

much crippled from the severe marches we had experienced the preceding days. I preceded the men, and when I arrived at the line which separates the District from Maryland, the battle began. I sent an officer back to hasten on my men—they came up in a trot. We took our position on the rising ground, put the pieces in battery, posted the marines under Captain Miller, and flotilla men who were to act as infantry under their own officers, on my right, to support the pieces, and waited the approach of the enemy. During this period the engagement continued—the enemy advancing and our army retreating before them apparently in much disorder. At length the enemy made his appearance on the main road in force and in front of my battery, and on seeing us made a halt; I reserved our fire; in a few minutes the enemy again advanced, when I ordered an 18 pounder to be fired, which completely cleared the road; shortly after, a second and a third attempt was made by the enemy to come forward, but all who made the attempt were destroyed. The enemy then crossed over into an open field and attempted to flank our right. He was there met by three 12 pounders, the marines under Captain Miller, and my men acting as infantry, and again was totally cut up. By this time not a vestige of the American army remained except a body of five or six hundred posted on a height on my right, from whom I expected much support from their fine situation. The enemy from this period never appeared in force in front of us. He however pushed forward his sharpshooters, one of whom shot my horse under me, which fell dead between two of my guns. The enemy who had been kept in check by our fire for nearly half an hour, now began to cut flank us on the right. Our guns were turned that way; he pushed up the hill about two or three hundred men towards the corps of Americans stationed as above described, who to my great mortification made no resistance, giving a fire or two and retiring.

In this situation we had the whole army of the enemy to contend with; our ammunition was expended, and unfortunately the drivers of my ammunition waggons had gone off in the general panic. At this time I received a severe wound in my thigh. Captain Miller was wounded, Sailing-Master Warner killed, Acting Sailing-master Martin killed, and Sailing-master Martin wounded, but to the honor of my officers and men, as fast as their companions and messmates fell at their guns, they were instantly replaced from those acting as infantry. Finding the enemy now completely in our rear and no means of defence, I gave orders to my officers and men to retire. Three of my officers assisted me to get off a short distance, but the great loss of blood occasioned such a weakness that I was obliged to lie down. I requested my officers to leave me, which they obstinately refused, but upon being ordered they obeyed; one only remained. In a short time I observed a British soldier and had him called, and directed him to seek an officer; in a few minutes an officer came, who, on learning who I was, brought Gen. Ross, and Adm. Cockburn to me. These officers behaved to me with the most marked attention, respect and politeness, had a surgeon brought and my wound dressed immediately. After a few minutes conversation the General informed me (after paying me a handsome compliment) that I was paroled and at liberty to proceed to Washington or Bladensburg, as was also Mr. Huffington who had remained with me, offering me every assistance in his power, giving orders for a litter to be brought, in which I was carried to Bladensburg. Captain Wainwright, first Captain to Admiral Cochrane, remained with me and behaved to me as if I was a brother.

During the stay of the enemy at Bladensburg, I received the most polite attention from the officers both of the Navy and Army. My wound is deep, but I flatter myself not dangerous; the ball is not extracted. I fondly hope a few weeks will restore me to health, and that an exchange will take place that I may resume my command, or any other that you and the President may think proper to honor me with.

Yours respectfully,  
**JOSHUA BARNEY.**  
Hon. Wm. Jones,  
*Secretary of the Navy,*  
New-London, Aug. 31.  
Mrs. Stewart and her children left here in a flag on Thursday last, and proceeded to the Superb, Admiral Hotnam, where she met her husband. We understand Gen. Cushing was instructed to grant permission for their departure, if the enemy had ceased to use compulsory means to obtain it.—Mr. Stewart and his family reside at Plumb Island.  
The bodies of three men have been picked up within a few days on the shore near Stonington. One had both legs shot off; the other two appeared to have been killed by grape shot.—Supposed to have belonged to the barges, in the attack on Stonington.  
The enemy's force in sight yesterday, consisted of two 2-deckers, a frigate and a brig.

