

ment, then Absalom called unto him and said—of what city art thou?
3. And Absalom said unto him, see thy matters are good and right, but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

4. And Absalom said moreover, O that I was made Judge of the land! That every man, which hath any suit or cause, might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

5. And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him & kissed him.

6. And in this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole (in his way) the hearts of the men of Israel.

10. But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel saying, as soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say—ABSALOM REIGNETH IN HEBRON.

[We refer our readers to the whole chapter, which is worthy of attention.] While this chapter was reading, some of the members from Massachusetts looked all manner of ways; and one of the prettiest of them looked sick, and it was expected every minute that he would go out, but he did not. Tim and he were observed to whisper together, and after service they walked arm and arm, with slow and solemn pace, towards their lodgings.—What their feelings & thoughts were, we could not devise; doubtless they were impressed with serious thoughts, suitable to the occasion. Some may be surprised to hear us say that Tim is a very serious and religious man.—He once laid himself out to preach, and actually wrote two very extraordinary sermons; the one upon *free will*, and the other upon *grace*, which he submitted to the judgment of an old lady in Groton; but we never learnt that he ever wrote a third.

Our country correspondent says, that it is a matter of speculation and curiosity among the gossips of Hartford and the neighboring towns, what could have been the impressions which these portions of scripture made upon the minds and conscience of any of the Convention, and he promises if he can find out, he will let us know. Should it turn out to be the conversion of any of these distinguished characters, we shall not fail to communicate the joyful tidings to the public.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate,
And of the House of Representatives.

By letters received a few days since from Governor Claiborne, I am officially advised that the enemy have invaded the state of Louisiana, and are within a few miles of New-Orleans.

From the talents of the distinguished officer who commands in that district, and the gallantry of the troops, I entertain no fears for the safety of the place from the forces which are now before it. The information, however, received from various quarters, renders it highly probable that the enemy will direct the principal part of his disposable force against that country, and that it will become a principal theatre of the war. His object is, no doubt, not only to occupy it during the war, but if practicable, permanently to hold it.

Should this be the case, it will be in his power entirely to shut up our commerce down the river, or to shackle it by restrictions and duties, little short of absolute prohibition: Its effects upon the western country, are too obvious to need comment.

A reliance must be had upon the militia of the Western country, to take the place of those now in arms, when their term of service expires; and the sooner a sufficient force is organized for that or any other object that may be found necessary, the better will the men be prepared for it—and the less time be consumed in their reaching the place of destination.

We have too deep an interest at stake, to rest our sole reliance upon the general government. A lengthy session of Congress is drawing to a close, and no adequate provision has been made for raising forces for the defence of the country. Whilst they are disputing about the details of a bill, the time for acting may pass away, not again to return.

In this situation it would be a criminal neglect of duty, not to use the means in our own power.

I therefore recommend the immediate passage of a law for detailing and organizing *ten thousand men* from the militia of this state, to hold themselves in readiness to march when required; and to continue in service six months after their arrival at the place of rendezvous:

That provision be made by law for immediately procuring camp equipage for the accommodation of that number of troops; and boats, &c. for their transportation—and for furnishing them with provisions until they arrive at head-quarters:

That provision be made by law for officering and organizing any corps of volunteers, who may tender their services on this or any other occasion during the war.

I have a strong reliance on the justice of the general government; and

that every necessary expence incurred in sending an army to Gen. Jackson, will be repaid by the United States.

ISAAC SHELBY.

January 25, 1815.

The Committee to whom was referred the Governor's Message of the 25th inst. reported the following bill.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 26, 1815.

A BILL

To raise and organize a force for the service of the United States.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That the Governor of this state be and he is hereby empowered, and authorized to organize and detach for immediate service, any number of militia of this state, not exceeding ten thousand, for any term of service not exceeding six months, from the time of rendezvous.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the forces to be raised and organized under this act, shall be disposed of at the discretion of the Governor, in the service of this state, and in the service of the United States, under the conditions and provisions herein mentioned.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That the Governor, for the purpose of carrying into effect all the aforesaid provisions, and for procuring every thing necessary for the proper equipment of said detachments, and every thing requisite for their transportation to any place he may direct, if called into the service of the United States, such as boats, camp equipage, & articles necessary for transportation by land or water; and for provision and maintenance, is hereby authorized to draw from the Treasury of this State, any sum of money not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars; and to supply any deficiencies that may exist of monies in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, he is authorized to negotiate a loan from the Bank of Kentucky, for any sum not exceeding Dollars, on the credit of this State, at an interest not exceeding six per centum per annum—to be reimbursed to the Bank in two equal annual instalments. The sum hereby appropriated, shall be expended only in case of the said troops being called into the service of the United States, as hereby directed.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That if any number of volunteers equal to the detail directed by this act, on any division, brigade, regiment, or battalion, shall be tendered in lieu of drafts, the Governor shall accept the same from said division, brigade, regiment or battalion, as their quota; and the said division, brigade, regiment or battalion, shall be discharged from the draft: And the Governor shall organize and commission the officers necessary to command said volunteers, if the officers shall not be already commissioned: Provided, that no corps of volunteers shall be less in number than one full company of militia, as organized by the laws of the United States.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, That the Governor forthwith on the passage of this act, shall correspond with the War Department; and as soon as he shall receive assurances that the said troops will be accepted and ordered into the service of the United States, will be assumed and discharged by the general Government; he shall thereupon incur all the expenses necessary to carry this act into effect, not exceeding the sums therein limited; and shall commence the detail hereby directed.

