### THE MILITARY MONITOR, AND AMERICAN REGISTER.

**BY T. O'CONNOR.**

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New-York 1812.

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**Vol. 1. Monday, February 1, 1813.**

| Number of 32 pound caronades on the main deck or quarter deck. | 38. |
| Number of 42 pound caronades on the forecastle. | 8. |
| Number of 32 pound caronades on the forecastle. | 8. |
| Number of 32 pound caronades on the forecastle. | 2. |
| Whole number of carriage guns. | 244. |
| Number of guns in a broadside. | 10. |
| Weight of ball in a round. | 22. |
| Weight of ball in a broadside. | 27. |
| Number of men. | 90. |
| Whole annual expense in actual service. | 71. |
| Annual expense per gun. | 23. |
| Annual expense per man. | 10. |
| Power of each computed in weight of metal. | 6. |

**B.**

*Estimate of the expense of building and equipping a 74 gun ship of 1620 tons, prepared some years since by Joshua Humphreys, esq. of Philadelphia, a shipwright of great respectability and professional talents.*

- Live oak timber, $40,000
- White oak and pine ditto, $30,000
- Labor, $5,100
- Cables, rigging, &c., $22,400
- Smith’s work, $20,400
- Anchors, marling, $8,700
- Sailmaker’s bills, two suits, including canvas, $16,200
- Joiner’s bill, including stuff, $7,800
- Carver’s bill, $1,620
- Tanner’s ditto, $700
- Rigger’s do., $2,240
- Painter’s do., $3,240
- Cooper’s do., $4,800
- Blockmaker’s do., $3,210
- Boatbuilder’s do., $1,620
- Plumber’s do., $2,430
- Ship Chandlery, $9,720
- Turner’s bill, $1,215
- Copper bolts, $10,960
- Sheathing copper, nails, &c., $17,440
- Woolens for sheathing, $1,215

**Contingencies, $311,100**

**Total, $342,700**

### Notes by an experienced gentleman.

**“Labor.”** This item was calculated at a time when ship carpenter’s wages were $2.50 per day; they can now be obtained at $2.

**“Cables and rigging.”** When the above estimate was made the price was $16; they can now be obtained at $15.

**“Carver’s bill.”** Expensive carving on the head and stern is abolished; 1000 dollars may be deducted from this item.

**“Rigger’s bill.”** We employ seamen at 12 dollars per month; this item may be considerably reduced.

**“Painter’s bill.”** The practice of painting our ships of war differs so much from that first
Position, both in point of labor and colors, that one-third of this item may be safely deducted.

"Woolen for sheathing." Now exploded, having established the fact that it occasions an absorption and retention of salt water, which corrodes the inside copper, &c. could the copper be laid on so smooth as without it.

"Contingencies." At the time the above estimate was made, we had no yards, of course wharfs or rent of yards was then included, and we do not now, as then, give such quantities of ruin to laborers; this item may be reduced one-half.

C.

Estimate of the expense of building and equipping a 74 gun ship, formed from the actual expense of building and equipping the frigate President.

The President of 1444 tons, cost $220,910
Say per ton 153 dollars, a 76 would cost 11,260.

1820 tons, at 153 dollars. 247,860

Add for additional guns and gun carriages. 13,550

Additional cubic feet of timber in the frame, about 4,000 feet, at $1.25, 5,000

For additional weight of rigging, anchors and other materials, add 10 per cent. on the cost of the tonnage, 247,860 dollars, at 10 per cent. 24,786

Total, $284,245

Say $300,000.

D.

United States frigate Constellation, Nov. 12, 1812.

Sir—I have received your letter of the 14th inst. in which you state "the desire of the Naval Committee to possess the most comprehensive information upon naval subjects, particularly the description of marine force best adapted to our defence, and the relative efficiency of vessels of different rates." In compliance herewith, I have the honor to answer the questions you propose, as follows:

Question 1. What in your opinion is the relative efficiency of ships of the line, say 74's, and large frigates?

Answer. The relative efficiency or force of a 74 gun ship and large frigate, is as one to three.

Comparative Force.

Frigate of 50 guns.

| Gun deck | 30 | 24-pounders. |
| Quarter deck | 14 | 32 lb. carronades. |
| Forecastle | 6 | 32 lb. do. |

- Guns 50
- 1300 lbs. shot each round.
- Men 430
- 480 guns and men.

