From the National Intelligencer.

THOUGHTS on the subject of NAVAL POWER *in the* UNITED STATES *of* AMERICA *and on certain means of encouraging and protecting their Commerce & Manufactures.*

NO. I.

THE leading ideas in the following papers are produced by a sincere and thorough conviction, that no branch of commerce, nor even trade in general, should be so pursued, permitted, encuraged, or defended by the United States, as to hazard the public liberty at home, the principles of freedom abroad, or taxes on the whole nation, nearly as great as, equal, or superior to the exclusive profits of the merecantile body. We have rejected the example of Europe as to standing armies, political churches, the penal code, and other dangerous errors and aberrations from right; but the splendors and temptations of naval power and external commerce, as established and extended in Europe, have their full share of influence over many persons of great worth and judgement in the United States.

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A REVIEW of the nature and practice of the European governments will fully convince us, that the *public authority* is their principal mean to procure seamen for their navies. The most energetic navy (that of England) is manned by "*impressment*." This operation is considered, in the U. S. to be conducted on *the principles of mere arbitrary government*. The happiness of the seamen's families their comforts, and their necessities, do not seem to be objects of any consideration. The mariner's personal rights,* and even his *written* and *signed* engagements to serve private persons, British or foreign, *under shipping papers* or *portlege bills*, are violated without any allowance of damages either to the seaman or the merchant, without punishment, and without censure and, indeed, often with justification or applause. In manning her navy, G. Britain is manifestly and completely *despotic* over her own merchants sea captains, and mariners and acts, at present, in like manner even with respect to foreign merchants, captains, and seamen. She undertakes to dictate to her nautical subjects alone, that they shall neglect or violate all their engagements and serve her, and upon terms also dictated by her; *for impressed British seamen's wages are fixed by that government*. To consult together merely for procuring higher wages, would be treated as a mutiny. If her seamen were to be at liberty to ask and obtain their own rates of wages, and were to be paid at those rates, their navy could not be continued on its present scale. Will the seamen of the U. States submit to a civil regimen in this case, like that of G. Britain? Will the rest of the people of this country consent to such an example of coercion and limitation of wages?—Will our legislatures and courts permit or sanctions such a regimen to one class of citizens? Will our courts of impeachment and courts martial allow the orders and conduct of civil and millitary officers, in conformity with such a regimen, to pass unnoticed and unpunished? Do not these considerations deeply affect *the practicability* of a great naval power, on the princsples of the constitutions of the U. States? It may be fairly and prudently asked, *Whether a standing naval establishment is not liable to a large proportion of the objections to a standing army; and whether it is not entitled to that name and character in a very considerable degree?* The use which, was made of the British navy, in the war of 1775, against the American colonies, *even while it was confessedly a civil war*, will prove that a *naval force* can be openly and actively used to destroy the public liberty of a nation at home: and the use, which was made of the British navy in the peaceable year 1792, and in the war of 1793, against France, will prove that it can be used to destroy the the principles of public liberty abroad.† The dreadful condition of Ireland, upon various occasions, and for many years is, in a considerable degree, to be ascribed to the state of control in which it has been held by means of the British navy, in which tens of thousands of Irish seamen were enlisted or impressed. Had that country been joined to this continent in 1776, or to that of Europe in 1792, Ireland would have had complete British constitutional liberty or a separation. It is in evidence, therefore, that *a great navy may destroy liberty, at home and abroad, by force*; while the patronage of its appointment and supplies, and the willing dependency of its *whole appropriate judiciary power*, with the fruits of its rapacious and lawless spoliations, carry servility and corruption into every class of the nation. Similar reflections arise concerning the use of the navy *in the slave trade, islands and colonies*. These observations are not made from any unfavorable opinions of the individuals who compose our navy, or that of any other nation, but are merely intended to prove, that although a navy has not been thought to endanger public or general liberty in the precise form and manner of an army, it is so justly exceptionable on that score, as to require *a constitutional prudence* in relation to it, as a standing armament in the hands of the government. Every standing public force requires caution, whether it be on the water or on the land.