The kind of treatment received by the American prisoners of war in England, may be gathered from the following extract of a letter from an American seaman, to his parents in Philadelphia:—

Dartmouth Prison, (England)
Oct. 22, 1814.

"In the beginning of the year one thousand eight hundred and one, I arrived in England from Philadelphia.—Shortly after my arrival, I was impressed on board of his majesty's ship Princess, receiving ship for American seamen. I could not obtain my discharge, on account of an order which was issued, to impress, notwithstanding their protections, a number of AMERICANS! I was sent to Plymouth, and after being detained there three months, was ordered on board the Nautilus sloop of war, about to sail as one of a convoy from Spithead for Gibraltar. During this time, I in vain endeavored to procure my discharge.

"Soon after arriving at Gibraltar, we were stationed for a considerable time in the Mediterranean. After a series of hardships, and no scanty share of brutal treatment, which would neither afford you pleasure in perusing; nor me in penning, in the month of December, 1812, we received intelligence of war having been declared.—The Americans on board of our ship immediately gave themselves up as prisoners of war. Being then in the Mediterranean, we were sent to prison in Malta, at which place the plague was then raging—in this prison we were kept until the 4th of May, 1814

"During our confinement we suffered excessively for the want of the common necessities of life—and every trick has been tried to torture us into the horrid alternative of entering on board their ships. You may form some idea of our situation and feelings,

when I inform you, that not less than eleven thousand of the inhabitants were hurried to their graves, starvation staring us in the face, and no prospect of a release from a close, foul prison.—All their attempts at our seduction proved fruitless.

"We were, however, finally sent to this prison. I need scarcely mention that I never received a penny of pay. The number of Americans here is supposed to be between 4 and 5000.

"My best respects to my brothers—inform them of my present situation, and the treacherous, ungrateful treatment that I have, and am now receiving from the infernal tyrants that now oppress me: after having faithfully, though reluctantly, served them for 12 years, without pay, prize money, or pension—thrown into prison, & there doomed to spend the remainder of my life. Such is British gratitude! Such is the recompense they make to the defenders of their country! Such infamy must, at some period, meet with its deserts. Notwithstanding the love I bear my brothers, I would sooner hear of their falling by the sword of their enemy, than remaining inactive spectators."

The people of the Interior and Louisiana, fighting the battles of all our Ports.

With whatever affectionate solicitude and cordial admiration we look at our brethren in arms of and in Louisiana! Meeting as they do, with intrepidity and fidelity, the enemy of our prosperity and tranquillity, we cannot but see that they make an effectual diversion of that enemy from the Atlantic coast of the old states. That common enemy is manfully and generously met by the people of the interior, southern and western sections of our country. While a few narrow people in two or three of the eastern states are murmuring at the introduction of Vermont, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Louisiana as members of the Union, those youngest states are meeting the enemy, in the most gallant style, at Plattsburg and Erie, near Detroit, at Pensacola, Mobile and New-Orleans. Every Briton, put hors de combat (out of a capacity to fight,) in those places, is prevented from assailing and plundering Maine, Portsmouth, Boston, New-London, New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Norfolk, Charleston, and Savannah. The people of all those places have the truest and deepest interest in the repulsing or crippling the enemy in Louisiana.—Had Cochrane and Ross's corps been cut up at New-Orleans last winter, the insults and outrages they committed on the waters of the Chesapeake in August, 1814, would not have occurred.

Demo. Press.

Nothing can be more truly interesting than the situation of those respectable planters and citizens, formerly of French St. Domingo, and afterwards, in part, of the Island of Cuba, who are now settled, with the property they have saved, in our state of Louisiana. Their best present course is, however, perfectly plain. They will do best, in unanimously and vigorously drawing their swords in aid of their American brethren, from the Gulf to Kentucky, and of our military forces, to turn the intended destruction on the heads of the invaders. The French sugar colonies have been viewed, by the English, with an evil eye for 30 years, and this envy, transferred to Louisiana, has helped to give birth to the present British expedition to the waters of the Mississippi, the Iberville, the Mobile and the Perdido. The army and navy of the enemy expect, no doubt, first to riot on the spoils of New-Orleans, as they did at Alexandria. We trust, in just Heaven, that they will be sorely disappointed.—id.

