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[For the Phenix Gazette.]

MESSRS. EDITORS—Allow me to enclose you, for re-publication, some stanzas on "The Balloon," which I think very fine—particularly the second and fifth lines of the second stanza.

The late brilliant ascensions of Mr. Robertson from Castle Garden, New-York, have been attended with great eclat, by thousands.

It may not be deemed superfluous here, to repeat, that Balloons were first constructed in the year 1783 by the brothers Montgolfier, paper manufacturers at Annonay, in France. The first human being who ascended into the atmosphere, in one of these machines, was M. Pilatre de Rozier—from a garden in Paris, on the 15th October, 1783.

Doctor G. Gregory gives the following account of Mr. Lunardi's (an Italian) ascent from Edinburgh—"I was myself a spectator of the flight of Lunardi, and I never was present at a sight so interesting and sublime. The beauty of the gradual ascent, united with a sentiment of terror, on account of the danger of the man, and the novelty and grandeur of the whole appearance, are more than words can express. A delicate woman was so overcome with the spectacle, that she died on the spot, as the balloon ascended: several fainted; and the silent admiration of the anxious multitude was beyond any thing I had ever beheld."

In the words of Doctor Gregory—"I was myself also a spectator of the flight of Lunardi" from the Green of Glasgow, and well remember the effect it had on an elderly woman close to whom I stood. When the Balloon

"Was now a speck in ether tost,
"A moment seen, a moment lost,"

she lowered her outstretched neck, and turning away her visual orbs, almost strained to cracking, exclaimed—"Heh me! it is a' glawmy" (a spell)—thus, disbelieving the evidence of her own senses.

The concluding line of the enclosed—

"And Genius yields to fate!"

recalls the burst of feeling of that true son of genius—BURNS—when speaking of Poetry. I cannot refrain from giving it—

"Bewitching poetry is like bewitching woman; she has in all ages been accused of misleading mankind from the councils of wisdom and the paths of prudence, involving them in difficulties, baiting them with poverty, and plunging them in the vortex of ruin; yet where is the man but must own that all our happiness on earth is not worthy the name—that even the holy hermit's solitary prospect of paradisaical bliss is but the glitter of a northern sun rising over a frozen region, compared with the more pleasures, the nameless raptures that we owe to the lovely QUEEN of the heart of MAN. H.

THE BALLOON.

The airy ship at anchor rides;
Proudly she heaves her painted sides,
Impatient of delay;
And now her silken form expands,
She springs aloft, she bursts her bands,
She floats upon her way.

How swift! for now I see her sail
High mounted on the viewless gale,
And speeding up the sky;
And now a speck in ether tost,
A moment seen, a moment lost,
She cheats my dazzled eye.

Bright wonder! thee no flapping wing,
No laboring oar, no bounding spring,
Urged on thy fleet career;
By native buoyancy impell'd;
Thine easy flight was smoothly held
Along the silent sphere.

No curling mist at close of night,
No meteor on the breast of night,
No cloud at breezy dawn,
No leaf adown the summer tide,
More effortless is seen to glide,
Or shadow o'er the lawn.

Yet thee, e'en thee, the destined hour
Shall summon from thine airy tower,
Rapid in prone descent,
Methinks I see thee earthward borne,
With flaccid sides that droop forlorn,
The breath ethereal spent.

Thus daring Fancy's pen sublime,
Thus Love's bright wings are clipp'd by Time;
Thus Hope's, her soul elate,
Exhales amid this grosser air;
The lightest hearts are bound by care,
And Genius yields to fate.

[British Ministry.]

The greatest advantage I know (says Pope) of being thought a wit by the world is, that it gives one the greater freedom of playing the fool.

Greece and South America are now acting conspicuous parts on the theatre of the world; both command our attention, and both excite our feelings and our sympathies. The spirit of freedom is abroad on the face of the earth.

"The spark's awakened-lo!
The swarthy Spaniard feels his former glow;
The same high spirit which beat back the Moor
Through eight long ages of alternate gore,
Revives—and where? in that avenging clime
Where Spain was once synonymous with crime,
Where Cortes and Pizarro's banner flew;
The infant world redeems her name of "new."
'Tis the old aspiration breathed afresh,
To kindle souls within degraded flesh,
Such as repulsed the Persian from the shore
Where Greece was—Not she still is Greece once more;
One common cause, makes myriad of one breast,
Slaves of the East, or Helots of the West;
On Andes and on Athos peaks unfurled,
The self same standard streams o'er either world;
The Athenian wears again Harmodius sword;
The Chili chief abjures his foreign lord;
The Spartan knows himself once more a Greek;
Young Freedom plumes the crest of each Cacique."
Byron's *Age of Bronze*.

