NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. VII. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. No. 1049.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM — WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1807. — PAID IN ADVAN...

WASHINGTON CITY,

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8.

The ANNIVERSARY of our Independence was celebrated here with great and uncommon zeal. An elevated sentiment of patriotism pervaded all ranks of society, who vied with each other in demonstrations of joy on the return of a day so eminently calculated to inspire noble and generous feelings. The young and the old, the rich and the poor, the republican and the federalist, all burned with indignation at the wrongs of Britain, and avowed their unalterable purpose to shed their last drop of blood, and spend their last farthing, should the crisis require it, in defence of their country. The calm decision with which this determination was expressed leaves us no room for doubt but that in case of a war what the heart prompts the arm will execute.

The dawn of day was announced by a grand salute at the Navy Yard, at which instant the colors of the various nations with which we hold intercourse were raised, all except those of Britain, which was not seen here, or in any other quarter of the city during the day. Hitherto the flag of this nation had occupied a conspicuous place among those of the powers in friendship with the United States. On this occasion it was justly consigned to marked obscurity and neglect.

The volunteer companies of the militia of the District of Columbia, commanded by col. M'Kinny, assisted by major Young, paraded at an early hour in front of the President's house, composed of capt. Coxe's and capt. Dangerfield's troops of cavalry, capt Lynn's and capt. Betty's companies of light infantry, capt. Patterson's artillery, capt. Bonsall's riflemen, and capt. Nourse's infantry.

At 12 o'clock the line was passed in review by brigadier gen. Mason, attended by majors Beall, Jones, and Sprigg, and several other officers on horseback—when various evolutions and firings from the artillery and musketry took place: These done, the troops were formed in an open column, and paid the marching salute to the President standing in the north portico of his house, attended by the secretaries of war and of the navy, gen. Wilkinson, gen. Mason, col. Wharton, and a number of officers of the army, navy, and militia; after returning to their ground the troops were dismissed, and their officers waited on the President.

It gave us infinite pleasure to witness the zeal displayed on this occasion by our neighboring citizen soldiers; all seemed to have been roused by the late act of violence, and to have vied each with the other, to shew to the chief Magistrate the alacrity with which a free people will fly to arms, when the interest and honor of their country are at stake. Particular praise is due to the several corps from Alexandria, who marched up in the morning and back in the evening, making a distance of about 20 miles to perform this service.

The evolutions and ceremonies were executed with spirit and precision, the variant uniforms of the different corps had a fine effect, and the whole was a very handsome military display well worthy of the day and the occasion.

The President's rooms were, as usual, opened for the reception of company. On no antecedent occasion has the assemblage been so great; and party spirit, which hertofore had withheld a number of leading federalists from offering any public mark of respect to the chief Magistrate, to the honor of human nature, gave way to the patriotic feelings and unanimity called for by the times, and a large number of the most respectable federalists heretofore in opposition to the administration, made their first appearance at the President's levee, and mingled in perfect cordiality with their republican brethren. Among the citizens present, were gen. Wilkinson and his suite, who had arrived the preceding night. While the company partook of a most liberal supply of refreshments, they were entertained by the performance of patriotic airs played at regular intervals by the fine band attached to the marine corps, which was placed in the large hall, and whose tones, though loud and impressive, did not, from the intervening distance, in the least interfere with conversation. No one, as the public may well imagine, seemed more at home on this occasion (if criticism will allow the expression) than the chief Magistrate. How proud the consciousness, how elevated the thoughts, how sweet the feelings inspired by this day in the heart of him, who, amidst all the vicissitudes of fortune, as well in the tempest of the revolution as the sunshine of peace, undismayed by danger, and what is still more rare (unintoxicated by prosperity and power) has pursued the undeviating course of patriotism and philanthropy, and unremittingly employed his great powers of mind in promoting the happiness of his own country without impairing that even of a hostile world. Let not this be called adulation or sycophancy. The crisis requires that every independent American should speak what he thinks, it requires too, confidence in the government; not that sluggish confidence that coldly enjoins a performance of duty, but that full and hearty confidence that upholds those who administer the public concerns on the irresistible tide of public opinion. What then we think, we dare to say, and infinitely elevated above every thing servile or mean, are ready to treat with contempt or derision every pitiful reflection that may fall from party malice.

