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ALMANAC,

...THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 1814.

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CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 29.

Mr. *Gaillard* from the committee on Naval Affairs, reported, in part, the following resolutions, which were read:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the thanks of Congress be, and the same are hereby presented to Captain Oliver Hazard Perry, and through him to the officers, seamen, marines and infantry serving as such, attached to the squadron under his command, for the decisive and glorious victory gained on Lake Erie on the 10th of September, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, over a British squadron of superior force, commanded by Commodore Barclay.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause gold medals to be struck, emblematical of the action between the two squadrons, and to present them to Captain Perry and Captain Jesse D. Elliott, in such manner as will be most honorable to them:—And that the President be further requested to present a silver medal with suitable emblems and devices to each of the commissioned officers either of the navy or army serving on board, and a sword to each of the midshipmen and sailing masters who so nobly distinguished themselves on that memorable day.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to present a silver medal with like emblems and devices to the nearest male relative of Lieutenant John Brooks, of the marines, and a sword to the nearest male relations of midshipmen Henry Laub and Thomas Claxton, junior, and to communicate to them the deep regret which Congress feel for the loss of those gallant men, whose names ought to live in the recollection and affection of a grateful country, and whose conduct ought to be regarded as an example to future generations.

Resolved, That months pay be allowed, exclusively of the common allowance to all the petty officers, seamen, marines, and infantry serving as such, who so gloriously supported the honor of the American flag under the orders of their gallant commander on that signal occasion.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On Wednesday, Mr. *Wright* made some observations on a proposition of Mr. Pickering, which were not heard by the Reporter. It appears that Mr. W. although in favor of redressing grievances in case of depredations or injury by the Soldiery, was opposed to Mr. Pickering's motion, having in view the passage of a law on the subject. He said, 'that if we passed a law directing the redress, it would be to be executed by the courts, which would not possess his confidence, he feared, for half a century; that he thought the representatives of the people the best qualified to decide on the cases as they should occur, whose magnanimity would always incline them to do justice.'

THURSDAY, Dec. 30.

Mr. *Davis* of Mass. presented the petition of Joanna Shaw, praying a right of dower to a piece of land sold by her husband to the United States without her knowledge, &c. which was referred to the committee of Claims.

On motion of Mr. *King* of Mass. the petition of David Sewall, presented on the 14th June last, was referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. *Ward* of Mass. presented the petition of Capt, H. H. Hickman, who was taken prisoner at Detroit and whose property was destroyed in the British brig Detroit captured and destroyed by Lieut. Elliot. Referred to the committee of Claims.

Mr. *Moseley* of Cont. presented the petition of Stephen Alling, which was referred to the committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, the petition being of that nature.

Mr. *Ridgeley* of Del. presented the petition of Agnes Jackson, praying compensation for a house destroyed by fire communicated from an adjoining house occupied by the government as a war office; which was referred to the committee of Claims.

Mr. *Lewis* of Va. presented the petition of the constables of the town of Alexandria praying an increase of their fees; the petition of sundry inhabitants of Alexandria, praying an act of incorporation for a Marine and Fire Insurance Company; a petition from the same place praying the incorporation of a company to insure against fire only; and a petition from sundry inhabitants of Washington county, in the District, praying the incorporation of a Fire and Marine Insurance Company. These petitions were referred to the committee on the District of Columbia.

The Speaker laid before the House the petition of the President and Managers of the Company incorporated by the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the purpose of building a bridge across the Susquehannah at Columbia, stating that they had employed a part of their funds in banking; and, praying, as this institution differed so far from other banking institutions, an exemption from the duties recently imposed by the U. States on the notes of banks, &c.—Referred, on motion of Mr. Roberts, to the committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. *Creighton* of Ohio, presented the petition of Jervis Cutler praying compensation for certain services rendered the U. States; which was referred to the committee of Claims.

Mr. *M'Clean* of Ohio, presented the petition of Dennis Clarke, praying remuneration for money erroneously advanced in payment for a tract of public land. Referred to the committee on Public Lands.

