

It will be seen that the outside of our paper bears an old date. It was struck off before the late scene of confusion, of which a detail follows.

DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN CAPITOL.

On the morning of Wednesday the 28th inst. the troops of this District, which had encamped in the City of Washington the preceding evening, were ordered on to Bladensburg, where a body of men from Baltimore were stationed. The approach of the enemy being ascertained, the united forces were drawn up in order of battle, near the bridge, which crosses the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, about four miles from the Capitol.

The whole number of men composing the American army, was about 7000. In and near the road which leads to the city, Com. Barney's men and the marine corps were posted, with a formidable battery of artillery. In their rear to the left of the road, was Major Peter's Artillery. Another battery of six pieces from Baltimore was placed in such a position on the left as to rake the bridge, and was covered by a rifle corps. The Infantry of the District under the command of Gen. Smith, were placed on the left of the road—Gen. Stansbury's Brigade, of which the noted Mamma is a member, and the 5th Baltimore Regiment under Col. Sterrett, were posted further to the left, the extreme of which was brought up by Capt. Burch's Artillery and Capt. Doughy's Riflemen.

About half past 12 o'clock the enemy's advance appeared and pushed for the bridge, when the Baltimore artillery opened a galling fire upon them. They proceeded on with great rapidity, and passing the bridge divided into two columns. One charged on the Baltimore artillery and compelled them to retreat. Burch's artillery, 5th Baltimore regiment & Stansbury's brigade began firing, but an apple orchard prevented the fire of the latter being effective. The other column proceeded along the road, the passage of which was gallantly contested by Barney and the marines under captain Miller.

The battle continued about three quarters of an hour. The 5th Baltimore regiment maintained their ground with firmness and fought well. Stansbury's brigade gave way as soon as exposed to the enemy's fire, and the general himself, as we have been assured by several officers, was the first in flight. The example of these men was soon followed by the militia of the District, and a general retreat was ordered before all the troops were brought into the action.

Great praise is due to Barney's men, who fought with desperation as did the marine corps. Com. Barney and Capt. Miller of the marines, were both severely wounded and were taken prisoners, with many of their men also wounded. All the volunteer corps of the District displayed great bravery, and no want of firmness was shown by the militia until after the flight of Stansbury's men.

The right wing which had no share in the action, was composed of the regular troops, belonging to the 28th and 38th regiments, amounting to 500, and part of the militia from Montgomery, Alleghany and Prince George counties, in Maryland, and several hundred men from Virginia.

The retreat was rapid and disorderly. At capital hill the district volunteers and some companies of militia were rallied, but orders were given to continue the retreat, and the inhabitants of Washington and Georgetown had the mortification to see the whole body pass through their streets in disorganized flight.

The retreat was continued till the troops reached Montgomery county, almost exhausted with fatigue, and without camp equipment, the baggage wagons having been sent across the Potomac bridge and ordered up the Virginia shore

Before the retreating troops reached Georgetown, the secretary of the navy passed through the place, and recommended to the citizens to make the best terms they could with the enemy. The president made his escape by crossing Mason's ferry into Virginia. The second day after the battle he passed through Rockville, Montgomery county, to Brookville, in the same county, where he arrived at nine in the night, escorted by twenty dragoons. He was taken in at the house of one of the Society of Friends, having made thirty miles since breakfast, as he stated, over a dreadful road, without any dinner. The next day being joined by Col. Murray, he found his way to the District, late in the evening, and his quarters have since been at the houses of his different friends.

No pursuit was kept up by the enemy, who entered Washington at his leisure, and in the evening, with ONE HUNDRED MEN, destroyed the capitol, the president's house, and the treasury office. A few of our men left at the navy yard destroyed, by order, the sloop of war Argus, the frigate on the stocks, and the public buildings there, and the arsenal at Greenleaf's Point.

The General Post-Office was spared on the representation of Dr. Thornton, that a part of the building was a museum of the arts, containing models of the patent machines, and the cause of general science would suffer by its confiscation.

