

## WHEN WAR OF 1812 CAME TO AN END

How the News was Received in Halifax and Boston.

The treaty of peace between England and the United States was concluded at Ghent on Dec. 24, 1814. The news did not reach American in time to save the British forces from disaster at New Orleans. "Occasional," in the Halifax Recorder, gives the following historical review:—

All was now peace at Ghent, and the plenipotentiaries were shaking friendly hands, but the war was still raging with great fury in America, and the country was becoming greatly intensified. Up the Mississippi the British fleet, with great bodies of troops had passed early in December, with a view to entering the southern country and destroying the chief cities. On the 8th of January, 1815, an attack was made on the Americans, about 1,000 in number, who were entrenched near New Orleans. The British were repulsed with terrible loss, and Sir Edward Packenham, the Commanding General, was killed. In the same issue of the Recorder in which is published full details of this serious repulse of the British forces—being the official communication of General Andrew Jackson, Major-General commanding the U. S., to the Secretary of War at Washington—the first linking of the important fact that the terms of Peace had been agreed upon, was conveyed to what must then have been in Halifax a somewhat distracted community. These few lines appeared under the "Ship News" heading:

"Thursday, Feb. 23, arrived H. M. brig 'Charlybids', Capt. Clephane, from New Orleans, last from New London. The 'Charlybids' left the squadron off New London on the 18th inst. Intelligence of the treaty between Great Britain and the United States had just been received from the shore. It is said to have been signed at Ghent Dec. 24th.

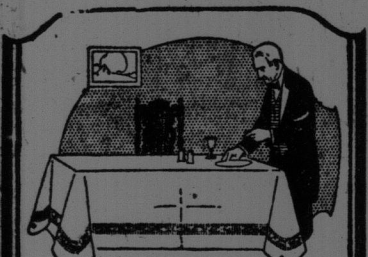
The "Charlybids" likewise brought the calamitous news that the British less near New Orleans amounted to about 1800 men killed, wounded and prisoners, and that a reinforcement of 1,000 men arrived the day after the action!

The morning following the arrival of the "Charlybids" at this port, Boston papers were received in the town announcing the mail packet "Favorite" at New York with the text of the Treaty. The editor of the Recorder had a whole day, previous to his regular issue to review the situation, and to take in fully the significance of the New Orleans disaster before giving utterance to his views on the important intelligence from Europe. He dealt with the matter in this wise:

"A natural anxiety prevails to know the conditions of Peace in the Treaty brought by the 'Favorite'. We hoped in the first instance, the demands made by the Commissioners at Ghent would have been persisted in, and on the 'Favorite's' arrival were apprehensive that too much might have been conceded, but subsequent disasters have convinced us that any peace is preferable to a blundering warfare. If our plans were judicious, which we have been deplorably bad; half the number of troops which have been sent here in dribbles, and cut up in detail, had they arrived together, or not acted until a junction was formed, would have enforced all our demands, and we should not now be lamenting the loss of British blood, and what is, if possible, worse, the loss of character as far as relates to our commanders. The Americans will exult—will boast that with troops that are a satire on soldiers, they have baffled the skill and discipline of as brave men as ever marched to the field of battle, and in proportion to their exultation must be our humiliation. Under these circumstances we cannot but wish the President may ratify the Treaty. Hitherto, we have not profited by experience, nor do we see any prospect that we ever shall."

The Americans were seemingly, none the less, regretting what a Treaty had been executed. The "Centinel," the Boston newspaper from which the news was gleaned, conveyed the facts to its readers in these words: "We have this instant received, in 32 hours from New York, the following great and glorious news:

New York, Feb. 5, 1815.  
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arrival this afternoon of His Britannic Majesty's sloop-of-war "Favorite," in which has come passenger Mr. Carroll, American Messenger, having in his possession a treaty of peace between this country and Great Britain, signed on 28th December last.

Mr. Baker also is on board, as agent for the British Government; the same who was formerly Charge des Affaires here. Mr. Carroll reached town at 6 o'clock this evening. He showed to a friend of mine, who is acquainted with him, the packet containing the Treaty, and a London newspaper of the last date of December, announcing the signing of the treaty. It depends, however, as my friend observes, upon the act of the President to suspend hostilities on this side. The gentleman left London on the 2nd of January. The "Transit" had sailed previously from a port on the Continent. This city is in a perfect state of joy, shouts, illumination, etc.

I have undertaken to send you this by express—the rider engaging to deliver it by 4 o'clock on Monday morning. The expense will be \$225. If you can collect so much to indemnify me, I will thank you to do so.

