

On Friday evening last, the houses of Capt. Barry and Mr. Hillington, in Sixth Street near Spruce Street, were assailed by some villains in a most daring outrageous manner.

A gun it is supposed was fired into each house, the shot from which passed through the windows; but providentially no lives were lost.

This outrage was committed about eight o'clock in the evening. Already the neighbourhood was instantly alarmed, the villains escaped, owing to the want of light in Sixth Street, there being only three or four lamps in all the distance from Walnut to Cedar Street.

WASHINGTON CITY.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17.

Debate on Mr. Varnum's motion for reducing 2d Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers to three battalions.

Mr. Otis hoped the resolution would not pass the house. He believed no act had ever passed the house that was more maturely deliberated on than the raising of this corps. He would beg gentlemen to recur to the origin and progress of the artillery establishment; he believed by such a reference gentlemen would think with him that it was not a part of the temporary urgency, but an act of a permanent and useful nature.

At its first establishment it had not its requisite parts to form a regiment; it was called the corps of artillerists and engineers. In May, 1794, in a time of the most perfect peace, and without any apprehensions or alarm, there was an act passed to augment this corps, by adding three battalions, so as to form a regiment. In May, 1796, an act was passed confirmatory of the former act, making arrangements in the army. In April, 1798, an act was passed, not only confirming the former establishment, but for raising and organizing an additional regiment, of three battalions. This was long before the adoption of that general system of defence which afterwards formed the military establishment of the United States, and long before the twelve regiments were raised, which afterwards formed a part of that system. In March, 1799, there was a bill passed for organizing the troops of the United States, wherein it was enacted that this corps of engineers should be raised to 4 battalions, instead of three. The augmentation of the artillerists and engineers was to take place immediately, although that of the infantry and cavalry was not to be immediately executed, nor until war should break out with some foreign power. Last session there were two acts passed for the disbanding of the twelve regiments heretofore raised, and for discharging the cavalry but still the organization and preservation of the artillery and engineer continued;—no gentleman then thought proper to prevent the raising of this additional battalion, although the situation of things was nearly the same as at the existing moment.

It appearing, therefore, that no act has been more encouraged by the approbation of the house than this for raising and maintaining the present regiments of artillerists and engineers, and no reasons having been urged in support of the motion, it appears highly proper that so useful a corps should be preserved. At least it becomes the mover of the resolution to shew the necessity of his motion, and the appearances existing now which did not at the close of the last session, to encourage such a motion, a motion so hostile to our growth in military tactics. Mr. Otis was willing that this system should remain in the hands of the government, whatever changes might probably take place as to men and things.

However, lest those arguments should appear as a mere theoretic notion, in favor of measures he had always advocated, he would introduce a sketch he had taken the pains to select, of the disposition of the two regiments of artillerists and engineers, if completed, from which view, he presumed, it would appear that there was no superfluousness to the actual necessity of the United States, in the preservation of her arms and posts, and for keeping alive this very useful branch of military knowledge.

For Point Peter, (St. Mary's) 48
Fort Moultrie and fort Johnson, in Charleston harbor, 96
Fort Green, Savannah river, 48

Total for S. Carolina and Georgia, 192

Fort Johnston, N. C. 48
Fort Norfolk, 96
Fort M'Henry, (Baltimore) 48

Total for N. Carolina, Virginia & Maryland, 192

Fort Mifflin, Delaware river, 96
At the laboratory, near Philadelphia, 48

Total for Pennsylvania, 144

At West Point, 96
Fort Jay, and other posts in N. York bay, 192

Total for the state of New York, 288

In the harbor of Newport, R. I. 144

Fort Independence, (Bolton) 96
Salem and Marblehead, 48
Portland, in Maine, 48

Total for Massachusetts, 192

Fort Niagara, 96
Detroit and Michilimackinac, 48

On the different forts on the Ohio, Mississippi and Tombigby rivers, 192

Making for the Western frontiers, a total of 336

Making for all the military posts from St. Mary's to New-Hampshire, and from the Mississippi to the Atlantic, a distance of 1500 miles one way and 2000 the other, an aggregate of 1536 privates, the officers, non-commissioned officers and musicians not reckoned—the whole little more than 2000 men, from which are to be deducted those who from desertion and sickness, are unwilling and unable to perform service.

