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WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11.

SUBSCRIBERS in Arrears are requested to forward without delay their respective dues. As this paper almost entirely depends for support on the regular payment of the subscriptions, this request must be complied with, otherwise the Editor will be constrained, however reluctantly, to discontinue the paper, notwithstanding the deeply interesting nature of the crisis.

Mr. Elliot, in his speech on the subject of gun-boats, inserted in the National Intelligencer of December 30th, quotes from the President's message of February 10, 1807, the following passage: "In the remarkable action between the Russian flotilla of gun-boats and Gallies, and a Turkish fleet of ships of the line and frigates in the Liman Sea, in 1788, the latter, commanded by their most celebrated admiral, were completely defeated and several of their ships of the line destroyed." He adds "that he has not only consulted the professed annals of the times, but has obtained some information from a writer who appears to have been personally acquainted with the scene of action;" and then he gives such an account of the action as may suit the scope of his argument but not naming either "the professed annals" or "the writer who seems to have been personally acquainted with the scene of action," so as to enable his hearers to question his account; it stands on his own personal authority only. Mr. Elliot's situation probably had not given him an opportunity of consulting the new Annual Register of 1789, which is certainly among "the professed annals of the times" and the most respectable of them. The following account of the two actions in the Liman of he 19th & 28th of June, 1788, is copied verbatim from that work, pa. 70.

"A fleet of an inferior sort was industriously created in the Euxine. It does not seem to have consisted of more than four ships of the line, three of which had been launched in the preceeding summer at Cherson, together with some frigates and a considerable number of galleys; and these, being distributed into two squadrons, were stationed in part at Kinburn, under the Prince of Nassau Siegen, and in part at Setastopolis in the Crimea under admiral count Wainowitz. In the former of these quadrons Paul Jones, the celebrated free booter, served in the quality of rear admiral.

"The naval armament of the Turks was an object of principal attention with the court of Constantinople. It was intended to be commanded by Hassan Ali, who had made so distinguished a figure in Egypt, and whose military reputation greatly surpassed that of the rest of his countrymen. It was destined for the conquest of the Crimea, the favorite object which had excited the Turks to the late declaration of war. When the Captain Pacha sailed from the road of Constantinople on the 20th of May, his fleet consisted of sixteen ships of the line and nine frigates, besides many smaller vessels; and it was altogether impossible that the navy of Cronstedt could arrive time enough to counteract his operations. His success however did not correspond with the expectations he excited; and the Prince of Nassau displayed not merely the superiority of refinement and science over barbarism, but also threw contempt upon that inequality of force, which it has lately been the fashion to consider as decisive in naval engagements."

"Hassan Ali appeared at the mouth of the Dnieper on the beginning of the following month: his adversary found himself totally unable to encounter the vast superiority of the Turkish force, and had therefore judiciously stationed his little fleet in the bay of Kinburn commonly called the Liman, in shallow water where they could not safely be approached by ships of burthen. The Turkish admiral found it impracticable to bear down upon him with his whole force, and at the same time conceived he had sufficient reason for confidence in his smaller vessels, which amounted to fifty seven, while those of the enemy did not exceed twenty seven sail. He therefore sent in this force to the attack on the 19th of June; but the Prince of Nassau, aware of his design, stationed his vessels in such a manner as to prevent an attack in line, and by his exertions repulsed the Turkish assailants. Two of their vessels were blown up, one sunk, and the rest driven back in confusion till they got under protection of their ships of the line.

