

## EUROPE.

### ENGLAND.

#### NATIONAL EXPENDITURES AND COLONIAL REPRESENTATIVES.

##### From Bell's Messenger.

Our readers will find in our paper of this week two documents which have been laid before Parliament, containing estimates of the expenditure of the miscellaneous service of the year, and also of the civil expenses of our Colonies. Upon the first paper we have this only to remark, that the sum of this expenditure, contained in what is called the Petty Cash book of the State, reaches to the enormous amount of between six and seven hundred thousand pounds! If such are the items of the waste book, what must we expect from the ponderous ledgers of the Ministers?

There is a charge for printing, paper, and stationery, of between two and three hundred thousand pounds, and this principally for the two Houses of Parliament. But we are sorry to see continued, under a Whig Administration, a head of charge of between thirty and forty thousand pounds for Secret Service money! We did not know that so rank an abuse still existed.

Under the head of Civil Expenses for the Colonies, one remark will strike our readers; that these colonies must be most wretchedly managed if they cannot afford to pay their own judges and law officers. It seems most absurd to cry them up as the great stay and refuge of England, (and we have never wished to decry them) whilst they are in this condition.

But our present position is to consider a much more important question, a question which has frequently been brought before the public on many occasions, but never satisfactorily explained or discussed. It is simply this, whether or not these colonies ought not to have representatives in Parliament, and whether the present crisis does not afford a fit opportunity of giving them such representatives.

It has been argued that, as the population of the British dependencies, including India, exceeds that of the mother country, and as the wealth and rising importance of many of the colonies mark them out as the cradle of future empires, it would be the manifest policy and duty of Great Britain to attach them by a closer connection, and to give them, by representation, a share in the general power of the country. By the extinction of the boroughs, which afforded the readiest access to Parliament for those whose property was invested in our settlements, the Colonies will be precluded from that virtual representation which they have hitherto enjoyed. It is not to be dissimulated that the new Reform Bill strikes a hard blow upon this description of members of Parliament representing colonial interests. They will by the natural consequences of this political exclusion, be more alienated from us than they are now inclined to be, and every day become more indisposed to hear the yoke of the parent state. An opportunity now offers of giving them a direct representation. It may be carried into effect simply by redefining that part of the reform plan which was never popular, we mean that part which proposes to reduce the number of our representatives in Parliament. It is known that Lord Grey does not obstinately persist in the reduction of the members of Parliament. It never was a favourite measure with the people. Why not, then, keep up the number of our representatives in the House of Commons to their ancient amount, distributing a certain portion, say fifteen or twenty, amongst our Colonies and foreign dependencies? The mode, and the terms of their election, might easily be arranged. If the principle were once conceded the policy of it would be obvious.

Our Colonists, or those British owners and merchants whose property is largely engaged abroad (for we are not speaking of the navy born colonists only) must desire like other men, to have some share in the management of public affairs, chiefly on account of the importance which it would give them. Upon the power which the greater part of the leading men, the natural aristocracy of every country, have of preserving or defending their respective importance, depend the stability and duration of every system of free government. In the attack which these leading men are continually making upon one another, and in the defence of their own power and station, consists the whole play of domestic faction and ambition.

It is but natural that the leading men possessed of colonial property and influence should be actuated by similar motives of ambition. They feel, or imagine, that they shall be excluded from Parliament by the extinction of the boroughs, and the operation of the new Reform Bill. These boroughs opened to them the road to political importance. They feel, or imagine, that if their Colonial Assemblies, which they are fond of calling Parliaments, should be so far degraded as to become the humble ministers of the Parliament of Great Britain, the greater part of their own importance would be broken down. Now it must be acknowledged that the control of the parent state over her Colonies was, and is, greatly softened and qualified to the tastes of the Colonists, by having their leading men of property members of the British Senate, and acting as many did, a splendid part in the national councils. But if they can no longer expect to see them seated in a reformed Parliament, their pride will be hurt, and their affections weakened, and, like other ambitious and high spirited men, they will rather choose to throw off the yoke, and draw the sword in defence of their own importance, than live in a connection with the mother country, which is injurious, unequal, and disparaging.

