

were repeatedly driven with great slaughter. Finding no great effect from our fire, and confusion beginning to spread from the great number of men who were falling in all quarters, it became necessary to try what could be done by the bayonet. Lieutenant Colonel Darke was accordingly ordered to make a charge with part of the second line, and to turn the left flank of the enemy—this was executed with great spirit—the Indians instantly gave way, and were driven back three or four hundred yards; but for want of a sufficient number of rifle-men to pursue this advantage, they soon returned, and the troops were obliged to give back in their turn. At this moment they had entered our camp by the left flank, having pushed back the troops that were posted there. Another charge was made here by the second regiment, Butler's and Clarke's battalions, with equal effect, and it was repeated several times, and always with success; in all of them many men were lost, and particularly the officers, which, with so raw troops, was a loss altogether irremediable.—In that just spoke of, made by the 2d regiment, and Butler's battalion, Major Butler was dangerously wounded, and every officer of the second regiment fell, except three, one of whom, Mr. Groaton, was shot through the body. Our artillery being now silenced, and all the officers killed, except Capt. Ford, who was very badly wounded, and more than half of the army fallen, being cut off from the road, it became necessary to attempt the regaining it, and to make a retreat, if possible—to this purpose the remains of the army were formed, as well as circumstances would admit, towards the right of the encampment, from which by the way of the second line, another charge was made upon the enemy, as if with the design to turn their right flank, but, in fact, to gain the road. This was effected, and, as soon as it was open, the militia took along it, followed by the troops, Major Clarke, with his battalion, covering the rear. The retreat, in these circumstances, was, you may be sure, a very precipitate one—it was, in fact, a flight—The camp and the artillery were abandoned; but that was unavoidable, for not an horse was left alive, to have drawn it off, had it otherwise been practicable. But the most disgraceful part of the business is, that the greatest part of the men threw away their arms and accoutrements, even after the pursuit, (which continued about four miles) had ceased. I found the road strewed with them for many miles, but was not able to remedy it; for having had all my horses killed, and being mounted upon one that could not be pricked out of a walk, I could not get forward myself; and the orders I sent forward, either to halt the front, or to prevent the men from parting with their arms, were unattended to.

The route continued quite to Fort-Jefferson, 29 miles, which was reached a little after sun-setting.

The action began about half an hour before sun-rise, and the retreat was attempted at half an hour after nine o'clock.

I have not yet been able to get returns of the killed and wounded; but Major-General Butler, Lieut. Col. Oldham of the militia, Major Ferguson, Major Heart, and Major Clarke, are among the former. Col. Sargent, my Adjutant-General, Lieut. Col. Darke, Lieut. Col. Gibson, Major Butler, and the Viscount Malartic, who served me as an aid-de-camp, are among the latter, and a great number of captains and subalterns in both.

I have now, Sir, finished my melancholy tale—a tale that will be felt sensibly by every one that has sympathy for private distress, or for public misfortune.

I have nothing, Sir, to lay to the charge of the troops but their want of discipline, which, from the short time they had been in service, it was impossible they should have acquired, and which rendered it very difficult, when they were thrown into confusion, to reduce them again to order, and is one reason why the loss has fallen so heavily upon the officers, who did every thing in their power to effect it; neither were my own exertions wanting, but worn down with illness, and suffering under a painful disease, unable either to mount or dismount an horse without assistance, they were not so great as they otherwise would, and perhaps, ought to have been.—We were overpowered by numbers; but it is no more than justice to observe, that though composed of so many different species of troops, the utmost harmony prevailed through the whole army during the campaign.

At Fort-Jefferson, I found the first regiment, which had returned from the service they had been sent upon without either overtaking the deserters, or meeting the convoys of provision. I am not certain, Sir, whether I ought to consider the absence of this regiment from the field of action as fortunate, or otherwise—I incline to think it was fortunate; for I very much doubt whether, had it been in the action, the fortune of the day had been turned: and, if it had not, the triumph of the enemy would have been more complete, and the country would have been destitute of every means of defence.

Taking a view of the situation of our broken troops at Fort-Jefferson, and that there was no provisions in the Fort, I called upon the field-officers, viz. Lieut. Col. Darke, Major Hamtramck, Major Zeigler and Major Gaither, together with the Adjutant-General, for their advice, what would be proper further to be done, and it was their unanimous opinion, that the addition of the first regiment, unbroken as it was, did not put the army on a respectable footing as it was in the morning, because a great part of it was now unarmed—that it had been then found unequal to the enemy; and should they come on, which was probable, would be found so again.—That the troops could not be thrown into the Fort, both because it was so small, and that there were no provisions in it.—That provisions were known to be upon the road, at the distance of one, or at most two marches.—That therefore it would be proper to move, without loss of time, to meet the provisions, when the men might have the sooner an opportunity of some refreshment, and that a proper detachment might be sent back with it to have it safely deposited in the Fort. This advice was accepted, and the army put in motion again at 10 o'clock, and marched all night, and the succeeding day met with a quantity of flour—part of it was distributed immediately—part taken back to supply the army on the march to Fort-Hamilton, and the remainder (about fifty horse-loads) sent forward to Fort-Jefferson—the next day a drove of cattle was met with for the same place, and I have information that both got in: The wounded who had been left at that place, were ordered to be brought here by the return horses.

