

Washington, Nov. 1819.

SIR—Since my communication to you of the 31st ult. I have been informed by a gentleman entitled to the fullest credit, that you were not afloat till after the peace; consequently, the report which I noticed of your having sailed under British license must be unfounded.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

STEPHEN DECATUR.

To com. James Barron,  
Hampton, Virginia.

No. 8.

Hampton, Nov. 20, 1819.

SIR—Unavoidable interruption has prevented my answering your two last communications as early as it was my wish to have done, but in a few days you shall have my reply.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES BARRON.

Com. S. DECATUR,

No. 9.

Hampton, 30th Nov. 1819.

SIR—I did not receive, until Tuesday, 9th inst. your very lengthy, elaborate, and historical reply, without date, to my letter to you of the 23d ultimo; which from its nature and object, did not, I conceive; require that you should have entered so much into detail in defence of the hostile and unmanly course you have pursued towards me, since the "affair of the Chesapeake" as you term it. A much more laconic answer would have served my purpose, which for the present, is nothing more than to obtain at your hands honorable redress for the accumulated insults which you, sir, in particular, above all my enemies, have attempted to heap upon me, in every shape in which they could be offered. Your last voluminous letter is alone sufficient proof, if none other existed, of the rancorous disposition you entertain towards me, and the extent to which you have carried it. That letter I should no otherwise notice, than merely to inform you it had reached me, and that I am prepared to meet you in the field upon any thing like fair and equitable grounds; but inasmuch as you have intimated that our correspondence is to go before the public, I feel it a duty I owe to myself, and to the world, to reply particularly to the many calumnious charges and aspersions with which your "dispassionate and historical notice" of my communication so abundantly teems; wishing you, sir, at the same time, "distinctly to understand" that it is not for you alone, or to justify myself in your estimation, that I take this course. You have dwelt much upon our "June correspondence" as you stile it, and have made many quotations from it. I deem it unnecessary, however, to advert to it, further than to remark that, although "nearly 4 months" did intervene between that correspondence and my letter of 23d ultimo, my silence arose not from any misapprehension of the purport of your contumacious "underscored" remarks, nor from the malicious designs they indicated, nor from a tame disposition to yield quietly to the operation which either might have against me, but, from a tedious and painful indisposition which confined me to my bed the chief part of that period, as is well known to almost every person here. I anticipated however, from what had found you capable of doing to my injury the use to which you would endeavor to pervert that correspondence, and have not at all been

disappointed. So soon as I was well enough and heard of your machinations against me, I lost no time in addressing to you my letter of the 23d ultimo; your reply to which I have now more particularly to notice. I have not said, nor did I mean to convey such an idea nor will my letter bear the interpretation, that your forwarding to Norfolk our "June correspondence" had "in any degree, alienated my friends from me;" but, that it was sent down there with *that view*. It is a source of great consolation to me, sir, to know, that I have more friends both in and out of the navy, than you are aware of, and that it is not in your power, great as you may imagine your official influence to be to deprive me of their good opinion and affection. As to the reason which seems to have prompted you to send that correspondence to Norfolk, "that a female of my acquaintance had stated that such an one had taken place" I will only remark that she did not derive her information from me: that it has always been, and ever will be, with me, a principle, to touch as delicately as possible, upon reports said to come from females intended to affect injuriously the character of any one; and that, in a correspondence like the present highly as I estimate the sex, I should never think of introducing them as authority. Females, sir, have nothing, or ought to have nothing to do in controversies of this kind. In speaking of the court martial which sat upon my trial, I have cast no imputation or reflection upon the members individually who composed it (sparing yourself) which required that you should attempt a vindication of their proceedings—champion as you are, and hostile as some of them have been to me; nor does the language of my letter warrant any such inference. I merely meant to point out to you, sir, what you appear to have been incapable of perceiving; the inefficacy of your conduct, [to say the least of it] in hunting me out as an object for malignant persecution, after having acted as one of my judges, and giving your voice in favor of a sentence against me, which I cannot avoid repeating, was "cruel and unmerited." It is the privilege sir, of a man deeply injured as I have been by that decision, and conscious of his not deserving it, as I feel myself, to remonstrate against it; and I have taken the liberty to exercise that privilege.

