

WASHINGTON-CITY, MARCH 4.
Mr. MADISON'S INAUGURAL SPEECH,
Delivered this Day at 12 o'Clock.

UNWILLING to depart from examples of the most revered authority I avail myself of the occasion now presented, to express the profound impression made on me, by the call of my country to the station, to the duties of which I am about to pledge myself, by the most solemn of sanctions. So distinguished a mark of confidence, proceeding from the deliberate and tranquil suffrages of a free and virtuous nation, would under any circumstances, have commanded my gratitude and devotion, as well as filled me with an awful sense of the trust to be assumed. Under the various circumstances, which give peculiar solemnity to the existing period, I feel that both the honor and the responsibility allotted to me are inexpressibly enhanced.

The present situation of the world is indeed without a parallel; and that of our own country full of difficulties.—The pressure of these too, is the more severely felt, because they have fallen upon us at a moment when the national prosperity being at a height not before attained, the contrast resulting from the change, has been rendered the more striking. Under the benign influence of our republican institutions, and the maintenance of peace with all nations whilst so many of them were engaged in bloody and wasteful wars, the fruits of a just policy were enjoyed, in an unrivalled growth of our faculties and resources. Proofs of this were seen in the improvements of agriculture, in the successful enterprises of commerce, in the progress of manufactures; and useful arts; in the increase of the public revenue, and the use made of it in reducing the public debt, and in the valuable works and establishments, every were multiplying over the face of our land.

It is a precious reflection that the transition from this prosperous condition of our country, to the scene which has for some time been distressing us, is not chargeable on any unwarrantable views, nor, as I trust, on any involuntary errors in the public councils. Indulging no passion which trespasses on the rights, or the repose of other nations, it has been the true glory of the United States to cultivate peace, by observing justice; and to entitle themselves to the respect of the nations at war, by fulfilling their neutral obligations with the most scrupulous impartiality. If there be candor in the world the truth of these assertions will not be questioned. Posterity at least will do justice to them.

This unexceptionable course could not avail against the injustice and violence of the belligerent powers. In their rage against each other, or impelled by more direct motives, principles of retaliation have been introduced equally contrary to universal reason and acknowledged law.—How long their arbitrary edicts will be continued, in spite of the demonstrations that not even a pretext for them has been given by the United States, and of the fair and liberal attempts to induce a revocation of them cannot be anticipated. Assuring myself that under every vicissitude, the determined spirit and united councils of the nation will be safeguards to its honor and its essential interests, I repair to the post assigned me, with no other discouragement than what springs from my own inadequacy to its high duties.—If I do not sink under the weight of this deep conviction, it is because I find support in a consciousness of the purposes, and a confidence in the principles which I bring with me into this arduous service.

To cherish peace and friendly intercourse with all nations having correspondent dispositions; to maintain sincere neutrality towards belligerent nations; to prefer in all cases amicable discussion and reasonable accommodation of differences, to a decision of them by an appeal to arms; to exclude foreign intrigues and foreign partialities, so degrading to all countries, and so baneful to free ones; to foster a spirit of independence, too just to invade the rights of others, too proud to surrender our own, too liberal to indulge unworthy prejudices ourselves, and too elevated not to look down upon them in others; to hold the union of the states as the basis of their peace and happiness; to support the constitution, which is the cement of the union as well in its limitations as in its authorities; to respect the rights and authorities reserved to the states and to the people, as equally incorporated with, and essential to the success of the general system; to avoid the slightest interference with the rights of conscience or the functions of religion, so wisely exempted from civil jurisdiction; to preserve in their full energy the other salutary provisions in behalf of private and personal rights, and of the freedom of the press; to observe economy in public expenditures; to deliberate the public resources by an honorable discharge of the public debts; to keep within the requisite limits a standing military force, always remembering that an armed and trained militia is the firmest bulwark of republics; that without standing armies their liberty can never be in danger, nor, with large ones safe; to promote by authorized means improvements friendly to agriculture, to manufactures, and to external, as well as internal commerce; and in like manner, the advancement of science, and the diffusion of information, as the best aliment to true liberty; to carry on the benevolent plans which have been so meritoriously applied, to the conversion of our aboriginal neighbors from the degradation and wretchedness of savage life to a participation of the improvements of which the human mind and manners are susceptible in a civilized state: As far as sentiments and intentions, such as these can aid the fulfilment of my duty, they will be a resource which cannot fail me.

It is my good fortune, moreover, to have the path in which I am to tread, lighted by examples of illustrious services, successively rendered, in the most trying difficulties, by those who have marched before me. Of those of my immediate predecessor, it might at least become me here to speak. I may, however, be pardoned for not suppressing the sympathy with which my heart is full, in the rich reward he enjoys in the benedictions of a beloved country, gratefully bestowed for exalted talents, zealously devoted, through a long career to the advancement of its highest interests and happiness.

