

# Gazette of the United States.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1791.

[Whole No. 179.]



## CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

AT THE THIRD SESSION,

Began and held at the City of Philadelphia, on Monday the sixth of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

### An ACT to provide for the unloading of Ships or Vessels, in cases of Obstruction by Ice.

WHEREAS it sometimes happens, that ships or vessels are obstructed by ice in their passage to the ports of their destination, and it is necessary that provision should be made for unloading such ships or vessels:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That in all cases where a ship or vessel shall be prevented by ice from getting to the port at which her cargo is intended to be delivered, it shall be lawful for the collector of the district, in which such ship or vessel may be so obstructed, to receive the report and entry of any such ship or vessel, and with the consent of the naval-officer (where there is one) to grant a permit or permits for unloading or landing the goods, wares or merchandize imported in such ship or vessel, at any place within his district, which shall appear to him to be most convenient and proper.

And be it further enacted, That the report and entry of such ship or vessel, and of her cargo, or any part thereof, and all persons concerned therein, shall be under and subject to the same rules, regulations, restrictions, penalties and provisions, as if the said ship or vessel had arrived at the port of her destination, and had there proceeded to the delivery of her cargo.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, JANUARY THE SEVENTH, 1791.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

(TRUE COPY.)

THOMAS JEFFERSON, Secretary of State.

### An ACT to continue an Act, intituled, "an Act declaring the assent of Congress to certain Acts of the states of Maryland, Georgia, and Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations," so far as the same respects the states of Georgia, and Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act passed the last session of Congress intituled, "an act declaring the assent of Congress to certain acts of the states of Maryland, Georgia, and Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations," shall be continued, and is hereby declared to be in full force, so far as the same respects the states of Georgia, and Rhode-Island, and Providence Plantations, for the farther term of one year, and from thence to the end of the then next session of Congress, and no longer.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, JANUARY TENTH, 1791.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

(TRUE COPY.)

THOMAS JEFFERSON, Secretary of State.

### Extracts from Brigadier-General HARMAR's letter to the Secretary of War:

"HEAD-QUARTERS, FORT-WASHINGTON, November 23, 1790.

ON Thursday, the 30th Sept. I took the field, with such of the Federal Troops as were then assembled at Fort-Washington, consisting of two battalions, commanded by Majors Wyllis and Doughty, with three brass pieces of ordnance, viz. a six pounder, a three pounder, and a five and one half inch howitz; together with Capt. Ferguson's company of artillery; making in the whole 300 men, including non-commissioned officers. With this force I immediately proceeded to join the militia under the command of Col. Hardin, whom I had put in motion the 26th, and ordered to advance along what is called, "Clarke's Old Trace," for about 25 miles, there to halt till further orders. The militia had been draughted from Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and both together amounted to 1133 men. Many of the former were substitutes, and by no means equal, either in spirit or appearance, to the generality of their countrymen. My whole force then was 1453 (including two troops of cavalry) but from this number we may safely deduct 200 of the militia as good for nothing.

Oct. 14th, I detached Col. Hardin with 600 men, composed of 50 federal troops, and 550 militia, 100 of whom were mounted. The object was, to reconnoitre the country, and feel, at their towns the enemy's pulse, while the army advanced.

A dispatch arrived on the 16th from Col. Hardin, informing me that the savages, and the traders, (who are, perhaps, the worst savages of the two) had evacuated their towns, with appearances of precipitation, and burnt the principal village, called the Omec town, together with all the traders' houses.

On Sunday the 17th entered on the ruins of the Omec town, or French village, as part of it is called. Appearances confirmed accounts I have received of the conflagration into which the savages and their trading allies had been thrown by the approach of the army. Many valuables of the traders were destroyed in the confusion, and vast quantities of corn and other grain and vegetables, were secreted in holes dug in the earth, and other hiding places. Col. Hardin rejoined the army.

Besides the town of Omec, there were several other villages situated upon the banks of three rivers. One of them belonging

to the Omec Indians, called Kegaiogue, was standing, and contained 30 houses, on the bank opposite the principal village. Two others, consisting together of about 45 houses, lay a few miles up the St. Mary, and were inhabited by Delawares. Thirty-six houses occupied by other savages of this tribe formed another, but scattered town, on the east bank of the St. Joseph, 2 or 3 miles N. from the French village. And about the same distance down the Omec river, lay the Shawanoe town of Chillakothe, consisting of 58 houses; opposite which, on the other side bank of the river, were 16 habitations more, belonging to savages of the same nation. All these I ordered to be burnt down, and to stay there, together with great quantities of corn and vegetables hidden (as at the principal village) in the earth and other places, by the savages, who had abandoned them. It is computed there were not less than 20,000 bushels of corn in the ear, which the army destroyed.