"Hassan was little accustomed to brook a defeat, and he resolved to repair in person the miscarriage of those who acted under him. Forgetting the circumstance, which appears to have influenced his conduct in a former instance, and hurried by a blind impetuosity, he entered the Liman with his principal fleet, regardless of the shallowness of the navigation. Here, as might have been expected, his vessel immediately struck; but it was got off before the Russians could advance to the attack. The wind was unfavorable, and therefore the Prince of Nassau put off the engagement to the next day which was the 28th. In the mean time he had been reinforced with twenty two vessels of 1 gun each, that were built at Krementschuck; in the beginning of the conflict a Turkish sixty-four struck upon the sand and was assailed on all sides by the Muscovites. The contest lasted several hours, but the Turk was at length obliged to yeild, and his crew was saved though the ship was blown up. A similar fate attended the admiral ship of the captain Pacha. The Turks were prevented by the batteries of Kinburn from escaping out of the Liman during the night. The next morning more of the Ottoman ships of the line were found stranded; and the Prince of Nassau having come up with his flotilla, a battle ensued, which lasted four hours and a half. In the result five other of the Turkish vessels were destroyed, as well ships of the line, as frigates, and two taken. The number of prisoners were near seventeen hundred. Two thousand Turks are computed to have perished in the flames. Through the whole action they displayed a firmness and perseverance altogether unconquerable, and were only subdued by the ruinous situation in which they had placed themselves."

In the Leyden Gazettes of August 1, 22 and 28, 1788, the reader will find official and more detailed accounts of these two actions too long to be copied here. From these authorities taken together it appears that the Turkish force was 16 ships of the line, 9 frigates, and many smaller vessels. The Russian force, 4 ships of the line, some frigates and gallies (under which denomination they include gun-boats) making 27 in all. In the first action of June 19th, the small vessels on both sides were alone engaged, the Turks were defeated and having lost 4 of their number the residue retired under the protection of their ships of the line. That in the second action of the 28th, the Turkish admiral carried his large as well as small vessels into the Liman sea or Lake. The Russians had in the mean time been reinforced by 22 gun-boats carrying an 18 pounder each. The result was by the annual register nine vessels, ships of the line and frigates taken, or destroyed, and by the Leyden account sixteen; the remainder of the Turkish fleet, the large as well as small vessels, retreating under shelter of the walls of Oczakow. It does not appear in either account that any part of the Russian force was ever engaged but the flotilla of small vessels, which were almost entirely gallies and gun-boats, and in the second and decisive action were arranged in two lines in the form of a crescent. The reader will now judge for himself whether the statement in the message of Feb. 10 is not a fair summary of these accounts, and whether it be true, as Mr. Elliot has said, that "it appears that no such battle as that described in the message of Feb. 10 ever happened."

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Mr. Smith,

In the testimony published in your paper taken on the trial of Aaron Burr at Richmond, there appeared a deposition of Commodore Shaw, stating that Daniel M. Bradford of New Orleans, told him that some person on board the gun-boats built by me, for the government, told him, Bradford, that the gun-boats were to be given up to Burr, that I was one of Burr's partizans, and other matters, purporting that I was knowing to, or aiding in Burr's nefarious designs—all which were false and groundless. It was unpleasant to me to see my name made use of in this way, although I was satisfied that no one of my acquaintance imputed to me the least thought of being concerned in those villainous projects, I therefore wrote to Mr. Bradford, a letter of which the following is a copy:

Copy of a letter from M. Lyon to Jas. M. Bradford, dated

WASHINGTON, *Nov.* 5, 1807.

Dear Sir,

This day, for the first time, have I seen or heard any thing that seemed seriously to speak of a suspicion of my being concerned in, or having any knowledge of Aaron Burr's nefarious projects. I had hoped, that among all the charges and suspicions, my name would go clear, it has proved otherwise, and I wish to know (if it be possible) to whom I am beholden for the introduction of my name among the real or suspected conspirators.

I will thank you to read the inclosed copy of Commodore Shaw's deposition, and to answer me the following questions, viz.

1st. Did you see my gun-boats, or any gun-boats at the mouth of Cumberland River?

2d. Did you see any men fitting out gun-boats there?

3d Did you go on board a gun boat there?

4th. Did you go to them and fasten your craft to any gun boat there?

5th. Who did you converse with that belonged to the gun-boats? What was his name, or what was his station, occupation or appearance, who said that I was one of Burr's partizans and had given up the gun-boats to him.

6th. What kind and number of small arms did you see in or about the gun-boats, and what circumstances led you to suppose that a number of small arms were carried on board them gun-boats.