Mr. *Calhoun* of S. C. from the committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the President's Message of the 9th ult. reported the following bills:

A BILL to prohibit the ransoming of ships or vessels of the U. States, and the goods and merchandize on board the same, captured by the enemies thereof.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the day of next, it shall not be lawful for the owner or master of any ship or vessel, or the owner of any goods, wares or merchandize on board the same, or for any other person in their behalf, or in any other manner, to ransom or enter into any contract of agreement for ransoming any ship or vessel, or any goods, wares or merchandize, on board the same, which shall have been captured by the ships, subjects or citizens of any state or country at war with the U. States.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all contracts and agreements which shall be entered into, and all bills, notes and other securities or obligations, which shall be given by any person or persons for a ransom of any such ship or vessel, or of any goods, wares or merchandize on board the same, contrary to this act, shall be wholly void in law and of no effect whatever.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person shall, after the said day of next, ransom or enter into any contract or agreement for ransoming any ship or vessel captured as aforesaid, or any goods, wares or merchandize on board the same, such person so offending shall for every such offence forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars, nor less than one thousand dollars, to be recovered by action of debt, or by indictment or information before any court having competent jurisdiction.

A Bill for the more effectual enforcing of the non-importation laws, by forbidding the courts to deliver to the claimants, pending the trial merchandize or other articles seized under the same.

Be it enacted, &c. That whenever any goods, wares or merchandize shall have been seized, for a violation of any law or laws of the United States, which is now or may hereafter be passed prohibiting the importation of the same, or any ship or vessel, boat, raft, carriage or other vehicle which shall have been libelled before any court having competent jurisdiction for the trial of the same, it shall not be lawful for the said court to order or direct that the said goods, wares or merchandize, ship, vessel, boat, raft, carriage or vehicle shall be delivered to the claimant or person pretending to have a right to the same, upon executing a bond for the value thereof, or in any other way or manner, until the question of the forfeiture of the said articles shall have been duly examined and tried before the said court, and unless the said court shall adjudge that the said articles are not liable to forfeiture, and shall order and decree the same to be restored.—But the said articles seized and libelled as aforesaid shall be and remain in the custody and safe keeping of the collector of the customs by whom the seizure shall have been made, as the court may direct, until a decree of condemnation or restoration shall have been duly made and pronounced: *Provided nevertheless,* that in case any article seized and libelled as aforesaid shall be proved to the satisfaction of the court to be in a perishing condition, it shall be lawful for the said court to order and direct that the same be sold by the marshal or other proper officer of the court, due notice of such sale being previously given, at public auction, to the highest or best bidder; and the proceeds of such sale shall be and remain in the hands of the marshal or such officer as the court shall direct, until the final decree in the case shall be pronounced, and shall then be paid over by the said marshal or other officer in conformity with the said decree.

These bills were severally twice read, referred to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for Monday next.

The engrossed bill for the appointment of an additional judge in the Missouri territory, was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. *Humphreys of Tenn.*

Resolved, That the Militia Committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making an appropriation by law for the payment of a detachment of the militia of Tennessee ordered into service by the Executive of that state, for the purpose of repelling the hostile incursion of Indians and guarding and protecting the frontier; which detachment was commanded by Brig. Gen. Thomas Johnson.

CHESAPEAKE & DELAWARE CANAL.

On motion of Mr. *Ingersoll of Penn.* the house, by a vote of 70 to 60, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. *Macon* in the chair, on the bill authorising a subscription to the stock of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company.

The amendment proposed by Mr. *Stockton of N. Y.* for incorporating in the bill a like provision in relation to the canal between the Rariton and Delaware, still under consideration.

Mr. *Stockton* insisted on his amendment, which was also supported by Mr. *Taylor of N. Y.* and opposed by Messrs. *Ingersoll, Wright, Farrow & Calhoun of S. C.* The two latter gentlemen were opposed to the bill as well as to the proposed amendment.

Mr. *Stockton* then moved, that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again. He grounded his motion on an allegation, that if time were allowed, he should be able to produce information in relation to the merits of the proposed canal in New Jersey, that would be entirely satisfactory.

The motion was supportod by Mr. *Bigelow* and opposed by Mr. *Ingersoll.*

It was decided in the affirmative, ayes 81.

On suggestion of Mr. *Macon,* with the consent of Mr. *Stockton* and Mr. *Ingersoll,* the further consideration of the bill was postponed to and made the order of the day for Monday week. And the house adjourned.