I have said, Sir, in a former part of this letter, that we were overpowered by numbers: of that, however, I have no other evidence than the weight of the fire, which was always a most deadly one, and generally delivered from the ground, few of the enemy showing themselves on foot, except when they were charged; and that in a few minutes our whole camp, which extended above three hundred and fifty yards in length, was entirely surrounded and attacked on all quarters.

The loss, Sir, the public has sustained by the fall of so many officers, particularly general Butler and major Ferguson, cannot be too much regretted; but it is a circumstance that will alleviate the misfortune in some measure, that all of them fell most gallantly, doing their duty. I have had very particular obligations to many of them, as well as to the survivors, but to none more than to colonel Sargent—He has discharged the various duties of his office with zeal, with exactness and with intelligence, and on all occasions afforded me every assistance in his power, which I have also experienced from my aid-de-camp, lieutenant Denny, and the Viscount Malartic, who served with me in that station as a volunteer.

With every sentiment of respect and regard,  
I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,  
ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

The Honorable Major-General Knox,  
Secretary of War.

P. S. Some orders that had been given to Colonel Oldham over night, and which were of much consequence, were not executed; and some very material intelligence was communicated by Captain Slough to General Butler, in the course of the night before the action, which was never imparted to me, nor did I hear of it until after my arrival here.

List of the killed and wounded Officers in the Battle of the 4th November.

- K I L L E D.  
Major-General. Richard Butler.  
Lieutenant-Colonel. Oldham, Kentucky militia.  
Majors. Ferguson, Clark, and Heart.  
Captains. Bradford, Phelon, Kirkwood, Price, Van Swearingen, Tipton, Smith, Purdy, Pratt, Guthrie, Cribbs, and Newman.  
Lieutenants. Spear, Warren, Boyd, M'Math, Burgess, Kelfo, Read, Little, Hopper, and Lickens.  
Ensigns. Cobb, Balch, Chace, Turner, Wilson, Brooks, Beatty, and Purdy.  
Quarter-Masters. Reynolds and Ward.  
Adjutant. Anderson.  
Doctor. Grasson.  
W O U N D E D.  
Lieutenant-Colonels. Gibson, and Darke.  
Adjutant-General. Sargent.  
Major. Butler.  
Captains. Doyle, Truman, Ford, Buchannen, Darke, and Slough.  
Lieutenants. Groaton, Davidson, De Butts, Price, Morgan, M'Crea, Lytle and Thompion.  
Ensign. Bines.  
Adjutants. Winstler and Crawford.  
The Viscount Malartic, who acted as a volunteer Aid du Camp.

[The above List was forwarded by Quarter-Master Hodgdon, at Fort-Washington, to the Secretary of War.]

The amendments proposed by the Senate to the Representation Bill were taken into consideration.

A motion to agree to the first amendment, which is to increase the ratio from 30 to 33 thousand, occasioned a lengthy debate, which continued till past 3 o'clock, when an adjournment being called for, precluded any decision on the motion.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13.

Several petitions were read and referred to the Secretary of War. A petition from J. F. Amelung, proprietor of a glass manufactory in the State of Maryland, praying the patronage of the government to his manufactory; was read and laid on the table.

A memorial of the Illinois and Wabash land companies, was presented by Mr. Hartley—read and referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Livermore, Fitzsimons and Clark.

A message was received from the President of the United States by Mr. Secretary Lear—communicating a plan of the city, laid out as the permanent seat of the government of the United States.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Secretary Otis, informed the House that they have passed a bill for the relief of David Cook and Thomas Campbell, with amendments.

The amendments of the Senate to the Representation bill, were again taken into consideration—After some debate respecting order—the House went into a committee of the whole, on those amendments.

A motion by Mr. Sedgwick, to amend the first amendment, by striking out one after the word Delaware, for the purpose of inserting two, induced a lengthy debate.

The question being at length taken, was negatived, twenty-one members only rising in favor of it.

The question for agreeing to the first amendment of the Senate, being then put, was negatived, 31 to 30.

The other amendment was merely literal, and was agreed to.

The committee then rose and reported accordingly, and the House adjourned.

NEW-YORK, December 9.

On Wednesday night last, about ten o'clock, a most alarming fire broke out in the large workshop in John-street, belonging to Mr. Haller, Coach Maker, Broad Way, which entirely consumed the same. By the united exertions of all ranks of citizens, the Theatre (which caught fire several times) and the adjoining buildings were preserved. Fortunately no lives were lost. The person who exerted himself so much on the top of the Theatre, was David Burgher of this city.

Philadelphia, December 14.

Pursuant to advertisement, the Lectures on Law and Government by the Hon. JAMES WILSON, L. L. D. commenced last Monday evening, at the College in this City.—The Lectures of this Gentleman, last Winter, were entertaining and instructive.—Good reasons may be suggested why those of the present Season may prove more highly interesting.

