

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

BOSTON, August 11.

The following summary of the proceedings of Congress in their last session, is taken from the *National Intelligencer*, of the 4th inst.

### THE LATE SESSION OF CONGRESS.

The Legislative business of the session of Congress which has just terminated, has been conducted with more assiduity and zeal, perhaps, and with more celerity and effect certainly, than at any previous session which has fallen within our observation. The object for which Congress was convened at the extra session, was generally understood to be, to provide a system of war taxes, calculated to defray the interest of the Public Debt now existing, and which may be created during the war. To this object, then, they bent their principal attention. It has been deliberately but speedily accomplished; and the session was not protracted a moment after the several bills on this subject were perfected. There was considerable difference of opinion, even among the majority, on the proper objects of taxation; but these differences were not permitted to interfere with the public interest, or frustrate the measures it required; and those who could not obtain such a variation or modification of the system as they wished, gave their support to that system which was proposed by the committee of Ways and Means, rather than defeat the measures necessary to support the credit of the government. The laws on this subject, therefore, notwithstanding the opposition (habitual on all occasions) of those who have clamored most about the necessity of taxes, were passed by commanding majorities.—These several laws, besides containing the general provisions for the assessment and collection of direct and internal taxes, and for establishing the office of Commissioner of the Revenue, embrace the following provisions, viz. to lay duties on licences to retailers of wines, spirituous liquors and foreign merchandize; on licences to distillers of spirituous liquors; on sales at auction of merchandize and of ships and vessels; on sugar refined within the United States; on bank notes and certain negotiable paper; and on imported salt. These laws to continue in force during the present war, and until one year after its termination.

Besides these several laws, in number ten, providing a system of direct and internal taxation, a law was passed authorising a loan of 7,500,000 dolls. a part of which is to be appropriated to the service of the present year, for expenses (of militia principally) not before calculated on, and the remainder for the service of the first quarter of the next year, which it is supposed could not be provided for in time at the next session of Congress?

These are all the measures taken for raising a revenue or providing the ways and

means to protect our bays and rivers; to continue in force the several acts authorising the employment of mounted rangers on the frontiers, and to explain and amend those acts; to prolong the term of enlistment of five regiments of the twelve month's men authorised by the act of the last session, to five years or during the war; to amend the act establishing the ordnance department; to regulate the allowance of forage to the officers of the army, &c. Besides these military and naval preparations and regulations, two acts were passed, the first of them unanimously in both Houses, which, having an important bearing on our military operations, we also class under this head. We speak of the act to provide for the widows and orphans of militia slain, and for militia disabled in the service of the United States; and the act making compensation for waggons and teams captured and destroyed by the enemy at Detroit. The first of these acts assures to the militia-man who is called out under his country's banners, that if he is disabled his government will secure him from want, and that, if he falls, his country will take his family under its guardian care; the last assures compensation to the citizen for his property destroyed in the public service.

It had become notorious, and the fact was established by the woeful experience of many who had engaged in and suffered

by it, that Privateering on the ocean, that mode of warfare which, we believe more than any other, harasses the enemy by distressing his commerce, had languished and had almost ceased from the want of encouragement from the government, the absence of which, together with the obstructions thrown in the way by those opposed to the success of their country's arms, had discouraged and smothered that enterprising spirit, under the impulse of which, on the declaration of the war, privateering so vigorously commenced. Congress took this subject into their mature consideration; and during the session, passed several laws, having for their object to release the claims of the United States to certain British property captured by private armed vessels; to reduce the duties on prize goods captured by private armed vessels; to allow a bounty of 25 dollars for every prisoner captured and brought in by them; to extend the act allowing pensions to the wounded in action on board private armed vessels, to such as shall be accidentally wounded during the cruise. Under these salutary provisions, it is hoped and believed a new spring will be given to enterprize, and that the ocean will again swarm with our hardy and adventurous seamen, who have already signalized themselves in every sea by their bravery and skill whenever they have encountered an enemy.

The only law passed of a general commercial nature, is one very important in its effects on the present state of our commerce, and which had become necessary to prevent our trade from becoming wholly subservient to the interests of the enemy; we mean the act prohibiting the use of British licenses. This will put an end, we trust, to the disgraceful intercourse carried on with the enemy under this guise; though we fear that a neutral character is as easily purchased as a British license, and that many of our vessels will assume the former which cannot now take the latter. Still, much will have been done to remedy an evil, which could only have been cured by a general embargo.

The proposed amendment to the naturalization law, which has been for two or three sessions dangled about between the two Houses of Congress, has at length passed, in an imperfect shape we believe, but the only form in which it could meet the views of a majority of both Houses, and in such a form, too, as will materially amend and improve the existing provisions on that head.

