plification of it, is all its end and aim.

It never was intended that it should become a political engine, to aid any sect or party; it has no more to do with politics as such, than it has with religion; it respects the correct principles of both, but meddles with neither. It is founded on patriotism of the purest kind; it proposes to defend this its own country, and while its efforts are directed to draw forth all the energy of the nation, its object is to procure, preserve and perpetuate peace.

Scientia in bello pax—This is its motto, and the seal displays the maxim. There we see Minerva causing an olive branch to start from the ground, by the touch of her spear; the goddess of Science, in full armour, produces peace, by the very lance with which she is prepared for battle.

The wars of conquest the society disclaims; the contests of ambition it despises: Firm to one object, it has paid no attention to the shades of difference in political opinions, and takes into its bosom, the well-meaning patriots of all parties; relying firmly, that whosoever may administer the government, we shall all be true to the principles of the constitution and support the authorities it has created; whenever the time shall come which may call forth our exertions, we shall break to pieces the shackles of prejudice, and unite in one common cause!

The U. States, having become a nation, within the memory of many of us, it naturally follows, that institutions, which are independent of foreign control, must have a recent origin. Many have risen in our country from very minute causes; the accidental meetings of a few men of talents," a few hints perhaps, from some persons present at these meetings, have given rise to most of the societies for the promotion of useful knowledge, of agriculture, of commerce, of the arts and sciences, in almost every quarter of our extensive country. It is hoped, therefore, that this offspring of the corps of Engineers, itself but just emerging from infancy, will be viewed with complacency by all who consider that the importance of the end ought to justify the well intentioned temerity of the means: An acorn, planted by a child, may become the pride of the forest.

It must be self evident to the reflecting mind, in taking a retrospect of the origin, cause, and various events of our revolution, that there exists in our our country a very considerable mass of military science, derived by many still living, from hardy experience in the field. By others from tradition, now locked up in the stores of memory, which they have received from their sires; who have "fought their battles o'er again," for the instruction of their children. And much may lie buried in the dusty files of neglected cabinets. By others in fine, who since the termination of our struggles for independence, have travelled over Europe, and collected rich treasures, from personal intercourse with the great characters of the age, or by free access to extensive military deposits. While existing in this scattered state, our country cannot derive advantage from the improvement of her sons. Individuals might possess genius and talents, & be proficient in architecture, sculpture and painting; but, without edifices, without statues, without the exhibition of the breathing canvass—the genius would expire, the talents would be lost, and the art would be buried with the artist. It is thus in military science—without plans, without models, without the detail of all existing causes and effects, military experience is confined within the limits of human life; and every successor has to learn in the same dear school, in which he can arrive at proficiency only, when his vigour is exhausted. To arrest these ravages of time, to collect into one mass all the military knowledge now dispersed, in order to give it out again, as the exigencies of our country may require, for the purposes of universal instruction, are the primary objects of the plan; and form the motives for attempting a permanent establishment.

The theories of Europe are undoubtedly the basis of a military education. But, the practice of our own warriors in our own country, the experience and observation of men, who have had local circumstances in view, are far more essential. With this knowledge we shall be able, in case of invasion, to renew the scenes of Saratoga and York.

It will naturally occur, that although the title of the society expressly designates it as a military one, yet, the same title connects it with every branch of physics. Science is in its own nature so diffuse, that it is almost impossible to designate any dividing lines. Astronomy, geography, and mathematics, run into each other at every step. Chymistry and minerology are inseparable. The laws of motion, mechanics, and projectiles are also interwoven, and in some way or other (although the extreme points may be distant) the gradations become insensible. Military science embraces all these branches, it therefore has as good a claim to the title of philosophical as any other, and considering the end in view *(peace)* the term is doubtless appropriate.

It would be tedious, and to this audience, absolutely useless to go into farther detail, to establish a position which displays its own demonstration.

