

be made, as the conduct of his troops was directed and sanctioned by his government.*

During the period of these transactions, the village of Lewistown, near the capes of the Delaware, inhabited chiefly by fishermen and pilots, and the village of Stonington, seated upon the shores of Connecticut, were unsuccessfully bombarded. Armed parties, led by officers of rank, landed daily from the British squadron, making predatory incursions into the open country: rifling and burning the houses and cottages of peaceable and retired families, pillaging the produce of the planter and the farmer; (their tobacco, their grain, and their cattle;) committing violence on the persons of the unprotected inhabitants; seizing upon slaves, wherever they could be found, as booty of war; and breaking open the coffins of the dead, in search of plunder, or committing robbery on the altars of a church, at Chaptico; St. Inigoes, and Tappahannock; with a sacrilegious race.

But the consummation of British outrage, yet remains to be stated, from the awful and imperishable memorial of the capital at Washington. It has been already observed, that the massacre of the American prisoners at the river Raisin, occurred in January, 1813; that throughout the same year, the desolating warfare of Great Britain, without once alledging a retaliatory excuse, made the shores of the Chesapeake, and of its tributary rivers, a general scene of ruin and distress; and that in the month of February, 1814, sir George Prevost himself, acknowledged, that the measures of retaliation, for the unauthorised burning of Newark, in December, 1813, and for all the excesses which had been imputed to the American army, was, at that time, full and complete. The United States, indeed, regarding what was due to their own character, rather than what was due to the conduct of their enemy, had forborne to authorise a just retribution; and even disdained to place the destruction of Newark to retaliate.

*See gen. Taylor's letter to sir Sidney Beckwith, dated the 5th of July, 1813; and the answer of the following day.