

ted States with Great-Britain, and of the solemn alternative growing out of them, I proceed to remark that the communications last made to Congress on the subject of our relations with France will have shown that, since the revocation of her decrees as they violated the neutral rights of the U. States, her government has authorized illegal captures, by its privateers and public ships, and that other outrages have been practised on our vessels and our citizens. It will have been seen also, that no indemnity had been provided, or satisfactorily pledged, for the extensive spoils committed under the violent and retrospective orders of the French government against the property of our citizens seized within the jurisdiction of France.

I abstain at this time from recommending to the consideration of Congress definitive measures with respect to that nation, in the expectation, that the result of unclosed discussions between our Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris and the French government will speedily enable Congress to decide with greater advantage, on the course due to the rights, the interests, and the honor of our country.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, June 1, 1812.

## AN ACT,

*Declaring War between the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America and their Territories,*

*BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That WAR be and the same is hereby declared to exist between the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America, and their territories; and that the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorised to use the whole land and naval forces of the United States to carry the same into effect, and to issue to private armed vessels of the United States commissions or letters of marque and general reprisal, in such form as he shall think proper, and under the seal of the United States, against the vessels, goods, and effects of the government of the same United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, and of the subjects thereof.*

Approved,

JAMES MADISON.

June 18, 1812.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE MAY 9.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, MAY 9.

[TRANSMITTED BY SIR EDWARD PELLEW.]

*His Majesty's Ship Victorious, Port Saint George, Lissa, March 3.*

SIR,—On the 16th ult. I arrived off the Port of Venice; the weather was very foggy at the time, and continued so to the 21st which prevented me reconnoitring the port. At half-past two o'clock P. M. saw a large ship with three brigs and two settees in the same direction. All sail was made in chase. At four o'clock I made the Weazle's signal to prepare for action; at this time I was convinced that the ship seen was one of the enemy's line-of-battle ships, proceeding from Venice to the port of Pola in Istria. The enemy were sailing in a line of battle, with the two gun-boats and one brig a-head, the other two brigs in a line astern.—At half past two o'clock A. M. I perceived that one of the enemy's brigs dropped astern, and that the line-of-battle ship had shortened sail to allow her to close again. I hailed the Weazle, and ordered Captain Andrew to endeavour to pass the Victorious, and if possible to bring the brigs astern of the Commodore to action, in hopes of inducing him to shorten sail, which had the desired effect. At a quarter past four o'clock, His Majesty's brig Weazle commenced the action with the two brigs. At half past four we commenced action at the distance of half pistol shot with the line-of-battle ship, neither ship having fired a single shot until that time. At five we perceived a brig to blow up; at daylight I perceived the Weazle in chase of the brigs, the gun-boats not in sight. I recalled her, as she did not appear to close with the chase. We were at this time in seven fathoms water, off the Point of Grao, and I was fearful we might want assistance from her, in case either of the ships had got on shore on the bank. Capt. Andrews, on being recalled, placed his brig very judiciously on the bow of the line-of-battle ship, within pistol shot, and in that situation he gave her three broadsides. The enemy for nearly the last two hours had been rendered perfectly unmanageable, and had kept up a very slow fire, and that chiefly from two guns on the quarter deck; her mizen-mast fell over her side about a quarter before nine o'clock. At nine they hailed us, and said they had struck; I sent on board Mr. Peake, the first Lieutenant, to take possession of her. I found the squadron we had engaged consisted of two gun-boats, the Mameluke brig of 10-guns, and

Jena and Mercure of 18 guns each, with the Rivoli of 74 guns, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore Barre, the Commander in Chief of the enemy's forces in the Adriatic. From the length of the action, and the smoothness of the water, the loss of men, and the damage on both sides, I am sorry to say, have been very great indeed, neither ship having been above half musket shot distance from each other during the whole of the action, which only ceased at intervals, when the ships were hid from each other by the fog and smoke, and were not even able to see the flashes of each other's guns.