### LETTER Of the late Secretary of War.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE BALTIMORE PATRIOT.

It may be due to myself and is certainly due to others, that the reasons under which I retired from the direction of the War Department, at a juncture so critical as the present, should be fully and promptly known to the public. These reasons will be found in the following brief exposition of facts.  
On the evening of the 29th ult. the President called at my lodgings, and stated that a case of much delicacy had occurred; that a high degree of excitement had been raised among the militia of the District; that he was himself an object of their suspicions and menaces; that an officer of that corps had given him notice, that they would no longer obey any order coming through me as Secretary of War; and that in the urgency of the case, it might be prudent so far to yield to the impulse, as to permit some other person to exercise my functions in relation to the defence of the District.

To this statement and proposition, I answered substantially as follows—that I was aware of the excitement to which he alluded, that I knew its source and had marked its progress—that the present was not a moment to examine its more occult causes, objects and agents—that it ostensibly rested on charges known to himself to be false, that it was not for me to determine how far the supposed urgency of the case made it proper for him to yield to an impulse so vile and profligate—so injurious to truth and so destructive of order—but that for myself, there was no choice—that I could never surrender a part of my legitimate authority, for the preservation of the rest—that I must exercise wholly, or not at all—that I came into office, with objects exclusively public—and that to accommodate my principles or my conduct to the numbers of a village mob, stimulated by faction and led by folly, was not the way to promote these, and that if his decision was taken in conformity to the suggestions he had made, I entreated him to accept my resignation. This he declined doing. It was an extent, he was pleased to say, to which he meant not to go; that he knew the excitement was limited, as well with regard to time as to place; that he was now, and had always been fully sensible of the general zeal, diligence and talent, which I had put into the discharge of my duty, that it would give him pleasure were I to take time to consider his proposition. I renewed the assurance of my great personal respect, and my readiness to conform to his wishes on all proper occasions—I remarked, that whatever zeal, diligence and talent I possessed, had been employed freely but firmly, and according to my best views of the public good, and as long as they were left so to be exerted, they were at the service of my country—but that the moment they were made to bow to military usurpation or political faction, there should be an end of their public exercise. We now parted with an understanding that I should leave Washington the following morning.

It has since been stated to me as a fact, (to which I give the most reluctant belief) that on the morning of the 29th, and before my arrival in the city, a committee of the inhabitants of Georgetown, of whom Alexr. C. Hanson, ed. of the Federal Republican, was one, had waited on the President, by deputation, and had obtained from him a promise, that I should no longer direct the military defences of the District. On this fact, all commentary is unnecessary.  
It but remains to exhibit and to answer, the several charges raised against me and which form the groundwork of that excitement, to which the President has deemed it prudent to sacrifice authority; in declining to support mine. They are as follows, viz.  
1st. That (from ill will to the district of Columbia, and a design to remove the seat of government,) I gave orders for the retreat of the army, in the affair of the 24th ult. under circumstances not making retreat necessary or proper.

This charge has not for its support the shadow of truth. The commanding general will do me the justice to say, that I gave him no such order, and that he was and is under the impression, that the retreat was made earlier than I believed it to be proper. To the President I appeal, whether I did not point out the disorder and retreat of a part of the first line, soon after the action began, and stigmatise it as base and infamous.

2d. That in spite of the remonstrances of General Winder, and by the interposition of my authority, I had prevented him from defending the Capital.  
This charge contains in it a total perversion of the truth. When the head of the retiring column reached the Capital, it was halted for a moment. General Winder here took occasion to state to Mr. Monroe and myself, that he was not in condition to maintain another conflict, and that his force was broken down by fatigue and dispersion. Under this representation, we united in opinion, that he should proceed to occupy the heights of Georgetown.

3d. That I had withdrawn the covering party from the rear of Fort Washington, and had ordered Captain Dyson to blow up the Fort without firing a gun.  
This charge is utterly devoid of truth. The covering party was withdrawn by an order from Gen. Winder, and Captain Dyson's official report shews, that the orders under which he acted, were derived from the same source, though, no doubt mistaken or misrepresented.

