks, while so many were exposed to this terrible and protracted bombardment and cannonade, not a person was killed, and but five or six wounded, and those slightly. Among the wounded is Lieutenant Hough of the drafted militia.

On Saturday morning the enemy relinquished the hope of burning the town—weighed anchor, and proceeded up Fisher's Island Sound.

The volunteers who so gloriously fought in the battery, deserve the thanks of their country. No men could have done better. Their example will have the happiest influence.

About 40 buildings are more or less injured, 8 or 10 essentially so; and 2 or 3 may be considered as ruined.—The damage was principally done by the brig. Many shells did not explode; several were extinguished. The congrue rockets, which were frightful at first, soon lost their terrors, and effected little.

The inhabitants, fearing another attack, have not returned to their dwellings; and their desolate situation calls loudly upon the philanthropy of their fellow citizens. If a brief should be granted for collectors in the churches of the state, we trust very essential aid will be furnished. Nineteen-twentieths of the inhabitants, it is said, have no other property than their buildings.

A Nantucket man has been on board the British fleet to redeem his boat, and learnt that the *Dispatch* had two men killed and twelve wounded; her loss was undoubtedly much greater.—The force in Fisher's Island Sound yesterday, we understand, consisted of the *Superb*, *Ramilies*, *Pactolus*, *Sylph*, *Dispatch*, *Nimrod*, and *Terror* bomb ship.

Three gentlemen landed here on Wednesday from on board the Swedish schr. which arrived at Plumb-Island five days before from Bermuda. They inform that Admiral Cochrane remained at Bermuda the 29th of June, with two 74's, 6 frigates, and 4 smaller vessels. A frigate had arrived, which touched at the Western Islands the first of July, and left there a fleet of 40 sail of transports, from Gibraltar, bound to Bermuda. It was said that Admiral Cochrane was waiting for them to proceed to the American coast. An expedition against New York was spoken of.

Yesterday, in the afternoon, a British barge approached Groton shore so near that a party of militia, commanded by Capt. John Barber, surprised and captured her. One man was killed and one wounded of the crew. Her crew, it is said, consisted of the master of the *Dispatch* brig and 13 men.

From the *Baltimore Patriot*.

AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE OF WASHINGTON.

To the Editors of the *Balt. Patriot*.

Friday Evening, Aug. 26.

Gentlemen—Having witnessed the late unhappy occurrences at Washington, I will, agreeable to your request, put them on paper; that, if necessary, they may be used to correct some of the many erroneous reports which are circulating.

I arrived at Washington on Sunday, the 21st inst. At that time the officers of government and citizens were very apprehensive of an attack from the British who had landed a force on the Patuxent. Their numbers had not been ascertained, but reports were various stating them from 4000 to 16,000. Gen. Winder was stationed near the Wood Yard, with about 2000 men, hourly expecting large reinforcements from every quarter, particularly from Baltimore, 3000 men having been ordered to march immediately from that place. On Sunday, the public officers were all engaged in packing and sending off their books and the citizens their furniture. On Monday, this business was continued with great industry, and many families left the city. The specie was removed from all the Banks in the district. Reports were very current, that Winder had

received large reinforcements; so that it was believed by many well informed persons, that he would have 10,000 men embodied in the course of the week. In the expectation that there was a very considerable force collected, the President, accompanied by the Secretary at War, and of the Navy, left the city for the camp. They arrived there late that night; and the next morning finding but 3000 men, and learning that the Baltimore troops were encamped at Bladensburg, they returned to the city on Tuesday to make further arrangements. All the books and papers were sent off, and the citizens generally left the place.

In the course of that day a scouting party from General Winder's army had a skirmish with a British advance guard, and returned to camp with such tidings as induced General Winder to retire to the city; with his army, which he accomplished by 9 o'clock in the evening, burnt the old bridge which crossed the Eastern Branch, and encamped on the hill directly above the other bridge, about one mile and an half from the Navy Yard, and prepared to defend that passage. In the event of the British being too strong, the bridge was to be blown up, for which he had every thing prepared. At this post he remained the whole night, expecting the enemy's forces. On Wednesday morning I walked through the army and remained at the bridge until 10 o'clock, when advice was received, that the enemy had taken the Bladensburg road. The troops were immediately put in motion, and by 12 o'clock the whole were on their march, in the hopes of forming a junction with the Baltimore troops, before the enemy reached Bladensburg. This was only partially accomplished, when the battle commenced, and was contested by the Baltimore troops, and the men from the flotilla, with great spirit and gallantry, until it appeared useless for so small a force, very badly supported, to stand against six thousand regulars, all picked men and well supplied—a retreat was ordered; when the President, who had been on horseback with the army the whole day, retired from the mortifying scene, and left the city on horseback. On Thursday morning, I proceeded on with the army, to Montgomery Court House, where General Winder's head quarters were established. I had some conversation with him. He appeared to regret very much, that he had not been enabled to have made a greater resistance, although he was perfectly satisfied, that a successful resistance could not have been made, with the force in the neighbourhood of Washington, since, if all had been brought together before the action, it would not have been so large as that opposed to him, and our force was principally militia, and that of the enemy all regulars and picked men.

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

FARM, AT ELK RIDGE,

August 29th, 1814.

SIR—This is the first moment I have had in my power to make a report of the proceedings of the forces under my command since I had the honor of seeing you on Tuesday, the 23d inst. at the Camp at the "Old Fields." On the afternoon of that day we were informed that the enemy was advancing upon us. Our army was put into order of battle and our position taken; my forces were on the right flanked by the two battalions of the 36th and 58th regiments, where we remained some hours. The enemy did not however, make his appearance. A little before sunset Gen. Winder came to me and recommended that the heavy artillery should be withdrawn, with the exception of one 12-pounder to cover the retreat. We took up the line of march, and in the night entered Washington by the Eastern Branch Bridge. I marched my men, &c. to the Marine Barracks, and took up quarters for the night. About 2 o'clock, Gen. Winder came to my quarters, and we made some arrangements. In the morning I received a note, from Gen. Winder, and waited upon him. He requested me to take command and place my artillery to defend the passage of the bridge on the Eastern Branch, as the enemy was approaching the city in that direction. I immediately put my guns in position, leaving the marines, and the rest of my men at the Barracks, to wait further orders.

I was in this situation when I had the honor to meet you with the President and Heads of Departments, when it was determined I should draw off my guns and men, and proceed towards Bladensburg, which was immediately put into execution. On our way I was informed the enemy was within a mile of Bladensburg: we hurried on, tho' the day was very hot, and my men