

Indiana Palladium.

EQUALITY OF RIGHTS IS NATURE'S PLAN—AND FOLLOWING NATURE IS THE MARCH OF MAN.—BARLOW.

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The public is an inquisitive kind of body; just hint at something singular or out of the usual course of affairs, and it is all attention, all interrogation to gather some farther particulars, on which to found new theories and opinions. A short time since we mentioned in the Palladium the probability of a political rupture, between Gov. Ray and Secretary Merrill, by which a good deal of the lava of discord and ill feeling would be thrown forth, to be analyzed by the people. This was enough—four columns of our own matter could not have set the inquiring spirit so fairly on his feet. Having done the mischief, we must needs do something to mend it, or, as others wiser have done, make it worse. To this end, as we are rather clumsy hands at telling other people's stories, we have devoted a portion of to-day's paper to the publication of all yet said on either side, except by anonymous and irresponsible writers, whose productions cannot appear in our columns. The inordinate appetite of the inquirer must submit to a little restriction, that his digestive powers may be kept in perfect order for a full enjoyment of the "feast of reason" here set before him.

FROM THE INDIANAPOLIS GAZETTE.

Messrs. Smith & Bolton—Please to insert the following in your paper and those persons who have read the three last numbers of the Gazette are requested to consider this as an answer to charges thought worthy of notice. Yours &c.
S. MERRILL.

It seems at last to have become necessary, that I should pay some attention to several publications in the Indianapolis Gazette. On my own account, I would prefer submitting in silence to anonymous accusations, I do not intend to complain at contributing my share to the amusement of others, when wit is attempted at my expense, and I shall never trust without absolute necessity ask the attention of the public to my individual concerns. A person who claims no merit but that of having done his duty and whose first object is to live honestly and peaceably in the world, when publicly assailed, may generally trust his case without much defence, for it is difficult to give, to matters, unimportant in themselves, sufficient consequence to attract examination. This would have been my course of proceeding, had the attack been directed at me alone. But an attempt has been made to implicate me with others in extensive party organization, and for purposes best known to the authors, every thing odious, in character and design, has been attributed to this supposed party.—For some weeks past, the Gazette has contained remarks in substance as follows, "The Executive of our state is the untiring friend of Internal improvement" "a party, in the state, is in systematic opposition to every measure, which looks towards improving the land we live in." "In the meridian of Indiana the conduct of such men is unpardonable." "The Governor has done more for the state, than all his predecessors together." "The Treasurer of State is supposed to be the head of one party." "He was unsuccessful in getting a Governor and Senator elected to suit his wishes." "He has the character of being the greatest party organizer in the state." "The Executive officers are divided and most interested in the elections." (in this county) "The head intriguers reside at Indianapolis."—"Nothing but the downfall of the man, whom the people delight to honor can afford peace to certain disappointed spirits." "Their every effort has been directed towards putting him down." "What good will result to the state from having a representative opposed to the Governor?"—"Where is the man whose soul glows with more ardent devotion for the state than the present Executive?" "The faction which the Treasurer of state is endeavoring to raise in the next Legislature."—"Ask Samuel Merrill and he will tell you that he is a man of no light, his dreams are frightful. He and others have fears and it is the people who disturb their quiet."

Insinuations are also made in relation

to my caucusing, my need of friends in the next Legislature, my public contracts and political principles.

These publications, if not from the pen of the Governor, as some of them are generally supposed, yet being made at the place of his residence, and continued from week to week under his inspection, must have been approved by him, for such statements would not have been made by friends against his consent. It is I think, evident from them 1st that he has concerned himself in the election in this county. 2nd that he does think it necessary, in an early part of his term of service, to talk of and contrive to strengthen his party. 3rd that for this purpose, he is attempting to shew that his cause and that of Internal Improvement are connected. 4th that he is already fearful, his services will soon be forgotten or they would not be so often trumpeted at his very door; and 5th he must feel, that his conduct in this place is not deserving approbation or it would not be admitted that "a few of the citizens who voted for him at the last election have since joined the clamor of his old enemies," nor would a caution be necessary against believing "numerous reports" or in relation to the impressions of "strangers who have visited our town."