Ship of the line, 74 guns.

| Lower gun-deck | 28 | 42-pounders. |
| Upper do. | 30 | 24 do. |
| Quarter deck | 16 | 42 do. carronades. |
| Forecastle | 8 | 32 do. |
| Do. | 24 pounds. |
| Poop. | 4 | 68 do. |

- 738 guns and men.

Argument. By the above comparison it appears, that a 74 gun ship discharges at one round 322 lbs. of shot, and a frigate, of the first class 1300 lbs.; it therefore clearly proves the position or relative force in point of metal, to be 1 to 3, or thereabouts. When this circumstance is considered jointly with the following, it must appear to others as it does to me, that as you increase the class of the ship, you increase the force in proportion of one to three, and diminish proportionally the expense of building, equipping, and supporting them in commision, which can only be established by estimates from the department, and the experience of all other maritime nations.

Ships of the line are much stronger in scantling; thicker in the side, and bottom, less penetrable to the shot, and consequently less liable to be battered to pieces, or sunk; the additional room being more than in proportion to the additional number of men, leave greater space for water and provisions, and admits of her being kept clear, that shot penetrating below the water, the holes can readily be plugged up from the inside, and her sinking thereby prevented; hence we have seen ships of the line capable of battering one another for several hours, and not too much crippled in the spars and rigging, enabled to renew an action on following days. I am aware that some are of opinion, that a seven divided force is better calculated for action, from the advantageous position that would be given to a part: Suppose three frigates of 38 guns were to undertake to batter a 74 gun ship, and that two of these were to occupy the quarter and stern of the 74, (this is placing them in the most favorable position) the other frigate engaged abreast, every thing would then depend on the time the frigate abreast could maintain that position to enable the other two to act with effect on the stern quarter. But it must appear evident to all acquainted with the two classes of ships, that the frigate abreast could not withstand the fire of so heavy and compact a battery many minutes; and in all probability would be dismasted or sunk the first or second broadside. This would decide the fate of the other two. Much might be said upon the superiority of ships of the line over frigates in the attack of batteries, or their defence; on the security of valuable convoys of merchant ships, or troops sent on an expedition; but their advantage in these respects, must be apparent to all, however unacquainted with nautical affairs.

Question 2. What in your opinion is the relative efficiency or force of large frigates and sloops of war?

Comparative Force.

Sloop of war.

| Gun deck | 16 | 12 pounders |
| Quarter deck | 8 | 24 do. carronades |
| Forecastle | 4 | 24 do. |

- Guns 28
- 430 lbs. shot |
- Men 190

208 guns and men.

Frigate.

| Gun deck | 30 | 24 pounders |
| Quarter deck | 14 | 32 do. carronades |
| Forecastle | 6 | 32 do. |

- Guns 50
- 1300 lbs. shot
- Men 430

480 guns and men.

Question 3. What description of naval force do you think best adapted to the defence of our coast and commerce?

Answer. Ships of the line are best calculated for the defence of our coast, and for the protection of our inward and outward commerce when engaged in war with a foreign maritime power.

Argument. It cannot be supposed, in a war with a foreign maritime power, that that power will only send to our coasts frigates and smaller cruisers, because we possess no other description of vessels. Their first object will be to restrain ships of the line, our frigates and other cruisers from departing and prey ing upon their commerce; their next object will be to send their smaller cruisers in pursuit of our commerce, and by having their ships of the line parading on our coast, threatening our more exposed support towns, and preventing the departure of our small cruisers. They will be capturing what commerce may have escaped their, and recapuring what prices may have fallen into our hands.—Thirdly, they can at any time withdraw their ships of the line, should a more important object require it, without hazarding much on their part; and return in sufficient time to shut our cruisers that may have departed during their absence. Fourthly, they can at all times consult their convenience in point of time and numbers; and will incur no expense and risk of transports, for provisions and water; but can go and procure their supplies at pleasure and return to their stations ere their absence is known to us.

Question. What description of force do you think best calculated to prosecute the present war, and any future war in which we may be engaged?

Answer. For the prosecution of the present war with the most effect, a mixt naval force of the following description, is in my opinion the best calculated.

Ships of the line, to rate, in honor of the year of our Independence, Seventy-Sixers, to mount as follows:
Stateinent showing the proportions of able seamen, ordinary seamen and boys, required for a ship of the line, say a 76, and a 44 gun frigate.

Able Seamen. O. Seamen and boys.

