

decision, besides the irreparable violation of the sacred right of persons, might frustrate the plans and profits of entire voyages; whereas the mode assumed by the U. States guards with studied fairness and efficacy against errors in such cases, and avoids the effect of casual errors on the safety of navigation, and the success of mercantile expeditions.

If the reasonableness of expectations, drawn from these considerations could guarantee their fulfilment, a just peace would not be distant.—But it becomes the wisdom of the National Legislature, to keep in mind the true policy, or rather the indispensable obligation of adapting its measures to the supposition, that the only course to that happy event is in the vigorous employment of the resources of war. And painful as the reflection is, this duty is particularly enforced by the spirit and manner, in which the war continues to be waged by the enemy, who uninfluenced by the unvaried examples of humanity set them, are adding to the savage fury of it on one frontier, a system of plunder and conflagration on the other, equally forbidden by a respect for national character, and by the established rules of civilised warfare.

As an encouragement to persevering and invigorated exertions to bring the contest to a happy result, I have the satisfaction of being able to appeal to the auspicious progress of our arms, both by land and on the water.

In continuation of the brilliant achievement, of our infant navy, a signal triumph has been gained by Capt. Lawrence and his companions in the *Hornet*, sloop of war, which destroyed a British sloop of war with a celerity so unexampled, and with a slaughter of the enemy so disproportionate to the loss in the *Hornet*, as to claim for the conqueror, the highest praise, and the full recompense provided by Congress in preceding cases. Our public ships of war in general, as well the private armed vessels, have continued also their activity and success against the commerce of the enemy, and by their vigilance and address have greatly frustrated the efforts of the hostile squadrons distributed along our coasts to intercept them in returning into port, and resuming their cruises.

The augmentation of naval force, as authorised at the last session of Congress, is in progress. On the lakes our superiority is near at hand, where it is not already established.

The event of the campaign, so far as they are known to us, furnish matter of congratulation, and shew that under a wise organization and efficient direction, the army is destined to a glory not less brilliant than that which already encircles the navy. The attack and capture of York, is, in that quarter, a presage of future and greater victories;—while on the Western frontier, the issue of the late siege of Fort Meigs leaves nothing to regret but a single act of inconsiderate valour.

The provisions last made for filling the ranks and enlarging the staff of the army have had the best effects. It will be for the consideration of Congress, whether other provisions depending on their authority, may not still further improve the military establishment and the means of defence.

The sudden death of the distinguished citizen who represented the United States in France without any special arrangements by him for such a contingency, has left us without the expected sequel to his last com-

munications; nor has the French government taken any measures for bridging any depending negotiations to a conclusion, through its representative in the U. S. This failure adds to delays, before so unreasonably spun out. A successor to our deceased minister has been appointed, and is ready to proceed on his mission; the course which he will pursue in fulfilling it, is that prescribed by a steady regard to the true interests of the U. States, which equally avoids an abandonment of their just demands, and a connection of their fortunes with the systems of other powers.

The receipts into the Treasury from the 1st of October to the 31st day of March last including the sums received on account of Treasury Notes, and of the loans authorized by the acts of the last and preceding sessions of Congress, have amounted to fifteen millions 400 and 12 thousand dollars. The expenditures during the same period, amounted to fifteen millions nine hundred and twenty thousand dollars, and left in the Treasury, on the 1st of April, the sum of one million eight hundred and fifty-seven thousand dollars. The loan of sixteen millions of dollars authorised by the act of the 8th of February last, has been contracted for. Of that sum more than a million of dollars had been paid into the Treasury prior to the 1st of April, and formed a part of the receipts as above stated. The remainder of that loan amounting to near fifteen millions of dollars with the sum of five millions of dollars authorised to be issued in Treasury notes, and the estimated receipts from the customs and the sales of public lands amounting to nine millions three hundred thousand dollars, and making in the whole 29 millions three hundred thousand dollars to be received during the last nine months of the present year, will be necessary to meet the expenditures already authorised, and the engagements contracted in relation to the public debt. These engagements amount during that period to ten millions five hundred thousand dollars, which, with near one million for the civil, miscellaneous and diplomatic expences, both foreign and domestic, and 17 millions eight hundred thousand, and for the military and naval expenditures, including the ships of war building and to be built, will leave a sum in the Treasury, at the end of the present year, equal to that on the 1st of April last. A part of this sum may be considered as a resource for defraying any extraordinary expences already authorised by law, beyond the sums above estimated; and a further resource for any emergency may be found in the sum of one million of dollars, the loan of which the United States has been authorised by the state of Pennsylvania; but which has not yet been brought into effect.

This view of our finances, whilst it shews that due provision has been made for the expences of the current year, shews at the same time, by the limited amount of the actual revenue, and the dependence of loans, the necessity of providing more adequately for the future supplies of the Treasury. *This can best be done by a well digested system of internal revenue*, in aid of existing sources; which will have the effect, both of abridging the amount of necessary loans, and on that account, as well as by placing the public credit on a more satisfactory basis of improving the terms on which loans may be obtained. The loan of 16 millions was not contracted for a less interest than about seven and a half per cent.; and al-

though other causes may have had an agency, it cannot be doubted, that with the advantage of a more extended and less precarious revenue, a lower rate of interest might have sufficed. A longer postponement of this advantage could not fail to have a still greater influence on future loans.

In recommending to the National Legislature this resort to additional taxes, I feel great satisfaction in the assurance, that our constituents, who have already displayed so much zeal and firmness in the cause of their country, will cheerfully give every other proof of their patriotism which it calls for. Happily no people, with local and transitory exceptions never to be wholly avoided, are more able than the people of the United States to spare for the public want a portion of their private means, whether regard be had to the ordinary profits of industry or the ordinary price of subsistence in our country, compared with those in any other. And in no case could stronger reasons be felt for yielding the requisite contributions. By rendering the public resources certain, and commensurate to the public exigencies, the constituted authorities will be able to prosecute the war more rapidly to its proper issue; every hostile hope founded on a calculated failure of our resources, will be cut off; and by adding to the evidence of bravery and skill, in combats on the ocean and on the land, an alacrity in supplying the treasure necessary to give their fullest effect; and, thus demonstrating to the world the public energy which our political institutions combine with the personal liberty distinguishing them, the best security will be provided against future enterprizes on the rights or the peace of the nation.

The contest in which the United States are engaged, appeals for its support, to every motive that can animate an uncorrupted and enlightened people; to love of country; to the pride of liberty; to an emulation of the glorious founders of their independence by successful vindication of its violated attributes; to the gratitude and sympathy which demand security from the most degrading wrongs of a class of citizens who have proved themselves so worthy the protection of their country, by their heroic zeal in its defence; and finally, to the sacred obligation of transmitting entire, to future generations, that precious patrimony of national rights and independence, which is held in trust by the present, from the goodness of Divine Providence.

Being aware of the inconveniences to which a protracted session at this season, would be liable, I limit the present communication to objects of primary importance. In special messages which may ensue, regard will be had to the same consideration.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, May 25, 1813.

MONTREAL, 12th MAY.

By a despatch just arrived from Upper Canada, the pleasing intelligence is received that the much-talked-of American General Harrison, with an escort, or advanced guard of 300 men, has been taken by the Indians, commanded by Tecumseth, and mostly cut to pieces; General Harrison was taken and now remains prisoner of war. General Proctor with 500 regulars, 400 militia and 1400 Indians, were marching for Fort Miami, from which place we need not apprehend any other than a good account.

The enemy re-embarked from York on Sunday the 2d instant, after burning a part of the Barracks, and all the public stores