4th. That by my orders, the Navy Yard had been burned. This like its predecessors, is a positive falsehood.  
Perceiving that no order was taken for apprising Commodore Tingey of the retreat of the army, I sent Major Bell to communicate the fact and to say, that the Navy Yard could no longer be covered. The Commodore was of course left to follow the suggestions of his own mind, or to obey the orders if orders had been given, of the Navy Department.

5th. And lastly, that means had not been taken to collect a force sufficient for the occasion.  
As the subject of this charge may very soon become one of the congressional enquiry, I shall at present make but a few remarks:  
1st. That no means within reach of the War Department had been omitted or withheld—that a separate military district, embracing the seat of government, had been created; that an officer of high rank and character had been placed in charge of it; that to him was given full authority to call for supplies, and for a military force of fifteen thousand men; that to this force was added the 56th regiment of the line, a battalion of the 38th, detachments of the 12th, of the artillery and of the dragoons, the marine corps, and the crews of the flotilla, under the special command of Commodore Barney—making a total of 16,300 men.

General Winder's official report of the engagement of the 24th ult. shews, how much of this force had assembled, and the causes why a greater portion of it had not been got together. These will be found to have been altogether extraneous from the Government, and entirely beyond its control: and  
2d. That from what is now known of the enemy's force, of the loss he sustained in the enterprise, of the marks of panic under which he retreated, &c. &c. it is obvious, that if all the troops assembled at Bladensburg, had been faithful to themselves and to their country, the enemy would have been beaten, and the Capital saved.

**JOHN ARMSTRONG.**  
Baltimore, September 3, 1814.  
**BAPTIST MISSIONARY CONVENTION.**

The general missionary convention of the Baptist denomination, in the United States of America, for foreign missions:  
Held in Philadelphia in May 1814, composed of delegates from twelve states; were in session ten days, formed a constitution limiting their stated meeting to the period of 3 years, appointed a committee of twenty-one, seven of whom may appoint and dismiss missionaries, and dispose of all the funds raised in the United States.

On the 24th May, a board of the committee met, appointed the Rev. Luther Rice a Missionary to travel in the United States with a view to excite the public mind more general to engage in missionary exertions, to form societies, &c. &c.  
Appointed the Rev. Adoniram Judson, (now in India) a missionary, and ordered him one thousand dollars, to be transmitted to him by the first safe opportunity, and that provision be made for the support of himself and family.

Agreed to correspond with the Baptist missionary society in England, and to pay bills drawn by that society in favor of Mr. Judson. Agreed to make Mr. Rice a compensation for his labors originating mission societies. Appointed a committee, to wit: Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Holcombe, and the honorable Jude Moulder, to inquire into the practicability of incorporating this Board.

After paying Mr. Rice \$280 and his travelling expenses, there is a deposit in the general fund of \$ 1556 67.  
The different societies had collected about \$ 4000. And those already formed, the committee reports to be able to furnish the general fund annually not less than \$ 5850.

Relative to the society in Kentucky, the committee reports as follows:  
The Kentucky Baptist Society for propagating the gospel, has collected more than \$ 100 already, and may be able to furnish the general fund perhaps two or three hundred dollars annually: nor can we refrain from remarking, that the zeal of our brethren in the West, and the prospects in that quarter, give us great pleasure, and excite happiest anticipations of the extent to which the missionary spirit may yet diffuse itself through our country.

**The British General Ross**  
Is a young officer, about 35—He has never before had a higher command than a regiment. The officers that have been taken, and the Surgeons left to attend the wounded at Bladensburg, say that Ross is considered a rash officer.

### FOREIGN

FROM ENGLAND.

**Boston, Sept. 6.**  
We have been favoured with several London papers to the 7th of July, by passengers in the Saratoga. They are not so late as those received at Halifax, by the packers, but contain several articles not before noticed, which we shall publish as soon as our limits will permit. There is not the least symptom of peace to be found in them.