A 76 requires 250 223

44 140 172

Note. 210 able seamen is considered by practical men as too great a portion for a first rate 76. The whole number of able and ordinary seamen and boys is 233; and practical men say that they may be classed thus; able seamen 220, ordinary seamen, &c. 203. It is observed by those acquainted with ships of the line, that to manage their sails does not require more able seamen than are required to manage the sails of a large frigate.

A force in frigates equal to a 76 would then require 420 able seamen; a 76 would require 220, making a difference in this respect of 200 able seamen in favor of the 76.

In 1788 and 1799 no difficulty was experienced in procuring able seamen; we could frequently in one week man a frigate. One among other considerations which induced able seamen to enter then with so much alacrity, was, because the enemy we were then contending with had not afloat (with very few exceptions) vessels superior in rate to frigates. The enemy we are now fighting have ships of the line; and our sailors know the great difference between that class of vessels and frigates, and cannot but feel a degree of reluctance at entering the service from the evident disparity. Build ships of the line, and you will man them with more ease than you now can a sloop of war.

In 1798, 9, and 1800, we had near 4000 able seamen in the navy, a number sufficient to man eighteen ships of the line.

Ordinary seamen can always be procured in abundance.

IMPERSED SEAMEN.

The following Message was received from the President of the United States:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

I transmit, for the information of Congress, copies of a correspondence between John Mitchell, Agent for American prisoners of war at Halifax, and the British Admiral commanding at that station.

I transmit for the like purpose, copies of a letter from Commodore Rodgers to the Secretary of the Navy.

JAMES MADISON.

January 22, 1813.

Extract of a letter from John Mitchell, Esq. Agent for American prisoners of war at Halifax, to the Secretary of State, dated 5th December, 1812.

I cover you a copy of a correspondence, which took place in consequence of different applications I received, either by letter or personally, from persons detained on board his Britannic Majesty's ships of war in this place.

I formerly mentioned to you, that the Admiral had assured me, that he would discharge all the citizens of the United States who were in the fleet, and actually did discharge several. This induced me to think I should be correct, and in the perfect line of my duty, in sending him a list of the appli-
Copy of a letter from John Mitchell, Esq. Agent for American prisoners of war at Halifax, to Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren, dated 1st December, 1812.

Sirs,—I had yesterday the honor to receive your letter, dated the 1st inst., and observed that you cannot permit the interference of any application from men on board his Majesty's ships, but through their commanding officers; and in your department, of prisoners of war only, I shall at all times be most happy to receive your communications.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN BORLAKE WARREN.


Sirs,—This letter received yesterday, have I acquainted, that whenever any address is made relative to men on board his Majesty's ships, I cannot permit any application by other person in time of war, but in the above mode.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN BORLAKE WARREN.

From Commodore Rodgers to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Privy President,
Boston, Jan. 14, 1813.

Sir,—Herewith you will receive two muster books, of his Britannic Majesty's vessels Moselle and Sapho, found on board the British Packet Swallow. As the British have always denied that they detained on board their ships of war American citizens, for the purpose of being sold on the exchange, as a public document of their own, to prove how illy such an assertion accords with their practice.

It will appear by these two muster books, that so late as August last, about an eighth part of the Moselle and Sapho's crew were Americans: consequently, if there is only a quarter part of that proportion on board their other vessels, they have an infinitely greater number of Americans in their service than any American has yet had an idea of.

Any further comment of mine on this subject, consider unnecessary; as the enclosed documents speak too bluntly for themselves.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) JOHN RODGERS.

The Hon. Paul Hamilton, Secy. of the Navy.

The message and documents were read and referred to the committee of foreign relations.

RECRUITING INSTRUCTIONS.

Adjutant-General's office,
Washington City, 15th Jan. 1813.

The following recruiting districts are established within the United States and the territories thereof, viz.

The district of Maine will form one recruiting district, the principal rendezvous of which will be at Portland.

The state of New-Hampshire, one district, principal rendezvous Concord.

Vermont, one district, principal rendezvous Burlington.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island, two districts; the first to include Rhode Island and that part of Massachusetts lying east of Worcester; principal rendezvous Boston.

The second to include all Massachusetts west of Worcester, the principal rendezvous of which will be at Pittsfield.

Connecticut, one district, principal rendezvous Hartford.

New-York, three districts; the first to include that part of the state lying south of Poughkeepsie, principal rendezvous New-York.