You say that "the proceedings of the court have been approved by the chief magistrate of our country, that the nation approved of them, and that the sentence has been carried into effect." It is true the president of the U. States *did* approve of that sentence, and that it was carried into effect—full and complete effect, which I should have supposed ought to have glutted the envious and vengeful disposition of your heart; but I deny that the nation has approved of that sentence, and as an appeal appears likely to be made to them, I am willing to submit the question. The part you took on that occasion, it was totally unnecessary, I assure you, "to revive in my recollection;" it is indelibly imprinted on my mind, and can never, while I have life, be erased. You acknowledge you were present at the court of enquiry in my case, "heard the evidence for and against me, and had, therefore, formed and expressed an opinion unfavorable to me," and yet, your con-

science was made of such pliable materials, that, *because* the then "honorable secretary of the navy was pleased to insist on your serving as a member of the court martial, and because I did not protest against it," you conceive that "duty constrained you, however unpleasant, to take your seat as a member," although you were to act under the solemn sanction of an oath, to render me impartial justice upon the very testimony which had been delivered in your hearing before the court of enquiry, and from which you "drew an opinion, altogether unfavorable to me." How such conduct can be reconciled with the principles of common honor and justice, is to me inexplicable. Under such circumstances, no consideration, no power or authority on earth could, or ought to, have forced any liberal high minded man to sit in a case which he had prejudged; and, to retort upon you your own expressions, you must have been "incapable of seeing the glaring impropriety of your conduct, for which, although you do not conceive yourself in any way accountable to me," I hope you will be able to account for it with your God, and your conscience.

(To be continued)

From Utica Patriot of April 4. "The following remarkable instance of *presence of mind and heroic perseverance*, almost without parallel, is related by an eye witness.

On Sunday, the 13th of February last a Mr. Boulding, his wife, child, sister, and brother-in-law, were returning in a sleigh on the ice from a visit to a friend living near the Chippawa Bay, on the St. Lawrence river. They had experienced some difficulty in getting on to the ice from the shore; & Mr. B. having wetted his feet, seated himself in the sleigh for the purpose of taking off his stockings, which were wet, giving up the reins to his brother, who from inattention or ignorance of the road, drove on to a place on the ice where there had recently been an air hole, and which was not frozen sufficiently strong to bear; the ice broke under them, and the sleigh upset and sunk, with the two women and child. Mr. B. sprung from the sleigh while sinking, exclaiming, "We are all lost," and fortunately reached firm ice; the young man who was driving, was unable to swim, but struggled until he was reached and drawn out of the water by Mr. B. who retained his hold upon the solid ice:—This was no sooner accomplished, than Mr. B. throwing off his coat and hat, declared that he would save the others or perish in the attempt; and accordingly plunged into the water in search of those most dear to him.

The first that he found was the child, which grasping he rose to the surface, and brought it within reach of his brother;—then drawing himself again on to the firm ice, he plunged again to the bottom, and finding his wife, rose a second time with her in his arms, but apparently lifeless, leaving her to the care of his brother who was calling aloud for assistance from the shore. After taking breath for a moment he a third time plunged into the water in search of his sister, whom, after some moments groping on the bottom, he found; but in raising again to the surface, he struck his head against the ice. Sensible of the extreme peril of his situation, and that the current had carried him below the ap-

erture, with a degree of presence of mind seldom equalled, straining every nerve, he redoubled his exertions, and was so fortunate as to again reach the opening, bringing with him the insensible & apparently lifeless body of his sister; both were drawn from the water by the assistance of some persons who had arrived from the shore, alarmed by the cries of the brother. They were all carried to a neighboring house, where the women and child were with some difficulty resuscitated. Upon measuring the depth of the water where the sleigh had broken through the ice, it was found to be 14 feet."

Congressional Proceedings.

IN THE SENATE.

April 20. A number of bills were read and variously disposed of.

The senate resumed the consideration of the bill granting certain privileges to the Ocean steam ship company of New York, and, no amendment being offered to the bill, the question was taken on ordering it to a third reading, and decided in the negative—ayes, 11 noes 12.