**LONDON, JULY 7.**  
Private information, which may be relied on with confidence, states that a dreadful riot took place a few days ago at Strasburg, between the garrison and a corps of 3,500 prisoners, who refused to wear the white cockade; in which many lost their lives. Lyons is said to have discovered some unfavorable symptoms; and in Paris a person might infer from the conversation in the playhouse and in the *grouches*, that another revolution was on the point of taking place. The king of Prussia has arrived at Paris, *incog.*

In Spain no fewer than 4000 arrests have taken place since the return of the king. The principal adviser of the crown on these occasions is understood to be the duke del Infantado.  
There appears to have been a serious disturbance at Madrid. The king suddenly left the capital in the middle of the night of the 11th ult. and the stone upon which the constitutional inscription had been engraved, was torn from its place and two other inscriptions substituted.

**JULY 16.**  
A letter from Ghent, dated July 2, contains the following particulars:  
"The English ministers are, lord Gambier, and Messrs. Cockburn and Adam, but none of them have yet arrived at Ghent. The American ministers are Messrs. Bayard, Gallatin, Adams, Russell and Clay. They have all been here for some days, except Mr. Gallatin, who is hourly expected to arrive."  
The Dutch Government has agreed with the English in the total abolition of the Slave Trade.

**PLYMOUTH, JULY 9.**  
Arrived the Portuguese ship *Corea* de Lisboa, having on board the crew of the ship *Orange Boven*, Bedbrook, from Bermuda to London, which vessel was captured the 26th ult. by the *Wasp*, American sloop of war, and destroyed.  
The *Wasp* is supposed to have gone to Norway, to repair the damage she sustained in taking the *Reindeer*. The *Reindeer* had 16 24's, 2 long 12's, 130 men, and was 380 tons. The *Wasp* 20 32's, 2 long 12's, 175 men, 600 tons.

### BRITISH ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE OF THE ESSEX.

Copy of a letter from Capt. Hillyar to Admiral Brown, at Jamaica.

*H. M. Ship Phebe,*  
*Valparaiso Bay, May 30, 1814.*  
SIR—I have the honor to acquaint you, that at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 18th inst. after nearly 4 months anxious watching with His Majesty's brig *Cherub*, for the United States' frigate *Essex*, and her companion, to quit the port of Valparaiso, we saw the former under way, and immediately the two vessels made sail to close with her.  
On rounding the outer point of the bay and hauling her wind, for the purpose of endeavoring to weather us and escape, she lost her main top mast, and afterwards, not succeeding in an effort to regain the limits of the port, she bore up and anchored so near the shore (a few miles to the leeward of it) as to preclude the possibility of either of His Majesty's ships passing ahead of her without risk. As we drew near, my intentions of going under her stern was frustrated, from the ship's broaching off, and from the wind blowing extremely fresh. Our first fire commenced a little past four and continued about 14 minutes, but produced no visible effect; our second, a few random shot only, from having increased our distance by wearing was not apparently more successful; in standing again towards her, I hailed the *Cherub*, and signified my intentions of anchoring, to Capt. Tucker, for which we were not ready before with springs, directing him to keep under sail, and take a convenient station for annoying our opponent.  
On closing the *Essex*, at 35 minutes past five, the firing commenced, and before I gained my intended position, her cables was cut; and a serious conflict ensued, the guns of his majesty's ships becoming gradually more destructive, and when it pleased the Almighty to bless the efforts of my gallant companions, and my personal very humble ones with victory; my friend Captain Tucker, an officer worthy of their lordship's best attention, was most severely wounded at the commencement of the action, but remained on deck till it terminated; he also informs me that his officers, of whose loyalty, zeal, and discipline, I entertain the highest opinion, had conducted themselves to his satisfaction. I have to lament the death of four of my brave companions, and one of his, and my first lieutenant, among the

number, he fell early. Our lists of wounded are small. The conduct of my officers, &c. was such as became good and loyal subjects.

The defence of the *Essex*, taken into consideration our great superiority of force, the very discouraging circumstances of having lost her main top mast, and being twice on fire, did honor to her defender, and most fully prove the courage of Captain Porter.

I was much hurt when I heard that her men had been encouraged, when the result of the action was evidently decided, some to take to their boats, and others to swim to the shore, many of whom were drowned in the latter attempt, sixteen were saved by the exertions of our people, and others I believe, between thirty and forty effected their landing. I informed Captain Porter that I considered the latter, in point of honor, as my prisoners; he said the encouragement was given when the ship was in danger from fire, and I have not pressed the point.

