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June 2 1818

A Narrative of a Tour of Observation, Made During the Summer
of 1817, by James Monroe, President of the United States.

Page 19. Philadelphia, 1818

Mr. Hemmelsberg's copy

After this ceremony, in his own name, and in the name of the corporation, the mayor cordially invited the President to a public dinner, the acceptance of which, in consequences of his previous arrangements, and from motives of public concern, he felt himself obliged to ~~forego~~ forego.

At eleven o'clock of the same day, and attended by the same officers who had conducted him to the Point, he proceeded to the examination of the armament and garrison of Fort McHenry, which had gallantly withstood the bombardment of the enemy, upwards of twenty-four hours. The batteries on that occasion, to be sure, had been opened, but the shot falling very far short of the assailants, the firing from the fort ceased, or was maintained, only at intervals, to show that the garrison had not sunk under the tremendous showers of rockets and shells, incessantly thrown into the batteries; and thus painfully situated, without the power of retaliating the attack, the brave and determined ~~men~~ soldiers endured their mortification with an unyielding spirit during the whole bombardment, which continued until seven o'clock of the morning of the fourteenth. One of the late papers of that city observes: " Had Colonel Armistead, who was then, and is now the commanding officer of the fort, been told in the year 1814, that in the year 1817, he would have witnessed on that very spot, then shaken by the exploding thunders of the enemy's fleet, the presence of the chief magistrate, congratulating him on the issue of that event, how exhilarating would then have been his sensations. "

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On entering the fort the President was received with a federal salute[#], he was escorted to Whetstone Point, where the third brigade of Maryland militia, under general Sterrett, formerly of the 5th regiment, had assembled for the purpose of being reviewed. The field was covered with people of every rank, among whom the appearance of the chief of the republic, produced general and lively satisfaction.

In the course of the afternoon the President visited the Washington Monument, at Howard Park, and the City Monument, at Washington Square, and at five o'clock he received, at his quarters, the personal salutations of the officers of general Sterrett's brigade.

The President, after experiencing these warm and patriotic attentions, departed from Baltimore at seven o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, the 4th of June, in one of the steam boats which had been chartered by the corporation for his exclusive use and accommodation, and to which he was accompanied by the municipal authorities of the city.

(Left # and after finishing his examination of its condition, out)

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