But shall this spark be extinguished? Shall these favored nation's, of whom the poet has so beautifully sung, be the only lands where its sacred influence shall extend? Europe is shrouded in darkness, but there, too, it shall be kindled, and shine bright and pure. The seat of learning, of the arts and sciences, is not destined always to remain in political degradation. Our own land was the pioneer to oppressed nations in the glorious march to Freedom. No sooner had we shown what men engaged in a just and holy cause could effect, than thousands and tens of thousands prepared to follow. The southern continent rose in their might, and established free governments upon the ruins of tyranny.—Greece burst her chains asunder, and now stands "regenerated and disenthralled," if not redeemed. The wide rolling Atlantic could not prevent the spread of the principles for which we fought, and which we successfully maintained. The crowned heads of Europe beheld with astonishment, the murmurings of their subjects and the discontent which they manifested.—But their power was too much extended, their thrones too well secured to be easily shaken, and we soon saw the people who had dared to raise their voices in defence of their rights, put down and trampled upon by their haughty masters. Still all is not hopeless: the PEOPLE will prevail—they will ultimately triumph.

These remarks are perhaps not inappropriate to the subject which we are about to contemplate. When we would speak of Liberty, of oppressed man, of suffering virtue, and of the hope which we entertain, that the spirit of freedom may extend throughout the world, we cannot refrain from referring to the glorious example which South America has given, and which Greece is offering every day and every hour.

Europe has been our instructor in the arts and in the embellishments of life; but America is now repaying the debt, by offering her in return, that which alone can make life agreeable and happy. Recent circumstances have called to the throne of Portugal Don Pedro, the Emperor of Brazil. This monarch, possessed of ample territory, with a wide field for the display of his talents, and unwilling to engage in the designs and manœuvres which would necessarily ensue if he should consent to take the station to which he was called, wisely refused the vacant seat.—Surrounded, however, by nations enjoying the blessings of free government; living in a hemisphere, where man is for once allowed the privileges of his nature, he determined to make that an opportunity of conferring some real, substantial benefit upon the people of Portugal.—A *Constitutional Charter* was given. The little kingdom of Portugal, since that event, has occupied a larger share of attention than any country in Europe except Greece. We all naturally look, with anxious expectation, to observe what effect this change will have upon the people themselves and the surrounding nations.—Spain had her charter, but the band of patriots who obtained it were stigmatised as traitors, and their cause as rebellion!

"Rebellion! foul dishonouring word,
Whose wrongful blight so oft has stained
The holiest cause that tongue or sword
Of mortal ever lost or gained.
How many a spirit born to bliss,
Has sunk beneath that withering name,
Whom but a day's, an hour's success
Had wafted to eternal fame!"

We tremble, too, for the fate of any other nation who may incur the displeasure of the crowned heads of Europe. If Portugal be unmolested, if she be permitted to enjoy her rights, liberty will have gained a foothold upon the continent, which, in the end, may effect great blessings.—The Constitution may not guarantee to the people the full enjoyment of freedom; it may not and does not make Portugal what we would wish it to be,—yet still, it reforms the state; it breaks up the old landmarks of tyranny; it shows to the people that their king is willing to treat them as men; it expresses the wish of the sovereign to govern according to justice: in short it is an innovation upon the established order of things. And this is what every patriot wishes. But once alter the form of government, the people will begin to think and act for themselves.—They will then see their old grievances, be prepared to investigate the new, and, finally, will reform or abolish as they may think proper.—Already the influence of this change has extended. We are told that the Spanish patriots pass over into Portugal singing patriotic airs: that the whole country is getting restless. Indeed, how can it be otherwise? With such an exam-

ple before their eyes, can they, will they remain sunk in the present condition?

Portugal, to the eye of the philanthropist, is full of interests. There he may hope the first impulse is to be given to the spirit which may revive and animate all Europe.—At least he may there hope to see the condition of his fellow creatures amended by the introduction of a reasonable form of government. The result is with him who reigneth above. But we remember that "the battle is not alone to the strong; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave;" and if our persecuted brethren in Europe have but these qualities, they will come off conquerors.

From the *North American Review*.

ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.
"Our venerable fathers, in framing the Constitution of the United States, reversed the principles upon which military establishments had been founded for ages. They acted upon the conviction that the power of declaring war, and of creating the means of defence and offence, those high attributes of sovereignty, upon the due exercise of which depend the welfare, and often the existence of nations, should reside with those who have the deepest interest at stake, and who are the least likely to abuse it. Accordingly, they placed it in the hands of the Representatives of the People, that so the military force of the country, instead of being the creature of an arbitrary and irresponsible will, should be the offspring of the same popular and deliberate legislation, which originates every other measure connected with the general good.

