

scriptions have been raised and forwarded to these unhappy sufferers; and surely the benevolent inhabitants of Lancaster will not be the last in contributing their proportion. Let it not be said, that at the seat of government of the wealthiest state in the union, the citizens were devoid of humanity."

In passing, it is interesting to note this reference to Lancaster as being "the seat of government of the wealthiest state in the union." Lancaster was the capital of Pennsylvania from 1799 to 1812.

In the Lancaster Journal of Saturday, February 5th, 1803, appeared an appeal to the inhabitants of Lancaster for assistance. It was also stated in this paper that a meeting would be held at the house of George Fisher, "for the purpose of adopting such measures as may afford assistance to the distressed sufferers by the late fire at Portsmouth."

Committees were appointed to solicit subscriptions in each of the four wards of the borough. Casper Shaffner, Jr., was appointed treasurer.

In The Intelligencer & Weekly Advertiser of Tuesday, March 29th, appeared the following:

"It gives us pleasure to state the result of the contributions in this borough to alleviate the sufferings of the unhappy people of Portsmouth. The whole sum collected on this occasion is:

"From the members of the legislature,	\$335.00
"From the citizens,	200.00
	<hr/>
	\$535.00"

## Meeting of the Citizens to Express Indignation at the Outrage Perpetrated by the British Ship Leopard

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**J**OHAN BACH McMASTER, in his admirable "History of the People of the United States," Vol. 3, p. 240, states: "Hardly was the Constitution a year old when England began the practice of dragging American citizens from the decks of American ships, and during sixteen years had carried it on in every portion of the civilized world with impunity." Side by side with the abuse of impressment, which so sorely afflicted the United States, grew up the evil of desertion, which quite as sorely afflicted Great Britain.

In June, 1807, the frigate Chesapeake, Commodore James Barron in command, sailed down the Elizabeth river, Virginia, on her way to Europe, and dropped anchor in Hampton Roads. On the morning of the 22nd, the ship weighed anchor and put out to sea. At four o'clock in the afternoon, she was attacked by the British ship Leopard. After she had been struck by twenty-one rounds of shot and suffered the loss of three men killed and eighteen wounded, Barron surrendered. It was claimed that four of the crew were British subjects and deserters. They were taken to the Leopard, which at once made sail for her anchorage within the Chesapeake capes.

The commander of the Leopard declining to receive his prize, the Chesapeake, battered and half disabled, with three feet of water in her hold and every pump working, made her way back to Hampton Roads.

Early on the morning of the 23rd, information reached Norfolk that the Chesapeake had been attacked at sea. About two in the afternoon, she was reported at anchor in the Roads, without her flag. At four, a boat, with eleven wounded sailors, reached the wharf. The whole town was in commotion and business was suspended. McMaster states: "While some of the citizens hastened home to cast ball and make cartridges, the rest met, resolved to send no supplies to any British ship, and to hold no communication with any British agent; declared they would deem any man who did, an enemy to his country; asked the collector of the port to use the revenue cutter to prevent supplies going out to the fleet; asked the mayor to urge the colonel to call out the militia; asked the pilots not to take out any British ship; voted to wear crape for ten days; and named a committee to invite the people of the seaports to join them in refusing supplies."

While this was taking place in Norfolk, elsewhere the indignation of the people found expression in mass meetings, resolutions, toasts and preparations for war.

At four o'clock on the afternoon of Friday, July 3rd, following, the citizens of the borough of Lancaster assembled for the purpose of taking into consideration the recent outrage and aggression committed on a vessel of the United States by the British ship of war Leopard. Adam Reigart, Esq., was appointed chairman, and Major John Light, secretary. James Hopkins opened the meeting with a summary account of the recent outrage. The secretary read an article that had appeared in the Norfolk Ledger, describing the event.

A committee, consisting of Matthias Barton, William Bausman, Christopher Mayer, James Humes, William Hamilton, Wil-

liam Dickson, Samuel White, Adam Reigart, Jr., James Hopkins and William Findlay, drew up the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted without a dissenting voice:

“Whereas, our rights and sovereignty, as a nation, have been deliberately invaded, our government and flag openly insulted, and our citizens murdered in cold-blooded cruelty by the commander of a British ship of war, acting under the savage mandate of a British admiral.

“And whereas, it is compatible with the genius of a free people to express the sentiments which flow from their feelings on questions of great national concern.

“Therefore, resolved, unanimously,

- “1. That, whilst we are desirous of cultivating a spirit of amity, and maintaining an honorable peace, with all nations; we are not disposed to submit to injury or insult from any.
- “2. Resolved, unanimously, That the outrage and indignity committed by the Leopard, a ship of his Britannic majesty, upon the Chesapeake, a frigate belonging to the United States, call loudly for reparation commensurate with the enormity of the offence.
- “3. Resolved, unanimously, That on a question so highly important to the honor and interest of the country, we shall consider the man who attempts to justify his wanton aggression as unworthy of our confidence.
- “4. Resolved, unanimously, That we will support the general government in every measure which may be adopted to assert our rights and avenge our wrongs: and we pledge ourselves that no sacrifice or hazard shall deter us from the pursuit of these great national objects.
- “5. Resolved, unanimously, That the manly and dignified conduct of the citizens of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Hampton, merit our warmest approbation.”

After agreeing to the foregoing, the following resolutions were proposed and adopted unanimously:

- “1. Resolved, That the committee which reported the resolutions be a committee for the purpose of corresponding with similar committees in the United States on matters connected with the present subject.
- “2. Resolved, That the chairman and secretary of this meeting transmit to the President of the United States, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania, copies of these proceedings; and that they be printed in all the newspapers in the borough.”