On the 18th two Indians were killed and scalped by the cavalry; and another was killed at night. We lost a great number of horses at this time, occasioned by the negligence of the militia guards, and their disobedience of orders.

On the 19th, Col. Hardin was detached with 180 men, taken from the Pennsylvania and Kentucky militia, and 30 federal troops commanded by Lieut. Armstrong. Part of the detachment proceeded about 10 miles westerly of the main body of the army, now posted at Chillakothe, (the Pennsylvanians, who formed the left column, having fallen some miles in the rear) when a body of Indians appeared, and advanced to the attack; and tho' the enemy did not, as it is believed, exceed a hundred and thirty, yet the militia made no resistance, but fled, leaving the handful of federal troops to their fate; seven only of whom escaped. The militia lost but few men; among these, fell, lamented by his acquaintance, Capt. Scott of the militia, son to Gen. Scott of Kentucky. I am not informed of the loss sustained by the savages; but I conceive it could not be great.

Incensed at the disgraceful conduct of the militia, and determined to prevent, if possible, a repetition of it upon any future occasion, I reprehended it in my next orders with great severity. This measure, tho' harsh, will appear to have been necessary. It operated as a stimulus to wipe off the foul stain, which the reputation of the militia had incurred.

The great object of the expedition being now completely effected, that is, the destruction of the Omec towns, and the provisions laid up for their subsistence; on the 21st the army began to return towards Fort Washington by the route they came.

It was originally my intention, to have returned by the way of the Ouiautanon (commonly called the Weeah) towns on the Wabash; and break them up also. Major Hamtramck, commanding at Fort-Knox, (Vincennes) had been previously ordered to make a movement towards them with the troops under his command; 300 militia from Kentucky were ordered to reinforce him. The movement was intended as well for a diversion to prevent an union of the Shawanoe and Delaware, as for the purpose of effecting a junction with our whole force, in case I should have judged it advisable to enter the country of the Ouiautons. Circumstances however rendered it impracticable for me to attempt it, at this time, with any tolerable prospect of success. The horses of the army were now, by various causes, reduced to two thirds of their original number, and the remainder so worn down with hard service, as to preclude the possibility of reaping much farther benefit from them. I have not yet received any communication from Major Hamtramck, notwithstanding the long lapse of time since he was ordered to march.

On the 21st October, the army decamped from Chillakothe, returning on the route we had come about 8 miles. Here we remained till the morning of the 23d. Finding, in the mean time, that the enemy studiously avoided coming to a general action; and conceiving it improper to leave them in the quiet enjoyment of their late success, I resolved to make an effort to bring on another partial engagement. For this purpose I detached, on the 21st, late at night, Col. Hardin, and Major Wyllis, with 360 men, 60 of whom were federal infantry—the rest being militia, from Pennsylvania and Kentucky. I had sometime before, mounted a company of militia, and annexed it to the two troops of Kentucky cavalry, giving the command of the whole to Major Fontaine, a brave and deserving officer, at that time serving as my Aid-de-Camp. This corps made a part of the present command.

I gave orders to find out and fight the enemy at all events, and to be sparing of no means that might tend to lessen the number of the savages.—Knowing of what importance the life of every warrior is held among them. The detachment reached the confluence of the Omec and St. Mary, early next morning, and filed off in three columns. The left, under Col. Hardin and Major Hall, crossed at Kegaiogue, and proceeded along the west bank of the St. Joseph. The centre, consisting of the federal troops, under Major Wyllis, having passed the Omec at the French village, moved up the east bank of the St. Joseph, at some distance from the river, while Major M'Millan led the right column over some heights on Wyllis's right. The enemy now appeared in different quarters, and the columns were soon and feverally engaged with various success. A body of the savages having appeared in Wyllis's front, and cherished the idea of an attack there, suddenly gained the unoccupied heights on the right, and turned his flank. At this crisis fell Major Wyllis, an officer whose long and meritorious services claim the grateful remembrance of his country. With the talents of a cultivated mind, he united the best virtues of the heart. The little party, unsupported, and overpowered by numbers, now gave way, leaving 50 out of 60 dead upon the field. Free use was made of the bayonet, which the savages experienced to their cost. Lieut. Frothingham, of my regiment, was killed in the action. I have lost in him an useful officer, and a worthy man. While this part of the business was acting, the militia were not idle: they behaved with the spirit of veterans, and few numbers of the enemy; who met their fate with uncommon bravery. In short, each side seemed emulous to establish a character over the other.—The militia every where gave striking proofs of determined courage. The savages were in no instances behind them, and the slaughter was reciprocal.

