

Indiana Palladium.

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

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POLITICAL.

FOR THE PALLADIUM.

In times of general political excitement, like the present, it is reasonable to expect that many arguments will be made use of, and assertions made, by designing and unprincipled politicians, calculated to wound the feelings and destroy the character of the greatest and best men in our country. Every day's observation verifies the truth of this assertion, to the confusion (it is hoped) of many engaged in the management of the press. But thank be to Heaven our lot has been cast in a favored land; a land of intelligence and free discussion—where the rich and poor are alike protected in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and every other object the virtuous heart can desire. Here no man is required to sacrifice his opinions at the shrine of cupidity, or expiate his obstinacy on the rack. The people are the sovereign power—the high court of impeachment—before whom, and to whose decrees, it were no mean vassalage to bow with reverence, & submit with cheerfulness. Before this tribunal, a fair, candid presentment is all that is required to insure a hearing and an impartial decision.

An important question is now pending, for decree, in this high court of Chancery, involving principles interesting to the American people; the effect of which will be to put down civil discord and unwholesome combinations against private and public character, or to perfect the ruin and prostration of every thing worth contending for in this life. The importance of the case, thus stated, demands of the American people a thorough examination of its merits through the channels of intelligence. Let no one trust his father, his brother or his neighbor, in this affair; but be "fully persuaded in his own mind," from the examination of worthy evidences, and his own observation, that the assent he is about to give is expedient and proper.

With these preliminary remarks, the writer of this article would call the attention of the reader to the case of the *Six Militia Men*, executed at Mobile in 1815; about which so many pathetic tales have been put in circulation, intended to injure the standing of General Jackson with the American people. No apology is deemed necessary for thus introducing this subject: respect for the individual, as well as the duty every one owes to his country, to defend the character of her distinguished heroes and statesmen, from the aspersions of vile detractors and unprincipled men, imperiously demand this free expression of my sentiments on this occasion.

The story of these unfortunate men, has been the theme of many newspaper strictures. Letters have been written purporting to be from the pen of Harris, one of the six men executed, and widely circulated, even in papers claiming the character of truth; while others, with a little more respect for decency, have let them pass unnoticed, making up the deficit by a plentiful abuse of the General for sanctioning the decision of the Court Martial, sentencing them to death; although that court was regularly constituted, and the prisoners tried agreeably to the rules and regulations of war. Some unblushing braggadocios, who, no doubt, "fight for those that pay best," have even had the hardihood, with these facts staring them in the face, to charge him with the murder of Harris and his associates!—How far this charge is believed by his fellow-citizens, who have not probably had an opportunity of examining it properly, I am unable to say; but feel confident, that if there are any so credulous as to believe General Jackson capable of so base an action, they cannot for a moment resist an opposite opinion, where the facts of the case are submitted to their examination. Notwithstanding the enemies of the General, have, in most instances, carried on a kind of desultory warfare—now against himself and anon against his wife—they have in the case of the *Militia Men*, been more bold, and assumed assailable positions, from which the friends of Old Hickory will undoubtedly dislodge them, or acknowledge (what Jackson has never done in the field) themselves fairly beaten on the vantage ground.

It seems absolutely necessary, in order to convict the General of any improper conduct in this business, that his assailants should prove that the militia men executed were only drafted for three months, and that they were condemned for acts committed after this time had expired. In order to sustain the first position, the law of 1795 is adduced, which limits a tour of militia duty to three