Two gentlemen, masters of vessels we believe, have this day been examined by the committee of Vigilance and Safety, who have been with the enemy since August last, and were in the Menelaus frigate at the time of the demonstration on Baltimore. The attempt to pass the Ferry Branch was made, as one of them states, by eighty boats carrying about 23 men each, eight of which were entirely destroyed, with a loss, as was admitted by some inferior officers, after their return, of from 5 to 600 men! Two boats only went from the Menelaus, both of which returned, but 17 of the men were missing.—They have communicated some other information, highly interesting, but improper to communicate at the present time.—Balt. Patriot.

Building at Sackett's Harbor is undoubtedly going on, as the enemy must be well informed, if they have no other means of knowledge than our gossipping newspapers. We will not mention the number of men employed there, nor the keels already laid. But our readers rest satisfied that our government will have the command of Lake Ontario next summer, unless something very unexpected in either country should be effected at Kingston.—The architects are Mr. Brown and Mr. Bokford of this city.—Colum.

From New-Orleans.

Copy of a letter from his Excellency Gov. Claiborne to his Excellency Governor Shelby, dated

NEW-ORLEANS, Jan. 9.

Since I last wrote to you nothing important occurred till yesterday the 8th inst. At the dawn of day the enemy advanced in columns to the attack of our lines, protected by an incessant fire from all his batteries—his primary efforts were directed against both our flanks—the right supported by the river, and the left by a Cypress Swamp.—This evinced an ardor which nothing could have overcome, but the steady firmness and well directed fire of our brave troops.

At the commencement of the firing, I repaired to the scene of action, and arrived there before the battle was ended.—The officers—the regulars, the Kentucky and Tennessee and Louisiana militia, seemed to me to be alike cool and determined.—The fire of the Kentucky and Tennessee forces on the left was particularly fatal to the enemy.—They soon strewed the field in front with the dead and dying. The battle continued with vigor for near two hours when the enemy retired from the contest.

I cannot, with any kind of certainty, state their loss in dead, wounded and prisoners: It is however estimated at from 12 to 1500—among the killed are a Col. Raney, a Maj Pringle and many other officers.—Among the prisoners, I have seen 15 or 16 officers, most of whom are wounded.

It is a matter of equal joy and wonder that in a conflict so long, so glorious to us, and so fatal to the enemy, our loss is astonishingly small.—It is not believed to exceed killed and wounded 25 or 30, among whom I have not heard of one officer.

The entrenchments protected our men from the fire of the enemy, and although their batteries poured forth a shower of shells, balls and rockets, they did very little injury, for the most part overshooting the lines, and falling harmless in the field behind.

The commanding gen. Jackson, will give to government the particulars of a day no less honorable to him, than profitable to his country.—He will do justice to his brave army, and his distinguished brothers in arms, gens. Carroll, Thomas, Adair and Coffee, and many others whose merits he can justly appreciate.

The victory of the American arms, would have been complete, and Louisiana probably delivered at once from an invading foe but for the momentary success of the British on the opposite or west side of the Mississippi.

Batteries had been erected there to annoy the enemy's lines, and under the brave commodore Patterson, had gloriously contributed to our success.

They were protected by a detachment of the Kentucky and Louisiana militia, under brig. gen. Morgan of this state. Pending the attack on our lines, a party of the enemy, the force of which is not correctly ascertained, but is supposed to be inconsiderable, crossed the river and owing to some cause, not yet accounted for, our troops speedily gave way, and the brave commodore was compelled to spike and abandon his cannon. Gen. Morgan is understood to be cool and collected, and to have made many efforts to rally his men. Gen. Jackson was prompt in reinforcing him, so as to check the enemy's advance, and we hope to day, to hear of our batteries being re-occupied.

I am, Sir, with great respect, your obedient humble servant,

WM. C. C. CLAIBORNE.

P. S. Since writing the above I have had the pleasure to learn, that the enemy has abandoned our batteries on the opposite shore, and recrossed the river; he has also suffered more in the action of the 8th than I at first imagined. Their commander Lieut. Gen. Packenham is said to have been killed, and his second in command, Maj. Keane, badly wounded. I am very sure our own loss does not exceed the number stated.—Indeed I have reason to believe I have overated it. Your friend Maj. Luckett was in the action of the 8th inst. and acted with great zeal and firmness. A person very near the major was killed by a cannon, but he escaped unhurt.