B. Russell, Esq., "Centinel" Office.  
The "Centinel" added: "We most heartily felicitate our country on this auspicious news, which may be relied on as wholly authentic."

It is wholly impossible, continued the editor of this influential Boston paper in a leading article, to do justice to the expressions of joy and gratification which sat on every countenance animated every tongue, and flowed from the heart of every man, woman and child on hearing the news about the Treaty. In a few minutes after its promulgation, all the bells announced the receipt of happy tidings, and expresses posted off to all parts to diffuse them. Business of every kind was immediately suspended, and the whole population of the town devoted itself to expressions of joy. A holiday was directed in all the schools; the stores and shops were closed; and the thronged streets—where nothing was heard but the cheering sounds of gratulations and loud huzzas—were decorated with the ensigns of all the commercial nations, and the American and British flags were seen waving together united by wreaths of olive and laurel. The forlorn ships at the wharves and docks once more displayed their colors, and yesterday the busy hum of the implements of the military, and in a very short time the Ancient and Honorable Artillery, Independent Cadets, Boston Light Infantry, Winslow Blues, Fusiliers, Washington Light Infantry and Rangers were under arms, and made a brilliant Feu De Jolie in State St. The town (Boston was called a town then) was alive with excitement, and the Artillery "made the welkin ring with their salutes."

The news of a sure prospect of Peace, thus hailed with so much ex-

## FACTS TO KEEP IN MIND.

The British Empire Exhibition will be open from April to October, 1924. The British Empire Exhibition covers an area of 216 acres. In both its educational features and amusements it will be the most comprehensive exhibition ever planned. When it opens its gates in April, 1924, there will have been spent for the instruction and amusement of its visitors a sum of at least £10,000,000.

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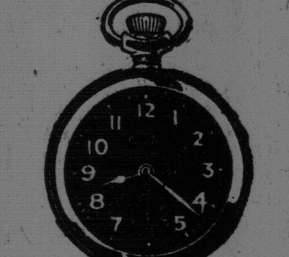
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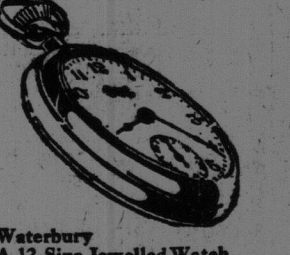
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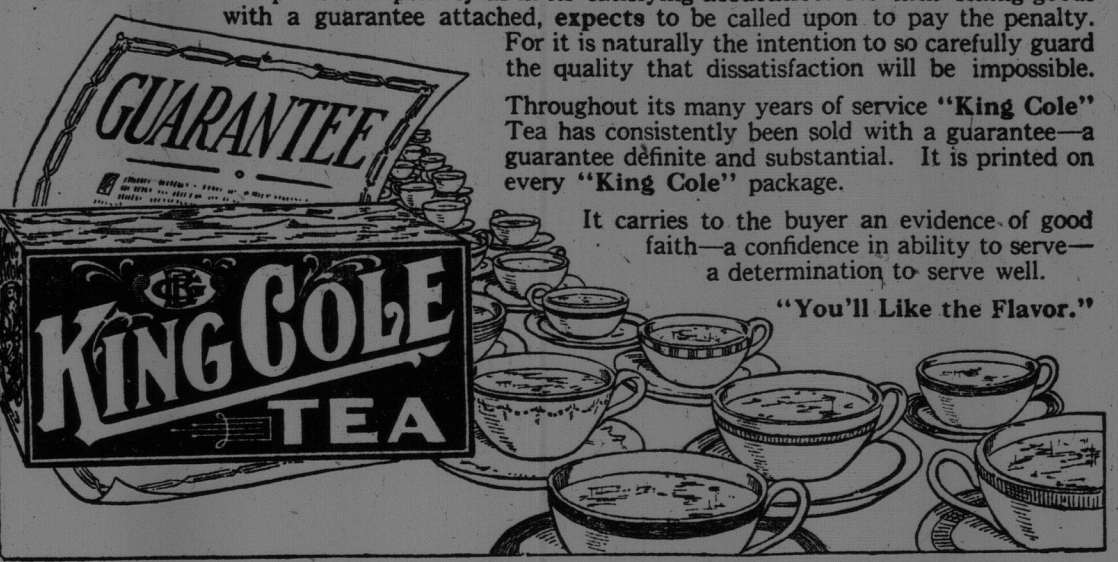
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