months; (the law of 1812, by which the term was extended to six months, having expired by its own limitation on the 18th of April, 1814.) Admitting, for the sake of meeting the detractors on their own ground, (which I would not otherwise do,) that the six militia men shot at Mobile were detailed into service for three months only, were they not guilty of offences previous to the expiration of this term, which would, by the articles of war, have subjected them to the punishment of death? What does Col. Pipkin, in his statement on oath, say? Why, he tells us in August or the first of September 1814 he discovered a mutinous disposition in his regiment; and that a short time previous to the 20th of September, (the termination of the first three months,) a party demolished the bake house, destroyed the oven, and did many other disorderly and mutinous acts. Col. P. further states, that on the day previous to the desertion, a large number paraded, armed, and marched towards the commissary's stores; that he ordered them to disperse, but his order was disregarded; and that they forced the guard stationed there for the protection of the stores. Now, agreeably to the 55th article of war, which says:—"Whoever belongeth to the armies of the U. States, employed in foreign parts, shall force a safe-guard, shall suffer death," these deluded beings forfeited their lives, and might have been lawfully shot without trial. But this is not all, they committed many excesses contrary to the rules and regulations of war, previous to the time contended for as being the end of their term of service. Thus, taking the accusers of the General on their own ground, they are convicted of grossly misrepresenting his conduct.

Having dislodged the enemy from his strong hold, it may be well to pursue him a little way on his retreat. It has been admitted for argument only, that the Militia men shot were detailed into service for three months. The enemies of Jackson would willingly make the people believe that this was the extent of their term of service, but have never produced a single concurring proof in support of the assertion. The law of Congress, of April 1814, gave discretionary power to the president of the United States, by which he might extend the term of militia duty to six months. At the time Harris and his companions were called into service, Jackson was acting under the instructions of Gov. Blount, of Tennessee, to whom the order from the President of the United States was of course forwarded, and who made out the order to Jackson. What the purport of Blount's order was, is not positively ascertained; but from every evidence adduced, it appears pretty certain that it was for six months. This fact is established by Col. Pipkin's certificate, and further corroborated by the deserters returning and serving out the six months, agreeably to the requisition. The order of the President, which seems so necessary for a proper understanding of this matter, has not yet been produced; and it is said cannot be found in the war office. It is confidently expected, however, that this order will shortly be found in or out of the proper department. To cut this subject short, at present, the evidence as to the extent of service is altogether in favor of Jackson, and against his opposers.

Where now are the charges of the accusers of the General, by which they had hoped to do him injury? Have they all fled before the light of truth, or is there yet one unanswered? Yes, he yet stands charged of ordering the execution of *Six Militia Men* after "the dangers which threatened our country had been beaten down, and victory smiled upon our standards; apprehension had been succeeded by confidence, and the dawning of peace had already beamed upon our land." How much truth there is in these assertions a few facts will show. The battle of New Orleans was fought on the 8th of January, the sentence of the court Martial was approved on the 22d of the same month, and Fort Boyer was taken by the British on the 11th of February following, a month after the victory. On the 20th of February news arrived at New Orleans that a treaty of peace had been signed, but it was distrusted, by Jackson, as a plan of the enemy to put him off his guard; he therefore paid no attention to it, but continued strictly to enforce all his measures of vigilance until some time after, when the treaty was officially announced. It would be an useless expenditure of time and room to pursue this subject any further at present, having beaten the enemy from every post assumed.

In concluding this number, a passing notice is deemed necessary of some remarks of the editor of the *Cumberland Md. Advocate*, which immediately followed the letter of Gen. Jackson in the 37th No. of the *Palladium*. It has always been the aim of the enemies of General Jackson, to endeavor to impress the belief upon the minds of the people, that whenever he moves or acts, he is impelled by a stern, impetuous disposition, which totally disregards the restraints of reason and propriety; and actions simple in themselves, and commendable in others, when performed by him are transformed into heinous crimes. When compelled to secede from this kind of ratiocination, from the nature of the subjects of which they are treating, it is very easy to discover how the lips revel at what the heart would have them utter. Thus we see the editor of the *Advocate* in his remarks upon Jackson's letter, like Mark Anthony, mourning over the body of Cæsar, disclaiming all intentions to injure Jackson, or wound the feelings of his friends, flatly contradicting his statements; and that too in unqualified terms. This he ostensibly does for the purpose of defending the characters of Gen. Green and Gen. Washington. Here the bigging qualities of this editor is finely displayed, in his attempt to rescue (as he would have it) the characters of these distinguished heroes, by the prostration of Jackson's. But it is a vain effort, and all to no purpose. The reputation of Washington and Green stand too high for the tongue of slander to reach, and the actions of Jackson when put in comparison with theirs will suffer nothing in the contrast. If the reader will take the trouble to examine Marshall's *Life of Washington*, Johnston's *Life of Greene*, the debates in Congress on the *Seminole War*, and Gen. Reed's letter to the editor of the *Baltimore Republican*, he will find a sufficient number of precedents and facts (if any are wanting) fully to sustain General Jackson in all he done in the case of Militia men executed; and moreover, to convict the said editor of stating that which is not. As to the credibility of these evidences, it is left with the reader to decide whether the historian, or the biographer, who wrote at the time the incidents took place, or from documents carefully examined, is to be credited in preference to the man who now writes from recollection.