Extract of a letter from Gen. John Adair to Gov. Shelby, dated

H. Q. 5 miles below New-Orleans,
January 13, 1815.

DEAR SIR—When we arrived at this camp on the 5th inst. only a part of our men could be armed. Major Gen. Thomas was unwell: I was ordered by Maj. Gen. Jackson to take the command of 800 men and place them in the rear of Gen. Carroll's command, who defended the centre of our works, which was the most vulnerable. This detachment consisted of Col. Slaughter's regiment and Major Harrison's battalion Lieut. Col. Davis, who commanded the 13th regiment, was soon after ordered to cross the river with 400 men to reinforce Gen. Morgan. In this situation we continued until the morning of the 8th, when the enemy attacked us in our lines. His main column was led against our centre, as we expected; a column was led

at the same time against our right. Their columns were formed & led with a degree of bravery that, at least command our respect—three times they were repulsed; on their second charge they entered our ditch—our men, both Kentuckians and Tennesseeans sustained the attack, and repelled them with a bravery never surpassed, and when the enemy entered our ditch, many of our men jumped on the breast work to meet them and killed them one on another.

It would not be proper for me to distinguish any by name—the detachments under my command, both officers and men, have done their duty faithfully and honorably sustained the character of the state to which they belong.—The detachment on the other side of the river, under Lieut. Col. Davis were obliged to retreat before a superior force.—They have been calumniated by those who ought to have fought with them, but did not—some of them perhaps have behaved improperly, but I have no doubt Col. Davis did his duty as far as was in his power—an investigation is about to take place, when I trust the blame will fall where it ought.

In the action of the 8th, although our lines were in a blaze of fire for about 40 minutes, and the ground for two or three hundred yards on the enemy's side, was literally strewed almost covered with killed and wounded, we had but six men killed and seven wounded in our whole lines; the enemy have not lost less than five hundred men, more than one hundred for one of ours! History will scarcely furnish us an account of such a battle—may we not rationally conclude that our men were shielded as well as strengthened by that power which rules in us as well as peace? The enemy remains in his intrenchments about 2 or 3 miles from us, it is not easy to judge of his intentions, my own opinion is that he will go on board and abandon the enterprise.

We have good reasons to believe their commanding general was killed, and two other major generals wounded, several of their colonels were killed and wounded; we have 21 officers of different grades prisoners, and 400 non-commissioned officers and privates, most of them are wounded, their loss has been so great, unless they are madmen, they will not again attempt our works.

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in this place, dated,
New-Orleans, Jan. 13, 1815.

In my letter of the 6th, I gave you a detailed account of our military operations up to that date.—The 6th and 7th were calm, and no movement of the enemy indicated approaching danger. Some prisoners, taken the 6th, of Lake Borgne, were brought up that night, and their conduct and expressions but too plainly evinced to us that a desperate effort on our position would be made the next day. Deserters had already informed the general that scaling ladders were making, and that the enemy calculated most sagaciously on dining in New-Orleans on the 8th. Under all these circumstances, you may be assured that we were on the constant look out for danger.—About 6 o'clock p. m. on the 7th, an account reached head quarters, that Col. Young, who was posted on the extreme left, with a regiment of state troops was attacked. The squadron of Dragoons, to which I am attached, was immediately ordered to the Colonel's support. The report proved untrue. The squadron returned, and the night passed away unusually calm. No firing even of picquets, was to be heard. I was so strongly impressed with the belief, from the reports of deserters, the conduct of prisoners, and the extraordinary lights in the enemy's camp, together with his quiescent conduct that an attack was meditated; that on 4 o'clock on the morning of the 8th, I had my horse fed and saddled, and was ready for action. The reveille beat, and morning which was cloudy, had diffused sufficient light to distinguish a man from a horse perhaps a hundred yards, when two rockets from the enemy announced the attack—whilst the rockets yet blazed in the heavens, a general discharge of his great guns burst upon us. Near a minute of frightful silence ensued.—The enemy advanced upon our breast works in three columns.—The right on the levee, and the left on the edge of a swamp, flanked by the wood. The right and centre columns halted at about 400 yards distance from us, except about 200 men on the right, who covered by the levee, advanced and got possession of our bastion, which was protected by 2 pieces, and about 50 men of the 7th U. S. infantry.—Having entered the bastion, our troops retired to the main breast work.—Three officers mounted that work, and one, a Scott's Colonel, ordered the YANKEE RASCALS to cease firing.—The words had not time to cool on his lips, when he, with his comrades, fell dead in our ditch—and every man who entered the bastion perished.—At this moment our right battery, consisting of 4 twelves, under the direction of the distinguished Capt. Humphrey, opened a most deadly fire on the halted right and centre columns, who did not attempt to advance.