So the bill was rejected.

The Senate took up, in committee of the whole, Mr. King, of Alabama, in the chair, the bill "to authorise the appointment of certain commissioners to lay out the roads and canals therein mentioned," which was reported from the committee on roads and canals by Mr. King, of New York, on the 4th inst. to which committee had been referred the memorials on the subject, from the legislatures of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, &c.

[The bill provides for the survey and location of a road, to continue or extend the "Cumberland road" from Wheeling, on the Ohio, to a point on the left bank of the Mississippi, and to appoint commissioners to have surveys made of the most practicable routes for canals between the Raritan and the Delaware, and the latter and the Chesapeake.]

A motion to postpone the bill indefinitely, was negatived.

Friday, April 21.

The bill to establish a uniform mode of discipline, and field exercise for the militia of the United States, was received from the house of representatives; twice read and referred.

The senate next took up the bill from the other house, "in addition to the several acts for the establishment and regulation of the treasury, war, and navy departments," respecting transfers of appropriations, and carrying surpluses of appropriations to the sinking fund—ordered to be read a third time.

A message was received from the president of the U. States, by the hands of Mr. Daniel Brent, of the department of state, transmitting from the secretary of state, copies of the correspondence between the ministers or agents of the United States, and the ministers or government of Sweden, relative to the seizures, sequestration, or confiscation, of the ships or other property of the citizens of the United States, under the authority of Sweden.

April 24. The following resolutions, submitted by Mr. Morrill on the 21st inst. were taken up for consideration.

*Resolved*, That the practice of duelling is inhuman, immoral and censurable.

*Resolved*, That the president of the U. States would be justifiable in striking from the rolls of the army and navy, the names of all persons thereon,

who have been or hereafter may be, directly or indirectly, engaged in a duel, or who may have been or hereafter may be, in any way or manner, accessory thereto.

After some speaking the resolutions were laid upon the table.

The bill to authorise the appointment of commissioners for laying out a road from Wheeling to the Mississippi, by the seats of government of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, (being a continuation of the Cumberland road,) and for surveying and making out the course of certain canals, between the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, and the Rariton, &c. was taken up in committee of the whole, Mr. King, of Alabama, in the chair.

After debate, this bill was re-committed.

April 25. Mr. Rufus King, from the committee on roads and canals, to whom the bill on that subject was yesterday re-committed, reported two bills, in lieu of the bill re-committed—the first providing for the appointment of commissioners for surveying the road from Wheeling to the Mississippi; the second for the appointment of commissioners for surveying & designating a route for canals to connect the Chesapeake and Delaware, the Rariton and the Delaware, &c. which were read.

The senate, on motion of Mr. Dickerson, resumed the consideration of the bill to continue in force the act to protect the commerce of the U. States, and to make further provision for punishing the crime of piracy; and the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

April 26. The engrossed bill to continue in force the act to protect the commerce of the U. States and to make further provisions for punishing the crime of piracy; and the bill from the house of representatives in addition to the revolutionary pension act of March 18, 1818, were severally read the third time, and passed, the latter by a vote of 25 to 16. The first named bill was sent to the other house for concurrence—the latter has now passed both houses.

House of Representatives.

Friday, April 21:

The bill to establish a uniform mode of discipline and field exercise for the militia of the U. States was read a third time, passed and sent to the senate for concurrence.

Monday, April 24.

Mr. Wendover presented a memorial of the American society of the city of New York for the encouragement of domestic manufactures, complaining of the system of credit given for the duties on the importation of foreign manufactures, and of free sales at auction, and praying that the three bills now under discussion in the house of Rep's. may be passed into laws previous to the termination of the present session of congress.

Mr. Smith of Maryland, presented a petition of sundry inhabitants of the city of Baltimore, praying that measures may be adopted to prevent citizens of the United States from engaging in the business of privateering under the flags of the governments in South America, and that certain ports in the United States be designated in which only cruisers of those governments may be permitted to enter, and that those lying in the waters of the Chesapeake bay may be among those which may be prohibited; which petition was referred to the committee on foreign affairs.