The second to include all northern New-York, and east of Utica, principal rendezvous Albany.

The third to include the remaining part of the state, principal rendezvous Canandaigua.
will transmit to him a statement of their accounts weekly, showing the amount of money, clothing, &c., received and distributed, and the balance remaining on hand; a duplicate of which they will transmit to the War Department. They will be held responsible for the good conduct of their recruits, and will transmit weekly to the commanding officer of the district, and to this office.

The commissary general of purchases will cause to be deposited, at the principal rendezvous in each district, subject to the orders of the field officer, a sufficient quantity of clothing, arms, accoutrements, ammunition, camp equipage and medicine, for the number of men to be recruited therein; and that there shall at no time be a deficiency of any of these articles, the field officer will give due notice to the commissary general of the articles received, delivered, and on hand, and at what time a further supply will be necessary.

When a recruiting officer shall send a party of recruits to the principal rendezvous, he will transmit to the commanding officer an exact statement of each man's account, as respects clothing, subsistence, bounty and pay; and a like statement must accompany every man sent to the regiment, to be entered in the books of the company for which he enlisted.

Recruits are to be free from sore legs, scurvy, scalded head, ruprures, and other infirmities. The age is to be conformable to law, but healthy active boys, between 14 and 18 years of age, may be enlisted for musicians. In all cases where minors or apprentices are enlisted, the consent in writing of the parent, guardian or master, if any such there be, is to be obtained, and accompany the enlistment.

No objection is to be made to a recruit for want of size, provided he is strong, active, well made and healthy.

As soon as convenient, and within six days at farthest from the time of his enlistment, every recruit shall be brought before a magistrate, and take and subscribe the oath required by law, according to the form prescribed.

When a recruit is rejected, his clothing, if delivered, and the bounty advanced to him, shall be returned, for which the recruiting officer will be held accountable.

If any recruit, after having received the bounty, or a part of it, shall abscond, he is to be pursued and punished as a deserter.

Every officer engaged in the recruiting service, will procure the necessary transportation, forage, fuel, straw and stationary, taking care to have his accounts therefor supported by proper vouchers.

Recruiting officers, having no enlisted musicians, are authorized to engage a drummer and fifer, at a sum not exceeding fifteen dollars per month, and one ration per day each.

By order of the Secretary of War.

THOMAS H. CUSHING,
Adjutant General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Washington City, Jan. 18, 1813.

The following officers are appointed to superintend the recruiting districts described in the preceding "Instructions;" and the captains and subalterns recruiting or residing in each district, (and not on other duty) will immediately report themselves to the superintending officer, and receive and obey his orders:

DISTRICT OF MAIN.
Major Timothy Upham, Portland.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE-ISLAND.

Col. John I. Tuttle, Boston.
Lieut. Col. Simon Larned, Pittsfield.

CONNETICUT.

Major Joseph L. Smith, Hartford.

NEW-YORK.


NEW-JERSEY.

Col. Lieut. David Brearly, Elizabeth-Town.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Col. George Izard, Philadelphia.

ENTRE CAROLINA.

Col. Hugh Brady, Pittsburgh.

DELAWARE.

Major Robert Carr, Wilmington.

MARYLAND.

Major Timothy Dil, Baltimore.

VIRGINIA.

Major David Campbell, Leesburgh.

KENTUCKY.


OHI0.

Colonel John Miller, Chillicothe.

ILLINOIS AND INDIANA TERRITORIES.

Major Zachariah Taylor, Vincennes, (Ind. Ter.)

LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI TERRITORIES.

Major Matthew Arbuckle, Washington, (Miss. Ter.)

By order of the Secretary of War.

THOMAS H. CUSHING,
Adjutant General.

CASE OF CLARK THE SPY.

Transcript of the sentence and subsequent proceedings in the case of Elijah Clark, who was convicted as a Spy, at a General Court Martial, held at the court-house, in the village of Buffalo, on Wednesday the 5th day of August, 1812, and continued by adjournment, from day to day, until Saturday the 8th day of August in the same year—whereof

Li. Col. Philebut Swift, was President,
Majors George Smith,
Parmanio Adams,
Capts. Joseph McCrle,
Joseph Jennings,
Samuel Terry,
Daniel Curtiss,
Elias Hall,
Lieuets. Joel B. Clark,
Levi Moores, and
James M. Nair,
and Major George Hosmer, was Judge Advocate.

VERMONT.

Colonel Isaac Clark, Burlington.