And is this number, asked Mr. Otis, too great for the service? Too great to defend these numerous and extensive frontiers from decay and injury? He trusted no gentleman, not even the mover, would think so. He believed the motion totally premature, and without due consideration, when it was to be considered the vast service that they were called to perform, even in time of profound peace. To be sure there was great probability that a treaty was negotiated with the French republic; but was it certain that that treaty would be ratified? And even if it should, there was no certainty that it might not be necessary to make provisions for defending the frontiers and forts from the deprivations of some other powers. The present situation of the British negotiation, and the possible jarring provisions of the two treaties, might produce events against which defence may be necessary.

These ideas, as well as every other he had advanced on the floor of congress, Mr. Otis declared he had advanced from the most sincere impressions, and not from any desire to promote a system because it had been once found necessary & useful. But another most useful object, which the legislature ought to have in view, was the cultivation of the science of engineering. That science is not to be learned in a moment; it is necessarily the work of time & experience to prepare against an urgency which might occur, and as a knowledge which ought to be cultivated with attention.

One material argument to be sure was used in favor of the motion, and which might appear sufficient for its adoption did not gentlemen consider the value of the acquisition. The battalion not having been raised, might be thought a good argument for preventing its organization; but was it not cultivating a most useful and advantageous science? One which called forth the mature deliberation and report of the late secretary of war, in order to prepare against an exigency. That officer prepared and reported to the House during the last session a system of engineering tuition and under the expectation of its adoption, the raising of the fourth battalion in question was never carried into execution. But another reason why the delay occurred as to this battalion was, that it was considered a part of the standing military establishment of the country, to be kept on a permanent footing, and as the 12 regiments were ordered to meet the exigencies of the moment, & were of a temporary nature, more attention was paid to the raising of them to the neglect of this. Another reason which he added, was the resignation of the late Secretary, before the measure was commenced—these together prevented the execution of the military organization so far as related to this fourth battalion, and not the want of its being necessary for the most valuable of its purposes, to wit: the preservation of our posts and the tuition of our citizens in a most valuable and important knowledge, in preparation for any urgent occasion.

He concluded by expressing a sincere hope that the House would now lay its hand on this important object, and declared that he supported it from the principle of its intrinsic worth, with which view he should quit not only his political sphere, but he hoped, his existence.

Mr. Varnum thought his colleague had not adhered to a true statement of facts. It was true that this part of the army was raised as a part of the established army, but it was equally a well known truth that the augmentation of this second regiment to 4 battalions was enacted during state of alarm. Much was then talked of arming in our defence against invasion, and the public mind was fermented to an exceedingly high degree. Indeed it was during this fermentation and pretended alarm that the regiment was begun, and not in that state of total tranquillity represented. He thought the single regiment of artillerists and engineers as sufficient for any prospect of necessity the United States ever experienced, but as the three other battalions had been raised and as the fourth never had, he was content to move that it might not be, and he thought upon the strongest reason, and therefore he originated the motion: not that he considered the artillery corps now existing as sufficient to protect us in case of invasion; he thought no apprehensions of that event could be encouraged and not apprehending that event, against which much more of this kind of force would be necessary, he could not but believe 23 companies quite sufficient for the establishment.

These battalions were not the only defence of the country—happily for us we have the science generally cultivated among our citizens, on whom the great defence of the United States rests. Does not the gentleman know that in his own state (Massachusetts) there are forty volunteer companies of artillerists and engineers, who are industrious in acquiring the science? Does he not know that each of them is furnished with two field pieces, and that they are ready to take the field any day that the necessity of the country requires them? If other States have followed the same line, and obtained so great proficiency as that State, there cannot be a doubt upon the true result of this motion. What could two or even three regiments

of artillery do in case of a foe invading this extensive country? They could do but little; the defence must rest with the militia, who have their property and their all to protect. Certainly it cannot be pretended but the number now in the establishment is sufficient to keep the frontier posts and the sea ports in repair, and for what else can they be wanted, since their number, if raised, would be totally inadequate for defence.