Jealousy of military power has ever been a practical feeling in this country. Its influence was felt by the colonies, and was among the exciting causes of the Revolution; and it required all the difficulties, and even occasional desperation of the struggle, to restrain it from embarrassing all the measures of the war. The Continental Congress, it is true, standing on high and central ground, and comprehending the full responsibility of the cause it was directing, often gave signal proofs of an elevation above all narrow prejudices, when the fate of that cause was in jeopardy; and once or twice confided to General Washington an almost dictatorial power.

The war of the Revolution ended in 1783.—In April, 1785, the military establishment of the United States was fixed at one regiment of infantry, and two companies of artillery, or about 800 men. Thus the nation, two years after a protracted and exasperated struggle with one of the most powerful kingdoms of Europe, while most important relations were still unsettled, and with a host of unquiet and formidable neighbors upon its interior frontiers, whose excited spirits could not subside into peace, like those of more civilized nations at the bidding of a treaty, stood nearly divested of every means of organized defence.—While we recognize a strong cause of this abandonment of self-protection in the exhausted condition of the country, we may likewise discern it in that cautious policy, pushed somewhat to an extreme, which regarded soldiers as useless, and even dangerous, when not required for immediate service.

About two years after this period, the military establishment was augmented by 700 men, and remained thus until 1790, when, under the new constitution, it was fixed at one regiment of infantry, and one battalion of artillery, embracing 1216 men. The President was at the same time authorized to call into service such militia for the defence of the frontiers, as he might deem necessary. In 1791 the establishment was again increased by the addition of another regiment of infantry, and the President was empowered to raise 2000 levies, as they were termed, in lieu of the militia he had before been authorized to call out. In 1792, the infantry was still further augmented by three additional regiments, one of which was so organized, as to embrace a squadron of four troops of light dragoons. In 1794, eight hundred men were added to the artillery, which was thenceforward to be styled the Corps of Artillerists & Engineers. These several additions to the establishment fixed in 1790, formed a force of about 6000. They who are familiar with the history of those times, will recollect, that it was a period of constant and increasing hostility with the Indians, who, as we have before remarked, did not bury the tomahawk, at the general pacification which terminated the Revolution.—Our frontiers were drenched with the blood of our unprotected settlers. General Washington, then President, at each Session of Congress reiterated his strong and eloquent representations of these barbarities, and urged the necessity of investing the Executive with power to protect the defenceless, and chastise the aggressors.—But a distrustful and improvident policy, which seemed to perceive no danger so great as that which might arise from placing an army at the disposal of the Executive, dealt out the means of defence with such a sparing hand, that it was not until one or two abortive campaigns, and two or three defeats, marked with unprecedented carnage, showed the irresistible necessity of more liberal and vigorous measures, that the President was enabled to bring the war to a successful close. But it was not from the Indians alone that we at that time had danger to apprehend.

Our sea board was not secure from insult; and the angry recrimination which then marked our negotiations with Great Britain, whose Navies governed the ocean, admonished us that we were too vulnerable on that frontier. The President was accordingly directed, by the act of March, 1794, to fortify the principal ports on the coast. Twenty different points were indicated by the act, among which, it appears, 350 pieces of ordnance were to be distributed. The President was, about the same time, directed to establish three or four arsenals, with magazines and armories connected with them.

In May, 1796, the military establishment was again fixed, embracing the corps of Artillerists and Engineers, two companies of light dragoons, and four regiments of infantry, or about 3,000 men. This establishment continued the same throughout the remainder of General Washington's administration. Mr. Adams came to the Presidency amidst the growling troubles with France, and his administration was marked, from its commencement to the termination of these troubles, with frequent and extensive augmentations of the military force. The a-

larm of the nation was doubtless great; and the confidence of Congress in the Executive appears to have been in proportion. It was a striking conversion from the chary & mistrustful policy of 1792 and 1793, when an enemy covering our very thresholds with slaughter, could induce only tardy and scanty measures of defence, to the confiding liberality of this period, when, in order to resist an enemy not yet openly declared, and separated from us by the Atlantic, the nerve and strength of the nation were placed at the disposal of the Executive.