But it may be observed, that commerce exist, that it is absolutely necessary, and that it is profitable. The carriage of our produce *by ships* into the consumer's markets is as useful to the growers of that produce as the carriage *by waggons*. The rights and interests of commerce, as well as the interest of agriculture, therefore, require that our ships be kept as free as possible from impediments to their voyages, their cargoes from spoliation, and their crews, whether natives or aliens, from *foreign* impressment. For this purpose, some persons have desired that the U. S. should be immediately made and permanently maintained *a considerable naval power*.—We have suggested for due consideration some difficulties and some apparent impediments. It will be determined how far they are inherent in the nature of things in the U. S. how far they are real, and how far they can be acquiesced in or obviated.

If it be supposed for a moment, that these objections are not real, and that they may be obviated, then let us consider *the vast expence* of a naval establishment.

Great Britain spends annually from seventy millions to eighty five millions of dollars on her navy. One-tenth of her navy would cost us ten or twelve millions of dollars, which is from 11 to 13 per cent. on all our exports, foreign and American, in the greatest year. It is the whole net profit of our trade, and it is presumed more. Yet such a limited navy could not, of course, resist *a fifth* of the fleets of England, nor could it resist the navy held by several other powers, till the British leviathan lately devoured all the other navies of the old world. The navy of Great Britain is indeed a brilliant, instrument of stupendous power; but it has proved to to her finances, *a splendid instrument of ruin*. It costs her from seventy to eighty-five millions of dollars, per annum, in direct expenditures, under regular appropriations, besides a great indirect amount in bounties on sail-cloth, on fisheries, and numerous other things in their complicated system of commerce and finance‡. *It is a standing army*, as oppressive to *foreign* nations as the *standing armies* of the Stuarts and the Cromwells were to *the British* nation. It has become hostile to the liberty of all at se, and, so far as it spares the British people themselves, *it is because it is employed upon aliens*. It involves G. Britain in great odium, and *in incessant, bloody, and expensive quarrels and wars of pride, power, and avarice. It facilitates her immense participation in the commerce and slavery of the blacks, and in the cruel and extensive tyranny exercised over India.*

Do the United States want such a navy; such an instrument of oppression; such an instrument of defence; such an instrumet of offence; such a drain for their wealth; a mill-stone slung around the public neck, to deal destruction to all we may chuse to insult, and at the same time to bend the public neck, and sink the public body in the abyss of military expence? The British plea of defence for the fatal expences of a navy, does not exist in the case of the U. States. They are not an island of 70,000 square miles; nor are they near to any foreign enemy; nor have they concentrations of moveable property to tempt and entice invaders; nor keys of their country in the shape of fortresses or metropolitan cities, by which invaders may hold and command their dominions; nor have they transmarine colonies; nor any commerce which the foreign world can do without. The interest of Europe will prevent the annihilation of a country's trade, which presents them with abundant food and increasing raw materials for their colonies, armies navies, and manufacturers and which affords a steady vent and an immense consumption for their manufactured commodities.

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* *If a person of a religious society principled against war or one believing the war of the time unjust, be impressed the rights of conscience are violated.*

† *It is of no consequence to this argument, that France afterwards departed from the principles of liberty.*

‡ *It is difficult to procure correct statements of the British naval expences down to the present time; but a recurrence to the British New Annual Register, for the years* 1801, 1802, *and* 1803, *will shew that the sums of* 15,300,000*l. sterling, equal to* 70 0220,000 *dollars, and* 19,012. 227*l. sterling, equal to* 84,500,000 *dollars, were appropriated for the navy department in two of those years. It is also stated, that* 33,000,000 *of pounds in navy bills were issued by the government in one of those years, but that* 3,000,000 *remained locked up in the bank. It is presumed from these facts, that the wonderful exertions of* 1804, 5 *and* 6, *that the direct and indirect naval expences of Great Britain are much greater than has been supposed.*

From the Raleigh, (N. C.) Register.

EXTRAORDINARY PHENOMENON.