Whenever a small expence could be saved, Mr. Varnum thought it highly incumbent on the house to grasp at the opportunity, and that opportunity now offered. He hoped it would be accepted, since not the least injurious tendency could accrue from it.

Mr. Rutledge expressed his disappointment at not hearing the gentleman, who made and supported this motion, bring forward some reasons in its favor, or introduce some documents to prove to the house that the present number of artillerists and engineers was sufficient to keep the posts in repair. The gentleman had, indeed, as was usual with him, expressed his high opinion of the militia as our most substantial defence. I am no more willing than that gentleman, said Mr. Rutledge, to distrust our militia; I think as highly of them, but I am not disposed to make so free with their services as he is; I am disposed to let them remain in their employments, in their agricultural & mechanical pursuits & not drag them out into the field or into garrisons without the most pressing necessity. The gentleman's sole motive seems to be the saving of money.

If this is his motive, no means can be devised more favourable to it than the raising this battalion, for none will prove more expensive than this short sighted economy. View the state of our forts at the close of the revolutionary war, and draw the contrast to the late decayed and ruined situation of our fortifications, and then let the house determine whether suffering them to waste for want of hands to take care of them will not cost more when they come to be repaired or rebuilt, than keeping a few men at each of them to prevent that decay. This was found to be vastly the most expensive, not to say exposed mode that could be devised. Added to this is the great waste of the military stores, for want of due care. These two evils, will more than counterbalance the expence, and therefore if the posts and stores are at all necessary to be preserved the means must be used for that object.

Mr. R. were took a review of the different ports at which were garrisons, and contended that there were too few men for their preservation; he also observed that, knowing the impossibility of sufficiently garrisoning every port to prevent or rebut the approach of an enemy, the secretary of war was induced to offer a means which would create soldiers and officers for the field or the posts on any emergency, by the establishment of a school for teaching this most valuable science. The question was whether these battalions were to be a part of the establishment or not. What gentleman could doubt the superiority of this branch of military knowledge to all others? Was it not equally well known that being a science, it required time to procure a useful proficiency in it? The policy of cultivating it was esteemed in Europe, and hence it was that the French armies had so often gained victories. The Chief Consul himself was an officer of engineers, and had stamped the superiority of that knowledge by establishing a school of engineers, and supporting it by his every effort, assured from experience of its real efficacy. So far had it become useful that he invented the horse artillery, a species which gave celerity to the motions of his armies, and victory to their efforts. (To be Continued.)

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Luca dice in flasks } of superior quality
Camels Hair
Cremor Tartar and Gum-arabic
Leghorn Hats assorted
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That large and commodious HOUSE,

At the corner of Arch and Ninth streets.

To be Let,

THE house, stable, coach-house and lots, lately occupied by Major Butler, situate as above For terms apply to J. B. Wallace, No. 28, north Fifth Street, October 21, 22w 1f

To Printers.

The following MATERIALS will be sold reasonable if applied for immediately.

- 1 Press,
3 Counts Lang-Primer (partly worn)
2 ditto Small-Pica on Pica body,
2 ditto Pica,
1 ditto English,
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Several pair of Chafes, several composing sticks, frames and galleys, some brass rules, Quotations, &c. &c. &c. all of the above will be sold very reasonable for Cash. September 8.

By this Day's Mails

NEW-YORK, December 23.

THE LATEST,

From London papers to the 17th of November, inclusive, received at the Office of the Daily Advertiser.

FRANCE.

PARIS, November 11.

It is stated as certain, that Citizen Lucien Buonaparte let out yesterday for Madrid, accompanied by Citizen Felix Desportes, Secretary General of the Interior, and Citizen Arnaud, the author of Marius Minturne.