Great Britain, perhaps, since the world began, the only state which, as it extended its empire, has only increased its expenses without augmenting its resources. Towards the decline of the Roman Republic, the allies of Rome, who had borne the principal burden of defending the state, and extending the boundaries of the empire, demanded to be admitted to all the privileges of Roman citizens. Upon being refused, the Social War broke out; and during the course of that war, Rome granted those privileges to the greater part of them, one by one, and in proportion as they detached themselves from the general confederacy. Should not England do by choice what Rome was compelled to do by force? It is a fundamental maxim of our policy, since the American war, that there can be no taxation without representation. Our Colonies therefore must always be an incubus to us whilst they remain unrepresented. We shall always be taxed with enormous expenses of their civil and military establishments, until we put them in an equal condition and give them equal political privileges with the rest of our empire. Let them be admitted to the same privileges, and they could not more object to a tax for paying their judges and governors, than the inhabitants of a county could object to a county rate for the building of their bridges and the maintaining of their prisons. Why should not

Great Britain allow to each Colony such a number of representatives as suited the proportion of what it contributed to the public revenue of the empire, in consideration of its being subjected to a fair rate of taxes, and in compensation, admitted to the same freedom of trade with its fellow-subjects at home? Why, for instance, should not the two Canadas return four members to Parliament—Jamaica, return two. The number of representatives might be augmented as the proportion of contribution might afterwards increase. A new method of acquiring importance, a new and more dazzling object of ambition, would thus be presented to the leading men of each Colony, and to the capital merchants engaged in its trade, whose domicile is in our own country; instead of contending for the little prizes which are to be found in the paltry traffic of colonial factions, they might then hope, from the presumption which men naturally have in their own ability and good fortune, to draw some of the prizes which invariably issue from the wheel of the great state lottery of British politics.

Unless this or some other method be fallen upon, the Reform Bill cannot be rendered very palatable to those leading colonists, and that great mass of British capitalists whose fortunes are invested in our foreign settlements. There seems to be no method more obvious than the one we propose, of conciliating those mercantile and colonial proprietors who are so loud in their clamour against the abolition of boroughs; and it strikes us that it will not only tend to preserve the importance, and to gratify the ambition of some of the most leading capitalists amongst us, but that it will tend mainly to consolidate the interests of the parent state and her colonies, and to unite them by closer ties than have hitherto subsisted between them.

Though the Roman constitution was necessarily ruined by the union of Rome with the allied states of Italy, there is not the least probability that the British constitution would be hurt by the union of Great Britain with her Colonies. That constitution, on the contrary, would be completed by it, and seems to be imperfect without it. The assembly which deliberates and decides concerning the affairs of every part of the empire, in order to be perfectly informed, ought certainly to have representatives from every part of it.

That this union, however, could be easily effected, or that difficulties, and great difficulties, might not occur in the execution, is undoubted. We have heard of none, however, which appear insurmountable. The principal, perhaps, arise not from the nature of things, but from the prejudices and opinions of the people both on this and on the other side of the Atlantic.

But if Lord Grey and the Ministers shall yield to the reasonable desires of Parliament, and to the natural wishes of the people, in keeping up the present number of the members of the House of Commons, an opportunity would be immediately afforded, and the boon will, we are sure, be most acceptable, of admitting colonial property to its just share of representation, and to its due and salutary weight in a reformed Parliament.

Supposing that the sixty-two members, intended to be struck off, should be retained upon a revision of the Reform Bill, would it not be an admirable measure of policy to allot a certain portion of them to our Colonies? It would greatly tend to conciliate the mercantile and shipping interests of the country, and would strengthen the popularity of the Bill amongst all those persons whose fortunes are bound up with the trade and commerce of the Empire.