After the plan of the society was formed, it was submitted to the President of the United States, requesting him to become its patron. The request was readily granted in terms of great complacency, and in a manner highly gratifying to the feelings of its projectors. Although this can only be considered binding on any future President, as far as relates to a decorous regard to his predecessor and the public utility resulting from our association; yet there can be no doubt of its being continued to us as long as we shall, by our labors, continue to merit the public attention. A constitution was formed, but as in similar cases, it was impossible to foresee the operation of all its parts. When it came to be put in practice, some of its conditions, although of very trifling import as to principle, became extremely inconvenient; one of these conditions was, the restricting the meetings to a place, where only a few members could attend; and it is owing to this amendment to the third section of the fourth chapter, that I am enabled to meet you at this time. This constitution has been sent with a circular letter to all the members; and it will be understood that the approbation of this meeting is tacitly expressed, unless some member shall, before we separate, make any remarks to the contrary, in which case a vote will be taken. Having a few copies of the constitution here, they are laid before you. In one of the bye-laws it was enacted, that in case a member did not accept his election in four calender months, it was understood that he had declined—but this was found to operate very injuriously: For in some instances the notification failed, in others, the answers did not get to hand; and most of the members who did not answer, were unacquainted with the necessity of doing so. As the notices did not specify any such condition. This bye-law, therefore, has been repealed, and members are not limited to time; though it is certainly a reasonable expectation that an answer should be given. The members who have accepted are many, and in doing so, there have been expressions of great satisfaction on the occasion. Even the few who have declined, have done it in terms of high approbation of the measure, politely acknowledging the intended honor, and the reasons for declining have been of an individual nature, under circumstances altogether personal to themselves. To this, however, there have been two exceptions—both from men who have filled dignified stations, and equally distinguished for their high characters, and public services. The first declined for reasons which were so exclusively political, that they were considered irrelevant to the objects of this society, and of course, need not be noticed. The second declined for more appropriate reasons, which are best expressed in the words of the writer himself. "I can (says he) entertain no "doubt of the importance of improving "and extending military knowledge in "the United States; but to that end I "think other means than those embraced by the plan of your institution "requisite. Enough of theory may be "found in books accessible to every "military man, or if (for want of adequate funds) a library of the best "books on the subject be not now attainable by the officers; provision "ought to be made by law. This library may be lodged where the collections by the society are proposed "to be deposited. The *one* and the "*great thing* needful is the application "of rules in the *practical* instruction of "a *competent number* of our citizens "who are inclined to devote themselves to the military life, in *all* the "branches of the military art. By "their instrumentality, military knowledge might be speedily diffused "throughout the army, whenever the "situation of the United States shall "make the raising of one indispensable, "or expedient."

These sentiments indeed display to us how useful a member this gentleman might have been. He states to us what ought to replace this institution, by stating the very objects it aims at—"A military library where the collections of the society are to be deposited."—"Application of rule to practical instruction," and "the diffusion "of knowledge through an army:" All these are embraced in the plan But he goes on—"Should Congress refuse to make such a provision, individual efforts will be of little avail." To this opinion we ought not to subscribe; what would become of every species of individual zeal, if we were to declare at the threshold that it would be unavailing? Let us adopt a contrary opinion, and say that individual zeal *must* prevail, and that as long as we live the ill success of its efforts shall never be imputed to *our* neglect? The very objects here pointed out will be attained, our society will become a corporate body, it will be established in the capital of the Union, and its self-evident usefulness, will supersede the necessity of all reasoning upon the subject; combined with and taking under its paternal care the military academy, already established by law, it will afford the most useful lessons to our young military students, and both the establishments will flourish together, under the eyes of the collected wisdom of our nation.

No society can exist without funds: for however small its expences may be, they should be equally borne. In 1806, a contribution of five dollars per annum, was imposed upon each member, payable at any time within the first six months of every year, and at whatever time of the year an election is made, the contribution for that year becomes due. A sum so trifling, cannot, it is presumed, be thought burdensome; and when, at a future day, the society shall have a surplus stock, premiums may be offered for such models and other works of genius as may deserve the encouragement, either of a pecuniary reward, or the honorable testimony of a medal; and important military publications will be purchased to enrich its library, which at present consists only of donations. All views of amassing wealth for any other purpose, are too mean and unworthy to admit a supposition that the society can ever be suspected of them. It has began with the greater sum, owing to the necessary expences at the outset, and the small number of contributors. This tax will decrease in proportion as the members grow numerous; it cannot increase, and may be reduced to a very trifle.

