John Bull and the Baltimoreans

PERMANENT ID:
8533

CALL NUMBER:
Bb 612 Jb 217

LANGUAGE:
English

DATE:
1814

IMAGE DESCRIPTION:
Political cartoon by William Charles concerning the War of 1812. Philadelphian William Charles' political caricatures were widespread during this era and praised for their sense of rough humor. His cartoons commonly offered both praise and criticism of American military and political figures. This cartoon celebrates the American victory against the British at Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. It depicts members of the US 5th Regiment, at left, chasing off British and Scottish troops at right. One American soldier bayonets the bottom of "John Bull," an anthropomorphic bull wearing human clothes and a hat, who represents Great Britain. In the background, an American rifleman shoots from the bushes at a mounted Scottish general. Fort McHenry can be seen in the distance at left. "John Bull and the Baltimoreans" is a sequel to another cartoon by William Charles titled "John Bull and the Alexandrians." That cartoon showed John Bull dictating terms of surrender to the inhabitants of Alexandria, Virginia. In contrast, this cartoon shows the inhabitants of Baltimore, Maryland, turning the tables on the British.

FORMAT:
Etchings; Political cartoons