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CONCORD GAZETTE.

[MAY.]

CONCORD, NEW-HAMPSHIRE: PUBLISHED BY JESSE C. TUTTLE

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1814.

HIGHLY INTERESTING COMMUNICATION.

Coos County, Feb 18 1814

THE public sensibility is greatly excited in this quarter, in consequence of outrages recently committed on several citizens by a military company stationed at Stewartstown.---The following may be relied on as truth.

On the 10th of January last, a Mr. Bissell, was, without any precept or color of authority, arrested by a sergeant Bunker, under the orders of a Capt. Hodgdon, commanding the aforesaid company, and imprisoned in the Block-house; after confining him as long as they thought proper, he was dismissed without trial or satisfaction for the detention. On the remonstrance of a respectable citizen to the said Hodgdon against such proceedings; Hodgdon observed that he was acting under *the authority of the United States*, and that he should continue to arrest all such persons as said or did any thing disrespectful to the Army or the Law.

Since the above, a Mr. Hanson has been arrested in the same manner, and, although no charge has been exhibited against him, he remains a prisoner in the Fort.

Emboldened by the forbearance of the citizens and in pursuance of a system, which, unless speedily resisted, will render the military power paramount to the civil, this same Capt. Hodgdon on the 9th instan, ordered a young man by the name of Cooper to be seized and arrested in the store of his uncle with whom he lived in Canaan, Vermont; he was then placed under guard, and the next day taken to the aforesaid Block-house as a prisoner, where he now remains.---The uncle applied to Capt. Hodgdon to know the cause of the arrest and detention of his nephew; Hodgdon replied that he should not tell him any cause of his arrest or detention; that he had him in the Guard-house and should send him to Burlington, and would not suffer him nor any other person to see or speak with him. Some of the officers tauntingly observed that they were preparing hand cuffs and irons to confine such prisoners.

Again.---On the 14th instant, the same sergeant Bunker, arrested a person by the name of Hall, in the employ of Mr. Thomas Farnes and carried him a prisoner to the Fort, where he is still confined. On Mr. Farnes demanding Bunker's authority, he said he had no precept, that his orders were verbal from the Captain to take him dead or alive.---The above are facts which can be duly substantiated.---Measures are now taking by a civil process to liberate the persons on whom this daring outrage has been committed.

AMERICANS! Once a recital like the foregoing would have needed no comment---your jealousy did not slumber when your rights were in jeopardy.---Your sensibility was roused at the bare mention of standing armies. The insults and outrages of a British soldiery in Boston dwelt on your imagination, and animated every son of Liberty to a prompt and manly opposition against every attempt to render the civil power subordinate to the military.---The arrest of a citizen by military force was like electricity to the system, and the punishment of him by martial law swelled your hearts, and nerved your arms to resistance.

PEOPLE OF NEW-ENGLAND, Reflect seriously on the foregoing.---mark the rapid advances of a military despotism, consider that the above recited outrages have been committed by an Officer of the United States' army, having only a single company under his command.---Are you aware that every thing republican is becoming unfashionable at Washington?---That Yankee ideas of equal rights and unshackled commerce, are scouted, and that reasons against oppressive and unequal burthens are disregarded?---Do you not perceive the progress of a system, which unless immediately checked, will lay your republicanism in the dust?---you see what trespasses on your rights a single company of soldiers have dared to commit. If these things are done in the green tree, what will be done in the dry? Give the President a standing army of 63,000 men and 100,000 militia with power to appoint the officers, and then, *Go,* inquire for your liberties at the tomb of the Captives.

CITIZENS OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE Are you sensible that your divisions are greatly aiding the progress of these things? Will you not perceive the effect of party obstinacy in judging measures hostile to your civil interests.

to us, and which your consciences will condemn.---You will awake, but it may be, when to speak of your rights as a citizen, will only subject you to detraction. You cannot have forgotten the attempt made at Concord, the last year to invade your rights by an interference of the soldiery in your election of State Officers, nor the outrage committed immediately after on the persons of two of your citizens by an assumed military power.---These attempts to set at defiance your civil institutions, ought to be continually before you, to convince you of the necessity of guarding your rights with vigilance, and that you manfully resist the first attempt to seize upon your constitutional inheritance, even at the hazard of your lives.

An attempt by men enlisted into the service of the United States, to interfere in our elections, is a matter that seriously concerns every citizen, even a freeman. It is not a question having any relation to the points which divide us respecting Candidates for civil office, but on this question, all our citizens have a common interest; in opposition to military encroachments. When a citizen of any state enlists into the army, he ceases to be the inhabitant of any particular town, or citizen of any state; he has as much right to vote in New-York, as in New-Hampshire, but no right to vote any where; he has voluntarily renounced his citizenship.---no services can be required of him in the militia, nor personal tax to support the government of the state; he has no more claim to the privileges of a citizen, than a citizen has to partake of his pay and rations as a soldier. So far from a soldier's cherishing the feelings of a citizen, he soon entertains a jealousy and hostility to those in civil life, it becomes the interest of a military man to increase and perpetuate military power. Who believes that a soldier, if permitted to vote, would ever give his vote for a "peace ticket." Could the sons of liberty in Boston, have permitted the British soldiers quartered there to interfere in their elections at Faneuil Hall? Yet they were all then British subjects, both soldiers and citizens, but then no party divisions induced a portion of the community to put in jeopardy their civil institutions for the gratification of a perverse will.---the master passion was then Love of country.