One thing I would here mention, with all due difference to the memory of the distinguished patriot, that the deserters, hung by order of Gen. Green, were executed the next day after their trial; whereas the six militia men, executed at Mobile, were not shot for at least two weeks after their sentence. And yet we hear a terrible hue and cry against Jackson for not giving the poor fellows time to prepare for death! Who would, who dare charge Gen. Green with a dereliction of duty, or the want of humanity? His country had called him into action, and it was her good, and not his own private feelings he had to consult in the discharge of the high trusts reposed in him.

To conclude these remarks, which have been extended to a length not anticipated, I would observe, that for the correctness of the assertions contained therein, I shall hold myself responsible; & shall always be ready to defend them against all those who may think proper to attack them by facts and arguments—none other will be noticed.

DEARBORN.

Extracts from *Pontoppidan's Natural History of Norway*. [Selected from the Museum.

Some might be unreasonable enough to decline living in a bear's neighbourhood on these terms of form and good-breeding; to such, we have only to mention the mode in which bears treat those with whom they are on no terms of ceremony, viz. the hunter, who, if he fails in his attempt to run his knife down the bear's throat, stands but a poor chance, for, forthwith, the "bear fleas his skin off," and pulls the hair and flesh over his head, and ears, and face, and all! Would our limits permit, we might dilate much upon the sagacity of these wonderful animals, such as picking out the cow in herd, "which hath the bell round her neck; which bell he'll strike so flat with his paw, that it shall never speak or vex him again;" or, when mortally wounded, how he endeavours to rob the "hunter's man of his hide, which he knows he comes for, and therefore, lays hold of a very large stone; and, if there he a deep water near him, how he plunges himself into it;" or how, when tired with swimming, (albeit very expert in the art,) "if he sees a boat by the way, he

will go after it, if it be only to rest himself; and if he gets in he will sit in the stern, quite quiet and peaceable; to the great uneasiness, however, of the farmer, who does not care to let him in, if he can but ply his oars fast enough."

The goupe, or lynx, is the third among this country's hurtful creatures; and he, like the bear, treats his enemy, the dog, in a similar manner, "making use of his claws so effectually, that he fleas him alive." They are, moreover, very cunning in undermining sheepfolds, "where they help themselves very nobly;" it happened, however, that in one of these a "goupe was found out by a sly he-goat, who, perceiving his subterranean work, watched him narrowly, and, as soon as his head came forth, butted him, and gave such home pushes, that he laid him dead in the grave of his own making."

Foxes are so proverbially sagacious, that we shall confine ourselves to a single instance, we believe not very generally known. "When he wants to get rid of his fleas, without disturbance, he takes a bunch of moss, or straw, in his mouth, and goes backwards into the water, wading, by slow degrees, deeper and deeper; by which means, the fleas have time and can retire gradually to the dry places, at last to the parts of the neck and head, which he alone keeps above water; and, to crown the work, he gathers all his enemies into the before-mentioned bunch of straw; and then drops them in the water, well washed and cleaned. This project is so cunning that mankind could not teach him better."

