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National Intelligencer.

A very intereſting invention has lately been made by *Mr. Greathead* of England, of a LIFE BOAT, the object of which is to ſave the lives of perſons wrecked on coaſts.

A plan and deſcription of this boat, with other papers, have been received by Mr. JEFFERSON, from Mr. William Tatham, of London, who has accompanied them by a letter from which the following is an extract.

"By encloſing to you authentic documents concerning the late ineſtimable diſcovery of the *Life Boat*, which has been introduced into full practice, in ſaving the crews of veſſels wrecked amidſt the moſt tremendous breakers of this coaſt, I acquit myſelf of a duty to my fellow-citizens and to my country. I flatter myſelf this contrivance will be found of great uſe on the Jerſey coaſt, ſuch places as the Hatteras ſhoals, &c. and I can have no doubt of its general utility in venturing out upon the lakes, where a fixed point of land, reſiſting every wind that agitates a circumſcribed ſurface of water, muſt neceſſarily raiſe the waves to a moſt awful ſurge."

Convinced that this invention will be of eminent uſe here, as it already has been in England, and that the humanity and public ſpirit of our citizens will ſeize an occaſion ſo congenial to their feelings, we ſhall firſt preſent a deſcription of the boat, and afterwards an abridgement of the report of a committee of the Britiſh houſe of commons, to whom was referred a petition of Mr. Greathead; in conſequence of the favourable complexion of which, we underſtand, an allowance of fifteen hundred pounds ſterling has been made him from the public treaſury.

Mr. Greathead, having been deſired by the committee to explain what had ſuggeſted to him the particular conſtruction of the Life Boat, ſtated that the following idea had frequently occurred to him, from which he had conceived the principle of his invention, viz. Take a ſpheroide, and divide it into quarters, each quarter is eliptical, and nearly reſembles the half of a wooden bowl, having a curvature with projecting ends; this, thrown into the ſea or broken water, cannot be upſet, or lie with the bottom upwards.

"CONSTRUCTION.

"The boat to be built from a given length. The breadth is one third of the length, with both ends alike. The keel of the boat is a plank bearing a proportional breadth in the midſhips, narrowing towards the ends to the thickneſs of the bottom of the ſtems, and forming a convex downwards. The ſtems are the ſegment of a circle with a conſiderable rake. The bottom ſection to the floor-heads is a curve with the ſweep of the keel. The floor has a ſmall riſe from the keel to the floor-head, curving. A bilge plank is worked on each ſide, next the floor-head, with a double rabbit groove, of a thickneſs nearly ſimilar to the keel, on the outſide of which are fixed two bilge-trees, correſponding nearly on a level with the keel. The ends of the bottom ſection form the part of the cable bow, more eliptical to the top, projecting conſiderably, each end the ſame. The ſides, from the floor-heads to the top of the gunwale, flaunch on each ſide in proportion to nearly half the breadth. The breadth of the boat is continued well towards the ends, leaving a ſufficient length of ſtraight ſide at the top. The ſhear is regular along the ſtraight ſide, and more elevated towards the ends. The gunwale is fixed on the outſide. The outſide is caſed with cork the whole length of the regular ſhear from the under part of the gunwale to twenty-three inches down the depth of the ſide. The cork has ſeveral thickneſſes, ſo as to project at top a little without the gunwale, and is ſecured with plates of copper. The thwarts are five in number, all ſtaunchioned, and row, double banked, with ten oars. The oars are ſhort, fixed by iron thole pins, and ſlung with grummets to enable the rowers to pull either way. The boat is ſteered by an oar, at either end; and the ſteering oar is one third longer than the rowing oar. The platform, in the bottom, is placed horizontally. The length of the midſhips, and the ſides, from the bottom to the under part of the thwarts, is caſed with cork. At the ends, the platforms are more elevated, for the convenience of the ſteerſman, and to give him a greater command of power with the oars.

"PRACTICAL REMARKS.