On Thursday the War-Office and two rope-walks in Washington were burnt. In the evening a party was despatched to Greenleaf's Point, and while employed in burning a number of gun-carriages, a quantity of powder which had been thrown into a well, exploded and destroyed a considerable number of men and mangled many others.

After the retreat of the troops called to the defence of the Capital, the enemy took possession of the battle ground and many of them actually sunk to the ground with fatigue. They rested on their knapsacks, & were so exhausted by their rapid march, carrying on their backs four days provision and eighty rounds of cartridges, that they were unable to follow up the advantage gained, and pursue our army on their route through the city. The force that marched to the city two hours after the skirmish at Bladensburg, consisted of about 1500 men, that were not in the action, as it terminated before they could be brought up. They proceeded slowly and with the greatest caution, as they apprehended an ambush, and were persuaded the decisive battle was yet to be fought, which was to decide the fate of the late city of Washington. Arrived at the entrance of the town, opposite Mr. Gallatin's late dwelling, Gen. Ross, at the head of his troops, halted, expecting that the city would propose terms of capitulation. While in this situation, a shot from Gallatin's house killed the horse on which Gen. Ross rode. The horse was instantly set on fire and orders were at once given to burn the Capitol.

We have stated nothing that we do not religiously confide in as true. We have many precious anecdotes which will be given at leisure. In the present situation of affairs, when all is confusion and alarm, and we can scarcely be said to have a government, we have been barely able to get our paper to press, but when order and security are restored our readers will receive all the information it may be in our power to give them.

At a late hour on Thursday night, the British troops evacuated the city, leaving behind them the men wounded by the explosion.

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 weak officer. The enterprise in which he has been but too successful, proves him capable of embarking in

most audacious undertakings, if he did not know the character of the men who manage our affairs as well as we do. Certain it is, when his official account of the battle, and the capture and destruction of our CAPITOL is published in England, it will hardly be credited by Englishmen. Even here it is still considered as a dream.

It has been stated, that gen. Stansbury was wounded, and that Mr. Pinkney received his wound while rallying his men. Stansbury gave the enemy no opportunity to wound him, and Mr. Pinkney had his right arm shattered after the confusion commenced and every man was taking care of himself.

FORCE IN THE POTOMAC.

A naval force, consisting of six ships, has ascended the Potomac. On Saturday evening they reached Fort Warburton, and commenced cannonading it. The officer in command, on their approach, evacuated and blew up the fort, without firing a gun; and this, as he states, in consequence of express orders. Alexandria is thus in the power of the foe, who demand the surrender of all property, except household furniture, and threaten to destroy all the shipping in the harbor.

ALEXANDRIA CAPTULATED.

Since the above was in type, we have read the articles of capitulation which the corporation of Alexandria was forced to submit to. The citizens of that place resolved, in town meeting, that there was nothing left for them, but to make the best terms they could, since they were abandoned by the government and left entirely defenceless. The mayor of that city has informed the mayor of this town, that the enemy would no doubt proceed up the Potomac, and make the same demands which he was forced to accede to. The enemy is now coming up and is in full view 6 miles off. It is sufficient to say Georgetown can and will be defended. Unlike her unfortunate sister town, her situation admits of effectual resistance by the local militia and the troops from Virginia already come in to their assistance. But whether thro' the incapacity and criminal neglect of the government the town can be defended or not, our brave and proud Mayor would lose his right arm rather than submit to the imposition of degrading terms of capitulation. For ourselves we can only say what we have publicly and repeatedly said, that we would prefer to have our house and office converted to a heap of ruins, rather than witness the degradation of a town distinguished for its public spirit, virtue and patriotism. The time to examine the conduct of our rulers and to speak of the manner in which we have been betrayed, will be after the enemy is drawn off, or has retired. We shall content ourselves for the present with saying, that but one sentiment is expressed upon this subject.

Copy of a letter from the Mayor of Alexandria, to the Mayor of Georgetown.

Dear Sir—Enclosed is a copy of the terms proposed to the Common Council of Alexandria, by the commanding officer of the squadron now lying before the town, to which we were compelled to submit—I believe they will certainly go to Georgetown and the City.

