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National Intelligencer.

REPORT

Of the committee appointed on the 3d ultimo, on so much of the message of the President of the U. S. as relates to the repairs of fortifications, and to the farther protection of our ports, towns and rivers.

The committee to whom was referred on the 3d ultimo, so much of the message of the President of the U. S. as relates to the repairs of fortifications, and to the farther protection of our ports, towns, and rivers, report, that they have taken the same into consideration, and beg leave to recommend the following

RESOLUTIONS—

Resolved, That a sum of money not exceeding dollars, be appropriated to enable the President of the U. S. to cause our fortifications to be improved and repaired.

Resolved, That a farther sum of money not exceeding dollars be appropriated to enable the President of the U. S. to cause to be built a number of gun boats, not exceeding , for the better protection of our ports, towns, and rivers.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
December 10, 1806.

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 6th inst. I have the honor to state, that we have at this time fit for service four bomb vessels and thirteen gun boats. That we have on the stocks and lately launched fifty-six gun boats, all of which will be fit for service early in the ensuing year.

That of the appropriation, viz. 250,000 dollars, made by law of last session, we have expended the sum of dolls. 191,118 92, leaving unexpended of that appropriation, the sum of dolls. 58,881 08, which will, however, be wanted to complete the gun boats contracted for under that law.

In answer to your enquiry with respect to the additional gun boats wanted, the President has instructed me to communicate to you his opinion, that it would be expedient to authorize by law the building of sixty additional gun boats; for which it would be necessary that the sum of three hundred thousand dollars be appropriated.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
RT. SMITH.

Roger Nelson, esq.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
December 9, 1806.

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 3d inst. permit me to refer the committee, of which you are chairman, to the report of the Secretary of War, of the 13th of February last, on the subject of fortifications, and to add thereto the following remarks, relative to the repairs, additional works and expenditures, which have since been made.

At Portsmouth, New Hampshire, about three thousand dollars have been expended in erecting new barracks.

At Fort Trumbull, New London, Conn. repairs have been made on the barracks.

On Governor's Island, in the harbor of New York, a regular work in masonry has been commenced, and is far advanced. The expences attending it have not yet been adjusted, but probably amount to between twenty-five and thirty thousand dollars.

At Fort Nelson, Virginia, twenty heavy cannon have been mounted on travelling carriages.

At Fort Johnston, North Carolina, further progress has been made in the works.

In South Carolina every thing remains as heretofore, owing to a disappointment in fixing the scites.

Although captain Macomb, of the corps of engineers, in pursuance of orders from this department, proceeded on the 20th June last to Charleston, and remained there until the 11th of July, nothing on this head could be done, in consequence of his being unable to procure from the office of the deputy secretary of state of S. Carolina, the map on which the lands and scites for fortifications, ceded to the U. S. were particularly delineated.

Having been ordered a second time to Charleston, it is expected that he will be able to do something on the subject this winter.

In Georgia a new military establishment has been made on the Ocmulgee river.

At New Orleans we have been disappointed in having suitable scites selected for proposed works; it is presumed, however, that some progress has lately been made in fortifications at that place, which will be continued.

Of the 150,000 dollars appropriated the last session of Congress, for fortifying ports and harbors, not more than 48,000 have probably been expended.

Arrangements have been made for the next year, which will likely exhaust the remainder of the aforesaid appropriation, together with the sum applicable to that object, in the estimate for this department for the ensuing year.

I am, very respectfully,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
H. DEARBORN.

Hon. Roger Nelson.

STATE OF DELAWARE.

Red Lion Inn, Jan. 7, 1807.

At a meeting of delegates of New Castle county, in the state of Delaware, conformably to a recommendation of the grand jury of said county,

Dr. James Tilton was appointed *Chairman*, and Dr. Wm. M'Kee, *Secretary*.

When the following address was unanimously agreed to.

To the President of the United States:

SIR,

As delegates of the county of New Castle, in the state of Delaware, chosen by the people, and convened by the solemn advice of our grand jury, we beg leave to address you on a subject, which we deem very interesting to the public welfare of our country. Thro' various sources we have obtained information, that puts it beyond a doubt, that you have declared your intention, at the end of the present Presidency, to decline a re-election, and retire from the arduous duties of first Magistrate, to the repose of private life. Although we honor the disinterestedness of such conduct, a variety of circumstances impress us with the apprehension, that even this virtuous example might be hazardous at so critical a moment.