The society has paid all expences hitherto, and the treasurer has at this time upwards of two hundred and seventy dollars in hand: but the society stands engaged to pay about fifty dollars for some models of arms now making, and four hundred to the engraver of the diploma, which when finished will be deposited in the hands of the treasurer, Mr. Popham, in New York, of which, notice will be given, that each member may apply for his own. In this place, it may not be improper to give an account of the drawing for this object, with which the society has been favored, by Mr. Louis Simond of New York, one of its members. At the superior part is a representation of the city of Syracuse, and on an advanced tower Archimedes is seen, with a large concave mirror, collecting and reflecting the rays of the sun on the fleet of Marcellus, some of which are retiring in confusion, while others are enveloped in flame. Around the picture, we perceive a collection of ancient military insignia, and in the foreground are some of the more modern and pondrous implements of war, interspersed with various philosophical instruments in appropriate positions. This is intended as a representation of the first member of our motto: Science in War—the latter member, being the consequence or result of the former one, is represented by emblems of peace: The implements of husbandry on one side, and those of fishery on the other, are displayed in pendant festoons; and at the foot is an eliptical medallion, containing a rural view, under a mild and cheering sky; with one man ploughing, and another sowing in a field. Either of which may be understood to represent the alternate husbandman and warrior, so often cited as the model for a military chief, in the act of cultivating his "little farm." In the body of the plate is a blank certificate in elegant script, to be filled with the name of the member elected.

When the original projectors had formed the plan, it was a matter of serious consideration, how to designate characters for members. It was at first thought proper to select bodies of men generally, such as officers of the army and navy, legislators, and men in dignified stations. But it occurred, that by choosing in that collective manner, no compliment would be paid to the genius or talents of any individual; and therefore, what was designed to be an honor, might not be felt as such. It was of course determined to make some selections individually, not with a view of filling the society, but to extend the right of proposing candidates, and nominations were made by each of the founders, according as their personal knowledge or the general public estimation of characters directed, without any previous knowledge of their disposition to associate with them, and without any attempt at exclusive choice. As the society has increased, this mode of selection consequently increases with it, every member having a right of nominating who he pleases, and it is hoped and expected that it will be exercised.

But, as the dignity of the institution requires (now that it has taken so respectable a consistency) that what is intended an honorable tribute of respect, should be so considered by the receiver, it will be prudent in each proposing member, to have some good reason to believe, that the candidate he proposes should not only have the requisite qualities for an useful associate, but be of a disposition to aid as far as may be in his power, the laudable views of the society.

It is hoped that no man whose pretensions to such an association indisputably result from station or character, will suppose himself to have been purposely omitted. It would have been presumptuous in the projectors to have monopolised the right of nomination by at once choosing all whom they esteemed worthy.

Having thus laid before you the motives by which the founders of this society have been influenced, and the measures that have been taken to give it a form and consistence, with a slight expression of its views in attempting a permanent establishment, I shall proceed to give an account of its progress and present state. But my memory intrudes a melancholy reflection; and forces me into a sorrowful digression.

Young as the society is, it has lived long enough to see three of its distinguished members snatched from it by the hand of death!—Paterson! The enlightened and virtuous patriot—the profound impartial judge—the unassuming and useful citizen—the amiable friend and social companion, is numbered with the dead!——Preble! The pride of our navy—the hero of Tripoli—he who silenced barbarian batteries, is himself entombed in awful silence! Bissil! A veteran indeed—who, after sharing in our revolution, continued in the army till the close of the last year closed his efficient services—in arms, to the last moment of his life, he died, uniformly supporting the character of a brave and honest soldier! But although dead, they shall live in the memory of this society—they will stand upon its records; and notwithstanding the mournful monosyllable shall be written against their names, posterity will see with complacency, and the members of this society will remark with pride, that such distinguished patriots continue to adorn the list of their associates.

It is natural for most men to hope that their good deeds will not be forgotten; and we may be allowed to feel some satisfaction in the reflection that our names will live in the annals of this institution. If this be a weakness, it is a laudable one. Because it tends to excite an useful emulation.

At the close of the last year, a circular communication was made to the then existing members; stating, in a summary way, all its transactions to that period. In my circular letter, accompanying that communication, I took the liberty of observing, that it cannot be too often nor too strongly reiterated, that as much as our government is opposed to a standing army, so much ought we to preserve and make perfect the means of organising a "temporary one." We place our great national defence, in case of a contest that should require a very vigorous effort, on the militia of our country. Be it so. But, ought not our citizens to be instructed? Ought they not to have disseminated among them as far as it is practicable, every principle of discipline, tactics and martial regulation? Ought they not to know what has been formerly done in the like cases, in order to know what is worthy of imitation, and what might be avoided. Of what avail is individual courage, individual patriotism, and individual talents if the combination fails! It is not elegant parade, expert exercise on *chosen* fields, nor a general knowledge of arms that makes the soldier. It is discipline, it is subordination, it is confidence in each other, and a certainty that all will stand to the end of the contest, whatever may be the perils or the privations it occasions. It is in short, individualizing a body of troops, so that its head can direct the operations of its parts, as effectually as the mind can direct the operations of the natural body, and command the functions of all its members.

