

and the national library. They set fire to the edifice, which the United States had erected for the residence of their chief magistrate. And they set fire to the costly and extensive building, erected for the accommodation of the principal officers of the government, in the transaction of the public business. These magnificent monuments of the progress of the arts, which America had borrowed from her parent Europe, with all the testimonials of taste and literature which they contained, were on the memorable night of the 14th of August, consigned to the flames, while British officers of high rank and command, united with their troops in riotous carousal, by the light of the burning pile.

But the character of the incendiary had so entirely superseded the character of the soldier on this unparalleled expedition, that a great portion of the munitions of war, which had not been consumed, when the navy yard was ordered to be destroyed upon the approach of the British troops, were left untouched, and an extensive foundry of cannon, adjoining the city of Washington, was left uninjured; when, in the night of the 25th of August, the army suddenly decamped, and returning, with evident marks of precipitation and alarm, to their ships, left the interment of their dead, and the care of their wounded, to the enemy; whom they had thus injured and insulted, in violation of the laws of civilized war.

The counterpart of the scene exhibited by the British army, was next exhibited by the British navy. Soon after the midnight flight of general Ross from Washington, a squadron of British ships of war ascended on the Potomac, and reached the town of Alexandria on the 27th of August, 1814. The magistrates, presuming that the general destruction of the town was intended, asked on what terms it might be saved. The naval commander declared, that the only conditions in his power to offer, were such as required not only a surrender of all naval and ordnance stores, (public and private) but of all the shipping; and of all merchandize in the city, as well as such as had been removed since the 19th of August." The conditions, therefore, amounted to the entire plunder of Alexan-