WASHINGTON.

Lieut. Col. Simon Larned, Pittsfield.

CONNECTICUT.

Major Joseph L. Smith, Hartford.

NEW-YORK.

Col. Peter P. Schuyler, Albany.

NEW-JERSEY.

Col. Lieut. David Brearly, Elizabeth-Town.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Col. George Izard, Philadelphia.

ENTRE CAROLINA.

Col. Hugh Brady, Pittsburgh.

DELAWARE.

Major Robert Carr, Wilmington.

MARYLAND.

Major Timothy Dil, Baltimore.

VIRGINIA.

Major David Campbell, Leesburgh.

KENTUCKY.


OHI0.

Colonel John Miller, Chillicothe.

ILLINOIS AND INDIANA TERRITORIES.

Major Zachariah Taylor, Vincennes, (Ind. Ter.)

LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI TERRITORIES.

Major Matthew Arbuckle, Washington, (Miss. Ter.)

By order of the Secretary of War.

THOMAS H. CUSHING,
Adjutant General.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Maj. Gen. Hall, having doubts how far the prisoner (Elijah Clark) within named, comes within the description of a spy, by reason that he is within the letter of the 2d section of the 101 article of the act, entitled, "an act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States," which excepts throughout "all persons not citizens of, or owing allegiance to the United States of America, is pleased to order, and doth hereby order a suspension of the execution of the within sentence until

PHILEBUS SWIFT.

President.

Geo. Hosmer, Judge Advocate.

Head Quarters, Manchester. July 18, 1813.

Niagara Frontier, Aug. 13, 1813.

The court having heard all the evidence and the prisoner's defence, and very maturely and thoroughly considered the same, gave the following opinion:

The charge specified is as follows—"That the said Elijah Clark is a spy within the meaning and according to the rules and articles of war, and the laws of the United States."

1st. It appears that Elijah Clark the prisoner, was born in the state of New-Jersey, and that he continued to reside in the U. States as a citizen thereof until within about 18 months past, when he removed to Canada, and there married, that his wife and property are yet in Canada and within the dominion and allegiance of the King of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland. For these reasons the court are of opinion, that (alas!) the said Elijah Clark is a native born citizen of the U. States, and is yet held under that allegiance, which as such citizen he owes to the U. States) he is nevertheless liable to be tried and convicted as a spy in the United States, for his acts of a spy committed during the continuance of such temporary allegiance to the King of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, with whom the U. States are at war.

2d. The court are of opinion, under the testimony before them, that the prisoner did cross from the Canada shore to the U. States, and did linger about the encampments and army of the U. States, for the purpose of spying out our state and condition, and of reporting the same to our enemies; and for these reasons the court are of opinion, that the said Elijah Clark is guilty of the crime whereof he stands charged; and falls under the 101 article of the act, entitled, "an act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States," passed the 10th day of April, 1806.

And they do adjudge and sentence the said Elijah Clark to be continued in the present place of confinement until the first Friday in September next, and that he be at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon of that day, taken from his said place of confinement, and hung by the neck until he be dead.
the pleasure of the President of the U. States can be known thereon.

By order of the Major General.

Geo. Hosmer, A. D. C.

OPINION OF THE PRESIDENT.

War Department, Oct. 20, 1812.

SIR,

The proceedings and sentence of the General Court Martial, which was had in the case of Elijah Clark, conformable to your orders of the 1st of August last, and which were by you transmitted to this Department, have been received and laid before the President. I have now the honor to inform you, that the said Clark being considered a citizen of the U. S. & not liable to be tried by a court martial as a spy, the President is pleased to direct, that unless he should be arraigned by the civil court for treason or a severe crime under the laws of New-York, he must be discharged.

Very respectfully,

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your obt. servant,

W. Eustis.

Major Gen. A. Hall, Niagara.

GENERAL ORDERS,

Consequent on the Opinion of the President.

The pleasure of his Excellency the President of the United States of America, in relation to the case of Elijah Clark, who was tried and convicted of being a spy, and by virtue of general orders of August last, having this day been made known to the Major General, through the Hon. Secretary at War—Therefore, in conformity to the directions of his Excellency the President, it is hereby ordered, that the said Clark, being considered a citizen of the U. S., and not liable to be tried by a court martial as a spy, therefore, unless he should be arraigned by the civil court for treason or some severe crime under the laws of New-York, he must be discharged.

