

signed or brevetted, are to be obeyed and respected accordingly in the several offices opposite their respective names, viz. :

“ Robert Swartwout, lieutenant-colonel, commandant.

“ Alexander Denniston, William Wigton, majors.

“ James Williams, adjutant ; John Merrifield, quartermaster.

“ John Gott, paymaster ; Peter J. Van Pelt, chaplain.

“ Benjamin De Witt, surgeon ; John Barnes, surgeon's mate. \* \* \* \*

“ Lieutenant-Colonel Swartwout will report the state of the regiment to Brigadier-General [John] Armstrong [commanding the United States forces in and around the city of New York].

“ By order of the commander-in-chief,

“ DANIEL DUNSCOMB, jr.,

“ aid-de-camp, *pro tem.*”

At that time, Fort Richmond, which was occupied by the regiment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Swartwout, mounted eighty-three 32-pounders. There were also there eleven companies of New Jersey militia, comprising about three hundred men, under the command of Major Isaac Andrus.

“ The British squadron of war vessels on our coast in the neighborhood of New York, in July, 1812, consisted of the *Africa*, sixty-four guns, the *Sparta*, *Shannon*, and *Belvidere*, thirty-eight guns each, the *Æolus*, thirty-two guns. \* \* \* \* No attempt was made, however, to blockade New York city as to trading vessels any more than had been done in a manner for several years previous. \* \* \* \*

“ On the first of September there were nineteen privateers belonging to the port of New York, and eleven of them were then at sea, and, on the fifteenth of October, there had been twenty-six privateers with two hundred and twelve guns and 2,239 men from the port of New York alone. \* \* \* \*

“ Many of these privateers were not fully manned and equipped when they sailed out of [the harbor of] New York, through Hell Gate, but were fully supplied at the various ports and places along the Connecticut shore before they put out to sea.

“ Besides these there was a large number of vessels with letters of *marque*, that is, they were merchant vessels on voyages to friendly ports, but armed for their own defence in case of attack by an enemy. \* \* \* \*

“ The first British war vessel that had ever struck her flag to an American ship-of-war (so far as then known) was the *Guerriere*, Captain James R. Dacres, who surrendered to Captain Isaac Hull and the United States war frigate *Constitution*, on the nineteenth of August, at the east of Newfoundland.

“ The news of this victory was received with the greatest enthusiasm about the first of September. \* \* \* \*