The following account of an extraordinary phenomenon, that appeared to a number of people in the county of Rutherford, state of North-Carolina, was made the 7th of August, 1806, *in presence of David Dickle, esq. of the county and state aforesaid, Jesse Anderson, and the reverend George Newton, of the county of Buncombe, and Miss Betsy Newton, of the state of Georgia, who unanimously agreed with the consent of the relators, that Mr. Newton should communicate it to Mr. J. Gales, editor of the Raleigh Register and State Gazette.*

Patsey Reaves, a widow woman, who lives near the Apalachian Mountain, declares that on the 31st day of July last, about six o'clock, P. M. her daughter Elizabeth, about eight years old, was in the cotton field, about ten poles from the dwelling house, which stands by computation, six furlongs from the Chimney Mountain, and that Elizabeth told her brother Morgan, aged eleven years, that there was a man on the Mountain. Morgan was incredulous at first; but the little girl affirmed it, and said she saw him rolling rocks or picking up sticks, adding, that she saw a heap of people. Morgan then went to the place where she was, and calling out, said that he saw a thousand or ten thousand things flying in the air. On which, Polly, daughter of Mrs. Reaves, aged 14 years, and a negro woman, ran to the children, and called to Mrs. Reaves to come and see what a sight yonder was: Mrs. Reaves says. she went about 3 poles towards them, and without any sensible alarm or fright, she turned towards the Chimney Mountain, and discovered a very numerous croud of beings resembling the human species; but could not discern any particu ar members of the human body, nor distinction of sexes; that they were of every size, from the tallest men down to the least infants; that there were more of the small than of the full grown, that they were all clad with brilliant white raiment, but could not describe any form of their raiment; that they appeared to rise off the side of a mountain so th of said rock, and about as high; that a considerable part of the mountain's top was visible above this shinning host, that they moved in a northern direction, and collected about the top of the Chimney rock. When all but a few had reached said rock, two seemed to rise together, and behind them about two feet, a third rose. These three moved with great agility towards the croud, and had the nearest resemblance to men of any before seen. While beholding those three, her eyes were attracted by three more rising nearly from the same place, and moving swiftly in the same order and direction. After these, several others rose and went towards the rock.

During this view, which all the spectators thought lasted upwards of an hour, she sent for Mr. Robert Siercy, who did not come at first; on a second message sent about fifteen minutes after the first, Mr. Siercy came; and being now before us, he gives the following relation, to the substance of which Mrs. Reaves agrees:

Mr. Siercy said, when he was coming, he expected to see nothing extraordinary, and when come, being asked if he saw those people on the mountain, he answered no; but on looking a second time, he saw more glittering white appearances of human kind than ever he had seen of men at any general review; that they were of all seizes from that of men, to infants: that they moved in throngs round a large rock, not for from the Chimney rock; they were about the height of the Chimney rock and moved in a semicircular course, between him and the rock, and so passed along in a southern course between him and the mountain, to the place where Mrs. Reaves said they rose; and that two of a full size went before the general croud about the space of 20 yards; and as they respectively came to this place, they vanished out of sight, leaving a solemn and pleasing impression on the mind, accompanied with a diminution of bodily strength.

Whether the above be accountable on philosophical principles, or whether it be a prelude to the descent of the Holy City, I leave to the impartially curious to judge. GEORGE NEWTON.

P. S. The above subscriber has been informed that on the same evening, and about the same time in which the above phenomenon appeared, there was seen, by a gentleman of character, who was several miles distant from the place, a bright Rain-bow, apparently near the sun, then in the west, where there was no appearance of either clouds or rain; but a haze in the atmosphere. The public are therefore at liberty to judge, whether the phenomenon had any thing supernatural in it, or whether it was some unusual exhalation of moist vapor from the side of the mountain, which exhibited such an unusual Rain-bow. *G. N.*

From the Republican Spy.