Our warriors of former days have performed many brilliant exploits; but they may have met with insurmountable obstacles. Our infant navy has performed the feats of manhood—but no naval character will say that mistakes have not been committed. The knowledge of both, that have accrued by land and sea, would now be useful. A good pilot thinks himself but half instructed if he only knows a safe channel; he ought to know where the rocks and quicksands lie, in case he should be driven out of it.

I remember in the year '74 hearing a noble Lord in the House of Peers exclaim, "What signifies the Americans having an army—they have neither discipline nor military knowledge, and cannot withstand British veterans?" The battle of Lexington, which soon followed, may have proved the former part of the assertion; but it shewed also what courage inspired by patriotism can do. The victory of that memorable day, however, was but a spark produced by sudden collision, and no good statesman, nor any experienced general would rely on such a state of things for a long and steady resistance.

On the continent of Europe we find not only the historical traces of every campaign most carefully preserved, but all the motions of the troops, all the positions taken, all the changes of the face of the country, whether by change of circumstances or change of place—detailed plans in short of every battle are fully delineated, and the engravings are lodged among the military archives of the nation. But with us, what have we? We have rapid sketches of the public events of a civil and military nature crouded together, in biographical and political histories, in such a manner as to render a separation impossible, with any degree of intelligence on the subject; in a few instances indeed, these are accompanied by maps or plans, and are attempts at delineation by an historian who writes at the distance of many years, for readers not interested in the military manoeuvres by which this battle was won, or the errors by which that was lost. If we had regular plans of all the battles that have been fought in America, if we had topographical maps of the different passes, the open country, the defiles, the plains, the ravines, the creeks, all the advantages & obstacles upon a large scale--we should know the points to which our enemy should be decoyed, and the manner of attacking him to certain advantage. But above all, we want the notes, the remarks, the hints, the plans, and all the ideas that were made or expressed at the time, either written or verbal, by the great characters that may have gone before us, or may still live. What makes the want of these particulars the more necessary, is, the unfavorable impression and discouraging conclusions that have been drawn from former failures, which if all the circumstances were known, might serve to establish a very opposite maxim.

We have heard it a thousand times repeated, that batteries cannot annoy ships; because in the early part of our revolution, the temporary works on North River, bearing that denomination, have been passed with impunity.

All we know at this day is the naked fact, which, without the attendant circumstances, ought no more to influence the judgment than ancient failures of an attempt to fly, should prejudice us against the art of aerostation. But another naked fact of an opposite nature is well known, and the vestige of it is still existing in the Delaware. But it will be said that local circumstances were also different. This is the very point in question; what were these local circumstances? What were the causes of immediate failure in one instance, and firm resistance in the other? If the living characters who directed these operations, and have acquired a just tribute of fame, would deposit all the details of them in this society, many useful hints might be given and applied to works now to be undertaken.

I beg leave to close this subject with a remark: That although enthusiasm upon most occasions tends much to lessen the weight of an opinion, and the soundness of the judgment is generally measured by the considerate coolness of the expression; yet, when important machines are to be put in motion by small and minute means, the elasticity of the spring has sometimes an effect, which neither the strength of the cord nor the power of the weight could produce. The spring in this instance I acknowledge to be weak, but if the parts of the machine should sustain harmonious motion, it may eventually realise enthusiastic expectations, and reward zealous and faithful endeavors for the public good.

United States, District of Columbia, county of Washington, to wit.

IN CHANCERY, 9th OCTOBER, 1807.

Benjamin Stoddert and John Mason,
versus
Thomas Waters Griffith, John R. Livingston, Jonathan Burrell, Gabault & Dodrey, James C. Montflorence, I. I. Picaud and James Davidson.