### SCOTLAND.

#### SPEECH OF SIR GEORGE MURRAY ON BEING RETURNED FOR PERTHSHIRE.

Sir G. Murray.—"I have never been opposed to prudent amelioration or improvement in the constitution of the country, and I hold it indeed to be one of the chief excellencies and happiest characteristics of the British Constitution that it is capable of receiving such improvements as time and change of circumstances may gradually introduce; and I have at all times so expressed myself in Parliament, not only as your Representative, but also as a Minister of the Crown. You are all aware, Gentlemen, that I have never solicited your votes upon the ground of party feeling. I should consider it disrespectful to you to do so, and you have been pleased on all occasions to send me to Parliament unfettered by any pledge, either given or expected, to follow any particular line of conduct there, except that pledge of which every honest man must be bound, to use his abilities, whatever they may be, to the best of his judgment, for the welfare and prosperity of the country. I am aware that it is the practice in some other parts of the United Kingdom, where the system of elections is said to be more free, to tie down and fetter a candidate by particular pledges before sending him into the Legislature. But this I hold to be not only unconstitutional, but to be also unreasonable and unwise; for it is not possible to foresee all the alterations of circumstances under which the representative may be called upon to deliberate and decide as a member of the Legislature. There is no distinction which I consider more truly gratifying to a man than that of being honored with the confidence of his fellow citizens. But if upon former elections this feeling has been deeply impressed upon my mind, it comes with infinitely greater force on the present occasion; for you have done me honor to select me this day to take my place in a Parliament, which is to be assembled, not merely for the purpose of transacting the ordinary business of the country, but which is summoned together, by the advice of His Majesty's present Ministers, to sit in judgment, if I may so express myself, upon the Constitution of the State. As to that Constitution, Gentlemen, I have always been disposed to judge of it, not by a minute inspection into particular details, but by its general outline and by its practical effects. Under this constitution the country has risen to a height of power which has never been surpassed. Morality and religion are upheld, and genius displays itself in all the arts, and in every department of literature and science. But at the present moment the minds of all men have been turned away from the contemplation of the improving condition of the country, and have been directed exclusively to the alteration of our political system. On one occasion Mr. Fox declared that 'if by an interposition of Divine Providence, all the wisest men of every age and of every country could be brought together into one assembly, they would not be capable of forming even a tolerable constitution for a state.' But so much do the men of the present day think of their own wisdom, that they conceive themselves qualified to do in a few weeks what Mr. Fox declared to be impossible by the united wisdom of ages. And this is not only the case in the present cabinet, but, I believe, there is not a political club existing in any village in the country, who do not conceive themselves capable of improving the constitution of the State. Mr. Fox well knew, however, that the only just and safe principle to proceed upon was that of experience

and practical utility, and discarded all ideas of theoretical perfection.