All officers and military authorities whatever, in whose custody the said Clark shall or may happen to be, for the cause aforesaid, are hereby directed to release him from the said arrest as a spy.

Lt. Col. Philletus Swift is particularly charged with the execution of this order.

By order of Major Gen. Hall.

Geo. Hosmer, A. D. C.

Bloomfield, Dec. 2, 1812.

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

ON THE COUP D’OEIL.

So many excellent authors and experienced leaders have written on the subject of the coup d’oeil, that rules for its acquirement cannot be expected in this place.

Plutarch and other ancient writers, describe Philopomene as having disregarded closet meditations, and those delineations of prospect which others attended to. His method was a nice observation of the original objects they described, and thus he improved his art in his daily journeys; contemplating the plain, the mountain, the hill, the vale, the wood and the stream, as if hostile bodies actually attacked and defended the various positions they presented to his view; and at one and the same time he exercised his eye and his judgment, both as assailant and defender.

No doubt this method was greatly preferable to the mere study of plans on paper, to which, perhaps, too much attention is usually given, but which, nevertheless, is absolutely necessary in the present advanced state of military science; however, it should always be closely combined with the practice of one of the first warriors of antiquity, whom the Romans called the last of the Greeks, and whose greatness has been justly celebrated by historians.

Is the coup d’oeil a peculiar gift of nature? We readily admit, one man’s sign is, naturally, keener than another man’s; and can we doubt a partial dispensation of the coup d’oeil? They are truly fortunate who thus possess it, but they are eminently meritorious who acquire it by perseverance, observation, in despite of nature.

I know some old officers who, when entering a room, notice (as if instinctively) its angles, and even the minute arrangement of its furniture; in a numerous assembly they nearly guess, at a glance, the number of persons, in the same way they conjecture the total of rank and file in a battalion; and in travelling, by land or water, they remark every appearance of ground. Such have told me, they do not thus regard different objects, consequently err on the other side; they point at the unwearyed industry, they are not to intimate, such men are to be esteemed a from “premeditated design, but a peculiar starry, that our very prejudices induce us to conclude she must still be so recognised. We would rather suppose the brainy, King of Sweden to have been the object of her smile, than his polished cotemporary, the victor of Hochstat.

Officers, however, in commanding stations, frequently err on the other side; they point at the smart youth who shows off a parade, wears his hat with an air, and, by year’s practice, drills a detachment in a few movements, as the madatory of the game; while the favorite of genius, unobserved in the crowd, and having no predilection for “nodding plumes,” tight garters, and the occupation of a martinet, whilst away his time in solitude, or still worse, degrades his morals in the society of libertines—Years may be thus passed in peaceful times; when at length the trump of fame awakens his mind to energetic exertion, and he rises superior to the narrow hopes of his companions, who, jealous of his true character, attribute his brilliant fame to the chance of war.

This is not to intimate, such men are to be
found in every garrison, nor to encourage the slightest disregard of the least detail of service; for, if the youth of genius thus blaze forth at the moment of action, how superior would be the display if it had been preceded by a solid foundation in mathematical and philosophical studies, the science of the engineer and the artilleryist, the acquirement of the learned and modern languages, geography and drawing, due attention to the mechanical branches of his profession, and the improvement of the coup d'œil? Negligence in a soldier is criminal, and alacrity is always praiseworthy, however inefficient through want of capacity; but in this conviction, I would certainly recommend to commanders the propriety of seeking for talents, rather than to wait their forthcoming. Intrinsic merit is seldom obtrusive, and frequently falls into despondency, and, indeed, total inactivity, through keen sensibility of feeling: by a little patient observation, a gem may be found where mere rubbish was expected—on the other hand, genius is sometimes strangely marked by confidence and versatility; and if we consider the eccentric career of some of the greatest men of antiquity and of modern ages, the fact will be readily admitted. Did not Julius Caesar saunter about the streets of Rome, despised as a spendthrift and a debaucher, at an age when Alexander had gained the applause of nations? Did not Mark Anthony, amidst his mad career of venal lewdness and bacchanalian revelries, cloud his intellectual faculties, when more youthful cotemporaries had gained honors in the field of conquest? We know, indeed, that Caesar embraced the beauties of science as a great eagerness as he sought after the most licentious courtezans: we know that Anthony, (at a time when virtuous men regarded his profanity with indignation) by the powers of oratory, roused the feelings of the Romans over the mantle of his friend. But does not this prove the uncertainty of greatness? So we know that Bolingbroke, immediately after he had run through a park naked, like a lunatic, did not dive into the labyrinth of metaphysical research. Did not the great compeer of Pitt squander away thousands at the gaming table, and sow the seed of destructive disease, at the very time when his eloquence, grace by the muses, strengthened by solid learning, and served by the fire of independence, charmed the attention of the listening commons? Did not this astonishing man's presence at Paris excite emotion in the mind of Mar-