"The curving keel and bottom permit the boat to be turned with facility; ſhe is kept more eaſily in equilibrium than any other ſhape; is more eaſily ſteered, and ſafer among the breakers: the great rake of the ſtems, and fine enterance below, forming part of the cable bow. This conſtruction is ſuperior to all others in a high ſea and broken water; and, with the projection to the top of the gunwale, is the means, when the boat is conducted to head the ſea, of dividing the waves which generally break into a common boat. The breadth, being continued well to the ends, ſupports the boat when rowing againſt the waves. And, both ends being ſimilar, ſhe is always in a poſition to be rowed either way without turning. The addition of the ſtaunchions, under the thwarts, admit the boatmen to act with a firmer force; and, in the inſtance of the boat's ſtriking the ground, the weight of the men, by the communication of the ſtaunchions, will, in ſome degree, reſiſt the ſhock. The advantage of a ſhort oar, in a high ſea, is obvious. It is more manageable, and permits the rower to keep his ſeat; but the long oar in the midſt of agitated waves would be unwieldly, and the ſtroke frequently uncertain. The cork, on the outſide, is a moſt excellent defence; and diſplaces a large column of water. And it has been proved, by experience, to float the boat with the principal part of her bottom ſtove and looſe. The great projection of the cork, alſo, on the outſide prevents her being overturned. The beſt method of conducting the boat is to head the ſea; which, from her conſtruction, aided by the force of the oars, will launch her over the water with rapidity, without taking in any water.

"The perſon who ſteers the boat ſhould be well acquainted with the courſe of the tides, in order to take every poſſible advantage; and great care ſhould be taken, in approaching the wreck, that the boat be not damaged, as there is frequently a ſtrong reflux of the ſea near the wreck; when the wind blows to the land, the boat will return to the ſhore, before the wind and ſea, without any other effort than ſteering.

(Signed)

"HENRY GREATHEAD."

Report of the Committee.

The committee directed their enquiries to

"*First*; The utility of the Life-Boat:

"*Secondly*; the originality of the invention claimed by Mr. Greathead:

"*Thirdly*; Whether he had received any, and what remuneration."

To aſcertain theſe facts, the committee examined "*Ralph Hillery*, a ſeaman, who ſtated, that he has been 45 years at ſea, in the Greenland and coal trade, and has reſided always at Shields. And being aſked, Whether he had ſeen the Life Boat? he informed your committee, that about three years ago he was in the Northumberland Life-Boat (which was preſented to North Shields by the duke of Northumberland) the firſt time ſhe went off; ſhe went to the relief of the ſloop Edinburgh. This veſſel was ſeen to go upon the Herd Sands, about a mile and a half from ſhore; ſhe was brought to an anchor before the Life Boat got to her, and ſhe continued ſtriking the ground ſo heavily, that ſhe would not have held together ten minutes longer, had they not got to her; they made her cut her cable, and then took ſeven men out of her, and brought them on ſhore. The ſea at that time was monſtrouſly high, ſo high, that no other boat whatever could have lived in it."

(*To be Continued.*)

The Waſhington Jockey CLUB RACES.

ON the laſt Tueſday in November, a purſe of 50 GUINEAS will be run for over the Waſhington courſe, the four mile heats; the 2d day a purſe of 30 GUINEAS will be run for, the three mile heats, and the third day, a purſe of 2[illegible] GUINEAS the two mile heats; agreeable to the rules of the Waſhington Jockey club. The ſubſcribers are requeſted to pay their ſubſcriptions to Mr. M'Laughlin, and the members of the club are alſo requeſted to meet at his Tavern the evening preceding the firſt days race, on buſineſs relating to the club.

It is expected that all four wheel carriages (the Proprietors of which not being members of the Jocky Club, or ſubſcribers to the 3d days Race) will pay at the gate to the perſon appointed to receive the ſame—one dollar for admiſſion on the ground, two wheel carriages half a dollar, and Horſemen one quarter of a dollar. The practice of paying to races on rented ground, wherever a Jockey Club is eſtabliſhed is now common.

Nov. 24. ep3oN.