GEN. SMYTH's PETITION

The following is a Copy of the Memorial of Alexander Smyth, laid before the House of Representatives on Tuesday, and by that Body referred to the Secretary of War:

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The Petition of Alexander Smyth, a citizen of Virginia, respectfully represents. That having in 1807 written to an honorable member of the House of Representatives, that in case of the war with Great Britain he was desirous of entering into the regular service, he received in 1808 an appointment as Colonel of a Regiment of Riflemen. That [illegible]though war had not commenced, yet, the ev[illegible] being probable, he abandoned his profession, [illegible]which was then lucrative, left his family, va[illegible]d his seat in the Senate of Virginia as t[illegible]epresentative of thirteen counties, and jo[illegible]he army of the U. States. That your p[illegible]r had the good fortune to give the utmo[illegible]isfaction to his superiors, Gen. Wilkinso[illegible]en. Hampton, Gen. Dearborn, and the [illegible] Secratary of War, while acting under [illegible]mediate orders; was promoted to the r[illegible] Brigadier and Inspector General in J[illegible]812; given the command of a Brigade [illegible]tember; and of one of the Armies of t[illegible]tates in October in the same year. Th[illegible]e expiration of five weeks, during wh[illegible]d he made every exertion in his pow[illegible]ve the nation, he found it necssary [illegible]his troops into winter quarters.

Having determined [illegible] measure, as your petitioner had been [illegible] from his home the last eight winters, m[illegible]the greater part of the last five years, and t[illegible] whole of the last fourteen months, and had been refused leave to visit his family in the month of July preceding, and calculating that it was probable the campaign of 1813 might terminate his existence he, without resigning his command, asked for leave of absence, which was granted until the 1st of March, 1813, at which time your petitioner was ordered to report himself to the Secretary of War. That your petitioner left his troops in cantonments, under the command of an officer of 36 years experience, and in February 1813, reported himself by letter to the Secretary of War, and solicited orders; and as the failure of your petitioner to take Fort George, York and Kingston, and to winter in Canada, as he was instructed, had created some clamor, your petitioner proposed that an enquiry into his conduct should take place, which the honorable Secretary, through the medium of the adjutant general, was pleased to promise; since which time your petitioner has not had the honor to hear from the War Office.

Your petitioner would further represent, that he has heard that some members of your honorable body are of opinion, that by an act of the last session, regulating the staff of the army of the U. States, your petitioner has become a private citizen; and with this opinion, his own might perhaps accord, were it not impossible to believe that the Congress of the U. States, at their last session, could have intentionally committed an act of injustice.

Your petitioner affirms that he has not done or omitted any thing to the injury of the nation; that his chief if not his only error has consisted in expressing too freely his indignation against those who had done injuries, or omitted to perform duties to the nation. The motive which led astray, he conceives might procure for this error forgiveness. That this affirmation is true, he believes he can satisfy a committee or committees of your honorable body, on short notice.

Your petitioner has essayed to engage again in the pursuits of civil life: but he finds that, while the din of war continues, it is impossible for him to give the necessary attention to any peaceful pursuit. He desires to serve, to die if Heaven wills it, in the defence of his country; a country that has protected his infancy, given him a family, and at times distinguished him with considerable honors; from whose government no act of wrong, personal to himself, will force his esteem, while it maintains with steady perseverance, that country's rights.

Your petitioner confidently trusts, that in deciding on his prayer you will be mindful of the rule of justice—"To others do, the law is not severe, what to thyself thou wishest to be done;" and of the rule of policy—"The social body is oppressed, when one of its members is oppressed."

The prayer of your petitioner is, that you will revise the act organizing the staff of the army of the United States, and by a declaratory act preserve the rank of your petitioner, as Brigadier General in the line, abolishing only his authority as Inspector General.

And your petitioner, &c.
ALEXANDER SMYTH.

CANANDAIGUA, N. Y. Dec. 21.

The moment our paper was going to press we received the following

IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE.

Ridge Road, 18 mile Creek,
December 19, 1813.

Dear Sir—About sunrise this morning a large number of Indians, and perhaps 6 or 700 regulars, [of the ene[illegible] landed at the 6 Mile Meadow—Th[illegible] immediately shewed themselves at Lewiston—we of course deserted the place. We heard the cannon at Fort Niagara when we left Lewiston—You need not be told that the road is full of women and children. Some of our citizens are taken, others killed. It is possible that some aid may be had from Batavia, if so, Forsyth's will be a proper place to rendezvous. Those who volunteer are requested to come mounted.

JONAS HARRISON,
NATH'L ALLEN,
DAVID S. HALL.

Joseph Ellicott, Esq.

The foregoing is endorsed as follows:

Batavia, Dec. 19, 1812.

As the most part of the arms are in Fort Niagara, if that is taken, we shall have but few public arms in this part of the state, therefore, let every man who has a gun, carry it with him. Indeed this would be necessary because the enemy is between us and the fort.

Yours, &c.
JOSEPH ELLICOTT.

Col. —— Davis, *Caledonia.*

It will be perceive from the above intelligence, that fort Niagara is beseiged and the enemy between us and the principal depot of arms and ammunition, and it is a verbal request that an express should be sent to Canandaigua to request the commandant of the arsenal to forward arms, ammunition, &c. immediately.