THE bill states that the defendant, Thomas Waters Griffith was the agent of the house of Taney and Simmond for the delivery of a cargo of flour belonging to the said Taney and Simmond to the French government. That the French government not being able to pay ready money for the said cargo, the balance due thereon from the said government was placed to the credit of the said Griffith, the agent, instead of being placed to the credit of the real owners Taney and Simmond. That the debt so due hath been liquidated under the Louisiana Convention in the said Griffith's name, for the sum of one hundred and ninety thousand, two hundred and seventy francs, French money of the value of 35,675 dollars. That the said Thomas Waters Griffith, now residing and for several years past having resided in Baltimore city in the state of Maryland, well knowing all the circumstances mentioned in the complainants said bill, and that the debt aforesaid was liquidated in his name in Paris under the Louisiana Convention was in truth and in fact a debt due to the said complainants as the trustees of Francis Lewis, Taney, and Taney and Simmond, did execute a writing transferring all the interest of said Griffith in the said debt to the said complainants as trustees aforesaid. That notwithstanding the above circumstances the said Griffith did employ James C. Montflorence of Paris to receive for his own account and use the aforesaid debt, which actually belongs to the said complainants as trustees aforesaid; and the said Montflorence did actually receive the bills o the ministers of the United States, on the Treasury of the United States in part payment of the said debt in four sets of bills drawn in favor of said Thomas Waters Griffith, and which bills have been fraudulently endorsed by the said Montflorence, with a view as the said complainants believe, to defraud them the said complainants, and under a real or pretended power from the said Griffith and as his attorney to the said I. I. Pacaud, who endorsed the same over to John R. Livingston, who has endorsed the same over to Jonathan Burrall, cashier of the Bank of Discount and Deposit at New York, who has endorsed them over to James Davidson cashier of the Branch Bank of the United States in the city of Washington who now holds the same for collection. The complainants further state that four other bills for the balance of the aforesaid claim on the French government liquidated in the name of the said Griffith, but actually belonging to said complainants as trustees as aforesaid, have been drawn in favor of Gobault and Dodrey as transferees of Thomas Waters Griffith, for thirty thousand francs French money of the value of 5625 dollars, which said four bills have also been sent to the aforesaid James Davidson, and endorsed over to him for collection in the same manner as in the case of the four other bills first herein recited. That all the aforesaid eight bills of exchange drawn by the American minister at Paris on the treasury of the United States under the Louisiana Convention for the debt liquidated in the name of Thomas Waters Griffith, are actually the property of said complainants as trustees aforesaid. The object of the said bill is to save and protect the said complainants from the fraud projected against them on the part of the said Thomas Waters Griffith, and his co-adjutors, and to obtain a writ of injunction directed to all the before-mentioned defendants, &c. and particularly to the said James Davidson enjoining and commanding him from paying over to any person besides the said complainants the money that may be paid by the Treasury of the United States in virtue of the said bills of exchange, and particularly enjoining the said James Davidson from paying the said money arising from the said bills, or parting with the said bills until the further order of this court in the premises.

It is represented by the complainants that the said Thomas W. Griffith, John R. Livingston, Jonathan Burrall, Gobault and Dodrey, James C. Montflorence, and I. I. Pacaud, defendants in this cause all reside out of the district of Columbia and are not within the reach of the process of this court. It is therefore ordered that the complainants cause a copy of this order to be inserted once each week for six months previous to the first Monday in June next in the National Intelligencer, to the intent that the said defendants may have notice of this application and of the object of this bill and to be warned to appear in this court in person or by solicitor on or before the first Monday of June next, to shew cause, if any, why a decree shall not pass as prayed.

By order, WM. BRENT, Ck.

December 4—w6m

CHARLES H. VARDEN,

MERCHANT TAYLOR,

RESPECTFULLY informs the gentlemen of the district of Columbia and public in general, that he has just received by a late arrival from Philadelphia,

A CHOICE ASSORTMENT

Of superfine Cloths, Cassimeres, single and double milled, superfine Coating, black silk Florentines. Likewise an elegant assortment of Spancelets and rich silk Moleskins for waistcoats with a variety of other articles suitable for the season.

Regimentals and Navy Uniforms made in the most elegant and uniform stile of fashion.

Richard Horwell's celebrated patent parallel SUSPENDERS far superior to any hitherto in use can be had on the same terms retail, as at his manufactory.

FOUR OR FIVE good *Journeymen* wanted, who will find constant employ.

November 27—tf