Your bare declaration in answer to these question would perfectly satisfy me, but to those who are less acquainted with you, the answers under the sanction of an oath may be more satisfactory.

I consider this volunteer deposition as an unprovoked attack on my reputation, and persuaded that you did not intend nor do not wish undeserved ill to any one, and that your candor will induce you to aid in wiping away any unfounded prejudices created under the sanction of your name, I expect an explicit answer to these questions, and am, respectfully yours,

M. LYON.

Mr. JAMES M. BRADFORD,
New-Orleans.

In order to have the questions in the foregoing letter understood, it is proper for me to remark, that when Mr. Bradford must have passed the gun-boats they were aground on a sand-bar near the middle of the Ohio, a quarter of a mile below the lower point of the Island, opposite to the mouth of Cumberland river, where the water ran so swift by them, that a person in any boat floating by could not have five minutes conversation with any one on board, and the water was so swift that it was difficult to lash to them, that when I left the gun-boats at that place to come to Congress, a few days before the water in the Ohio rose, and took them off the barr and they proceeded, there was but one rifle and two large pistols on board of them, nor was there more arms on board of them until they arrived at Orleans, that I have heard.

On Sunday evening last, I received by mail a letter from Mr. Bradford in which he disavows his having used my name in the manner which gave me unpleasant sensations, and of course puts an end to my enquiries for the author of the unfavorable reports. I herewith send you extracts of that letter so far as it respects my character. I wish you to give publicity to my letter and the answer, in order that any unfavorable impressions may be removed, which the publication of commodore Shaw's deposition on the minds of persons unacquainted with me may have made. I am, with due respect, &c. M. LYON.

Washington, Jan. 6, 1808.

Extract of a letter from James M. Bradford, to Mathew Lyon, dated

NEW-ORLEANS, *Dec.* 1*st*, 1807.

"Dear Sir,

"You have doubtless read with as much surprize as I have astonishment the affidavit of Commodore Shaw read in the trials at Richmond. I have sat down to endeavor to set your mind at rest on that subject, and as you know me well, I cannot conceive it further necessary to convince you that I never was guilty of such odious falsehood as there imputed to me, than promptly and explicitly to deny it, but to my own reputation and that of Capt. Talbot and yourself, I owe something more than private communication. I have prepared, and shall this week publish, a statement of facts which will place the affidavit in its true light, and remove any false impressions that might be made thereby on the public mind."

"Must conclude by requesting you to suspend any unfavorable opinion of my veracity you might be inclined to form until you see my explanations.

With due respect, I am,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES M. BRADFORD.

"COL. M. LYON."

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEBATE

On the Resolution for requesting the President to cause an enquiry to be made into the conduct of GENERAL WILKINSON.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5.

MR. MILNOR felt great doubts as to the propriety of proceeding on the resolution itself, and still greater of referring it as was proposed, with power to send for persons and papers. If they were about to try general Wilkinson, if he was to be brought to the bar of the House, and his guilt or innocence was to be there determined, Mr. M. should be willing to appoint a committee to send for persons, papers, &c. to act as a grand jury and enquire whether there were a sufficient degree of guilt to warrant a trial. But as he believed the House had no right to call general Wilkinson before them, he had no idea of proceeding in this way to collect evidence when they had no authority to act upon it. It had been said that a court of enquiry had been called: Mr. M. had heard himself, and had reason to believe the information was correct, that an enquiry had been asked for and ordered. If so, was it proper that the House should go into the subject? Was it right, when a court of enquiry was called, when every evidence would be sought for on this and every other charge brought before the court, that the House should endeavor in an exparte manner to ascertain the guilt or innocence of any person about to be tried by the proper tribunal? It was extremely improper, to go into any enquiry on the subject. If, when the gentleman from Virginia brought his resolution forward, he had laid the papers he had read on the table, he should have had no hesitation in voting that they should be transmitted to the executive, and should have voted for a motion to that effect, because he believed that when any information came before the House with respect to the conduct of any officer, it should be laid before the proper authority. But a positive declaration of the House that inquest ought to be held on the conduct of any officer would convey to the public mind and to the court a strong impression of his guilt; and this would be giving an undue influence in an enquiry.

