

dria, an unfortified and unresisting town, in order to save the buildings from destruction. The capitulation was made ; and the enemy bore away the fruits of his predatory enterprise, in triumph.

But even while this narrative is passing from the press, a new retaliatory pretext has been formed, to cover the disgrace of the scene, which was transacted at Washington. In the address of the governor in chief to the provincial parliament of Canada, on the 24th of January, 1815, it is asserted, in ambiguous language, "that, as a just retribution, the proud capitol at Washington, has experienced a similar fate to that inflicted by an American force *on the seat of government* in Upper Canada." The town of York, in Upper Canada, was taken by the American army under the command of general Dearborn, on the 27th of April, 1813,* and it was evacuated on the succeeding 1st of May ; although it was again visited for a day, by an American squadron, under the command of commodore Chauncey, on the 4th of August.† At the time of the capture, the enemy on his retreat set fire to his magazine, and the injury produced by the explosion was great and extensive ; but neither then or on the visit of commodore Chauncey, was any edifice, which had been erected for civil uses, destroyed by the authority of the military or naval commander ; and the destruction of such edifices, by any part of their force, would have been a direct violation of the positive orders which they had issued. On both occasions, indeed, the public stores of the enemy were authorised to be seized, and his public store-houses to be burnt ; but it is known that private persons, houses, and property, were left uninjured. If, therefore, sir George Prevost deems such acts inflicted on "the seat of government in Upper Canada" similar to the acts which were perpetrated at Washington, he has yet to perform the task of tracing the features of similarity ; since, at

* See the letters from general Dearborn to the secretary of war, dated the 27th and 18th of April, 1813.

† See the letter from commodore Chauncey to the secretary of the navy, dated the 4th of August, 1813.