The *Essex* is completely stored and provisioned for six months, and although much injured in her upper works, masts and rigging, is not in such a state as to give the slightest cause of alarm respecting her not being able to perform a voyage to Europe, with perfect safety.

I have the honor to be, &c.  
(Signed) **JAMES HILLYAR,**  
Captain.

The *Essex* will no doubt prove a rich prize, from the number of captures she had made; several of them with large sums of specie, which were taken on board of her. *Jamaica paper.*

### BUFFALO, SEPT. 8.

There has been more or less cannonading between the contending armies at Fort Erie, every day, during the week; but with very little effect on the part of the enemy.

On Sunday Lieut. Kincaid, of the artillery, was severely wounded with a fragment of a shell. The enemy attacked and drove in our picquets on the north side of the Fort on Sunday; but our troops were reinforced and the enemy driven; and the contest was sometimes continued spiritedly, until late in the day. We know little of the result we are told, however, that Lieut. Col. Joseph Wilcocks, of the Canadian volunteers, was killed, and that our loss was not large. We took several prisoners, and several deserters came in.

On Thursday last, the soldiery on the Niagara frontier were animated with the presence of their heroic commander, Maj. Gen. Brown. The wound of the General are we understand, nearly closed.

Major General Scott is at Geneva; the house of Judge Nicholas, and is recovering from his wounds.

### WASHINGTON CITY, SEPT. 8.

The whole of the naval force of the enemy recently lying in the Patuxet, got under way on Tuesday evening, and proceeded down bay.—*NAT. INT. 8th.*

### ENEMY BELOW.

The following account of the manner which the enemy moved down the river, for Alexandria, is forwarded to us by a friend who witnessed it.

"The British squadron, (assembled at M shall's Point and a little below Mount Vernon) began to move down tide, and a most favorable wind at N. E. The preceding ship was the Commodore in the *Sea Horse* frigate 38 guns with the first division of prize crew on board, and a few guns towards the Virginia shore, and the high bluff of Belvoir; and previously and at the same, constantly annoying them with their shot. The *Euryalus* frigate of 36 guns went next, and distinguished herself by the most active firing of any of the fleet. Those two vessels after passing the fort, hauled up in the wind and continued their firing until all the fleet had passed in low the Fort—the third was the *Etna* bomb the *Rocket* ship, and after them the *Mexico* brig of 14 guns, which had passed up the river and joining the squadron on the first instant after receiving four shot, one of which passed through her, from the *Bluff* battery, which passed the remaining prizes.—The extent of the injury sustained by them is not known. A fire ship with a party under Commodore Rodgers, could not overtake the rest of the fleet in time for full effect. It was fired, and went seemingly in a good direction for the *Euryalus* frigate, but grounded on a point.  
"From 6 o'clock until dark, a firing of heavy cannon was heard and supposed to be from Indian Head, eleven miles below Belvoir Bluff—Some shot struck the *Sea Horse*; her mizen topmast was seen to fall on the deck as she passed the *Bluff*."—*INTELL.*

A letter from the Republicans of New Mexico under date of the 3d August, says, "our prospects are flattering, and we shall take our line of march for Santa Fe, in all a month."

General Winder continues in command of the 10th Military District—he is in Baltimore and commands all the troops there, except Smith's division.

Fourteen waggons full of our noble sea first surmounted with the well known motto of "FREE TRADE AND SAILORS' RIGHTS" the whole preceded by the Hero of Valparaiso, and cheered by their boatwain's who passed through this City on their way to 35 more on Tuesday evening.

It is stated, we perceive, in some of the *then* prints, that the cannon at the Navy Yard were all destroyed. This is a mistake. The enemy was in so great a hurry to relinquish his steps, not touching several hundred pieces which lay in the yard. It is also stated that the Arsenal near the Navy Yard was destroyed. The enemy did not take time even to destroy that valuable depot.

Many of the enemy's wounded yet remain at Bladensburg, the people of which place its neighbourhood suffered considerably from the depredations of the enemy. Many outrages marked the progress of this through the country, principally perpetrated by non-commissioned officers and privates.