Between 2 and 3 o'clock the company withdrew; and the remainder of the day was devoted to patriotic hilarity.—Various parties assembled in different quarters of the city. A large company dined at Stelle's hotel—ROBERT BRENT, the mayor of the city, in the chair, supported by col. *Van Ness* and col. *Wharton*, as Vice Presidents. The entertainment was honored by the presence of the heads of departments, most of the other officers of the general and local governments, and by several strangers of distinction, among whom were gen. Wilkinson and his suite.—After partaking of a plentiful & handsome repast, the following toasts were drank, accompanied by appropriate music and a discharge of guns, & intermingled with songs:

1. The Day.—May it universally excite throughout the United States the same feelings it kindled in '76.

2. The American People.—Ready, at a moment's warning, to vindicate the rights and avenge the wrongs of their country.

3. The President of the United States—The hand that drafted the Declaration of Independence will maintain inviolate the principles it recognizes.

4. The Congress of the United States—The legitimate arbiters of peace and war.

5. The Constitution of the United States—The only existing form of government deliberately adopted by a nation for itself.

6. The States—Free, sovereign and independent—Their union the foundation of national greatness.

7. Washington—His guardian spirit must delight in observing that the sacred fire deposited by him in the temple of American liberty, for the worship of freemen, is not extinguished.

8. Franklin and his co-patriots and statesmen—Immortal honor to the founders of the first republic erected on the principle of representation.

9. The militia.—A million of armed citizens, animated by one soul and possessing equal rights, the safest defence of a free nation.

10. The army and navy of the United States.—Justice to all nations, submission to none.

11. Agriculture and manufactures.—We shall not be completely independent until we supply our principal wants among ourselves.

12. Commerce.—May it have no limits but the ocean; no laws but those of justice and reciprocity.

13. The spirit of '76—unextinguished and inextinguishable.

14. Internal improvements.—May the scale on which they shall be conducted correspond in boldness with that on which nature has graduated her works in this quarter of the globe.

15. Education.—The birth-right of every American youth—May the parent who denies it to his child feel the contempt of his fellow-men.

16. Unanimity.—The parent of power at home and respect abroad.

17. The District of Columbia.—May the patriotism of her citizens, as it merits, receive from the nation a full participation of political rights.

About dusk, the heads of Departments retired; when the following toasts, which from motives of delicacy were waved until they withdrew, were drank.

1. The heads of departments.

2. May the cause of every American be considered the cause of the nation.

3. The majestic spirit of freemen will never crouch beneath the insults of slaves.

4. Let the tyrant of the ocean beware! Carthage had her day; but the rocket fell, and her glory was extinguished forever.

[This toast was received with great applause and was followed by three cheers.]

5. National rights and national honor.—Infamy to those who violate them, and redress or chastisement for the violation.

[This toast excited the same animation.]

VOLUNTEERS.

By *Mr. Hamilton.*—Montgomery, Warren and Mercer, who fell in supporting the liberties and independence of their country.

By *Col. Brent.*—The memory of Samuel Adams—Redress for injuries or death.

By *Mr. B. Delany.*—In the event of a war, may every American bullet be winged with death.

By *Mr. Latrobe.*—The American seamen impressed into the service of our enemies,—May the victories of their messmates, restore to them their freedom.

The soldiers who by their bravery atchieved the liberty of their country. Their sons, at the forfeit of their lives and honor, will defend and preserve it.

The Committee of Correspondence, appointed by the citizens of Washington, having prepared a subscription paper, for the relief of the wounded and the relations of the killed on board the Chesapeake, submitted it to the company, by whom it was received with high approbation, and a sum of between three and four hundred dollars instantly raised. This subscription paper will be immediately submitted to the citizens generally, by whom, there is no doubt that so patriotic an example will be universally imitated, and a large sum be consequently raised to assuage misfortune, and manifest the the public sympathy.

At dark the company generally separated, after spending a day, marked by universal temperance, harmony and order.

The following song was sung during the entertainment by capt. Cutting, who observed that it was originally given at a party of Americans convened on the 4th of July, 1794, in London, to celebrate the anniversary of the declaration of

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

COLUMBIA, hail! We celebrate
that day
When thy brave sons declar'd THEE
free from foreign sway!
"*Live free or nobly die!*"—were their
emphatic words,
While REASON nerv'd each arm, and
JUSTICE edg'd their swords.
They fought,—they bled,—to shield the
sacred "*Rights of man!*"
And INDEPENDENCE crown'd what
LIBERTY began.

COLUMBIA, hail!—be thine "*the
Rural Reign;*"
But vindicate *thy right to plow the
liquid plain.*
Should arrogance still strive t'impede
thine EAGLE's course,
Indignant may HE rise with more than
mortal force;
And may Celestial skill HIS death-
wing'd ARROWS guide,
To pierce the canker'd heart of lawless
pow'r and pride!