But the source to which I look for the aid which alone can supply my deficiencies, is in the well tried intelligence

and virtue of my fellow citizens and in the councils of those representing them, in the other departments associated in the care of the national interests. In these, my confidence will, under every difficulty, be best placed; next to that which we have all been encouraged to feel, in the guardianship and guidance of that Almighty Being, whose power regulates the destiny of nations, whose blessings have been so conspicuously dispensed to this rising republic, and to whom we are bound to address our devout gratitude for the past, as well as our fervent supplications and best hopes for the future.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE, December 26.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, DECEMBER 17.

Copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Bart. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels in the East-Indies, to the Hon. W. Wellesley Pole, dated on board His Majesty's ship Culloden, in Bombay-Harbour, the 7th of April, 1808.

SIR—I request you will submit to the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the inclosed letter from Lieut. William Dawson, acting in the command of His Majesty's ship St. Fiorenzo, stating the particulars of the capture of La Piedmontaise French frigate, mounting 50 guns, on the 8th ult. in the Gulf of Manara.

In making this communication to their Lordships, I am desirous of expressing those mingled sentiments of admiration and concern which I experience in the loss of Captain George Nicholas Hardinge, who fell in the moment of victory, after having exerted, during three successive days, the most remarkable zeal and gallantry, and judgement in the conduct of this very brilliant action. His Majesty's service has been thus deprived of a most excellent and distinguished officer; of whom the highest expectations have been justly formed, from a knowledge of his many great and excellent qualities.

The merit of Lieut. William Dawson, upon whom the command devolved after the death of Capt. Hardinge, is already well known to the Board by his gallant behaviour on a former occasion, when he was severely wounded at the capture of the Plyche frigate by the St. Fiorenzo, in which nearly the whole of her present officers and crew had the honor to share.

The manner in which he continued the action, which had been so nearly concluded by his lamented Captain, and finally conducted it to a successful issue, will, doubtless, secure to him the high approbation and recompense of their Lordships.

The undaunted bravery, the animated and persevering exertions of every officer, seaman, and marine on board the St. Fiorenzo, have been truly worthy of the beloved country in whose cause they have been so nobly engaged; the public gratitude will be commensurate with their eminent services.

I learn that the St. Fiorenzo had arrived with her prize in safety at Colombo, from whence she may shortly be expected at this port. I have the honor to be, &c.

EDWARD PELLEW.

His Majesty's ship St. Fiorenzo, at sea,
9th March, 1808.

SIR—It is with great regret I have to inform you of the death of Capt. Hardinge, late of His Majesty's ship St. Fiorenzo, who fell gloriously in the early part of an action on the 8th instant, between His Majesty's ship St. Fiorenzo and the French National frigate La Piedmontaise.

The St. Fiorenzo sailed from Point de Galle on Friday, the 4th instant, at half past eleven A. M. On the 6th, at seven A. M. passed three Indiamen, and, shortly after, saw a frigate bearing N. E. We immediately hauled our wind in chase, and made all sail, being at that time in lat. 7 32, long. 77 58. We made the private signal, which was not answered; and at five showed our colours, which the enemy took no notice of. At 40 minutes past 11 P. M. we ranged alongside of him on the larboard tack and received his broadside. After engaging till 50 minutes past 11 P. M. within a cable's length, the enemy made sail ahead, out of the range of our shot; we ceased firing, and made all sail after him; continuing to come up with him till day-light, when finding he could not avoid an action, he wore, as did we also. At 25 minutes past six recommenced the action at the distance of half a mile, gradually closing with him to a quarter of a mile. The fire was constant and well directed on both sides, though that of the enemy slackened towards the latter part of action. At a quarter past eight P. M. the enemy made all sail away: our main-top-sail yard being shot through, the main royal mast, and both main top masts flays, the main spring flay and most of the standing and running rigging, and all our sails shot to pieces, and most of our cartridges fired away (as our guns were directed at his hull he was not much disabled about his rigging) we ceased firing, and employed all hands in repairing the damages sustained, and fitting the ship again for action. From the great injury our masts, sails, and yards had received, I am sorry to observe that it was not in our power to chase to renew the action immediately; we, however, succeeded in keeping sight of him during the night; and at nine A. M. on the 8th, the ship being perfectly prepared for action, we bore down upon the enemy under all sail; he did not endeavor to avoid us till we hauled athwart his stern, for the purpose of gaining the weather gage, and bringing him to close fight, when he hauled up also, and made all sail; but perceiving that we came full up with him, and that an action was inevitable, he tacked, and at three we passed each other on the opposite tacks, and recommenced action within a quarter of a cable's length. With grief I have to observe that our brave Captain was killed by a grape shot the second broadside. When the enemy was abast our beam he wore, and, after an hour and twenty minutes close action, struck their colours, and waved their hats for a boat to be sent them. She proved to be La Piedmontaise, commanded by Mons. Epron, Capt. de Vaillaux: she mounts fifty guns, long eighteen-pounders on her main deck, and thirty-six pound carronades on her quarter-deck. She had three hundred and sixty-six Frenchmen on board, and nearly two hundred Lascars, who worked their sails. She sailed from

the Isle of France on the 30th Dec. In the action she had forty-eight killed and one hundred and twelve wounded.—The St. Fiorenzo has thirteen killed and twenty-five wounded; most of the latter are in a promising way. A list of them I have the honor to inclose for your information. The enemy was cut to pieces in his masts, bowsprit, and rigging; and they all went by the board during the night.