From his Excellency JOHN FRANCIS MERCER, Governor of Maryland,

To the GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, ANNAPOLIS, November 10, 1802.

Gentlemen,

EXECUTIVE communications to the repreſentative body are frequently indiſpenſible, and although ſanctioned by long uſage, yet as they are not expreſſly directed by our conſtitution, their form has been various with us. The following obſervations are therefore offered in a mode that has been preferred, as involving no reſponſibility but my own, and as moſt conſonant to the ſpirit of that clauſe of the conſtitution which commits to the governor alone "the exerciſe of all other executive powers of government, where the concurrence of the council is not required, according to the laws."

Your honorable body will receive herewith the cenſus of the United States, lately completed.—This inſtrument diſcloſes an augmentation of our national population in the laſt ten years, of more than 1,200,000 perſons, on an original number of ſomewhat leſs than 4 millions. So rapid an advance to power and opulence, during a period of great and almoſt general calamity to the civilized world, furniſhes a flattering and deciſive proof of the value of our political inſtitutions; but the reſult, as it reſpects this ſtate individually, has diſappointed the expectations that were raiſed, by the great and acknowledged increaſe of our commercial importance, during the ſame period; this cenſus, even as corrected, gives us only an addition of 29.966 perſons on our former number of 319,728, incluſive of the territory of Columbia, north of Potomak. The cauſes which have retarded our relative progreſs offer an intereſting object of inquiry to the legiſlature—There is indeed one important view ariſing from the document, on which I have deemed it my duty to ſubmit the obſervations contained in the encloſure No. 1. intended only for the private peruſal of the members; this object will be found ſo intimately connected with the military preparations of the ſtate, as to render the following information neceſſary, and may excuſe the latitude of obſervation with which it is accompanied.

Happily, public opinion coincides with the principles of our conſtitution, reſting our defence on a *national militia*, and no doubt ought to be entertained that proper regulations may render it competent to the purpoſe; but if theſe be neglected, and the community cannot rely on its efficacy, the firſt imminent danger may lead them to provide ſome other and more dangerous reſource; for they will never conſider their country, their conſtitution or their property their own, unleſs they can perceive ſome adequate means of defending them. A ſtate can merit little praiſe, whatever may be its conſtitution or its laws, if it neglects its military defence, for upon theſe, all other political inſtitutions muſt ultimately depend for their ſupport.

Notwithſtanding every exertion made by former executives, there has been no return yet made in the militia of Maryland, ſince its organization in 1793; after reviewing theſe various and inefficacious efforts, the executive council addreſſed a letter to each colonel, or commanding officer of a corps, in June laſt, incloſing blank returns, which they were requeſted to complete and forward. Only ſix officers had complied on the firſt of this month.

The books of the council ſhew that the militia has been arranged into 3 grand diviſions, 2 on the weſtern and 1 the eaſtern ſhore, under 3 major-generals; they compoſe 12 brigades, commanded by 12 brigadier generals, and 50 regiments, divided into 100 battalions, excluſive of 4 extra battalions. Commiſſions have alſo iſſued to 25 troops of cavalry and 5 companies of artillery.

The officers of all theſe corps are ſtill nearly complete; but we have no document to aſcertain the number of men enrolled. Was a judgment to be formed from the average numbers of the ſix returns received, the militia of Maryland might be eſtimated at 30,000 commiſſioned, non-commiſſioned officers and privates.

The exiſting diſorganization of this body cannot wholly be attributed to the neglect of the ſtate government; the militia being ſubject to the joint direction of congreſs and the ſtates, the ſtate laws on this ſubject muſt eſſentially depend on the outlines preſcribed by the general government. The preſent combined ſyſtem has been perhaps too generally and too haſtily condemned, as incapable of producing an efficient militia; and as ſuch, in a great meaſure abandoned, by the public functionaries; for we have information that cannot be diſcredited, that the northern ſtates, under theſe very laws of congreſs, aided by their own regulations, have long poſſeſſed a powerful and organized militia, conſiſting of proportionate corps of artillery, cavalry and infantry; in general uniformed, well provided with ſmall arms, and furniſhed with formidable trains of field artillery. The cauſes of this difference between them and the ſouthern ſtates, particularly Maryland (perhaps the moſt defective of them all in military preparations) merit inveſtigation.