What, I would ask, is the cause of the failure of all attempts on the part of other nations to assimilate their constitutions to that of Great Britain? What is the cause of its failure in France, and of all the attempts which have been making for the last forty years to establish a permanent system of free government to that unhappy country? The cause of these failures, I apprehend to have been, that the French have aimed at theoretical perfection, instead of being contented with practical utility. The French nation is undoubtedly one of the most enlightened and intelligent nations of Europe, perhaps we will admit them to be the most so, after ourselves, but they have hitherto constantly failed in their endeavours to establish a free constitution upon a solid and permanent basis. Yet notwithstanding those repeated failures on the part of our neighbours we find many persons among ourselves continually urging us to enter upon the same course. To these things I cannot but look with feelings of apprehension. I should have been as much delighted as any man by the late changes in France, had it appeared to me that they were likely to lead to the permanent establishment of liberty in that country, but I delayed to rejoice, because I did not see that these changes were at all certain to produce that desirable effect. I hesitated to join in the exultation expressed by many persons in this country; and the event has confirmed my doubts, for I still apprehend that the Constitution of France is almost as little settled as before. When holding a high official situation in the allied army in France some years ago, I had an opportunity of conversing with many intelligent men of that country, and, in particular, with one of the most distinguished and enlightened members of the Chamber of Deputies, which you all know corresponds to the House of Commons with us. The gentleman to whom I allude expressed to me to be his opinion, that one great practical defect in France had arisen from the introduction of too much symmetry into their mode of election; and that the instability of their government was owing to a very considerable degree to its being with those very anomalies which our modern innovators and constitution-makers are so anxious to remove from our system. He thought that the existence in this country of men of wealth possessed of considerable political influence, and of corporate bodies, accustomed to pursue a line of conduct of their own in political matters, without being carried away by the impulse of the moment, was one cause of our being free from those fluctuations to which France has been so subject. Whenever any new caprice in politics had agitated the capital of France, the provinces had been obliged to yield to the impulse given at Paris, for want of any local influences, to which opinions might rally elsewhere, and give time for sound judgment to oppose itself to hasty and rash impressions. It would be well if the people would at all times bear in mind, that crowds have their courtesies as well as monarchs. Wherever there is power there will be flatterers, and the people do not always sufficiently recollect, that they are liable to be flattered and misled as well as princes, and by flatterers not less mean, cringing and servile, and above all, not less false, or less selfish, than the vilest flatterer who ever frequented a palace, to serve his own private ends by betraying the interests of his master. There is no disease against which a free state ought to guard with greater vigilance than against the extreme of democracy. It is not liberty which can give me any apprehension, but it is the abuse of it; for that degree of liberty which is consistent with good order and security in society is the only liberty which can promote the welfare and prosperity of the State. Let us look, Gentlemen, into the history of other nations, and I shall instance the history of that great people with whom we all became acquainted at an early period of our lives. What was it which caused the loss of liberty in Rome? A schoolboy would very probably reply, the ambition of Cæsar and a fortunate General, who led his armies from Gaul to overthrow the liberties of his country. But those who can look a little deeper into history, and can trace effects to their remoter but true causes, would discover that Cæsar was a demagogue before he was a general—that he would have passed the Rubicon in vain with his legions had not the tribunes of the people become the pioneers of his army, and had not the radicals of Rome thrown open its gates to welcome a tyrant. But what are the best means of guarding against such misfortunes? I believe that the safest and most effectual preventive is to give due weight and influence to property in State. The British Constitution is not the work of human hands. It has been moulded into its present form by a series of events resulting out of the conflicting passions and the contending interests of men; to these, aided and guided, if I may presume so to express myself by a beneficent and protecting Providence, we owe the admirable Constitution under which this country has hitherto prospered. Our Constitution has not been the boon of a Monarch to his people, like the Charter given to France by Louis XVIII. or like that Constitution, so little beneficial to his country, which was transmitted by the Emperor of Brazil to Portugal—neither has it been the invention of philosophers in their closets. The British Constitution is like none of these; it rests upon a more natural and a more secure foundation; for it has arisen, as I have already said, from the conflict of the passions and interests which are inherent in human nature and inseparable from it, and which, in our system, balance and oppose one another.

Let us beware how we attempt to make great and sudden alterations in it—let us not be moved by the sarcasms of those who seek to ridicule what they choose to denounce as a 'bit by bit' reform, and let us not be led, as they would wish to lead us, to abandon prudence and take rashness for our guide. In the practical operation of the British Constitution the three principles of Monarchy, Aristocracy, and democracy are not separated by strong lines of demarcation, and opposed to each other in direct and hostile array which would inevitably lead to violent and dangerous collisions, but they are blended together in such a manner that they influence and control each other without the danger of such convulsions as might prove ruinous to the State. The object of the present day seems to be, however, to alter this state of things, and to render the House of Commons more exclusively subject to popular control. It is said the Representatives of the people are too slow in conforming themselves to the general will of the nation. For my part I consider this one of its best characteristics that it is not liable to be immediately acted upon by every popular impulse. It is owing to this that every interest in the country can be patiently heard before a decision is come to by which it may be vitally and permanently affected, and upon what pretence, indeed, or upon what claim of justice, can any man require that assent should be given to his own opinions, or any