I feel great satisfaction in saying that the conduct of Commodore Barre, during the whole of the action, convinced me I had to deal with a most gallant and brave man, and, in the manœuvring his ship, a most experienced and skillful officer. He did not surrender his ship till nearly two hours after she was rendered unmanageable, and had 400 killed or wounded; his Captain and most of his officers either killed or wounded. By the return, you will perceive, Sir, that our loss too has been very severe. I have to regret, as well as the service, the loss of two very fine young men, Lieuts. Thomas H. Griffiths and Robert S. Ashbridge, of the royal marines, who were mortally wounded early in the action, with many other brave and good men, both seamen and marines. The conduct of the officers has been throughout highly meritorious, both during the action, and also in securing the masts of the ship, in the very bad weather we met before we gained the port of Lissa. Having received a contusion from a splinter early in the action, for some days afterwards I have been deprived nearly of my eye sight; all which time the exertions by Mr. Peake, my senior Lieutenant, prevented my inability from being of any detriment to His Majesty's service.—The Rivoli, in crossing the Gulph of Fiume, lost her fore and main-masts; but by the exertions of Lieutenants Whyte and Coffin, who had charge of her, she was brought safe into the port of Lissa under jury-masts. I feel particularly indebted to Captain Andrew, of the Weazle, for his exertions during the action, and also for the assistance he gave to the Rivoli afterwards. I have sent inclosed a copy of his letter, reporting to me his conduct, and that of his officers and crew, during the night of the action. He particularly mentions his senior Lieutenant, whom he strongly recommends to the notice of the Commander in Chief. The numbers of the wounded, and the severity of the wounds, have caused Mr. Baird the Surgeon, and Mr. O'Meara, the only assistant on board, very great fatigue. The conduct of Mr. W. H. Gibbons, and Mr. John J. Keeling, master's-mates, deserves notice. The conduct of Captain Steeven's of the royal marines, I cannot avoid mentioning, and that of Mr. Crawford the master, was perfectly to my satisfaction. During the whole of this severe action not a single explosion took place on board, or a man hurt, either through carelessness or accident; both the officers and men, for their steady and cool conduct deserve every credit. I have sent herewith the returns, as far as I have been able to procure, of the killed and wounded on board the Rivoli, I landed a great number of the wounded prisoners in Istria, having sent a flag of truce to the town of Pirahg, to request the Commandant of that port would send off boats to receive them, which accordingly he did. I have sent the remainder of them from this port by a schooner to Spalatro, in Dalmatia. When we commenced the action, the Victorious had only 506 persons actually on board, 60 of which were in the sick list; but most of the sick were able to assist in the action. The Rivoli had on board, 862 persons at the commencement of the action.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) JOHN TALBOT,  
Captain of the Victorious and Senior  
Officer of the Upper Part of the Adriatic.

To C. Rowley, Esq. Captain of the Eagle,  
and Senior Officer in the Adriatic.

Here follows a letter from Capt. Andrews, of His Majesty's sloop Weazle, mentioning his having pursued the enemy's brigs, two of which he engaged within half pistol shot. One of them, the Mercure, of 1824-pounders, carronades, after an action of 40 minutes, blew up; the other, seeing the fate of her consort, and taking advantage of the darkness of the morning, made her escape. Capt. Andrews recommends his First Lieutenant, Mr. George Elliot, for promotion.

FROM HALIFAX JUNE 22.

Arrived, Brig Grace, Martin, Liverpool, England; Anns, Saunders, London.

By the Grace, which arrived on Wednesday last from Liverpool, London papers to the 14th ult. were received; and, by the Anns, this morning, some to the 16th.

They inform us of a most extraordinary and distressing event—the assassination of Mr. PERCEVAL, the leading Member of Administration, on the 21st May, within the pale of the House of Commons—a man of the name of Bellingham, who, in his early days, was a respectable merchant of Liverpool, committed the dreadful act, with a pistol, soon after Mr. PERCEVAL entered the House.

In 1804, Bellingham went to Russia—was there legally, though, as he thought improperly, arrested at the suit of an individual; he applied to Lord Gower and Sir S. Sharpe, our Ambassador and Consul in Russia, to procure his liberation. They used their best exertions in his favour; notwithstanding which, he continued in prison for a very considerable time—at length liberated, he returned to England; there he soon after preferred petitions to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and to His Majesty's Ministers, stating the hardships he had experienced in Russia, and soliciting redress.—For an explanation of the transactions which took place in Russia, a reference to the Court of St. Peterburgh was necessary; but our relations with that Country prevented it, and His Majesty's Mini-

sters consequently could not immediately serve him—he became impatient—and, exasperated at the supposed injustice of Government, wreaked his vengeance on one of its able Members.