One cauſe is the want of a due execution of the laws; for a law unexecuted, is, in effect, no law at all; another, and perhaps the original cauſe, is that the fundamental law of congreſs is better adapted to the local and moral circumſtances of the northern, than of the ſouthern ſtates; from this ſource probably originated a firſt failure in the execution, which generally augments in an arithmetical progreſſion, until the law itſelf becomes a dead letter. The places occupied by our ſlaves are filled in the northern ſtates by free perſons; their militia are therefore much more compactly ſituated, and a company or even a battalion, may aſſemble for exerciſe without trouble. Their duty from this ſource, becomes a recreation inſtead of an inconvenience. In this reſpect they reſemble the militia of our towns, where we eſtabliſhed excellent corps, even under the preſent laws. There is yet perhaps a moral difference of conſiderable influence. The deſire of pre-eminence, natural to man, is eaſily gratified in a country where the conditions of maſter and ſlave are unknown, by appointments to public office; theſe conſtitute almoſt the only diſtinction that their ſtate of ſociety will admit of; but where thoſe domeſtic relations have widely ſpread the diſtinction of rich and poor, thoſe of office are almoſt loſt in that of wealth. Many opulent maſters are too apt to deſpiſe the limited authority of equal laws; they refuſe to ſacrifice either their pride or their eaſe to the means of obtaining the ſuffrages of their fellow-citizens, and then they affect to diſregard command, if committed to thoſe whom they conſider as occupying inferior ſtations in private life; ſuch perſons generally prefer paying moderate fines to perſonal attendance at muſters, and the poorer citizens, diſguſted by a burthen apparently unequal, are frequently diſpoſed to follow their example, and become equally inobſervant. Such general principles derived from the nature of man, although ſtrongly counteracted by the wiſdom of our conſtitution, and the general patriotiſm of our citizens, have ſtill their ſilent operation; and the evils reſulting would perhaps be beſt remedied by raiſing militia fines ſo high as to render them an object even to the wealthy; no injury can well ariſe from this meaſure, as both rich and poor might avoid them, by complying with their duty, or offering a reaſonable excuſe; ſhould this be done, it might alſo be proper to authoriſe the executive to mitigate or releaſe them, in like manner as other fines; a proviſion operating in the nature of an appeal, could not fail to be ſalutary; as all judiciary proceedings, particularly thoſe of courts martial, require ſome reviſion to protect the citizens from the abuſe of power. But whether fines be raiſed or not, ſtill it may be found neceſſary to alter the preſent arrangement for their collection and appropriation; ſhameful abuſes certainly exiſt with regard to both, and theſe would probably be more eaſily detected, and more effectually remedied by rendering the ſheriffs accountable for them to the levy courts; under their direction, they would ſoon form a ſufficient county fund for the ſupply of colours, military muſic, and whatever uniforms would be found neceſſary to complete the *ſelect militia*.

It is to be apprehended that obſtacles ariſing from natural and moral cauſes will continue to obſtruct the eſtabliſhment of an efficient militia, in this ſtate on any other principle than that of a ſelect militia, a ſyſtem which the preſent laws of Congreſs fully authoriſe, and which has been already partially adopted by the ſtate. By encouraging the principle of voluntary enrolment, and reſorting to draughts only to ſupply the ultimate deficiencies; by permitting the companies to recommend their own officers as high as the grade of captain, and by granting certain indulgencies and preferences to the privates, ſome of which will be ſuggeſted; it is probable that the preſent ſelect companies, which are now apportioned by law only one to a regiment, may be ſpeedily increaſed to one for each battalion; they would then conſtitute 104 companies, which, if complete, would amount to 7000 infantry, excluſive of officers. The preſent troops of horſe ſhould be filled or the officers diſcontinued, and their number, if completed to 30, might be organized into three regiments of cavalry, 2 for the weſtern and 1 for the eaſtern ſhore; the 5 companies of artillery being alſo augmented by 5 more, might form a regiment, and theſe united corps being placed under an appropriate number of general, ſtaff and field officers, and properly armed and diſciplined, would form a body of troops ſufficiently powerful to meet any emergency to which the ſtate would probably be expoſed.