In April, 1798, an additional regiment of artillerists and engineers was raised; and in the following month the President was invested with power to raise, during the recess of Congress, 10,000 men, for the term of three years, and to accept of any company or companies of volunteers which might be offered for service. The latter clause would appear to have conferred a power commensurate with the force of the entire militia, provided a spirit of volunteering had prevailed to that extent. About one year after this, the President was conditionally authorized, in the language of the act, "to organize and cause to be raised" an additional military force, to consist of 24 regiments of infantry, one regiment & one battalion of riflemen, a battalion of artillerists and engineers, and three regiments of cavalry. The same act limited the number of volunteers, which could be accepted by the President, under the indefinite act of 1798, to 75,000. The amount of force, including regulars and militia, which the several foregoing acts empowered President Adams to raise, under certain exigencies, supposed, no doubt, to exist, considerably exceeded 100,000 men.

The difficulties with France were adjusted in 1800, when this formidable army was reduced to four regiments of infantry, two regiments of artillerists and engineers, and two troops of light dragoons. Again, in 1802, under the pacific auspices with which Mr. Jefferson had begun his administration, the military establishment was still further diminished, being fixed at one regiment of artillerists, two regiments of infantry, and a corps of Engineers, or about 3000 men. By the same act, the engineers, being formed into a separate corps, were stationed at West Point, and made to constitute a Military Academy, thus laying the foundation of that excellent institution, which is now flourishing with so much credit and usefulness to the country. We shall not now pause to indulge our selves in such remarks as this allusion to its origin might naturally suggest.

No change was made in the force of the military establishment from 1802, till nearly the close of Mr. Jefferson's administration. In April, 1808, our disputes with Great Britain having become aggravated by several incidents, which particularly affected the interest and honor of the country, an additional military force was authorized, to consist of five regiments of infantry, one regiment of light artillery, and one regiment of light dragoons, augmenting the establishment already on foot by about six thousand. The act creating this augmentation, contained a clause, which required that every officer appointed under it, should "be a citizen of the United States, or," as it adds, with superfluous precision, "one of the territories thereof." Previously to this time, many foreigners had been introduced into our service, some of whom, it is believed, had not even taken the oath of allegiance. The recruiting under this act was suspended about a year afterward, in consequence, probably, of the arrangement with Mr. Erskine, the British minister, and was not renewed, although this arrangement was soon disavowed and annulled, until within about six months before the declaration of war. Shortly after this renewal, early in 1812, Congress passed an act, authorizing an additional military force of 25,000 men, to consist of ten regiments of infantry, two regiments of artillery, and one regiment of light dragoons. In the beginning of 1816, twenty additional regiments of infantry, or 20,000 men, were authorized, and in the beginning of 1814, three additional regiments of riflemen. No further augmentations were made to the regular force during the war.

It would appear from the foregoing acts, that the nominal regular force on foot, during the war of 1812 was between 60,000 and 70,000;—It is not probable, however, that the establishment ever approximated to an efficient fulness. The recruiting service held out powerful inducements to enlist, the bounties having been enlarged, until the recruit, besides his monthly pay of eight dollars, was offered fifty dollars when enlisted, an additional fifty when mustered, and twenty-four dollars and 320 acres of land at the expiration of his term of service; and we believe there was no want of men; but the pressing exigencies of the war, transferring the raw soldier immediately from the rendezvous to the scene of action, left no time for the operation of that preliminary discipline, which gives cohesion and permanency to a body of men. Hence battalions, which marched from the rendezvous complete as to numbers, before they reached the frontiers were often reduced to meagre detachments.

Peace was ratified with Great Britain in February, 1815; and among the subjects which first engaged the attention of Congress, was that of reducing the army to the proper standard of peace. Accordingly, on the third of March following, the military establishment was fixed at 10,000 men. Again, in 1821, it was still further reduced, being diminished to 6000, which is the number on foot at the present time.

Such is a brief sketch of a legislation, which has affected the numerical force of our army, from the commencement of our Government.—It is a dry statement, but it suggests some interesting reflections. The manner in which the country threw off its armor, at the close of the Revolution, and stood among the nations of the earth, probably a solitary instance, without any organized means of defence; although it bore the semblance of a high degree of self-confidence and moral energy, yet was doubtless more the result of a weak and exhausted Government, and of a deep rooted aversion to military establishments in time of peace, than of any sound calculations of economy, or just notions of national defence. The wisdom of that enlightened period could not have been deluded by a belief that the causes of hostility among States had ceased to operate upon earth, or that the mere reputation of having struggled, however nobly, for independence, would be a

sufficient panoply of strength. We soon had abundant proofs that we were liable to collisions and injuries. But it required time and experience to correct that tendency to extreme prejudices of the revolution. Perhaps a more imposing array of national defence might not have averted the troubles which gathered about us; but we may be allowed to suppose, that manifestations of greater vigour, and an attitude more likely to command respect, would in some degree have restrained that spirit of insult and aggression, which visited us with wrongs from the close of the Revolution down to the late war."