DANIEL DAVIS,
Lt. Col.
JAMES GANSON,
ARCH'D S. CLARK.

To the comman'dt of the Arsenal at Canandaigua.

Caledonia, 20th Dec. 1813, 2 o'clock p. m.

☞ In consequence of the above alarming intelligence, the inhabitants of this and the neighboring towns, are requested to meet at F. Atwaters tavern in the village of Canandaigua, at two o'clock, this afternoon, for the purpose of adopting measures for the relief of our western brethren.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF NIAGARA, GENESEE & CHATAUQUE.

The present crisis are truly alarming. The enemy are preparing to invade your frontier, and let their Savages loose upon your families and property. It is now in your power to avoid that evil, by repairing to Lewiston, Schlosser and Buffalo. Every man who is able to bear arms, is not only invited but required to repair to the above rallying points, for a few days, until a detachment of militia arrives. The enemy are now laying waste their own country, every man who does not take up arms or who are disposed to remain neutral, are inhumanly butchered, their property plundered and their buildings destroyed. Information has just been received, that six or eight of their most respectable inhabitants between Queenston and Fort George have fallen victims to their barbarity. Every man in the province is required to take up arms, and he that refuses is wantonly butchered. What then, fellow citizens, have you to expect from such an enemy, should they invade your frontier?—Think of the consequences; be not lulled into a belief, that because you reside a few miles from the river, that you are secure: No, fellow citizens, the place to meet them is on the beach. Then you will have it in your power to chastise them; but should they be suffered to penetrate into the interior with their savages, the scene will be horrid!

If, then, you love your country and are determined to defend its rights—if you love your families and are determined to protect them—if you value your property, and are determined to preserve it—you will fly to your arms and hasten to meet the enemy, should they dare to set foot on our shores.

Since the above was prepared, I have received intelligence from a credible inhabitant from Canada, (who has just escaped from thence) that the enemy are concentrating all their forces and boats at Fort George, and have fixed upon tomorrow night for attacking Fort Niagara—and should they succeed, they will lay waste our whole frontier. In that case, our supply of arms, which are deposited at Fort Niagara, will be cut off. Therefore, all who have arms, accoutrements or ammunition, will do well to bring them, and all who have horses will come mounted.

GEO. M'CLURE, Brig. Gen.
Commanding Niagara Frontier.
Head Quarters, Buffalo, 18th Dec. 1813.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.

IMPORTANT EXTRACTS.

The following are extracts from letters to a mercantile house in this city of the first respectability, received by the ship Maria Helena, arrived at Boston.

GOTTENBURG, 7th Oct. 1813.

The last news from the continent is favorable. Zchernichoff was at Cassel, Walmoden at Hanover, Woronzow with 150,000 men 4 German miles from Brunswick, Dornberg at Harburg, the Hanseatic Legion and other free corps under the walls of Lubeck.

The Crown Prince has crossed the Elbe at four different points, and his corps were at Dessau, Eisleben, Halle and Halberstadt. The Austrians were near Leipzig, where Napoleon had his head quarters, and where a decisive battle was shortly expected.

Nothing it is said can surpass the enthusiasm and courage with which the allies have fought. The particulars of all this has no doubt reached you long before my letter—I omit therefore to say more on that head.

The British men of war in these roads assume vast authority. An American vessel was taken possession of by force, by order of the British Admiral, under the guns of a Swedish fort, and would have been condemned had not the Swedish government taken up the business, and insisted on a restitution of the persons and property. I mention this that you and your friends may not be induced to send running vessels to this quarter, as they must pass thro' a fleet of British men of war in these roads, and would not be safe even under the Swedish forts.

GOTTENBURG, 16th Oct. 1813.

It blew a hurricane yesterday and great damage has been done to the shipping in the roads. Several vessels have been entirely lost with every soul on board, many are cast away on the rocks, others daring the very high water occasioned by the gale were driven on shore and are now high and dry and will probably never be got off—above 40 vessels have been dismasted.

