

Frederick-Town Herald.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1813.

War.—Yesterday was twelve months since the declaration of war—It may not perhaps be amiss to look back and see what advantages the country and the great mass of its citizens have derived from one year's war—Previous to the declaration of this most impolitic war it was very confidently asserted, both in and out of Congress, that in six months we should take the whole of Canada—That it was only necessary to hoist the American standard on the enemy's territory and their subjects would immediately rally under our banners and the whole country yield without resistance—Under this impression General Hull invaded Canada and issued the most silly proclamation ever published, General Smyth's to the "men of New-York" excepted. His fate is too well known to render it necessary to be repeated here—and instead of acquiring a country his discomfiture produced the loss of one of the territories of the Union—And although the people of Kentucky and Ohio, who were among the most zealous and clamorous in favour of the war, have spent much blood and much treasure in their attempts to regain this territory, yet it still remains under British domination—Indeed all our attempts on land until very lately have proved equally abortive altho' there has been an immense waste not only of words but of treasure also—If we except the valourous deeds of our little navy, a fragment of the Washington policy which has escaped the ruthless hands of democracy, we have acquired in the past year quite as little honour as territory.

What the cost of this year's war is we are unable precisely to state, but it is somewhere above twenty millions of dollars—That it has not cost more is only because the people of the U. States were rendered by their industry so happy and independent that they were not obliged to enlist and consequently the ranks of the 55,000 army have not been near filled—This we think rather a fortunate circumstance for the government as all the money they have been able to raise from loans, treasury notes and the usual resources of revenue has already been exhausted.

Resort is now to be had to direct taxes, not to raise funds sufficient to defray the expences of the war but merely to pay the civil list and the interest on the loans, treasury notes, &c. Next year a new loan of 25 or 30 millions of dollars must be made for carrying on the war. And every year the war continues will produce its loan, each exceeding in amount that of the preceding year.

This is a very brief and a very imperfect but certainly correct picture of our situation.—Is it not worth while then to enquire why the country is to be put to all the inconvenience and suffering we now experience, and posterity to be saddled with an enormous debt.

Wars are sometimes necessary, but it is seldom. Our revolutionary war was both just and necessary and Providence carried us successfully through it beyond all human calculation. That the present war is not of this description we are perfectly satisfied and that it was declared with other views than either the honour or advantage of the country we are equally satisfied—"The hand of Napoleon was in this thing" and did much towards producing hostilities.—It is very well known that the orders in Council were the ostensible cause of war and that these orders were repealed in the course of one week after its declaration—All reasonable men then supposed that as the orders which were said to be the great and principal cause of the war had been repealed, hostilities would cease. But this would not conform with Bonaparte's views, and this reasonable expectation was disappointed—The ground of complaint was then changed. The impressment of seamen, which had before been deemed of minor importance and only brought in with Henry's plot and the depredations of our "red brethren" to swell and give bulk to the catalogue of our wrongs, was now declared to be the cause of war.—This subject having been scrutinized by a committee of the legislature of Massachusetts, which state has more native seamen than all the other states south of the Delaware, and found to be most grossly exaggerated, the advocates of the war are again shifting their ground, and Indian barbarities are becoming the great topic of popular clamour.