respect even be shown to them, unless he be disposed also on his part to show a similar degree of respect to the opinions and the arguments of his opponents. I confess it appears to me, therefore, that the tardiness represented to exist on the part of the House of Commons in complying with public opinion has not only been greatly exaggerated, but is in itself a requisite and powerful protection against the sudden and often erroneous impulses of a public clamour. Having already said so much, I shall conclude by expressing my sincere and anxious wish that the vessel of the state may long continue to pursue her hitherto prosperous voyage—with Monarchy at the helm, to guide her in her course—with Aristocracy, that is, the influence of property, as ballast, to keep her steady in a troubled sea—and with the favouring breath of the people to fill her sails. If our vessel shall be guided in such a manner I shall have no fears. But if we shall weaken too much the hand which holds the helm, or diminish the weight and influence of the ballast—or if the breath of the people, which has hitherto wafted us so steadily along, should be raised to a storm—in place of continuing to be the admiration and envy of other states, we shall exhibit in future times (which may God avert!) a shipwreck the most disastrous, the most irretrievable, and the most self-willed, of any which has ever occurred in the history of the world.

### SCOTTISH ELECTIONS.

The election of a member of Parliament for the County of Edinburgh took place on Tuesday. Sir George Clerk was returned without opposition. In returning thanks for the honour done him, Sir George spoke at some length against the Ministerial plan of reform. He particularly objected to giving votes to the tenant, as likely to injure instead of benefiting them. He was of opinion that it would throw the whole power into the hands of the aristocracy and greatly diminish the power and the influence of that valuable class, the small country gentlemen; who were much better acquainted with the localities and interest of the tenant than noblemen who reside perhaps only a few months on their estates. Sir George concluded by stating that he had been advised, and reluctantly yielded, to have no public dinner, lest it should cause a repetition of the excitement and lead to a repetition of the disorders which took place at the election of a member for the city. He hoped they would soon again see the good old times when they might have a social dinner after the election.

Sir M. Shaw Stewart who is a supporter of the reform measure was unanimously elected member of Parliament, for Renfrewshire on Monday.

The election of a member of Parliament for the County of Haddington took place on Monday. Forty freeholders voted for Mr. Balfour of Whittingham, who is opposed to the Reform Bill, and eleven for Sir D. Baird. The latter gentleman in addressing his friends, said he was authorised by the Lord Advocate to state, that his lordship had been misreported as to what he had said regarding the contemplated alterations and the qualifications. His lordship said that the qualification would not be £100 nor £75 nor £50 nor £25; and that the variation would be between £20 and £10.

Wigtownshire.—The Hon. Montagu Stewart in favour of Sir Andrew Agnew, the late member.

Dumfriesshire.—General Sharp, it is said, has secured his return for the Dumfriesshire district of burghs, in favour of the reform bill, in opposition to Mr. Keith Douglas, the late member.

Torrichien, 7th May, 1831.—Mr. Gillon of Wallhouse having succeeded in securing the votes of the Town Councils of Linlithgow, Peebles, and Lanark, his election may be considered as secured. The little village of Torrichien, near which Mr. Gillon's elegant mansion of Wallhouse is situated, was on the evening of Friday last handsomely illuminated, the inhabitants vying with each other as to who should do most honour to the cause of Reform, as well as shew their attachment to their much respected landlord and superior.