Very respectfully,  
Your obt. servant,  
CHARLES SIMM.

H. M. Ship Sea-Horse,  
off Alexandria, 29th Aug. 1814.

Gentlemen—In consequence of a deputation yesterday received from the City of Alexandria, requesting favorable terms for the safety of the city, the undermentioned are the only conditions in my power to offer.

The town of Alexandria, with the exception of public works, shall not be destroyed, unless hostilities are commenced on the part of the Americans, nor shall the inhabitants be molested in any manner whatever, or their dwelling houses entered if the following articles are complied with:

- 1. All naval and ordnance stores (public or private) must be immediately delivered up.
- 2. Possession will be immediately taken of all the shipping and their fur-

nitures must be sent on board, by the owners without delay.

3. The vessels that have been sunk must be delivered up in the state they were on the 19th of August, the day of the squadron passing the Kettle Bottoms.

4. Merchandise of every description must be instantly delivered up, and to prevent any irregularity that might be committed in its embarkation, the merchants have it at their option to load the vessels generally employed for that purpose, when they will be towed off by us.

5th. All merchandise that has been removed from Alexandria since the 19th inst. is to be included in the above articles.

6th. Refreshments of every description to be supplied the ships, and paid for at the market price, by bills on the British government.

7th. Officers will be appointed to see that articles No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, are strictly complied with, and any deviation or non-compliance, on the part of the inhabitants of Alexandria, will render this treaty null and void.

I have the honor, &c.  
JOHN A. GORDON,  
Captain of His Majesty's ship Sea-Horse, and Senior Officer of His Majesty's ships off Alexandria.  
To the Common Council of the Town of Alexandria.

DEFENCE OF GEORGETOWN.

Half past 7, P. M.—Several of the enemy's vessels are in sight five miles from the town. The troops of the town, and between 3 and 400 Alexandrians who marched in from the country this afternoon, are drawn up in order of battle to receive the enemy, should he attempt the place.

The officers waited on the president in consequence of the arrival of the secretary of war, and signified their determination to resign their commissions, unless they received an assurance, that Armstrong should not be suffered to interfere with their arrangements. This assurance was given by the president.

LATEST FROM ALEXANDRIA.

At nine o'clock, P. M. The enemy is busily engaged in loading their vessels with the property obtained by the capitulation. In the article of flour they are very particular to take such only as pleases their palate. They throw into the Potomac all that is not fresh and sweet. It is supposed they will employ 2 several days in filling their ships with booty. All their proceedings are in full view of the city heights, and within a few miles of Mount Vernon, where rests the remains of the venerated founder of this republic. Shade of our beloved Washington look down upon your poor, suffering, humbled, bleeding country! Will there be no attempt to cut off these ships as they descend the narrow passes of the Potomac, and compel them to disgorge their plunder? Are there no cannon, no finances, no ammunition, no men? A bounty of 121 dollars and no men to throw a few red hot shot at 2 frigates and 2 small vessels, with not more than 300 matines to land? Are there no troops left no munitions of war after the millions that have been borrowed and squandered? There are, but they are on the Lakes in Canada.

Ad. Cochrann was in the City the night of the conflagration of Washington were alive you could not have done this. No said the admiral, "we should not have been at war, nor would we have left his capital defenceless for the purpose of making conquests abroad." Had the Stonington Tories been at Fort Warburton Alexandria would not have been abandoned to the enemy, any more than Washington could have been betrayed had a King or a Marshal been at the head of the nation.