COLUMBIA, hail!—where'er a-
broad we roam,
Our wishes fondly turn toward THEE,
our native home!
O, may thy splendid STARS still point
the way to PEACE,
And each revolving year thy happiness
increase!
May every realm opprest assert its
rights like THEE,
Till *REASON rule the world* and *all
mankind are FREE!*

Among the interesting circumstances which signalized the celebration of our national festival, was the first exhibition of the Eagle which crowns the gate of the navy yard. This gate has been erected within the last two years. It is constructed of free-stone, & is one of the handsomest buildings belonging to the U. States, and one of the best ornaments of our city. It is from the design of Mr. Latrobe, Surveyor of the public buildings, and possesses in the highest degree that chaste spirit of Grecian simplicity and character of permanence which distinguish his works. The access to the yard is by a doric colonnade of eight columns, which leads to a magnificent arch, through which the carriages pass on to the parade. On each side of the covered part of the gate are quarters for a guard of 50 men and their officers. A colossal eagle is placed over the centre of the gate, sculptured in one block of free stone. It is independently of its pedestal 5 feet 6 inches high. The eagle is represented at the moment of preparation for flight. His right foot is elevated and rests on the shank of an anchor. The attitude and action of this majestic bird are inimitably spirited, while at the same time its form and characteristic structure is scrupulously correct, and exhibits an exact observation of nature. It does Mr. Franzoni high honor.

The eagle had been put into its situation the preceding day, and a flag staff set up behind it. The figure was covered from view by a large ensign, and remained so till the morning of this day. At ten, the officers of the navy, and of the marine corps, and the artificers of the yard assembled at the gate, attended by a large concourse of citizens. The guard was drawn out and under arms. The firing of the first gun of a federal salute gave the signal, and the ensign being instantly hoisted displayed at once the Naval Eagle of America, while the band struck up the national tune of Yankee Doodle. The gate is we understand, to be further decorated by sculpture from the masterly chisels of Messrs. Franzoni and Andrei, two Italian gentlemen, who have for some time been engaged as sculptors in the public works here; and who having settled with their families among us, promise to introduce a taste for the fine arts by their classical works in the public buildings of the U. States.

THE PROCLAMATION.

The measures taken by the executive are before the public. We are well aware that among the unreflecting part of our countrymen, or those whose feelings have for a moment usurped the seat of reason, they may be viewed as destitute of the full measure of vigor called for by the crisis. A deliberate consideration, however, of the circumstances of the case, of the peculiar organization of our government, and of the powers vested by law in the President, will shew that the course pursued is as vigorous as ought to have been expected. The language of the proclamation is decided without inflammation, and is the dignified vehicle of earnest feeling and resolute purpose. It certainly bears no comparison with the indignant terms in which the feelings of our fellow citizens in every part of the union are couched. Such language on their part is appropriate and well applied, as it becomes them to demonstrate the zeal with which they are animated to defend the rights and honor of their country. But from the government we have a right to expect decision tempered by calmness, even on the eve of certain war, and much more so at a period when the occurrence of such an event is uncertain. In respect to style then the proclamation is unquestionably correct.

Is it so likewise with regard to substance?

The outrage committed by the British commander is an act of war; and as such we have the right as an independent nation to treat it. But is it our interest to receive it in this light, without any previous explanation with the government whose officers have committed it? We say no. It is the interest of the people, and therefore the duty of the government to avert so great a calamity as war by every honorable mean in their power. It is their interest to try such means before a resort to force that they may make every exertion to avert war, thereby preserving the unrivalled blessings we enjoy; and that if such exertions fail to avert it, we may convince the world of the sincerity of our wish to maintain peace, by doing every thing in our power to preserve it, thereby making the world our friend by exhibiting in the most striking and contrasted colors our own sense of justice and the injustice of our enemy, many of whose own subjects we should in this way alienate from their government and make our secret, if not avowed friends and advocates.

There is, as we have remarked, no mean hope of the government of Britain giving us those explanations and that satisfaction that may preserve the peace of the two nations. The moderation of our government, backed by a peremptory demand of immediate explanation, and supported by the spectacle of a whole nation ready to shed their last drop of blood in defence of their rights, will present our case before the British government and nation in the most imposing form. Demanding nothing but what honorable men ought not to hesitate to yield unasked, and, that in terms respectful and dignified, is there not reason to hope that, when they are apprised at the same time, as apprised they most unequivocally will be, of the temper of the country, they will at length awaken from the delirium of passion and do us justice? All these advantages will be gained by a deliberate over a precipitate conduct. Of this course it is a further recommendation that our merchants will have an opportunity of getting in their ships, of repressing their speculations, and adjusting to a considerable extent their affairs before the eventful period, which shall make force the final arbiter. Our seamen, too, the sinews of our power against a maritime nation, will be, to a great degree, then safe in our harbors, and thus enable us, in case of necessity, to strike a prompt and vigorous blow.