But to carry this plan into effect, it is indiſpenſable that the ſtate furniſh muſkets, bayonets, cartridge boxes and belts, for the infantry; ſwords and piſtols for the cavalry; field pieces and ſabres for the artillery. To teach men the uſe of arms, without arms, is almoſt as hopeleſs an attempt as to teach the blind the uſe and diſtinction of colors. The ſtate poſſeſſes at preſent arms and accoutrements ſufficient to equip the body of infantry propoſed, and poſſibly, by an arrangement with the government of United States an unſatisfied claim for military ſupplies furniſhed during the weſtern inſurrection, might produce ſwords and piſtols for the cavalry. Where ſoldiers have ſerved ſeven years in the ſelect militia, they might be diſcharged, with an honorary certificate of their ſervices, if merited; if then enrolled in the reſerve of the militia, they might rank as cadets, and be entitled as ſuch to promotion; they might be exempted from all future draughts and tours of actual duty except when the reſerve might be called into ſervice *en maſſe*; all perſons alſo ſerving in the ſelect militia, who ſhould be deemed unable to provide uniforms, in the opinion of the levy court, might be furniſhed from the produce of militia fines, or ſuch other funds as ſhould be appropriated by law.

A defect in the preſent militia law, providing for the arming of the ſelect companies, merits the attention of the legiſlature, as it has rendered the proviſion almoſt ineffectual; it is the clauſe which requires the officers to paſs their own bonds for the arms to be diſtributed to their companies; the officers have been unwilling to ſubject themſelves to this riſk, nor is the propriety readily perceived of rendering an officer reſponſible for the ſolvency of a private ſoldier, to whom he muſt deliver a ſtand of arms, whatever may be his opinion of his circumſtances or principles; perhaps all that could be reaſonably required of the officers, would be to take an obligation from each ſoldier, for the ſafe keeping and due return of the arms, and in the event of his diſcharge or quitting the corps, to uſe due diligence in recovering the arms or their value, or in default to become liable himſelf.

Without arms in their hands, men cannot poſſibly be diſciplined, and altho' patriotiſm may call them to the field when rouſed by impending danger, yet ſome motive, acting with more uniformity, is neceſſary to induce them to acquire and preſerve the habits of military diſcipline, without which *they may be ſacrificed, and their country not ſaved.* Many appeal to the hiſtory of our revolution to prove diſcipline unneceſſary; but thoſe who waded through it will recollect the enthuſiaſm which embodied and diſciplined our active citizens, near twelve months before the ſword was drawn; and they can never forget the cruel loſs of invaluable lives, and the gloomy train of misfortunes that purſued us until dear-bought experience taught us the principles of modern warfare. At the commencement of the revolution we were ſubordinate coloniſts, armed by deſpair; but in poſſeſſion of independence, and ſuch ample reſources, we ſhould be criminal towards our fellow-citizens, to poſterity and to mankind, were we to riſk our intereſts, our rights, our exiſtence as a people, and the principles of repreſentative government, which has here made its laſt ſtand, on the precarious dependence of ſudden and unprepared exertions. A military ſpirit ſhould at all times be encouraged; for of all virtues, military virtue is the moſt valuable to a country. Abſtracted philoſophers may lament that mankind continue to idolize thoſe as heroes who have been the butchers of the human race; yet it is becauſe they cannot ſeparate the uſe from the abuſe of thoſe qualities, without which our country, and all that it contains, falls proſtrate before the ſword of the conqueror.

A military ſpirit among the militia ſhould be foſtered by government, and in aid of patriotiſm, which acts only occaſionally, the natural pride of man and