But while the above conclusions respecting the conduct and opinions of the Governor, may be safely drawn from the publications referred to, I must take the liberty to add, that every statement or insinuation intended to be prejudicial to me is absolutely and unqualifiedly false. I have never been concerned in party organization or electioneering either for Governor or Senator, and never have attempted to influence either voter or candidate in this county for any election whatever. In fact I do not know the opinions of my nearest neighbors with whom I converse in friendly terms almost every day. Accustomed however to speak freely on all subjects with friends and acquaintances I have no doubt sometimes made remarks that I should not wish to be repeated, but I cannot be mistaken respecting my intention neither to electioneer, nor to use such language either to candidates or voters as they could take offence at.

From what I have seen of the Governor I have long believed him destitute of principle and all sense of propriety becoming a person in his situation and as I have sometimes when spoken to, on that subject, made remarks to that effect, I will give what are believed to be facts in justification.

1st He is accused of having drawn money, in repeated instances, improperly from the Treasury and when the fact was stated to him, he at first refused to refund any thing, then paid back part, but retained and still retains other money to which he knows he has no right to.

2nd. He is accused of attempting to make an advantageous bargain on his private account, by promising favors at the expense of the state.

3rd. He is accused of having stated for years his age to be such that he could not constitutionally hold the office of Governor; and yet he did not hesitate to take the oath of office.

4th. He is accused of interfering frequently with the elections of members of the Legislature, of soliciting candidates to offer and others to decline and of open electioneering for and against different persons.

5th. He is accused of the most barefaced fraud, falsehood, and oppression, making false representations respecting property he was selling, denying his debts, disputing just claims, quarrelling with magistrates and others and endeavoring to ruin persons opposed to him.

6th. He is accused of making use of his office of Commissioner, in the late treaty, to sell property of his own and charge the United States with five or six times its value. Many other charges not less disgraceful in their nature, have also been made against him, but it is very possible, that a person, guilty of so much misconduct, may still be misrepresented, for many persons would believe almost any thing of him. The last of the above charges is given on common report, uncontradicted and never within my knowledge denied; the proof respecting some of the others may not be easily procured, but enough can be established in a court of Justice, should he think proper to bring me there, to shew that opportunity alone has been wanting if he be not guilty of them all.

It may be asked, why it is, that a person guilty of such acts, should still have warm friends and zealous partizans? To this it may be answered that many persons would prefer a public officer, with

whom they could bargain for a favor as with a merchant for his merchandise. Such men will not acknowledge themselves convinced either by fact or argument. The majority of the people I presume know nothing of many of these facts, for the truth is that "his enemies" as he calls them instead of "attempting to blacken his character" would generally for the credit of the State, have concealed his conduct, if he had not forced them to publish it in self defence. Let him point to journals edited by persons who know and despise him and show one mark of a persecuting spirit. If such can be found, it has not been seen by me. But growing bolder, as he advances in crime he is throwing off all restraint, monopolizing all merit, and declares that no one is his friend, who does not approve his whole conduct. Every one is to be sacrificed, who denies his infallibility. That he has done the State service, is freely admitted. He was certainly instrumental in obtaining the donation for the Michigan Road, but is far from being entitled to the whole credit of that act. The participation of others may at some day be shewn as it existed. Whether his salary and incidental charges as Commissioner, as has been stated, amounted to \$1000, for two months service, during which he was also receiving pay as Governor, I have not the means at present to shew, but I would think that even a less sum ought to be a sufficient reward without his being allowed to trample on the rights of his fellow citizens with impunity. It is no consolation to persons abused, defrauded or oppressed that the author once benefited the state and still talks of "dying in the land that withers" and of "thinking acting and living only for his country." It might keep them silent for a while but the citizens of Indiana are not yet prepared to kiss the hand that is raised to destroy them.