New-York, August 27.  
From the Northern Frontier.  
The Steam-boat Paragon arrived this morning from Albany. In her came passengers, Lieut. Clayton of the Navy, and Lieut. Russell of the Army; the former Lieut. Com. Chaucey's fleet off the Ducks last Saturday. The fleet had been blown off its station, but had returned again to the Ducks, and resumed the blockade of the British fleet in Kingston harbor. Lieut. Russell is direct from the army at Erie, with despatches for the government. He informs that there had been no fighting since the defeat of the British in the attack on Fort Erie, on the 15th instant. The British army was posted at a re-

spectful distance from the Post, watching the movements of our army; Gen. Drummond had not been seen out of his quarters since his defeat. General Porter was at Canandowag, mustering volunteers for the army; Gen. Brown was expected to resume the command at Erie, in a few days. The British were, it was said, short of provisions. Among the British officers killed at the attack on Erie, was Major Charles Vallatie, lately one of the hostage prisoners, and Lt. Dobbs, who captured our two schooners on Lake Erie, some time since. Lieut. Dobbs volunteered his services for the attack, with 180 sailors. Two deserters who have come to the American camp since the battle, say the British lost from 15 to 1000 men, killed, wounded and missing. The whole number of prisoners taken, and in our possession after the battle, was 180.

From the Albany Argus, August 23.

LATEST FROM BUFFALO.

The Editor of the Argus has conversed with two gentlemen who left Buffalo on Wednesday morning, out of them of the army. They inform, that from 300 to 400 of the enemy were carried by our troops; and that the total number of prisoners, including wounded, was 211; of these 70 or 80 were mangled by the explosion of a powder magazine under the battery which the enemy gained, after having been repulsed from it four times. The platform was loosely laid down, and it is believed that the fire was accidentally communicated to the magazine. Several teams were seen to be employed by the enemy, in removing the wounded, during the action.

Lieut. McDonough was killed while fighting with the tail of his gun, and after he had knocked down several of the enemy. Lieut. Ponting, then the only remaining officer at the bastion, called for quarters. Lt. Col. Drummond replied, "Give no quarters to the dead jacobites." Ponting was bayoneted and thrown over the works; but was afterwards found and is doing well. Col. Drummond paid for his humanity with his life—as he was shot immediately after. Our loss was 10 killed and 200 wounded, 3 of which have since died.

The enemy was pursued to his intrenchments—His force previous to the action was six thousand. General Drummond had been induced to make the attack from the representations of these American deserters who had, with the view of obtaining favor, diminished our real force, and represented it in a starving, distressed state. They paid for their folly, as the enemy hung them all during the action.

From Sacket's Harbor, we learn that our fleet remained in its former positions; that the enemy's large ship would be off in Oct. and that the frames for two frigates, brought from England had arrived at Kingston.

THE ADAMS CORVETTE.

The Boston Palladium of Tuesday, states that the Adams corvette arrived at Camden on Thursday—had been encircling the English Channel; had made 6 prizes, from which she took sundry articles of dry goods—had been chased several times, and threw over several articles.

On Wednesday night last, in running in for the land, at the rate of 10 to 12 knots, being very dark, she struck upon the Isle of Holt, knocked off her fore foot, beat whole through the bottom, and came very near being lost, making afterwards 5 feet of water per hour. Owing to the great exertions of the officers and crew she was got off, and proceeded into Penobscot river.

The Adams remained off Camden on Friday last, waiting for anchors from shore, having lost her last one in getting off the Isle of Holt.

A letter from Thomaston, mentions the arrival of the Adams, U. S. sloop of war, at Camden, and that she landed her prisoners and sick, about 40 of the latter, and went up the Penobscot as far as Belfast.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

Having the interest, Capt. Stocket, of the schooner Hallins, who arrived at quarantine this morning in 10 days from Havana, informs us, that a few days before he left there, two Spanish sloops of war, a brig and two schooners, with troops, sailed from Havana for Pensacola; and the day after a British frigate and two sloops, with implements of war, military dresses and presents for the Indians, sailed from the Havana; destination not known, but said to be also for Pensacola. A fleet of 12 ships, under convoy of a frigate, had arrived at Havana, in 45 days from Cadiz, laden chiefly with flour and wines. Fifteen said of English merchantmen were to sail from Havana for England on the 4th of September. Capt. Stocket says it was the general impression at Havana that a war between the U. States and Spain would take place, unless the U. States would relinquish their title to New-Orleans. Flour at Havana, was \$ 23 a barrel.