From the best information the enemy lost in the course of this affair, upwards of 100 of their prime warriors,—men who appeared to fear no danger. Not a squaw or a child was seen this day to swell the number of the slain. The enemy's loss cannot be replaced. Ours, too, was heavy. Maj. Fontaine who commanded the cavalry, was a young gentleman of the most amiable manners, with a soul formed for enterprise. Years only were wanting to moderate his ardour in the field, and unite, in the accomplished gentleman, the character of a good soldier. He fell covered with wounds, in singly charging with his sword about 40 of the enemy. Some other officers of the militia were killed, and some few wounded. Our whole loss in killed, wounded and missing, amounted to 180, including officers. Upwards of 20 of the wounded were brought off.

Among the officers who survived the slaughter, and distinguished themselves more particularly on this day, I mention with pleasure the names of Major M'Millan, of Fayette, Major Hall, of Bourbon, and Brigade Major Ormsby, of Nelson county, in Kentucky; together with Capt. Games, of the cavalry. The conduct and personal courage of the first demand my warmest acknowledgments. He flew with his own hand three of the savages, and the column he led, made impressive exertions, wherever it appeared. The second was on all occasions obedient and brave, and displayed great personal courage. The third signalized himself in a manner that does him honor, by judiciously rallying a broken body of militia, which, in consequence, did great execution, under the immediate command of this gallant young officer. Capt. Games is deserving of great praise, for his soldierly conduct during the whole expedition, and particularly for the intrepidity he displayed in a personal combat of some duration, with a mounted savage, whom he at last overcame, bringing off the arms of his antagonist as trophies of the victory.

I am under many obligations to all the field-officers, both of the Kentucky and Pennsylvania militia, who gave me uniform proofs of the best disposition to second my endeavors during the expedition. Col. Hardin, who commanded the whole militia, is in a particular manner entitled to my acknowledgments, as well for his cool and determined conduct in action, as for his attention and perseverance in the execution of orders. As to the officers of the federal troops under my command, I must, in justice to them, observe, that their whole conduct was marked by a strict attention to discipline, a promptitude to obey orders, and alacrity in the execution of them.

After the action of the 22d, the detachment rejoined the army in its encampment; and at 11 next morning the troops resumed the route towards Fort Washington, which we reached by early marches on the 3d of November. No interruption whatever was offered by the enemy on our return; a convincing proof of their having received a blow which they felt. I flatter myself good consequences will be the result. We have not, I conceive, lost much more than man for man with the savages. Our loss can be repaired: their's is irreparable.

On my arrival at this fort, the pack-horses of the line did not exceed one half of their original number. Many had been shot and stolen on the expedition; others were lost in the woods; and others again, being worn out with fatigue, were either killed or left behind. The advanced state of the season having deprived us in a great measure of forage, I ordered them, at times, to be tied up at night, and flour to be served out at the rate of three pounds daily to every horse; hence you will perceive an extraordinary consumption arose of that article.

I detained in confinement here the Shawanoe prisoner we had taken, till the 18th inst. when I dismissed him back to his nation; but in a way, I trust, that impressed him with ideas of our superior power, his own insignificance, and our contempt of his brethren. I ordered him a few tripkets, and an escorte to see him safely advanced on the road 25 miles, left any of our hunters might fall in with him, and use him less tenderly than I wished. He appeared to be thankful, and departed from the garrison with a mixture of sorrow, gratitude and joy.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 8.

ARRIVALS at this port from Jan. 1, 1790, to Jan. 1, 1791.

Ships	127
Brigs	260
Snouers	13
Schooners	217
Sloops	396
Total	1013
688 of which were	American
288	British
14	Spanish
8	Portuguese
8	French
6	Dutch
1	Dane

1013

Extract of a letter from Boston, Dec. 29.

"Facts have proved, that they were in the right who advised people to keep their public securities. They have been constantly on the rise for some time past, and are now rising as fast as ever to be upon a par with money. I have heard and it may be depended upon as true, that our six per cent. securities, now sell in Holland above par, and are rising still higher, and they certainly ought to be as valuable in America as in Holland and I have therefore advised all my friends, possessed of state or continental notes not to sell them for less than twenty shillings in the pound.—Certainly no estate is so good as the public securities of this country, and every one who now sells them below par, will repent when they are gone from him. I am assured by a commissioner for settling the accounts between this state and the union, there will be a balance due to Massachusetts, which will take up and fund all the remainder of her debt, by which means it will ALL be funded by the United States."

A L B A N Y, Jan. 3.

On Thursday next, the convention of the state of Vermont meet in Bennington, for the purpose of taking into consideration the constitution of the United States. His excellency Governor Chittenden, chief justice Chipman, Stephen R. Bradley, Esq. the Attorney-General, Thomas Tollman, Esq. Mr. Jacobs, the Speaker of the Assembly, Major-General Ira Allen, and many other principal characters in that state are returned members to this convention.