M. Spina, Archbishop of Corinth, who was said, about a month ago, to have left Rome on his way to Vercelli, to confer with Commissioners on the part of the Chief Consul, relative to the differences at present subsisting between the Catholic Clergymen, has arrived in Paris, and has taken up his residence at the Hotel de Rome.

Though no apparent change has occurred in the state of affairs since the departure of Count Cobenzel, the most ardent hopes of Peace begin to be entertained, and a number of people flatter themselves, that the separate negotiation at Luneville, will soon be succeeded by a more general one, which will extend even to England. It is certainly difficult to account for the grounds of this expectation, which seems to have been suddenly taken up by certain circles in this capital. But all the powers of Europe are so strongly interested in bringing the war to a conclusion, that it is at the very moment when it is again ready to break out, that we may expect to see them interpose in a more effectual manner and determine upon making greater sacrifices in order to prevent its commencement. However this may be, it appears that the question of Peace or War will now be decided in a very few days. [Journal du Commerce.]

ROME, October 18.

It is said that an English ship of the line has arrived at Civita Vecchia, to take on board the King of Sardinia.

In the consistory which is to be held on Monday next, the Infant of Spain will be made a cardinal.

LUNEVILLE, November 7.

The Count de Cobenzel arrived here this morning at five o'clock, and Joseph Buonaparte at noon. The former was saluted with nineteen pieces of cannon, and the latter by the ringing of the only bell left us. The two Ministers lodge in private houses, until their apartments in the castle shall be completely finished.

A very fine corps of 1500 grenadiers arrived to-day; it will form part of the garrison.

The Telegraph is erected on the top of the castle.

STRASBURGH, Nov. 4.

A Russian courier passed through this city for Paris; he travelled with great speed.— This is the second within a week.

LEGHORN, Oct. 23.

We were a good deal agitated in this city, at the approach of the French, but tranquility is now perfectly established. Our inhabitants, who are of all nations, are naturally susceptible of anxiety and uneasiness; and certainly nothing could be more alarming to our Commerce, than such a sudden military invasion, but the Proclamations of the commander in chief of the Tuscan expedition, and his general good reputation, have dissipated our fears; and the activity of the Port has suffered no interruption. We heard groups of people saying on the very first day after the entrance of the French "let us submit, the French are commanded by a General whom the Piedmontese regret."

We must acknowledge that the sudden dispatch of the English merchandise which has been sent to Palermo, and the tumult which was excited, perhaps designedly, when the commandant of this city evacuated it, were not calculated to inspire our merchants with confidence; it was, however, easy to see, that the arming of Tuscany, and the constant incursions of the peasants and Legions upon the Cisalpine Territory, would lead to something. The English did foresee it, and they have lately done less business in the port than usual.

Ships belonging to the enemies of France ignorant of our being in the power of its troops are every day coming into our Port. These vessels are all good prizes: and as the winter comes on, we shall no doubt have a great many others, for the Tuscan colours are still flying upon the Mole.

LONDON, Nov. 17.

No Cabinet Council was held on Saturday, on the Dispatches brought by Mr. Mauxix from Count Cobenzel, as stated in some of the Sunday Papers—but a Cabinet Council met in Downing Street yesterday at two o'clock.—We have reason to believe, though we do not venture positively to assert it, that Count Cobenzel's language is firm, and that no disposition appears on the part of Austria to negotiate without the concurrence of Great Britain. Count Cobenzel, however, is certainly gone to Luneville, and Joseph Buonaparte is certainly there also.

The Paris Papers can have no other importance in the eyes of the Public, than what they derive from announcing, with certainty, the arrival of Count Cobenzel at Luneville. It is thus, therefore, apparent that Negotiations are about to take a seri-

ous and direct course. We sincerely hope that the French Government may abandon pretensions, which would be an obstacle to Europe at length enjoying a Peace such as the requires, and has a right to look for; and that France may become sensible that her private interest cannot be solidly established, except upon what is also the general interest.