ON *Friday* and *Saturday* last, the trial of ANDREW WRIGHT, late publisher and proprietor of this paper, was had for a *libel* on his *Excellency* CALEB STRONG. On *Saturday*, the Jury pronounced a verdict of *Guilty*—and the Court pronounced his sentence, v z. Imprisonment for Six Months, in the common Jail, to pay costs of prosecution, and find bonds for good behaviour for three years from the expiration of that time. With such an example before us, our readers will not expect that we should presume to comment on the trial or the sentence. It is perhaps a stretch of temerity, to dare to mention the *fact*. Our republican friends, we hope, will duly appreciate the *blessings* of their situation. We hardly know how to write on the subject. In such dangerous times, silence is the safest policy. We mean to be understood (and we give this notice *literally*, and most fervently petition the federal gentlemen, who so fairly and impartially represent the Common wealth, in this county, not to indict us with an *inuendo*, "meaning *ironically*")—we mean to be understood as not contesting the justice of the decision, or complaining of the hardship of Mr. Wright's fate; and for the best reason in the world, *because we dare not*. With all the terrors of prosecution and an imprisonment hanging over our heads, we shall not be expected to write very pointedly or very connectedly. If the learned and able and venerable Judges of our Supreme Court, understand precisely the legal doctrine of libels, we confess, we have not that advantage, and are unable to decide what we can justify as proper, and what will expose us to the horrors of a tedious confinement. Like men who grope in the dark, fearing to stumble, we tread with feeble and hesitating steps.

We may, however, we humbly hope, be permitted to state, that this indictment was found for having charged Governor STRONG with speculation—with soliciting the clerk's office for his son, and with having made from timidity, an improper appoinument of Sheriff in *Worcester county*—that the *truth* of these charges, on trial, was attempted to be proved As a Report of the evidence in the case will be published apart, we shall not pretend to say, how far the defendant succeeded. We hope too to be allowed to say, that, at the time of finding this indictment, *originally*, a set of *federal* papers printed by BUTLER, which charged Mr. JEFFERSON with *adultery, cowardice, treachery in his office, licentiousness, political imbelicity*, and *want of private and political integrity*, which charged Judge SULLIVAN with *knavery, peculation, cruelty* and *official misconduct*—and which charged a citizen of this county with *associating with robbers*, and with *treason*; federal papers of this kind, were presented to the same *Grand Jury* which found the indictment against WRIGHT. Mr. BUTLER was not indicted. We merely state this fact; but for the very cogent reason, stated before, *we do not complain*. We state, too, that an application to postpone the trial, in order to obtain further exculpatory evidence, deemed necessary, was refused. Again we say, *we do not complain*. We state, also, that after the verdict was pronounced, the sentence immediately followed, without the Defendant's being asked (as we once thou' usual) what he had to offer in mit gation of punishment. Once more, we intreat to be understood, *we do not complain*.—Perhaps, by intense application, or by some inspir ng blast of legal knowledge, we may, at some future time, be enabled to comprehend, what we may safely publish; and, in that event, we assure our readers, we will attempt a "*round unvarnished tale of our whole course.*"

From the Baltimore American.

By capt. Ferguson's packet, arrived yesterday, our correspondent at Norfolk, and an obliging friend, have furnished us with the papers of that place of the 18th, which afford, together a few marine and other articles, the following particulars relative to the destruction of the French ship L'Impetueux:

In a part of the last edition of our paper, we gave a hasty account of the destruction of the French line of battle ship L'Impetueux. Since then, we have conversed with some of the officers belonging to the French ship, who say, that in a violent gale on the nineteenth of August, in latitude 26, she was totally dismasted, had her rudder broken, water-casks stove, and all the powder wet and destroyed; they were obliged to throw all their guns over board, except their lower tier, to keep her afloat. After being in this deplorable state for 23 days, short of provisions, and not a drop of fresh water, early on Sunday morning last, they descried two British men of war, a frigate and an armed brig, being then about 12 miles off shore, to the southward of Cape Henry; that sooner than be taken at sea, they immediately made for shore, on which they ran the ship before the British got within shot, having with their colors a signal of distrees also hoisted.