It has been my ambition to pass along quietly in the world never asking nor expecting any favors but such as are due to the faithful performance of a trust, and during seven years of public service, first in the Legislature and then in the office of Treasurer, a large share of liberality has been exercised towards me. But ever since it has been known, that I was acquainted with facts prejudicial to the character of the Governor, and when bullying had been tried and was found ineffectual, threats of ruin and attempts at injury have been making. Three or more articles containing injurious insinuations were inserted in the Gazette last winter, and an attack by certain members of the Legislature followed. These were submitted to, in preference to contention. Silence has only made opponents more vindictive, the attack has again been renewed in such a manner that regard for character and friends will not permit a longer forbearance. To resist or be ruined has become necessary, and it is fortunate for truth that the time at which this publication is made admits of every opportunity of refuting its statements if they are false. To avoid no necessary responsibility to bring the contest to issue, and trust the event to substantial facts that can be shewn, has been the motive for the course here taken. No faith, nor credit, nor influence is expected from this publication alone. Whatever the Governor shall deny is not asked to be believed until it shall be fully proved. A fresh torrent of abuse will no doubt be poured upon me, but if truth has been stated all the verbiage of Billingsgate cannot change it into falsehood. I should prefer his seeking redress in a court of Law, for there evidence can be procured not liable to suspicion nor to be held back by the unwillingness which respectable persons usually have to give voluntary statements for the public.

It will naturally be asked what is the reason of the violent attack on me? and what can suddenly have made me of sufficient consequence to be called the head of a party? I can conceive no other reason than that some scape goat was necessary to bear the sins of his Excellency. There must be a cause for the acknowledged decrease of his popularity, and I have been selected to bear the odium, with what justice time will determine.

SAMUEL MERRILL.

TO SAMUEL MERRILL,

Sir,—On my return home from the eastern part of this my adopted state, I found in the columns of the Indianapolis Gazette, an unwarrantable attack made upon me over your signature. Your intention to force me into a newspaper controversy, with the view of inflicting a wound upon my reputation, requires no

other proof than the apology which you have made for pointing your *six poisoned daggers* at my breast; but sir, I defy their point. The occasion which you have selected to let your shower of calumny fall upon my name in my absence, to make impressions which could not be immediately counteracted; the deceptions, evasive and insinuating features of your premeditated and voluntary epistle, and the sly and cautious manner in which it is written, without exposing its merits, add additional testimony to my own assertion, that its author is the organ of a faction, a slanderer and a coward. Treat me as you may, traduce me as much as you please, and persecute me to the most shameful extremities, you can never drive me into acts of imprudence, excite my passions, or so far gratify your advisers as to engage me in a newspaper quarrel with a man who expects nothing from the people; and especially one who has wronged me as much as you have; thinking that your own salvation depends upon my political prostration—with a creature who possesses none of the qualities of a gentleman.

The editors of the very paper which you have chosen, to hurl your unprovoked arrows and firebrands at an unoffending public servant, leave you in no enviable situation as to truth. They tell you to your hypocritical face, that you have aimed to deceive, and written that which is not. You are charged with trying to make yourself the leader of a faction, to oppose and put down those authorities, which the voice of the citizens of Indiana has established, by all the means in your power; thus, giving fresh evidence of your hatred to republican principles. You are charged with making mischief your sport, with frequent misrepresentations of the conduct of your fellow man, and with a lack of honor—with endeavoring to rally around your standard for wicked purposes, the disappointed and disaffected spirits of the day. You are charged with extending your official patronage to business establishments, and then becoming interested in them yourself, and so directing their machinery as to suit your political and private interest. You are charged with other deeds disgraceful to your character which some other day may develop; and I charge you with writing a studied and deliberate, false and malicious libel, in the 230th number of the Indianapolis Gazette concerning myself.—Having this view of your character, and entertaining the most contemptible opinion of you as a man, allow me to repeat to you that I will not be dragged into a newspaper controversy, with a man of whom I have such bad impressions, as I have long since been constrained to form of you. I have thought fit to notice you now, not on your own account, but because you are believed to be the tool of others of more standing than yourself, who are aiming at my destruction, by means of all that is unholy and irreligious, because I have been elevated to the place I now occupy by my fellow citizens. You was one of those men, sir, who secretly opposed my election for Governor, whilst you pretended friendship to my face, and afterwards felt unwilling to submit to the decision of the majority. Now, if it be true, that you have consented to become the champion of a party, to try to put the will of a minority in the place of the will of the majority, and so trample upon the rights of the people, and have become concerned in the press here, which receives by your patronage part of its sustenance from the treasury of which you have the control, let me advise you to desist, for you must fail in your object. Every effort which you make will rebound upon yourself. The people will never consent to be cheated out of their opinions. You must not so far deceive yourself as to suppose that the people have as much confidence in you, as to receive your assertion for proof; but, that they will hold you accountable for those falsehoods which you have recently asserted. Remember, that in attempting to ruin the present incumbent of the Executive Department, and to make his character appear odious by the constant circulation of falsehoods respecting him, you are disgracing the state; and offering insults and contempts to fifteen thousand of her freemen, who solemnly voted to establish the powers that are, and which you with your coadjutors are straining every nerve to its utmost tensity to destroy. It is the office which you are attempting to bring into disrepute amongst the people, as well as the man who fills it. I shall not attempt to notice your base insinuations in detail, or assume the attitude of a controversialist with you; nor shall I induct you into a court of justice