Clouds of danger hang over our common country, which threaten to burst in deep laid treason and open violence. At such a crisis, the canvassing and cabals consequent on the change of a President, might, we apprehend, be dangerous. With your consent, however, our choice would not only be enlarged, agreeably to the design of the constitution, but, we are persuaded, the election would be made without difficulty, or any hazard of derangement in our public affairs.

We, therefore, entreat you, sir, not to withhold your name, at the ensuing Presidential election; but once more permit the public good to out-weigh all personal considerations. At the end of four years more, we hope there will be no impediment or restraint to your laudable ambition of setting a glorious example to future chief magistrates.

We will not take up your time with professions of regard or admiration of your public conduct. All America, & we believe, all the world are ready to approve this ground of our confidence. But we declare, that by according with our ardent wish and expectation, which we sincerely believe is the hope of our republican fellow citizens; you will add additional obligations to the numerous blessings, which under the smiles of Providence, with grateful hearts, we are at all times ready to acknowledge as the result of your happy administration.

May Providence grant you a long life, and make you a lasting blessing to your fellow citizens!

Ordered, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman and secretary, be transmitted to the President of the U. S. and published in such newspapers as may be thought proper.

JAMES TILTON, *Chairman.*
WM. M'KEE, *Secretary.*

New-Orleans Nov. 10.

CENSUS.

His excellency Governor Claiborne has received the following returns of the census directed to be taken by an act of the last general assembly of this territory.

Counties.	White men 21 years and upwards.	White men under 21 years.	White females of every age.	Freemen, women & children of color.	Slaves of every age and sex.	Total.
Natchitoches	407	270	410	121	1209	2417
German coast	555	647	9-2	229	3285	5688
Rapide	488	513	746	5	716	2278
Aggregate.	1450	1430	2128	365	5200	10583

Returns from the other counties have not yet been received.

On the 3rd ult. two hundred and fifty seven men, and one hundred and thirty six women and children, belonging to the Chactaws, Pascagula, Tensaw, Apalachi, Beloxi and Cani tribes of Indians, assembled on the north side of Red river, opposite to Alexandria, the county town of Rapide, for the purpose of a ball play. The play continued for two days, and on the third they dispersed. Not the smallest outrage was committed during the time of the play, nor in going to or returning from it, and there was scarcely a single instance of intoxication among them.

We understand that the chiefs and warriors of the above named tribes, who were at the ball play, have given to his excellency governor Claiborne the most satisfactory assurances of the friendly disposition of their respective nations towards the U. States.

Opelousas, in Lower Louisiana, Oct. 26th, 1806.

Dear Sir,

As many of our fellow citizens may not have understood the causes which gave rise to our late dispute with the Spaniards in this country, I beg leave, in addition to my former details on this subject, to communicate the subjoined account of the rise and progress of the affair.

Immediately after the cession of Louisiana from the French Republic to the U. States, it was a matter of primary importance, that the line of demarkation between the Americans and Spaniards should be ascertained and fixed. Accordingly the American executive directed certain ministers, then in Europe, to enter upon a negociation for that purpose, with the court of Spain, which had ceded the country to France, just prior to its cession to the Americans.

Whilst these negociations were depending, the President gave notice to the minister of Spain, that the river Sabine, which washes the western border of Louisiana, would be considered by the government as the line between the two nations, until it should be specifically fixed by treaty. Whether this notification was ever communicated to the government of Mexico, is not certainly known. It is true however, that our executive gave directions to the commanding officer at Natchitoches, that if the Spaniards attempted to cross the Sabine, they should be immediately driven on the other side of that river. A party of Spaniards did actually pass it some time after these orders, for the purpose of taking possession of a tract of country which they alledged had never been included in the cession of Louisiana to the Americans, and which virtually belonged to his catholic majesty. This body of men by an inferior number of Americans under the command of captain Johnson of Natchitoches, was compelled to retreat beyond the Sabine. The Spaniards irritated at these measures on the part of the Americans, which they considered as an aggression on their rights, and an actual commencement of hostilities, communicated the affair to the government of Mexico. It is said that the council of that province was immediately assembled, and that an army of 30,000 men was decreed to be raised for the purpose of taking possession of the ground from whence the first party had been repelled by the Americans.