The Mission of Lucien Buonaparte is still a mystery. Some Journals have pretended that it was to Madrid he was going, but this others have as formally denied, and the Conductors of the Clef du Cabinet, who boast of being connected with the office of the Minister of the Interior, acknowledge that they neither know whether Lucien Buonaparte is gone, nor what is the object of his journey. The Official Journal contains not a syllable on the subject, but contents itself with stating that Citizen Fontanes will soon follow him.

It appears that the invasion of Tuscany has had, with relation to the French and Austrians, no other effect than that of producing a new Convention between General Bellegarde and Brune, by which hostilities are not to be resumed until after ten days notice; such at least is the statement in the Moniteur. We may however suppose that their new arrangement has not been quite as amicable as this Journal would represent, and that it has been on the part of the Austrian General merely the result of the difficulty of circumstances. According to some letters from Italy, a French or Cisalpine corps had advanced into the Roman Territory, and had raised heavy contributions. At its approach, the Count de Damas whose good conduct in 1798 may be recollected, returned with the corps of troops under his command towards the frontiers of Naples. The French do not dissemble the plan of again conquering that kingdom. The invasion of Tuscany will therefore be attended with those consequences which from the first moment were foreseen; and affairs will probably be in Italy, in the end of this year, in the same situation as they were two years ago; Piedmont, and the territory of Genoa become more and more the theatre of private distress and general misery.

It is confirmed, that the workmen who had been assembled to demolish the Fortifications of Ulm, have been sent home. The Moniteur endeavours, nevertheless, to prove, that the French acquired, when they received from the Emperor the three Fortresses, the right to destroy them. The Marquis de Luchefini, and Signor Bolla, have each had their audience of the Chief Consul, in form. Bishop Spina, who had at first been sent to Vercelli by the Pope, has arrived at Paris. This Circumstance tends to prove he has really a desire of concluding some arrangement with his Holiness with respect to the interest, or rather with respect to the discipline of the Church. An article in the Petersburg Court Gazette furnishes grounds for believing that, notwithstanding the confidence which the French have, for some time past, shewn respecting the dispositions of that Court, it is far from tolerating their pretensions or considering them as comparable with an approaching Pacification.

NEW-YORK, December 23

LONDON PAPERS

TO NOVEMBER SEVENTEENTH.

Were last evening received at the office of the MERCANTILE ADVERTISER, by the ship Brutus from London. Many of the intermediate papers from the 4th to 17th being wanting, we are unable to give a connected chain of events. There does not, however, appear to have been any political transaction of consequence since our last report. The English Parliament have been convened at an earlier period than usual, to take into consideration the present alarming scarcity of provisions, and to deliberate on the political aspect of affairs as they respect Negotiations for peace. The speech of the King of Great-Britain at the opening of session, and the articles of intelligence which succeed it, comprise nearly the whole of whatever is valuable in those papers that have already come into our hands.

LONDON, November 12.

The alterations in the new great Seal, now finished, and in the custody of the Lord High Chancellor are—that the arms of France are entirely expunged; the arms of England, of Scotland, of Wales, and of Ireland, are quartered; and the arms of Hanover are placed upon the centre of the four quarters. His Majesty, in the new seal, instead of being styled, "King of Great Britain, France and Ireland," styles himself simply, "BRITANNIORUM REX;" KING OF THE BRITISH.— This title has a very extensive and appropriate meaning. It includes not only the British Isle, but all subjects in every quarter of the globe, living under the British dominions. His Majesty, in council, has given orders that his title, arms, &c. shall be altered after the expiration of the present year, in all public instruments, &c.— And orders are likewise given to have the royal carriages altered as above.

BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS.

November 11. This day, a little after three o'clock, his majesty came down to the House, and opened the Session of Parliament with the following most gracious Speech from the Throne; the Speaker of the House of Commons and several Members attending at the Bar.

"My Lords and Gentlemen, My tender concern for the welfare of my subjects, and a sense of the difficulties, with which the poorer classes particularly have to struggle, from the present high price of provisions, have induced me to call