to expose your deformity and sins; but, sir, I will arraign you as a criminal charged with malicious falsehoods before a tribunal, the impartial bar of public opinion, which has the power and the virtue, to pass that condemnatory sentence, which always awaits the thief of character.

You may hereafter write on, and charge me with every crime, from high-treason down to a petit misdemeanor, you may fret and fume until your haughty and revengeful heart bursts with its own malignity, and you will still be no notice as the felon of that which you can never restore, and the pensioned instrument of a party. Awful must be your predicament in the eyes of an offended public, when the people hear the extent of the evidence which you are challenged to adduce, in support of those charges which you have insinuated against me. Go on, serve your employers faithfully, investigate my character from my cradle to the present time and publish the result of your labours, then prepare yourself for the people's judgment.

I shall now dismiss you to fight your battles with the air.

J. BROWN RAY.

June, 30th, 1827.

TO THE PUBLIC.

In the Gazette of to day is a communication addressed to me by J. Brown Ray, to which I will give merely a passing notice for the present. I had hoped that our difficulties might have been settled before a tribunal in which the public would have regarded nothing but the decision and in which there could have been no evasion as to evidence. It seems, however, that "he will not induct me into a court of justice," but has chosen the "impartial bar of public opinion," and I shall not refuse to accept the challenge. It will be necessary for me to take some time to procure proof of the statements that have been made, for this was not attempted while it was supposed recourse might be had to a court of law. In a few weeks the public will be furnished with the facts, and my impressions are not yet changed as to their nature.

S. MERRILL.

Indianapolis, July 3, 1827.

More Superstitions.—It is said that the Physicians of Middlesex, Connecticut, have determined not to visit the sick on the Sabbath, unless on urgent cases. We would deprive every physician of his license, and the law should be so shaped, who offered such an impious apology for a dereliction of duty; and in case a man died from this wicked excuse, the physician should be punished. Can there be any thing more inhuman, uncharitable, and unchristian like than such an apology? Does not he eat on that Sabbath? And would he let a fellow creature suffer, probably die, from such neglect? "It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath day;" but probably the Middlesex physicians doubt their capacity to do good on any day. Were they to make no charge for a visit to the sick on that day they would come nearer to the mark.

Noah.

Catholic Disabilities. The subjoined is an extract from the N. Y. Statesman. "The recent change in the English Cabinet seems to indicate a more favorable result to the Claims of the Catholics, than has yet been the consequence of their untiring zeal. The disabilities of which they complain are principally these:

A Catholic Peer cannot sit and vote in the House of Peers;
Nor a Catholic Commoner in the House of Commons;
A Catholic freeholder is not entitled to vote at elections for Members;
A Catholic cannot sit in Privy Council; nor become a member of the Cabinet;
Nor can he be a judge;
Nor can he hold any office under the Crown in the spiritual courts, or courts of Chancery or common law;
He cannot be a King's Counsel, nor be chosen to any office in any of the corporations;
Nor graduate at either of the Universities, nor hold any benefice connected with them;
Nor have his marriage ceremony performed except by a Protestant Clergyman;
Nor settle any property on any Catholic school, or church, or any Catholic purpose;
Nor can he vote at a Vestry;
Or presented to a living, though appendant to his own property.

These are the chief disabilities under which the Catholics suffer, and set forth in an address adopted by the British Catholic Association, at its annual meeting in June last.

The writer might have included among the 'chief abilities,' the legal incompetency of a Catholic to hold an office higher than lieutenant in the navy or captain in the army, even though possessing the judgment and virtues of a Washington, or the energies and warlike zeal of Nelson or Napoleon."