But, if the soundness of these remarks should be questioned, still it cannot be denied that the nature of our government and the peculiar delegation of its powers, restrained the executive from those measures, which, in this view of the discussion, might be considered expedient. The President does not possess the power of transferring the nation from a state of peace to a state of war. That is the exclusive province of the legislature. The powers of the President, applicable to cases like the present, are conferred by law: and these powers have been exercised to the full extent, with a single reservation—viz. that of interdicting the entrance of British merchant vessels into our ports, provided, after the previous prohibition of armed vessels, the latter do not comply with the injunction of the executive. The exercise of this last power, it will be perceived, for reasons too obvious to be recited, is not called for at this precise time by any positive good it could effect: while it would have the mischievous effect, in case of a resort to war, of diminishing the vulnerable points of our enemy, and impairing our means of retribution for any unjust aggressions she might commit on our property in her own ports. The power, moreover, is one which may be exercised at any period hereafter when its necessity shall become apparent.

There is one further step which the executive may take. He may convene Congress, with a view to the exercise by them of those powers exclusively vested in them by the constitution—such as the declaration of war; the interdicting intercourse with Britain; the enaction of a non-importation law; the laying an embargo; the better fortifying our ports and harbors; the increase of the regular force; and various other similar powers. On this point there appears to be considerable public solicitude, which as far as we are enabled, we deem it our duty to satisfy. From what we have been able to collect, Congress will probably be specially convened, but not before time shall have elapsed sufficient to receive an answer from the British government. The schooner Revenge will immediately be sent to England, with a becoming demand on the part of our government, and with accompanying instructions not to admit of procrastination or evasion. It is probable that about three months will be taken up in going to and returning from England; to this may be added three or four weeks, which may be consumed in that country, as its government may, at the arrival of our dispatches, be engaged on objects that will forbid an instantaneous attention to our requisition, and as some time will probably be consumed in the consequent arrangement. This will carry us into the latter end of October or beginning of November, at which time, it is likely Congress will be convened. They will then have before them the materials for the exercise of an enlightened judgment; they will be able to ascertain whether we are to consider Britain as our friend or enemy; and, by knowing the extent as well as the nature of the danger to be apprehended, be able to take such measures, of war or commercial restriction, as shall best promote our own interests, and most severely affect those of our enemy.

At a meeting of the citizens of DUMFRIES & its vicinity, at the court house of Prince William county, on the 1st day of July, 1807, for the purpose of taking into consideration the late indignity offered to the United States of America, by the unprecedented conduct of the commander of the British ship of war Leopard, in the unwarrantable attack on the United States frigate Chesapeake.

JOHN WILLIAMS was appointed chairman, and

PHILIP D. DAWE, secretary.

When the following resolutions were adopted:

1. Resolved unanimously, That we view with abhorrence the late outrageous attack made upon the flag of our nation, and the wanton murder of our fellow citizens.

2. Resolved unanimously, That we have the utmost confidence in the wisdom and firmness of our executive, and that the proper steps will be pursued by them to redress the national indignity, and procure ample atonement for the blood of our fellow citizens shed on that occasion; and we pledge our lives and fortunes to support the executive in any measure, they may think proper to adopt, to effect this desirable purpose.

3. Resolved unanimously, That John Williams, Richard Brent, Alexander Henderson, John Macrae and John Linton, be appointed to forward a copy of these resolutions to the President of the United States, and that a copy be published in the National Intelligencer.

4. Resolved, That these resolutions be signed by the chairman and attested by the secretary.

(Signed)

JOHN WILLIAMS,
Chairman.

Attest, PHILIP D. DAWE,
Secretary.

To the President of the United States,

SIR,

WE, the citizens of Richmond, Manchester, and their vicinities, and of many other persons from distant places, who have assembled to take under consideration, the late hostile attack upon the frigate Chesapeake, by a British ship of war, and the murder of a number of American seamen in a time of peace, are impelled by the strongest motives to express those sentiments of indignation which the occasion must naturally inspire. When we reflect upon the uniform course of pacific conduct which has been observed by the government of the United States, towards all foreign nations; when we recollect, on the other hand, the innumerable insults and aggressions which Great Britain has inflicted on our just and lawful commerce; we can only discover in this recent act of violence, the consummation of a system which has for its object the prostration of neu-