Believing that it would be improper in the House to investigate the subject, or to influence an enquiry by virtually saying that they believed general W. to be guilty, he hoped the present motion would be agreed to, and afterwards that they would decide against the reference. He had no hesitation in saying it would be improper to constitute any committee or court of enquiry on this subject, and under this impression should vote.

MR. GARDENIER was somewhat surprised at the opposition which the motion he had made had met with, and was also surprised that the propriety of pursuing the course which he had recommended, (to appoint a committee of investigation) had not struck gentlemen more forcibly than it had. He was therefore reduced to the necessity of stating the reasons which induced him to make the motion, and which now compelled him to persist in it. The charge brought against gen. Wilkinson was calculated not only to occupy the attention of the House, but of the whole American people. Whether they considered that he was an officer no less than commander in chief of the army of the U. S.—whether they considered that department of government by which he had hitherto been protected and cherished, no less than the Executive—whether they considered that this charge was no less than against a general or commander in chief for bargaining and selling himself, his army, and his country to a foreign or a hostile power—whether they considered the time when this accusation was brought forward, a time when the destiny of the nation, its slavery on one hand and its liberty on the other, depended not on the capacity alone but dreadful to say, on the fidelity of the commander in chief—when they considered to whom this charge was submitted, to the grand inquest of the nation, that body whose duty it was to watch with unceasing vigilance the safety of the commonwealth, to use the language of an ancient writer, *ne quid Respublica detrimenti Capiat*—in whatever view they considered it, its decision required assuredly all the wisdom, all the patriotism, and he would add, all the independence of this body.

The original resolution of the gentleman from Virginia had been met at its threshold by an objection, the more surprising as it proceeded from those who had hitherto affected an exclusive and almost hysteric jealousy of Executive power—to his mind an objection more to be execrated, as it struck at the very root of republican government: as it went to deprive those of the right of instituting an enquiry into the conduct of an officer, who possessed the right of impeaching the President himself who appointed that officer. The lesser power was included in the greater. If they had power over the master of Gen. Wilkinson, if they were master over the superior, they were master of the servant also. He could never reprobate in terms of sufficient abhorrence, the position assumed that this House was the only body which could not lay a request before the President. When he had seen the President of the United States benignly receiving addresses from the legislatures of different states (he could not say with smiles) requesting him to extend his paternal and affectionate care over the country for another constitutional period, from bodies who had no constitutional power to make this request, he could not believe that the President would shew less attention to a request from this body than he had shewn a disposition to do to requests from the legislatures of particular states.

On a question of this kind he could not condescend to reason. It was too plain, palpable almost to the sense, that this enquiry was within the limits of their constitutional power. There could be no question that the House possessed a right to lay a request before the President—a right which was possessed by the meanest individual in society. It only then remained for the House to determine whether they would act upon this subject, so important in every point of view—after a deaf ear had been turned to this accusation in the palace, it remained for them to say, whether they would suffer venality and corruption to run through this body unhurt. He hoped never to see that day when the House would so much disgrace itself as to refuse to do what became a duty. If documents submitted to the House by the gentleman from Virginia were authentic, if these documents spoke the truth, there could be no hesitation in saying that a continuance of Gen. Wilkinson at the head of the American army, was not only disgraceful to the nation, but inconsistent with its security. If it were true that the gentleman from Orleans territory had it in his power to give evidence still more convincing than any that could be found in the documents which had been submitted by the gentleman from Virginia, and Mr. G. had much reason to believe, and indeed had no doubt that the gentleman had it in his power, it would be proper to obtain that evidence; and if the course had been pursued as stated (and he did not question the fact) to institute a committee before the proceedings of the House had terminated on the subject, an enquiry to be carried on by persons possessing no such powers as that now proposed to be delegated to a committee, (to send for persons, papers, &c.) and if the gentleman from Orleans persisted in his word as he always did; this enquiry would appear, if not in-