It is now a pleasing part of my duty to recommend to your particular notice the cool, steady, and gallant conduct of Lieutenants Edward Davis and Henry George Moysey; the latter, I am sorry to add, was severely wounded about ten minutes before the enemy struck. I also experienced very great assistance from Mr. Donovan, the Master, by the judicious and seaman-like manner in which he laid us close alongside the enemy. To Lieutenant Samuel Ashmore, of the Royal Marines, I am much indebted, for the cool and determined courage evinced by him through the whole action. Indeed every officer, petty officer, seaman, and marine in the ship behaved in the most brave and gallant manner, and nobly maintained the pre-eminence of the British flag. In the first boat from the prize came Mr. W. F. Black Assistant Surgeon of his Majesty's 86th Regiment, captured by the Piedmontaise on his passage to Madras, who rendered the Surgeon great assistance.

I am also much indebted to the officers of the army, and the Captains and officers of the country ships, who were prisoners on board the enemy, for the great assistance they afforded us with their lascars in erecting jury masts, and working the ship into port, as from our weak state, and the great number of prisoners on board us, we could spare but few hands from our own ship to tend on board the prize.

I have the honor to be, &c.

WILLIAM DAWSON.

To Sir Edward Pellew, Bart. Rear-Admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the East-Indies.

NEW-YORK, MARCH 11.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

The Dispatch ship Union, Girdon, arrived at Philadelphia on Thursday, with Messengers from France and England. Extracts from London Papers to the 4th of January. They will be found highly important.

PLYMOUTH, JANUARY 4.

The encounter gun-brig arrived yesterday from Vigo, after a passage of 5 days. She brought private letters from thence, dated the 27th ult. which state, that a messenger had left Sir David Baird's army on the 18th, at Benevento, and passed through Sir John Moore's on the morning of the 19th, both armies were in good health. Gen. Blake had made a stand and was collecting his army at Leon. It was confidently asserted at Vigo, that there had been an insurrection at Madrid, after the French got possession of it, and that the enraged Spaniards had put to death several thousands of the enemy, whose bodies were piled up in heaps in the streets. The loss of the French in killed and wounded, at Madrid, Saragossa, and Mafaredo, is stated at 30,000 men. These letters also state, that the 15th regiment of light dragoons had fallen in with a regiment of French dragoons, near Rio Seco, and charged through them, made 200 prisoners, and destroyed the rest. It was also reported, that Bonaparte had returned to Paris, on account of an insurrection in La Vendee and La Mancha.

We give the above exactly as we received it without vouching for its authenticity.

Letters from the Hindostan, 54, dated Vigo, December 18, in some measures corroborate the above accounts, as having been received at Vigo.

A cutter sailed from Vigo with the dispatches for government, when the Encounter left that place: she has not yet arrived.

We find in accounts received at Truro, that Corunna Papers had reached that place on the 26th ult. They mentioned, that since the defeat of Castanos, a battle had been fought at Tudela, in which the French were much worsted. It is added, that the Spaniards are the dinner prepared for the French troops. A Spanish General had been executed for treachery; and a proclamation had been issued, declaring every unmarried man and widower, from 18 to 50, who did not join the levies, a traitor to his country. Even the nuns had quitted the convents, and were at work in the trenches. The same papers also state, and there was much desperate fighting after Bonaparte entered Madrid; and add, that the French have lost 50,000 men since they entered Spain. They confirm the union of the British Generals and Romana, and state they were going to march to Valadolid, with the view of cutting off the communication between Bonaparte's army at Madrid and his rear at Astorga. Corunna is certainly situated at a great distance from Madrid, the principal scene of action; yet we see little reason to discredit the junction of the British troops and Romana, both from antecedent accounts and local circumstance. The victory said to be obtained by Castanos is not strongly to be entitled to belief. If a great victory has been obtained by the Spaniards, it is most probably by Palafox, near Saragossa, over Marshal Ney, as the French Bulletins are very shy and obscure in their mention of that town.

Chronicle-Office, Plymouth, January 3.—Two o'clock.

We stop the press to announce the arrival of the Joseph hired cutter in this port, bringing a confirmation of the statement brought by the English gun-brig, of the MASSACRE of the French in Madrid, and that TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND FRENCHMEN had fallen by the knives of the Spaniards in that city.

Our correspondent in London has favored us with the following interesting article:—

"An armistice has been concluded between Sweden and Denmark, which is not to be broken by either party without 14 day's notice."

"Field marshal count Klingspor, on his arrival from Finland, at Stockholm, dined by invitation with the King and Royal family. Under the napkin destined for the gallant and intrepid officer, was placed a wreath of laurel, with which the amiable princefs decked his venerable brows. Highly gratified by this unexpected honor the count was about to remove the fillet which bound his 'silvery locks.'"