It is certain however, that some time in the year 1805, the Spaniards began to collect an armament in the country on this side of the Sabine, between that river and the Rio Fonde, and continued to increase it until the fall of 1806. Information of this armament was communicated to the governor of the territory of Orleans, who immediately repaired to Natchitoches. A correspondence, conducted with considerable warmth, but by no means unsuitable to the existing posture of affairs, was opened between the governor and gen. Harrara, a field marshal in the Spanish service, and commander in chief of the Spanish armament on the Rio Fonde. The governor asserted the right of the U. States to the territory upon which the Spaniards had encamped, remonstrated on the injustice of the Spanish commander in having taken three American citizens, and sent them as prisoners to Nagadoches; and for having protected several negroes who had fled from American citizens within the boundaries of the Spanish dominions. These dispatches were conveyed by col. Hopkins, a young officer of considerable merit, to the Spanish camp. The governor received a verbal message from the Spanish commander, in reply, that he had not been invested with authority to enter into any specific investigation of the principles upon which the dispute of the two nations had been grounded; that he had sent the governor's dispatches on to the captain general of Mexico, and that he held the station where he was then encamped by order of his catholic majesty, from whence he could not retreat without actual compulsion.

In consequence of this message, conveying the intelligence that the Spaniards were determined to maintain their ground on the Rio Fonde, gov. Claiborne thought it expedient to call out a part of the militia of the territory. A draft was accordingly made in the counties of Opelousas and Rapide. That part of the militia of Opelousas composed of Americans, turned out with great readiness; but the French discovered every mark of disaffection to the cause. These people have been imposed on ever since the cession of Lousiana by Spanish emissaries, who had deluded them with the idea that the country would either be again receded to the French or Spanish governments, or wrested from the dominion of the Americans by conquest. When the Spanish armament was formed on the Rio Fonde, they conceived that the period for the accomplishment of this event had arrived; and therefore resolved to remain neutral to avoid the censure of the Spanish government. The militia from Rapide marched on the expedition with considerable promptitude and spirit. They were principally Americans. From Opelousas, a troop of horse composed of volunteers was made up in the course of a few days and were in perfect readiness to receive orders to march. A very handsome corps, elegantly equipped marched also from the Mississippi territory. The place of rendezvous was at Natchitoches, where there was a considerable number of effective troops stationed in the garrison at that place.

About the time when these military preparations for an attack on the Spaniards were making, general Wilkinson arrived at Natchitoches to take the command of the American forces. It is thought that the Americans would have been able to oppose between 13 and 14 hundred men to the Spanish armament, which from the best authority never consisted of more than 800 men. The Spaniards were all mounted on horseback, and armed with a dagger about a foot long, a small fuzee and a brace of pistols. The body was covered by a light shield worn on the left arm, and made of several hides of leather closely attached together—but by no means invulnerable to the rifle ball at a distance, or to the shot of the common horse pistol, in close engagement.

As soon as general Wilkinson arrived at Natchitoches, he opened a correspondence with the governor of Montera, who was then at Nagadoches. Col. Cushing, the commander of the fort at Natchitoches was sent to that place with dispatches, stating in mild, polite and determinate language the right of the U. S. to the tract of country then occupied by the Spanish armament, and expressing his surprise that the Spaniards should pretend to any kind of claim to a portion of territory which had actually been ceded to the Americans in the cession of Louisiana; that he had received positive orders from the American Executive to repel any armament of the Spaniards which might be formed on this side of the Sabine, with an exception to the small settlement on Bayou St. Pierre; that it was the wish of the government to prevent the effusion of blood by every rational means of accommodation, but the orders of the Executive would be rigidly enforced provided it became expedient.

Col. Cushing was politely received at Nagadoches and treated with great hospitality by the governor of Montera, who in reply to the communications of gen. Wilkinson, stated in a very short dispatch, that he was not authorised to enter upon an investigation of the existing differences between the two nations, but that the dispatches of the American commander in chief should be immediately communicated to the governor of Mexico. The governor of Montera added in a verbal message by colonel Cushing, that accounts had arrived from Madrid of an amicable negociation between the two governments having taken place; that the Floridas had been ceded to the U. S. for 11,000,000 of dollars, & that under those circumstances, as it was not the desire of his government that blood should be shed upon that occasion, the Spanish armament should be withdrawn to the western side of the Sabine. It was accordingly ordered to pass that river.

A few days after the retreat of the Spaniards an officer belonging to the army came in with dispatches from the governor general of Mexico. They contained an answer to those which had been sent on to Mexico by general Harrara, when governor Claiborne and that officer first opened their correspondence. These dispatches were brought in 26 days, a distance of 700 leagues, and being of a public nature were opened by general Wilkinson. The governor of Mexico expressed his surprise that the Americans should lay in any kind of claim to the country which the Spaniards had occupied on this side of the Sabine; that it had ever been considered by the former governments which had successively held dominion over the country, as the rightful territory of his Catholic Majesty, and that a large army had been collected in Mexico for the purpose of maintaining the claim of the king of Spain; that with respect to the American citizens who had been taken, they should be delivered up, provided it should appear that they had not violated the laws of the country, and that the negroes who had fled to the Spanish dominions should be also returned to the proprietors. On this last point the governor general expressed a desire that some arrangements might be made between the two countries with respect to negroes who should leave their masters and pass into the dominions of either of the two nations.