rango's victor, whom armies could not appa

Does not this same conqueror evince every day in his actions inconsistencies of caprice, which would render a common man, under any circumstances, ridiculous? Rapidity of thought is generally accompanied by rapidity of vision, and thus forming, in fact, what is termed a genius for war, is too often, like a genius for any other pursuit, evinced by starts, unless the seed of glory be early implanted in the bosom of the possessor; then, perhaps, he will endeavor to give consistency to his actions—but, do what he will, they will be still eccentric, however steadily pursued. If this genius be early regulated by good masters and study (as was Bonaparte's) then indeed the heat may be tempered, until ambition inflames the ardor of the soul, and it spurs at the power of common rule, and lives or dies greatly.

With regard to the coup d'œil, I shall say no more at present; but request the reader's attention to the following observations of a writer, who has lately given a book to the public intrinsically valuable to every officer, but particularly so to new generals ignorant of the general study of military science.

"Of the Coup d'œil.

"This is the faculty of seeing things at a single glance. It is therefore but another name for the combined effect of a prompt and correct judgment on the various incidents which occur in the course of a campaign, and without which you are not likely to profit as you ought, either by local incidents or by the faults of your enemy; while, on the other hand, you are continually exposed to the commission of blunders the most ridiculous and ruinous. As this is a faculty partly natural, and partly artificial, it would be well that our young generals should exercise themselves habitually in estimating distances by the eye; in judging of the shape of grounds, of the relative bulk of bodies, and of the number of corps, whether in a state of motion or of rest.

"It must however be admitted, that these school exercises will not always lead to just conclusions; because the powers of men are very different, in the security of mere parade, and under the presence and pressure of actual danger. How often do we meet with men whose faculties, exercised in a place of personal safety, are quick, vigorous and decisive; who, in the presence of an enemy, sink into mere lifeless and ordinary machines; while others, who, on common occa-
sions, hold 'the noiseless tenor of their way' without exhibiting much of either the intrepid or the strenuous, require only the stimulus of combat, to rise not merely into heroes, but into sages.—Both descriptions require the extraordinary circumstance of a battle to develop their true character. On the one, its effect is sedative; on the other, tonic: the former it deprives of all the powers bestowed by nature or acquired by art—the latter it quickens into a vigor and activity, both physical and mental, which no smaller or less interesting event could either excite or maintain. It is in this last character that we find the true military stamina, and the full exercise of the coup d'œil; the faculty of seeing and of seizing, as if by intuition, all advantages, whether of ground or of manoeuvre; of correcting our own errors, and of punishing those of our enemy—in a word, it is here that we witness those more than mortal fires, which raise the soldier far above the men of all other professions, and which, in the universal sense of mankind, have even ranked him among the gods. To reach this eminence should be your constant aim—for this is the virtuous ambition of noble minds, (an ambition to excel) and totally different from the miserable aspirations after power and office, which swell the bosoms of little men—which a Cæsar may feel as well as a Cæsar—and which, unfortunately, go far to characterize the times and the country in which we live."

RUPERT.

The Military Monitor.

NEW-YORK,
MONDAY MORNIN, FEBRUARY 1, 1819.

SUBSCRIBERS

To the Military Monitor, are respectfully informed, that, owing to the unavoidable absence of the Editor, for several weeks, the Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4, have not been published as soon as was expected—They are now preparing for the press, and will be printed with all possible dispatch, and carefully forwarded to Subscribers. The absence of the Editor has also prevented the paper from being regularly forwarded by mail, in some cases, on the day that it ought; and the removal of the Printing-Office (as mentioned last week) delayed the last and present number. The Editor has now the pleasure of informing his patrons, that he has purchased printing materials, taken an office, and can assure them,
Extracts.

Salem, Jan. 9.

IMPRESSION.