On the 15th May he was tried—found guilty—and sentenced to be hanged the 18th, on which day, the spectators in the Anns state, his execution took place.

SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1812.

*Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in London, to his friend in this City, dated 7th May, 1812.*

"You will probably see in the papers before this letter reaches you, that \*\*\*\*\* is gathering laurels under the great Commander whose name at present fills the World with admiration. The capture of Badajoz is considered as the most gallant achievement that has yet crowned the glory of the British arms.—I have seen private letters which state that at the escalade of the Castle by General PICTON's division, to which \*\*\*\*\* appears to have been attached, after those of the brave fellows who had not been hurled into the ditch on the outside, had mounted the wall there was ready to receive them as they leaped within, a *Chevaux-de-Frise* pointed with swords, and that the two first ranks were actually picketed upon them before their comrades could make good a passage over their hanging bodies into the heart of the place. The most dreadful instance of the horrors of war that I recollect ever to have heard, My friend F. is a correspondent of General PICTON's who tells him, that on the morning after the attack when he called on Lord WELLINGTON, the latter was affected even to womanhood, and actually shed a copious torrent of tears over the many brave men that had fallen in the combat; an Anecdote that stamps the genuine Hero on the character of this illustrious man."

DIED] In England, the Right Hon. SPENCER PERCEVAL, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Prime Minister of England.—He was assassinated whilst entering Parliament, the 11th May ult.—He was born in 1762, married in 1790, and has left a large number of children.—He was youngest son of the late Earl of Egmont, and brother to the Lords Egmont and Arden.—Was educated at Cambridge; was early called to the bar, and succeeded Lord Ellenborough as Attorney General.—He has been in Parliament about 20 years; and his progress therein is well known.

## CARDS.

MERRY ANDREW and HENRY the VIIIth, Playing CARDS of a good quality, for Sale at J. S. MOTT'S Office, by the dozen or single pack. JUNE 22, 1812.

NEHEMIAH MERRITT,

Has Received by the WILLIAM, ROBERT BAIRD  
master, from LIVERPOOL,

AN ASSORTMENT OF  
BRITISH MERCHANDIZE,

Which he will sell on reasonable terms,

AMONG WHICH ARE THE FOLLOWING, VIZ:

SUPERFINE, Second and Coarse CLOTHS; double mill'd and single Cassimeres and Serges, Salsbury and other Flannels, Calicos, Shawls, Cambrics, Ladies color'd Cotton and Worsted Hose, Men's do. Cotton Shirting, Irish Linen, Slops comprising shirts, trousers, round and pea-jackets, and watch coats, Men's fine and coarse Hats, cod and pollock Lines and Hooks, a fashionable assortment of coat and vest Buttons, &c. &c.—Crates of well assorted CROCKERY, and Tierces of GLASS WARE.

Also, A quantity of Liverpool SALT, and 50 tons of COALS, which he will sell very low if taken out of the vessel.

He has Likewise for Sale,

Prime and Mess BEEF and PORK in barrels, Pitch, Tar and Turpentine, Cordage, bolt, flat and square Iron, Spikes, Nails, Iron Pots, Kettles and Bake Pans, Paints and Paint Oil, Stone Jugs and Butter Jars, &c. Saint John, 20th April, 1812.

NOTICE.

ALL persons having any demands against the Estate of JAMES H. LAMB, late of Fredericton, Merchant, deceased, are requested to send them in, duly attested, within Twelve Months from the date hereof; and all those indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

HARRIET LAMB, Sole Executrix.  
Fredericton, 20th May, 1812.

MR. PARKS

RETURNS his thanks to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Saint John, for the liberal encouragement he has received in the art he professes; and respectfully informs the Parents and Guardians of Children that his SECOND QUARTER for instructing Masters and Misses in Dancing, will commence on SATURDAY the 27th inst. at FOUR O'CLOCK AFTERNOON, at Mr. COBY'S Long-Room.—The regular Days for instruction will be on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays—Those who would wish their Children taught by him, may depend upon having the strictest attention paid to the improvement of their manners as well as their Dancing.

JAMES HENDRICKS,

Has Received per Ship MARY, Captain HARVEY,  
from GREENOCK,

A Small supply of MERCHANDIZE, in addition to his former Assortment, among which are, a few SWORDS, SASHES, and EPAULETS, which will be sold low for CASH. 4th November, 1811.