The affair having advanced to this crisis, gen. Wilkinson, disbanded the principal part of the militia, which had been assembled at Natchitoches, except a company of 40 men commanded by capt. Welsh, and the Natchez troop of horse. As the Spanish government however, had asserted their right to the country lying between the Rio Fonde and the Sabine, and had actually taken possession of it with a considerable armed force, gen. Wilkinson conceived it to be his duty to support the right of the U. S. to that territory, in the same manner. He accordingly wrote to general Harrara, informing him that it was his intention to fix his camp near Sabine. Several companies of soldiers were marched towards that river; and by the last intelligence from Natchitoches, it was the intention of the general to move the main army forward, in the course of a few days.

The conduct of gen. Wilkinson upon this occasion, has been highly meritorious. He has acted in the prosecution of every measure with uncommon moderation, promptitude and firmness. Indeed very great merit is attached, not only to all the officers who have been engaged in these operations, but to the Americans in general who composed our little army. The principles of patriotism appeared to animate all their movements, which were upon all occasions active, spirited and courageous, in a very high degree.

Dr. Sibly has in his possession a very large volume of manuscripts, containing an account of the ancient boundaries of this country, and copious details on its civil and political history. I shall go to Natchitoches in a few weeks for the purpose of procuring additional documents on the subject of Indian affairs. To Dr. Sibley I am already under great obligations for vocabularies of several Indian languages. I expect by the spring to be enabled to complete my collections on this subject, of nine or ten different idioms. A copy will be presented to the American Philosophical Society, and one also, to Dr. Barton of Philadelphia, to assist him in his investigation on the origin of Indians.

I am, dear sir,
With much esteem,
Your most obedient,
ALLAN B. MAGRUDER.

Mr. Daniel Bradford.

PARIS, OCTOBER 30.

The following letter to the king of Prussia, was carried by capt. Montesquiou, who set out from Gera on the 13th of October, 1806, at 10 o'clock A. M. and arrived at the camp of general Hohenlohe, at 4. P. M. General Hohenlohe detained that officer and took from him the letter he was the bearer of. The army of the king of Prussia was 9 leagues farther back. This prince then ought to have received the letter of the emperor at the latest, at 6 in the evening. They assure, however, that he never received it before the 14th, at 9 in the morning—that is to say, when they had already begun to fight.

It is likewise reported that the king of Prussia then said:—"If this letter had arrived sooner, perhaps he would not have fought; but the heads of those young men are elated in such a manner, that if there had been yesterday any mention of peace, I could not have brought back to Berlin one third part of my army."

Sir, my Brother,

I have only received, on the 7th, the letter of your majesty of the 25th of September. I am sorry that you have been made to sign that kind of pamphlet. I answer it only to protest to you, that I shall never attribute to your majesty the things contained therein—are all contrary to your charcter, and the honor of both. I pity and despise the writers of such a work. I have received, immediately after, the note of your minister of the 1st of October. You have given me a rendezvous for the 8th, and as a valiant knight, I have kept my word; I am in the heart of Saxony. May your majesty believe me, I have such forces that, with all your's, you cannot long contend with me for victory.

But why should we shed so much blood? For what end?—I shall hold the same language to you that I have held to the Emperor Alexander two days before the battle of Austerlitz. Would to Heaven that men, either sold or fanatical, greater enemies to yourself, and to your reign, than they are to me and my nation, had not given the same counsels to produce the same result.

Sir, I have been your friend for these six years. I am not willing to profit by this vertigo, which gives the impulse to your councils, and which has made you commit political errors, at which Europe is yet astonished, and military errors, the enormity of which Europe will soon resound. If you had asked me in your note, possible things, I would have granted them—you have asked my dishonor—you might have been certain of my answer. You have then waged war against me—the alliance is broken off for ever.

But why should we have our subjects burthened?—I do not value a victory purchased by the lives of a number of my children. If I were just entering the military career, and if I could fear the chances of combats, this language might be misplaced. Sir, your majesty shall be vanquished; you will have committed to hazard the tranquility of