On Friday the 9th inst. the Governor of the State met both Houses of the Legislature in the Senate Chamber, and communicated his Speech, on the business of the present Session. Among other objects contemplated in the Speech, was, the opening of the navigation of the Susquehanna; a plan for forming a communication by water, with a few easy carrying places, from the Ohio to the rivers (particularly the Delaware) falling into the Atlantic Ocean; and a negotiation between the States of Pennsylvania and Maryland for the purpose of uniting the navigation of the Delaware and Chesapeake bays, and thereby opening a new avenue from this port to the ocean.

A Connecticut paper informs, that No. 14,508, drew a prize of 10,000 dollars in the Massachusetts Lottery. It was the property of the Commonwealth.

Of the 68,664 negroes that have revolted in Hispaniola, 30,000 may be deemed lost, either by being actually killed, or becoming wild in mountains to which there is no access. The value of each of these negroes may be estimated at 2500 livres each, which makes the whole loss in revolted negroes, 75,000,000 livres.

The losses incurred from the destruction of 172 sugar works, plantation houses, cattle, &c. &c. is reckoned at 111,800,000 livres.

The losses in buildings, produce, and the cattle on 936 coffee plantations, is 131,400,000 livres.—Villages, cotton and indigo plantations, and cattle, buildings, &c. upon them, are estimated at 6,400,000 livres.

Total loss—324,600,000 livres.

SAYS A CORRESPONDENT.

The benefits resulting from general knowledge have been disputed. The opposers of the means of learning for the poor classes of people have said, that you cannot make every poor man a good scholar: They ask, what is gained by making smatterers in learning; science they affirm, gains little, and labor loses much—for men who read much will work little.—They become discontented with their lot, and even if they could change it to their own advantage, the case would not be mended, for others must be found to take their places. The drudgery of the world must be done; and it would be found as hard on those who have it to do as before learning, was given them; and harder, because they would then know it to be drudgery.

These are plausible arguments in favor of ignorance—and such as ignorance could not have suggested in its own defence; tis thus that the sons of science turn particides against the mother whose milk has nourished them.—The answer to this ungenerous philosophy is not hard to be found.—Education is, not recommended merely to make men book wise, but to extend the comprehension of their minds—to increase their ideas, that is to say, to increase their wisdom; real wisdom can do no harm—surely it will not make men prefer idleness to industry, nor a vain ambition to thrift and steadiness even in a humble calling. It is true that the attempts to make them wiser may sometimes fail, and may even make a few more vain, idle and worthless, than if they had been left to themselves. The like charge may be urged against education in the families of the wealthy, and indeed against any good institution whatever. It is plain that education has the opposite tendency, which is a sufficient answer to that part of the oration in favor of ignorance.

But why is it forgotten that a few instances of folly made worse by teaching, are nothing compared with the many instances of men made more sober virtuous and diligent by it. Add to this that it is as likely to happen that an eminent genius shall start up from the family of a poor man as of a rich one; one such might benefit mankind more than education ever cost them. Then give to all the means of knowledge, and leave it to nature to mark out the differences between her children. The light of heaven is pleasant, would you pluck poor men's eyes out? The light of knowledge is no less so, and will you blind them? Then establish schools, that is, open the windows and let in the day light.

Extract of a letter from the Post-Master at Hartford, to the Editor, dated December 4.

"An extraordinary failure of your papers has happened, but one having arrived these five posts.

"The subscribers have paid with reluctance owing to the loss of former numbers, and these frequent disappointments."

Extract of another letter to the Editor, from the Post-Master at New-Haven, dated December 5.

"I am sorry to inform you that the old complaint respecting the conveyance of your papers grows worse and worse; we have received but one paper in two weeks; your customers here are on the point of giving them up. Is there not some persons between Philadelphia and this town unfriendly to you, or to New-Haven folks? As the papers for those beyond this town, come on more regularly."

The above are among the numerous letters which the Editor is constantly receiving on the same subject.

He would inform the Post-Masters respectively, that the names of the subscribers for the GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES, have been principally collected and forwarded to him by the Post-Masters in various parts of the Union.

On receipt of the above letters, the Editor enquired at the post-office in this city, respecting the business, and was informed that all the packets of the Gazette which had been lodged therein, had been forwarded, for their several destinations—Punctuality is justly considered as the soul of this business—the Editor has been unremitted in his attention to that point.

The Post-Masters of the United States are in general, men of liberal and enlightened minds—the Editor, tho personally acquainted with but few of them, has received innumerable instances of their attention and politeness—He solicits a continuance of their friendship; and particularly that they would facilitate the transmission of those packets of the Gazette which are dispatched from the Post-Office of this city. Indeed it is extremely difficult to conceive how an article can be arrested in its progress to a particular destination, that is once deposited in the mail post-manteau.

Information respecting any missing packets of the Gazette of the United States will be thankfully received.

The Respondent is necessarily postponed till our next.

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At No. 263, South Front-Street, this Night JOHN MACPHERSON will Lecture on ASTRONOMY, and begin precisely at Eight o'Clock. Tickets are sold by Mr. Poulson, at the Library; Mr. Peltz, at the Merchant's Coffeehouse; and by said Macpherison, at one half a dollar each.