They state, that the frigate commenced firing upon them when they were aground, and within a mile of the land, and continued the firing till the colors and the sails were lowered; during this time the two line of battle ships were at anchor within long shot; that the crew of the first boat that came on board from the frigate behaved with much civility, but when the marines came they conducted themselves with rudeness; that the captain of the French ship expostulated with them, stating that they were on neutral ground, but to no effect; for after taking out what of the crew that did not jump overboard, they set fire to her, and effectually destroyed her. The Impetueux had near 700 men; those taken on board the frigate had been sent up from Hampton roads, and are now, comfortably lodged in the Hospital at Ferry-Point.

The L'Impetueux was one of *Willaumez's* squadron, and of which Jerome was second command in the Vetenra, which ship parted from the squadron in the lat. of New-York, 20 or 30 days before the gale, and has never since been of. They fell in with the Foudroyant (the admiral's ship) 3 days after the gale, totally dismasted, rudder gone, & nearly a wreck—suppose she has got into the Havanna. The Casard and Valereuse frigates, belonging to this squadron, are also missing.

Commendation is due to Mr. Myers, who, on hearing the deplorable situation of the poor fellows who swam on shore, and who were making the best of their way for this place, without clothes and without victuals, immediately sent carriages, with provisions and clothes to meet them.

[*Herald.*]

On Monday, the 14th current, the British ships Bellisle and Belona, with the Melampus frigate, being about ten leagues to the southward of Cape-Henry, discovered a French line of battle ship to leeward dismasted, to which they gave chase, when she run aground with her colors flying, After some little firing from the Melampus, the French ship struck her colors; she was found to be the L'Impetueux, of 74 guns, she was taken possession of by the British commander, who, after taking out the French captain, officers and men, set fire to her and burned her. Immediately after the French ship took the ground, a number of the crew left her, and succeeded in getting on shore; but not with standing what has been asserted, it is not believed that a single man was killed, or more than, one (if one) wounded by the fire from the Melampus; that frigate is in Hampton-Roads, with the remaining officers and crew of L'Impetuenx on board. L'Impetueux was one of Jerome's fleet, and separated in the gale of the 16th. It is said that the Foudryant, the French admiral's ship, was dismasted and bore away for the Havanna.

Tuesday about 80 sick French seamen were landed from the Melampus British frigate, and sent to the marine hospital.

Yesterday a further number of the crew of the L'Impetueux were released from on board the Melampus frigate, and came up to this place, about 350, as we have been informed.

[*Ledger.*]

[In addittion to the foregoing details, one of the passengers who arrived in the above packet, informs that a *receipt* on the score of *exchange* was requested or demanded of the French consul, by the English, for the delivery of those of the crew of the French ship L'Impetueux, who were sent into Norfolk. The French consul refused compliance, and declared they could not be considered, as *prisoners*; the attack on the French ship, and the burning of her, having taken place within the jurisdiction of the United States—which, it is presumed, he considers illegal.—*Ed. Amer.*]

Admiral sir *Richard Strachan*, in the Cæsar of 84 guns, arrived off the coast, we understand, on Monday last, having lost his maintopmast.

[*Norfolk Ledger.*]

Washington City, Sept. 24.

Extract of a letter dated Curracoa, August 15, 1806.

"About the first of the month, Miranda landed on the main, and took possession of a fort of six 12 pounders near Coro, without resistance. We cannot learn the number of his troops, but it is generally believed to be about 600. I saw a letter of the 13th instant, which came by a dispatch boat from Porto Cavello, and which says "this day will arrive 2,000 regulars from Caracas. They will embark immediately for the neighborhood of Coro; for which purpose all the shipping in the harbor are put in requisition;" among which are two schooners already laden for Curracoa, and on debarking their troops they will proceed for this port. I have conversed with a young man that was interpreter to the prisoners that were taken on board Miranda's schooners. He says that William Lippincott, jun. is sent to Porto Rico, that Daniel R. Durning died of a wound he received when they were taken, that Daniel D. Kemper, Robert Saunders. Thomas Donahue, captain of the schooners, Joseph Eale, Thomas Billiop and James Gardin, were hung. The names of the others he does not recollect. It is said, and I believe with truth, that the dispatches per the boat from Porto Cavello were to ask the assistance of this government by the loan of a Dutch frigate and sloop of war that are stationed here, but that the governor has denied."