

which greatly endangered it, and supposed to have sustained a loss in killed and wounded fully equal to that of the Reindeer. The Wasp's bow is composed of solid oak, which proved impenetrable to the Reindeer's shot: but she had 2 guns dismounted. On the following day it became necessary to destroy the Reindeer. 48 hours after the action, the Wasp met with a Portuguese brig, the Corea de Li-boa, on board which she placed Lieut. Chamber, Mr. Jones, master, Mr. Mitchell master's mate, and Mr. Segge, boat-swain and 18 men, all of who are badly wounded, (who arrived at Plymouth on Tuesday evening) and have been sent to the Royal Hospital with the Reindeer's surgeon to attend them.—Capt. Blakely behaved handsomely to the British—but it is much to be lamented that he should have degraded himself by firing language, swan-shot and other unfair species of missile instruments. [What, then are rockets?] The Wasp had taken 6 vessels, the last of which was the Orange Boven, worth 30,000l. She has in all probability proceeded for America, where she was launched only 7 months since. The Pheasant sloop of war, Capt. Palmer, sailed in quest of her on Friday. The Scylla brig sloop of war has also sailed on the same errand. [Both rated 18 guns.] The Reindeer was built in 1804.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9.

The Public Buildings having been mostly destroyed, the various offices are locating themselves in those private houses which are most commodious and conveniently situated for the purpose. The President will occupy Col. Taylor's large house, which was lately occupied by the French Minister. The Department of State occupies the house lately inhabited by Judge Duvall; the Treasury Department is fixed at a House formerly occupied by the British minister Foster; the War Office is in the building adjoining the Bank of the Metropolis. The Navy Office in Mr. Mechlin's House near the West Market, and the General Post Office in one of Mr. Way's new houses, &c. &c.

The Boston Centinel is in an error in stating that the Major PINCKNEY, who was wounded at the battle of Bladensburg, is a son of General Pinckney of S. Carolina, and late aid to Gen. Dearborn. The gentleman wounded on the occasion is WILLIAM PINCKNEY, Esq. late American Minister to the Court of St. James, and since Attorney General of the United States. He commands a battalion of Riflemen. He was severely wounded in the arm, but not taken prisoner. This gentleman observed, we learn, the day before the engagement, that he had theoretically, and would now practically shew the British, his opinion relative to the questions in dispute between the two countries. *Balt. Pat.*

Baltimore, Sept. 4.

INVASION OF THE WEST.

Our most important post on the U. Mississippi has fallen into the hands of the invaders. The British Col. McCay, with 200 regulars and Michigan Fencibles and 200 Indians, invested the Fort at Prairie du Chien on the 17th July. After a siege and cannonade of two days, terms of capitulation were agreed to, and the garrison surrendered on the 20th having 5 wounded. CONDITIONS:—The garrison to be protected from the Indians; have their private property; and an escort to a point (Rock River) beyond the reach of the Savages; not to serve till exchanged. The fortress being attacked by the British army, on the land, their boats on the river, and the people of the village, was under the necessity of surrendering for want of supplies, as was a judgement of a council of war. Lieut. Perkins commandant, Capt. G. Kennerly, aid to Governor Clark, and J. Kennerly.—The garrison had no surgeon to dress the wounded, and are on their way down to St. Louis. Prairie du Chien is at the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers, 500 miles above the Ohio, and about west from Detroit and Niagara.

Extract of a letter from a respectable House

CHRONICLE.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1811.

FOR THE CHRONICLE.

When men who hold a distinguished rank in society, upon whom the community relies for its protection, and for the preservation of decency and moral order; and who are in some measure, the guardians of the public safety and of individual rights, so far forget themselves as to trample upon the first principles of freedom, and to exert what power they possess for the suppression of the dearest of all privileges—that privilege, for which our fathers fought and bled, the privilege of thought and of speech—it becomes all who regard the true interest of their country, and the real freedom of man, to stigmatise with the most marked disapprobation proceedings so repugnant to the true spirit of the constitution and laws of this country. If we understand any thing of that spirit, it guarantees to every man the privilege of speaking his opinions freely on every subject. If this be not the privilege for which we contended in the revolutionary war, what did we contend for? Was it to free ourselves from British tyrants to subject ourselves to domestic ones? If so, confess, I think the exchange hardly worth the blood and treasure it cost. Americans call themselves free; they disdain the thoughts of subjection to any tyrant, foreign or domestic. It is their peculiar boast, that under government every man enjoys the possible portion of his natural rights, which is consistent with the necessary restraints of society. In this happy country, treason does not consist in words or in looks; nor is a man to be condemned to infamy, "who believes a little more or a little less than the government standard." But where is our boasted liberty, if a man who belongs to the minor party (for parties must and will exist where there is any liberty; they are the necessary concomitants of freedom,) is to suffer violence and outrage for using his constitutional privilege of speaking his opinions?

These remarks have been excited by a circumstance which took place a short time ago, at a near Sparta in this state, and which it is hoped for the honor of our country, and for the credit of genuine republicanism, has few or no examples.

When the disastrous intelligence of the capture of the City of Washington reached this place, (Sparta) a student of the academy then indignant at this national disgrace; and probably believing it had proceeded from a want of proper energy and attention on the part of the government, expressed his wish, that Mr. Madison had been involved in the ruins of the Capitol. The other members of the school formed a combination for the purpose of ducking him who had dared thus freely to express his indignation and his opinion. The inferior teachers, finding themselves unable to suppress the conspiracy, communicated it to the principal: he with that regard to decency and moral order which characterises every good teacher and every good man, threatened severe punishment against any who should be concerned in executing the disorderly and criminal purposes for which the combination had been formed.

In this state of things, Col. CHAMBERS, who I am informed, holds a respectable rank in society, and has honorably served his country in the field of arms, collected a band of men, marched to the school house, and told the principal of the school, if he did not desist from every attempt to suppress the illegal and violent proceedings of the students, he should himself be subject to the same indignities, which they had denounced against their compatriot, adding, that he supposed the treasonable sentiments had been derived from him the teacher. The youth with the spirit and magnanimity of a freeman, stepped forth and declared, that he had not derived his sentiments from his instructor, but that his political opinions were his own, and were such as he was not ashamed to avow and defend.

The political opinions of this young man are probably erroneous, and his expression of them no doubt intemperate; but what real friend his country is prepared to say, that every erroneous opinion and every harsh expression with regard to public measures and public men shall be punished by lawless outrage and violence? Did not the Colonel forget that he was a patriot, while he was endeavoring to suppress a privilege which is the boast and glory of his country? Did he not forget that he was a republican, when he was attempting to stifle the very first principle of republicanism? Did he not forget the character of a soldier and the dignity of an officer, when he led an armed band against an unarmed individual? Did