* There are now in the United States two national armories and eleven national arsenals.—The armories are at Springfield, Massachusetts, and at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. The arsenals are at Watertown, Massachusetts; Watervliet and Rome, New-York; Baltimore, Maryland; Washington, District of Columbia; Richmond, Virginia; Augusta, Georgia; Frankford and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Detroit, Michigan Territory. Arms and accoutrements are manufactured at the two armories, 79,259 of the former having been made in the course of the last three years. Accoutrements, gun carriages, &c. are made at many of the arsenals, while some of them are used merely as depots. There are no public foundries for ordnance, the supply being obtained, by contracts, from private foundries, of which there are a sufficient number in the United States to answer all demands. Lead is obtained in ample quantities from the public mines.

† The inversion of phraseology here exhibited is one among the many proofs which might be selected to show the great looseness of the language used in our military legislation.

Extract a letter from a gentleman in New-York to the Editor of the Boston Courier.

New-York, Oct. 8, 1826.—While Mr. Noah has borne testimony to the general correctness of my correspondence as far as he is concerned, I was a little surprised to observe the peculiar exception taken to my account of the report respecting Adams & Clinton, which has been bubbling on the surface of political society in New-York. The understanding between Adams and Clinton I never asserted as a fact. By the strange logic of our New-York Major, he has taken it for granted that I made the assertion as a matter of fact, and then commented upon it accordingly. This reminds me of his reasoning when you yourself asked him some pertinent question respecting his attempt to cast a stain upon the political character of Mr. Webster. There is no way of replying to the political Major, but that of carrying the belligerent interrogations home to himself. How will he be able to answer the questions that I am able to put to him? Before I state them, however, it may be well to say a few words as an appendix to my last political disclosure.

Within the last fortnight the coteries of politicians question whether Clinton will not join his fortunes to General Jackson rather than to Mr. Adams. Mr. Clinton has a number of friends in both parties. His supporters in the state are half federalists, and half democrats.—The first wish him to support Adams; the last, Jackson. This will serve as a key to the article of Major Noah on one of my last letters.—He is opposed to Clinton's compact with Adams, because he has little to expect from the re-election of the latter. Clinton himself is doubtful and keeps aloof. He is in a political quandary about the next presidency. I understand that Van Buren has joined his lot with the Herkimer governor, Mr. Rochester. If such is the case, both the republican and federal parties of our state will be divided on the subject of the next presidential election. Mr. Clinton will try to carry as many democrats with him as possible, and unite them with the federalists to support General Jackson; that is to say, if he has completed his arrangement with the Tennessee, or has given up all expectations himself, for I believe he himself has some hope of being one of the presidential candidates.—On the other hand, Van Buren will hold a great number of democrats in his hand, and go with them to the support of the general government, if he has made up his conflicting mind to that course.

These things, you will observe, are partly facts and partly speculations. Men of truth and tact will know what importance to attach to them. Let me therefore pass to a character of whom I can speak certain things, and put certain queries with confidence—even Major Noah of the *Enquirer*. He questioned you about Mr. Webster; he can have no objections therefore to a few inquiries put kindly to himself. In the fall of 1825, did Major Noah, of New-York, make overtures to a friend of the general administration, that he would support Mr. Adams if such and such an office were properly disposed of? Did he not offer his political services through the columns of his paper, if a certain valuable office should be awarded to him? Let your friend answer these questions.—If he makes a good reply, I have a few more in keeping. Let me be understood, however, on the nature of political overtures. No astute politician ever offers his services barefacedly. There is a polite mode of joining equivocal acts. For instance, suppose a friend of Mr. Clay or Mr. Adams should be in any newspaper office; suppose he asks the editor why he opposes Mr. Adams before he has shown himself deserving of opposition. Then the editor can reply with a smile on his countenance—"if Mr. Adams wants my support, he has such and such an office in his disposal." When the hint is not taken by the general administration, then the editor has sufficient reason to oppose those persons who audaciously refused his offers, with all his wit, all his acumen, and all his logic.—Mr. Noah, I dare say, will understand all these things better than I can describe them. In the mean time there is damnable whisper abroad that he has been denounced by his own party. On the evening before the Herkimer convention, there was a caucus held for the consideration of matters and things in general. Among these matters and things, was a motion to ascertain the real political sentiments of Noah on the subject of Clinton. The motion was overruled however upon the express understanding that "it did not matter a rush to the republican party what the Major thought or did." So far will satisfy Mr. Noah.