In consequence of the first session of the Thirteenth Congress having been held in anticipation of the period, prescribed by the Constitution as that on which the first session of each Congress shall be held unless otherwise directed by law, it became necessary to provide by law on what day Congress should again assemble. A law was accordingly passed fixing the next meeting of Congress for the first Monday in December, the day on which Congress would have assembled, had no law passed authorising an Extra Session.

The above statement comprises all the laws of a public nature which were passed during the session. Several other measures of importance were proposed, and received their quietus in one or the other branch of the Legislature, among which was a general Embargo, the fate of which is too recent to require any particular remarks from us. The subject, besides, is pretty well understood by the People at large, who are quite as competent as ourselves to judge of its expediency. Our intention was merely to offer a general statement of all the measures of a general nature which passed the Congress; and all the laws of that description, we believe, are comprised in the above recapitulation.

FROM THE AURORA.

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman visiting the army—dated  
Heights of Queenstown, June 29.

"The army in this neighbourhood (at Fort George) consists of about 2000 effective men, and are entrenched on the right of the fort, which is garrisoned pretty strongly by artillery and other troops.—Fort Niagara on the opposite side of the river, is garrisoned by about 400. Some Indians lay encamped near it, who tender their services to the Americans. I am informed that our army expects daily the arrival of 4 or 500 Tuscororas and Simcoes. The Gen. intends, I understand, to accept of their aid, which I think would be important against the enemy now, for they are continually harassing our piquet guards and detachments sent into the country, by parties composed of Loyal Militia, Indians, and a few British regulars. Every night our piquets have a skirmish with the marauders. They are very troublesome. They keep our troops under arms through the nights, which ex-

hausts and wears them fast away. Our force has decreased very much by many causes. Colonel Boerstler surrendered a few days ago, about 16 miles from Fort George, about 900 men and officers, some cavalry and two pieces of light artillery, to a motley force of militia and Indians and four companies of British regulars. I am not informed of the particulars of the disaster—but the loss on either side, I have been told, in killed and wounded, was but trifling.—Our men are in a wretched condition for cloathing—many barefoot and half naked. The supplies of the army here from the Quarter-Master's Department, are irregular. The enemy's fleet plague our forces very much. It has been making demonstrations for near two weeks off Fort Niagara.—There is no doubt some stratagem going on from its movements. It is powerful in size of vessels, number of guns and weight of metal. If the two fleets should meet, the contest would be hard and critical. It is expected the army will remain at Fort George until reinforced, or till the fleets settle the question between them as to the empire of the lake. The weather is very wet—it rains at least one half the time.—The atmosphere very changeable from very warm to very cold days and nights—This produces sickness in the troops. Let me tell you that two thirds of the accounts given of the operations of the army, are foolish, fulsome and erroneous. I have seen palpable mistatements in communications, purporting to be official. There is too much puffing and gasconading in the private communications, which are published to the world. And the official accounts mostly say too little, and are never sufficiently specific. Good conduct and deeds of actual service and magnanimity by modest men and of inferior rank, are scarcely ever particularly noticed. 'Tis a certain few who contrive to have their names mentioned for every duty. I think a soldier ought to go beyond his duty, before he can expect his name to be received with public applause—half the noise made in the gazettes about this and that character, is flummy and folly, and scandalous in the highest degree.

Upon the whole, sir, to the man of military feeling, military eye, and military knowledge, our army and its movements and management, present a despicable aspect. The excessive vanity which prevails in the army, arising from rank unsupported by military qualifications and just pretensions, is a great and plentiful source of ill to the American Army. It is a personal hauteur, a supercilious contempt of inferior rank, however much merit it conceals—and unless different motives influence them, I fear, ere long, the consequences will be such as will produce regret."

## BRITISH AMERICA.

### ADDITIONAL GENERAL ORDER.

HEAD-QUARTERS, KINGSTON,  
Adjt. General's Office, July 15.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received from Major General De Rottenburg, the official report of Lieut. Colonel Clarke of the 2nd Lincoln Militia, of the successful attack made upon the enemy's post at Black Rock on the morning of the 11th inst. Lieut. Col. Bishopp being unable to write in consequence of the severe wounds he has received. Lieut. Col. Clarke reports, that the objects of the enterprise were achieved with the utmost gallantry and the judicious arrangement of Lieut. Col. Bishopp, the Enemy's Block-Houses, Stores, Barracks and Dockyard, together with a large vessel were burnt, and all the ordnance and stores that could not be removed were destroyed, and the Detachment was on the point of re-embarkation without having lost a single man, when it was warmly attacked by a strong reinforcement of the Enemy, aided by a numerous body of Indians, who had been enabled to approach, under cover of the surrounding woods, and kept up a galling fire upon the Boats. The detachment had 13 rank and file killed.—Lieut. Col. Bishopp, and Capt. Saunders 41st Regiment, severely wounded, Lieut. Col. Clarke, 2d Lincoln Militia, and Lieut. Montpesson, 41st Regiment, slightly wounded, and 20 rank and file wounded.