Oct. 18th. The accounts from Germany continue favorable, on the 9th of Oct. the head quarters of the Crown Prince were at Halle; a corps of light troops have been at Cassel—In all probability Napoleon has left Dresden, although the allies have not taken possession of it. An important battle it is expected will be fought shortly south of Halle. The position of the allies is as follows—

The grand Russian, Prussian and Austrian army, advances into Saxony by way of Eger. Gen. Blucher crossed the Elbe on the 3d inst. near Elsterwerda, above Wittenburgh. Benningsen with his corps of reserve is behind Dresden. The head quarters of the Crown Prince is at Halle and his light troops and the Prussian Landswher have advanced as far as Brunswick. Walmoden, with his corps, is watching the motions of Davoust who confines his operations to carrying off every thing valuable from Hamburg to France. The Bavarians have joined the Allies, and the Saxons will no doubt do the same whenever they can. The Exchange of paper money in Copenhagen, which was down to 16000 for 100 in specie, has suddenly risen to 5300, from which event an approaching change in their political affairs is expected.

By way of England we have just heard of Perry's victory on Lake Erie, which has given great satisfaction to all Americans here, they are anxious to hear the particulars, as the English accounts are much mutilated.

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, DEC. 31,

Extract of a letter from Gov. Tompkins to the Secretary of War.

Albany, Dec. 24, 1813.

"Upon my arrival in this place today, I was met by an express bringing dispatches, of which I send you a copy.

The express further informs, that on his arrival at Batavia he learned fom Major Allen (the contractor's agent at Niagara) and from Lt. Loomis, who, with 2 or 3 others, had made their escape, that Fort Niagara had been taken by the British. The garrison was surprized. Capt. Leonard (1st regt. of artillery) had the command; but it is rumored that he was not in the fort at the time, but with his family some miles off. What became of the rest of the garrison, those who escaped do not know.

In consequence of this information, Major Gen. Hall has been ordered to repair to that frontier with as many of his division as may be necessary to expell or destroy the invaders. The British have with them a number of Indians, and continue to sanction their massacres."

Extract of a letter from Brig. Gen. Timothy Hopkins of the N. York militia, to Daniel D. Tompkins, Commander in Chief, &c.

Head Quarters, Buffaloe,
Dec. 20th, 1813.

SIR—I would respectfully represent to your Excellency that on the morning of yesterday, the enemy crossed over a little below Lewiston—they have burnt Lewiston, and every house from that place to within two and a half miles of Scholosser, and the Tuscarora village is also burnt.

The last express stated, that the enemy were fortifying on the mountain below heights of Scholosser. The force of the enemy is differently represented—it is stated to be from four to eight hundred regulars, and 600 Indians—it is further stated that the enemy are still crossing. The force the enemy can bring is not precisely known, it is probably from 1500 to 3000, including regulars militia and Indians. Our force is about 200 regulars at Fort Niagara, and about 150 near this place. I have ordered out my Brigade to repel the invasion. I am in hopes of success with the assistance of the militia of Genessee.

I am respectfully, &c.
TIMOTHY HOPKINS, Brig. Gen.

AMERICAN
AND
Commercial Daily Advertiser.

BALTIMORE: SATURDAY, Jan. 1.

The revolution of another year commands the congratulations of the season from the editors of the AMERICAN to their numerous patrons. "In the full tide of successful experiment" towards the goal of human happiness, under the best devised and the best administered government on earth, we enjoyed the smiles of peace, whilst most other nations were scourged with the miseries of war. After a happy period of exemption from the evil effects of the mad ambition of ferocious and unprincipled despots, our country, the only spot where liberty finds a soft repose, was by insult and oppression *driven* into the bloody conflict, in defence of her violated rights. In taking a retrospective survey of the last twelve months, in a national point of view, although there may be much to deplore and regret, still we are not destitute of many proud and triumphant causes for the elevation of American feeling, calculated to exclude any thing like sadness or despondency. The crosses of life happen to empires as well as individuals; but in the great society of nations, the United States, can yet boast of better fortunes than her fellows, and more real happiness than the whole world beside. The position we have been *compelled* to take to defend ourselves against the encroachments of British tyranny, should call forth the zealous support of every American that has vigor and spirit to wield a sword. It is necessary for our domestic security, and the final and permanent establishment of our independence. The plundering spirit of our haughty, imperious and barbarous foe must be humbled. The effort the government is making with such view, was necessary to preserve the nation from disgrace and infamy. In a war, so necessary and just, it excites wonder and indignation, that clamor against it should be so bold and daring. Indeed, it is a curious paradox that there are to be found, men claiming the character of Americans, who seem to rejoice in the disasters which have attended the progress of the war, merely from a direful hate and prejudice against the ruling administration; men, who, "like Cease[illegible] would owe th[illegible] greatness to their country's ruin"; a[illegible], provided they could climb to pow[illegible], would prostrate national happiness and glory. Even the seat of Justice has not been held sacred from foul polution; for from thence has violent poli-