LANARKSHIRE.—The county from one end to the other takes the greatest interest in the ensuing election. Thousands are preparing in all quarters to march for Lanark on the 13th. Report says that the Strathaven loyalists will be accompanied with a band of music. Those in the Larkhall district by the Dalsferry band, Newton of Wishaw, Stone Iron Works, and Carluke by the Wishawtown band. Lesmahagow by their own band. The people of Lanark and New Lanark by the band belonging to the latter place, which will make, a very noisy cavalcade, and the thousands said to be coming, from other quarters, will make the scene numerous and imposing, if conducted in the same orderly manner as the late Glasgow procession.

DUNFERMLINE.—Thursday being the day appointed for choosing a delegate to represent this burgh in the ensuing election at Stirling, the returning burgh, the Town Council met, and unanimously made choice of George Melrum, Esq. the Provost, to be their delegate, in the interest of James Johnstone, Esq. their late representative. The inhabitants of the town, in order to mark the high sense they entertain of the Council, for the manner they have conducted themselves, in spontaneously joining with the burghers in their petition for the reform bill introduced by His Majesty's Ministers, and to testify to Mr. Johnstone their approval of his honest and independent conduct in Parliament, gave a splendid entertainment in the Spire Hotel, to Mr. Johnstone and the Town Council.

The election for the county of Elgin is fixed for Wednesday the 18th inst. We hear of no opponent to the Hon. Colonel Grant, the former respectable member.

ELECTION DINNER TO HORATIO ROSS, Esq. OF ROSSIE.—It will be seen from an advertisement in this day's paper, that the friends of Mr. Ross have resolved to entertain him in the Public Rooms of this city, on Monday the 23d inst., being the day of the election of a member to represent this burgh in Parliament.

Mr. Ross having secured the votes of Arbroath, Brechin, and Montrose, his election is certain; besides, there is now no other candidate in the field, Sir James Carnegie, the late member, who voted against the Reform Bill, having declined again to offer himself. Mr. Ross is pledged to support his Majesty's Ministers in the great question of Reform.

The election for Cromartyshire takes place, on the 20th inst.—For Ross-shire on the 25th.

The Magistrates and Town Council of Arbroath met on Monday se'ennight, and unanimously elected Provost Kay, their delegate, at the approaching election of a member of Parliament. On Wednesday also, the Town Councils of Montrose and Brechin, severally elected Provost Paton, and the Hon. W. Maule, to be their delegates. It is needless to say, that all those delegates are to vote for Mr. Ross of Rossie.

The Magistrates and Town-Council of Forfar have unanimously resolved to give their suffrages to the Lord Advocate, at the ensuing election for that district of burghs.—Colonel Ogilvy having withdrawn from the contest. Aberdeen Observer.

## AMERICA.

### UNITED STATES.

#### DEATH OF MR. MUNROE.

Another of the Presidents of the United States closed his mortal career in this City on Monday last, the anniversary of that independence which he fought and bled to achieve.

The distinguished object of this brief notice was born in Virginia in 1758; his family had originally settled in that district by virtue of a grant of Charles II., as a testimonial of his gratitude for previous services rendered his father. James Munroe was bred 'to the profession of the law, but the Revolution closing in a great degree that avenue to fame, and imbuing the spirit of the times, he enrolled himself in the army of Washington, and accompanied the General through several campaigns, and particularly distinguished himself at the battle of Trenton, where he was severely wounded. At the conclusion of the war, he returned to his former profession, and rapidly rose in the opinion of his countrymen, who rewarded his abilities by twice conferring on him the governorship of his state. He was at length elevated to important posts in the general Government, filling the war and treasury departments, and finally the office of Secretary of State under Mr. Madison. His diplomatic career was no less brilliant than his other pursuits in the service of his country, and the treaty which he arranged in conjunction with the Chancellor Livingston for the acquisition of Louisiana to the United States, will remain an example of his skill in negotiation. Mr. Munroe was at length elevated to the Presidency, and occupied the highest office in this republic for two terms.