The Ordnance captured and destroyed consists of three 12 pounders, one 2 pounder, three 6 pounders and about 200 stand of arms, 8 large boats and scows were brought away loaded with stores.

His Excellency laments that the severe wounds of Lieut. Col. Bishopp will deprive the army, for a time, of his gallant and able services; and is happy to learn, that the wound of Lieut. Col. Clarke is not likely long to restrain the zeal and energy with which that officer has so eminently distinguished himself.

By His Excellency's Command,  
EDWARD BAYNES, Adj. Gen.

HEAD-QUARTERS, KINGSTON,  
Adjt. General's Office, July 24, 1813.  
GENERAL ORDER.

An express was received at Kingston on the 20th instant, announcing that a Brigade of Batteaux loaded with provisions, under convoy of a Gun-Boat of the 2d class, had been surprized and captured at day-break by a party of the enemy, who had crossed the river with two armed sloops.

Three gun-boats were immediately dispatched from Kingston, under command of Lieut. Scott, R. N. with the view of intercepting the enemy if they should attempt to pass by the south side of the river, and a detachment of the 100th regt. under Capt. Martin, proceeded by the north channel.—These parties united below Long Island, and having learnt that the enemy had carried the captured Batteaux into Goose Creek, they immediately pushed for that place; but before they got sight of the enemy's sloops, the evening was so far advanced as to preclude the possibility of attacking them before dark. It was therefore determined to defer it until the ensuing morning, and the gun-boats returned to the entrance of the stream, where they met a detachment of the 41st regt. with a gun-boat, under Major Friend, who assumed the command of the whole, and at three o'clock in the morning proceeded up the Creek, in the hope of gaining the enemy's position by dawn of day, when it was discovered that the enemy had removed their sloops several miles up the Creek, where the channel became so narrow that the gun-boats could not use their oars nor turn, so as to bring their guns to bear upon the banks—and their further progress was here impeded by large trees felled across the stream. In the attempt to remove these obstacles, the party was fired upon by the sloops, and from a gun in a log fort, which the enemy had erected on the left bank, as well as from musketry on the same side of the creek, which was covered with thick wood, and where the enemy was posted in a very strong position.

A detachment of troops had been landed on the right bank, from whence it was found to be impracticable to gain the enemy's position. These troops immediately returned and embarked in the sternmost boats to cross over to the left bank, but from the swampy nature of the soil, no fit place for landing could be found. The leading boat being exposed to a heavy and galling fire, and having so many of her crew wounded as to check the fire of her gun, the only one that could be brought to bear on the enemy, the troops, led by Lieut. Fawcett of the 100th regiment, in the most gallant manner, leaped into the water, and carrying their arms and ammunition over their heads, succeeded in gaining the land, and instantly drove the enemy with precipitation, to seek shelter within a strong log entrenchment, to which he was pursued. The undaunted gallantry displayed by the troops on this occasion, was calculated to surmount every obstacle, but the enemy appearing to receive numerous reinforcements from the interior, and the very great natural strength of the position in which he was posted, added to the impracticability of the gun-boats co-operating, induced Major Friend to order the re-embarkation of the troops, considering the object of the service upon which he was employed, as not justifying his perseverance in so unequal a contest, and which would when attained, have ill compensated for the unavoidable sacrifice of many valuable lives.—The detachment lost one gunner and 3 private soldiers 41st killed. Mr. Hugo, Midshipman, 12 rank and file and 4 seamen wounded.

Captain Milnes, Aid-de-Camp to the Commander of the Forces, who had been despatched to procure intelligence, met Major Friend on his route, and was induced to embark in his boat, has been on this occasion severely and dangerously wounded. It is with the deepest regret his Excellency laments, that the fair promise which zeal, talent and undaunted courage held forth of rising honor and eminence in the profession of arms, is threatened to be untimely sacrificed in this gallant young officer.

By His Excellency's Command,  
EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant-General.

## JACOB S. MOTT,

Has received by the PEGGY from LONDON, his usual supply of STATIONARY, &c. which he offers for Sale on reasonable terms for CASH. JUNE 24, 1813.

### TO BE LET,

And possession given immediately,  
TWO Front Rooms, a Bed Room and a Kitchen, and the use of a Cellar and a good yard, fronting the Market-square—Further particulars inquire at this Office. Tuesday, August 10, 1813.