The following deposition of Mr. ISAAC CLARK, of this town, who had been torn from his family and country, and for three years compelled to serve on board His Britannic Majesty's ships of war, is entitled to an attentive perusal. Those Americans who can read this narrative without the strongest emotions of indignation and wrath towards the insolent and haughty oppressors of our brave and honest mariners, and commiseration for their sufferings, or who can attempt to justify and palliate the atrocious conduct of our man-stealing enemies, may be fit only for slaves to the corrupt Court of St. James, and had better take refuge with their favorite "Bunbury;" they are unworthy to breathe the pure air of Liberty.

This narrative affords a most striking and affecting view of the sufferings which not only our townsmen, Mr. CLARK, but thousands of American seamen have endured, and all which have been liable to endure, by this infernal practice of impressment on the high seas from our vessels. But the day of retribution will come, and it ought to be the determination of every patriotic American, to compel the enemy to abandon this most insufferable and degrading practice, or in the language of the Hon. Mr. Mason, "to nail our colors to the mast, and sink in the effort."

"I, ISAAC CLARK, of Salem, in the county of Essex, and commonwealth of Massachusetts, on solemn oath declare, that I was born in the town of Randolph, in the county of Norfolk; have sailed out of Salem aforesaid about seven years; that on the fourteenth day of June, eighteen hundred and nine, I was impressed, and forcibly taken from the ship Jane, of Norfolk, by the sailing master (his name was Carr) of His Majesty's ship Porcupine, Robert Elliot, commander. I had a Protection from the Custom-House in Salem, which I showed to captain Elliot; he swore I was an Englishman, tore my protection to pieces before my eyes, and threw it overboard, and ordered me to go to work — I told him I did not belong to his flag, and would not work under it. He then ordered my legs put in irons, and the next morning ordered the master at arms to take me on deck, and give me two dozen lashes; after receiving them he ordered him to keep me in irons, and give me one biscuit and a pint of water for twenty-four hours.—After keeping me in this situation one week, I was brought on deck, and asked by captain Elliot if I would go to my duty—on my refusing, he ordered me to strip, tied me up a second time, and gave me two dozen more, and kept me on the same allowance another week—then ordered me on deck again, and asked if I would go to work; I still persisted that I was an American, and that he had no right to command my service, and I would do no work on board his ship—He told me he would punish me until I was willing to work; and then gave me the third two dozen lashes, ordered a very heavy chain put round my neck, (such as they used to sling the lower yard) fastened to a ring-bolt in the deck, and that no person except the master at arms, should speak to me, or give me any thing to eat or drink, but my one biscuit and pint of water for twenty-four hours, until I would go to work. I was kept in this situation nine weeks, when being exhausted with hunger and thirst, I was obliged to yield. After being on board the ship more than two years and a half, and being wounded in an action with a French frigate, I was sent to the hospital—when partially recovered, I was sent on board the Impregnable, a 98 gun ship. My wound growing worse, I was returned to the hospital, when the American Consul received a copy of my protection from Salem, and procured my discharge on the twenty-ninth day of April last. There were seven impressed Americans on board the Porcupine, three of whom had entered.

ISAAC CLARK.

OF SPAIN.

Extract from the 5th dispatch of the General in Chief, Count Caffarelli, to the Minister of War, dated Burgos, Nov. 8, 1812.

My Lord—Since the siege of Burgos, the enemy retired on the great road leading to Valladolid. There took place, on the 23d October, an engagement between the cavalry of the Army of the North, united to the army of Portugal, and all the English cavalry, when the latter was completely beaten. Since which the enemy has continued retreating and made a feeble attempt to defend the bridge or Torquenada. — He afterwards placed himself behind the Carrion, the Aurora, and the Piove, taking care to cut the bridges of Tarriego, Villanueva, and St. Isidore.

Near the bridge of Villamariel, on the other side of the river, which our troops had crossed, an engagement took place in which the enemy lost 900 men. A detachment of light cavalry of the army of the north, commanded by M. Toll, marched to the bridge, fell upon the rear of a large convoy, took 300 prisoners and 100 rations of biscuit, and a great quantity of baggage. The next day the enemy evacuated Duenauss, and took a position between Caberson and Valladolid, where they blew up the bridge. As they only took this position to afford them better means of retreat, they also blew up the bridge of Caberson and that of Simancas, and afterwards withdrew by Puente Duena, where they also destroyed the bridge. The bridges of Tordesillas, Tudela and Tore, were equally destroyed—that of Zamora will probably share the same fate. All these events occurred between the 23d and 29th ult.

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