The private life of this amiable and illustrious man was distinguished by many virtues, and the estimation in which he was held by those whom he has left behind, may be recognised by the obsequies paid to his remains on Tuesday last. Every testimony that could be paid by each order in society, was gladly yielded over the grave of so distinguished a fellow citizen.

It is not often the custom of this Journal to discuss the politics of the United States; but if we were to express our opinion, we should certainly say, that the brightest part of Mr. Munroe's public life was displayed, when he made the great tour of the Republic in 1817-18. This journey which was of prodigious extent, was performed with extraordinary diligence and rapidity. Two great parties at that time agitated the United States, and it being shortly after the war with Great Britain, the hostile feelings engendered among Americans by difference of opinion upon this great question had not yet cooled. Mr. Munroe, with the most magnanimous and generous spirit, forgot party feelings, and received all respectable citizens at his different levees with kindness, and without distinction. The most violent partizan was received so kindly, that hostility, if any existed, was instantly disarmed; and at the end of his tour, Mr. Munroe was not only President of the United States, but also of the people and their affections.

We do not know that we have any business to advert to these times and circumstances; but we could not resist the inclination to describe the impression they made upon our minds, then recently arrived in this country, with all our preceptions alive to the new and interesting scene before us. We certainly did think, that Mr. Munroe's great civic exploit on that occasion eclipsed all the glory that he had earned at any former time.

We have only now to advert to the remarkable circumstances of three Presidents of the United States closing their lives on the Fourth of July. Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Adams died on the 50th Anniversary of the Independence which they had mainly contributed to bring about; and Mr. Munroe, who had shed his blood in the same cause, died, as our readers all know, on the 55th anniversary of the same event, just past.—New-York Albion, July 9.

JAMES MUNROE was born on Munroe's Creek, Westmoreland County, Virginia, in September, 1758; the precise day we have been unable to ascertain.—He was descended from a respectable Scotch family, remarkable for its loyalty and patriotism. His ancestor who came to this country in 1652, was a Captain in the army of Charles I. and was rewarded for his fidelity with a grant of land by Charles II. His father was Spence Munroe, a farmer in the County of Westmoreland. His mother was a sister of the late Judge Jones, of Virginia.

James Munroe was educated at the College of William and Mary, and subsequently studied law in the office of Mr. Jefferson.—Standard.

Of four Ex-Presidents of the United States deceased, three have died on the memorable Fourth of July, and two of them on the same Fourth of July. A coincidence so extraordinary is scarcely to be found in history.—Adams died in the 91st year of his age; Jefferson in the 84th; and Munroe in the 73d.

#### NEW-YORK, July 9.

A most destructive fire occurred last night in the upper part of the city, which nearly destroyed an entire block of buildings, bounded on the north by Charlton, on the south by Vandam, on the east by Varick, and on the west by Hudson-st. and the loss, including furniture, &c. is estimated at upwards of one hundred thousand dollars. The fire spread with such rapidity, that many families barely escaped with their night clothing, and in one instance a person was dragged from his bed, after the bedstead was on fire. Two children, who were left locked up in a room by their parents, who had gone to the theatre, have not been found. From appearance this morning we have no doubt that many families are in great distress. Among the buildings destroyed, was the Baptist Church in Vandam-street.—It is supposed the fire was occasioned by rockets, &c. let off by boys, in honor of the 4th July.

On the 8th June an officer attached to the American expedition, against the Indians, from the Edcamp at Rock Island wrote to his friend in St. Louis,

"We yesterday held a talk with the Indians, and from their determination not to leave the white settlements, and from their number we shall have pretty serious work, that is we shall have no play; they came into the Council house yesterday, with their spears, hatchets, and bows strung, and I have no doubt from the extreme agitation of the Interpreter, that there was more danger than most were aware of, as our troops were near a quarter of a mile off, and the Indians were about ten for one of us."