Squirrels would make admirable swimmers, their skill on the waters being quite on a par with their agility on land. "On a chip or a piece of wood they'll sail across a small water, and make use of their tail for a sail; and with one foot they'll paddle, and steer themselves with the other; and thus they escape, sometimes, those that wait ashore for their landing, and find themselves mistaken, by thinking they must come with the wind." We have heard much of the astonishing instincts of beavers, but the Bishop adds one instance with which we were not before acquainted, of which he was assured by many who had been witness. When they are employed in transporting building materials, one will suffer himself to be used as a cart, while the others, like horses, take hold of him, fastening on him by the neck, and dragging him along; for this purpose, he first throws himself on his back, with his legs up, between which they lay their already fitted and prepared timber; the good will thus cannot be fully appreciated without knowing the whole; viz. that this act of devotion for the public service "always costs him a bare back, for it takes all the hair off." The truth of this we found corroborated in the course of our newspaper reading, a few mornings ago. We give it verbatim.

"At Amsterdam, in a street called the Wood Market, recently lived a man who was curious in keeping fowls. One of his hens, though in the midst of summer, had several days stopped yielding her usual produce, and yet made her usual cackling; he searched the nest, but could not find even the shell of an egg, which made him resolve to watch her closely. He accordingly, the next day, placed himself in such a situation as to be able to observe her motions minutely; when, to his great surprise, he saw her discharge her egg; but no sooner was she off the nest, than three rats made their appearance. One of them immediately laid himself on his back, whilst the others rolled the egg upon his belly, which he clasped between his legs, and held it firm; the other two laid hold of his tail, and gently dragged him out of sight. This wonderful sagacity was exhibited for several days to some curious observers."—*Globe Newspaper*.

Every tourist who has steamed his way by the coasts of Anglesey, has heard of Puffin Island and how these red-throated divers burrow and live in rabbit-holes; but we venture to say, he has never heard how they are extracted *en masse* from their lurking places, in Norway. We will, therefore, tell them, that the most approved mode is to break in a little dog, and send him into the cracks and openings in the rocks (for they prefer these to rabbit-holes in Norway,) "when he will pull out the first he can lay hold of, by the wings, where they are together in scores, sometimes one or two hundred together; and their way is, when one is laid hold of and drawn out, he bites fast hold of his next neighbour, and draws him with him; and all laying bold in the same manner, that they must all be drawn out and killed."

The Indians.—We are informed that letters have been received by a gentleman of this city, from St. Louis, dated on the 3th inst., containing information that Gen. Atkinson had left the post of Prairie du Chien with about six hundred troops, and gone to meet the Winnebago Indians, who were assembling at the portage between the Fox & Ouisconsin rivers, in considerable numbers, holding their war dances, and giving other manifestations of hostility. Strong expectations were entertained of a meeting between our troops and the restless band of savages that had congregated at that point.

Our information comes from a source that may be relied on.

Cin. Chronicle.

Enterprise.—In addition to the steam boats now upon the stocks in the ship-yards of our city, there are two Schooners building, one of 120 tons, owned by an enterprising citizen, the other of smaller dimensions and owned by some gentleman of the south. They are intended for the Coasting and West India trade. The period is not distant, we think, when a great many vessels, destined for the ocean, will be built at this place.

The enterprising Proprietors of the Cincinnati Type Foundry, have received an order from South America, for twenty Printing Presses.

We have seen a letter from a young gentleman of this city, now on board the steam boat Echo, dated at Mobile, August 5th, in which it is stated that in October the Echo would be sent to Mexico for the purpose of running on the Rio del Norte, between Martinomas and Agassos, which latter place is 300 miles and upwards from the mouth of the river. Martinomas is said to contain several thousand inhabitants, and to possess considerable commerce. The Echo was built last year at Pittsburgh, and is owned, we believe at that place.

We mention these facts for the purpose of exhibiting a few of the many evidences of the enterprise, manufactures, and extending commerce of the West. 16.

The Niagara fell.—On Saturday, the 8th inst. at 3 o'clock, the schooner Michigan made her descent over the Falls of Niagara. She was towed by a boat to the commencement of the upper rapid, and there committed to the force of the current. With great velocity she passed over the first rapid in excellent style; upon the second she struck, and after her masts had gone overboard, she was carried a wreck to the bottom of the short falls. Her timbers alone adhered until she passed the grand fall, by which she was entirely dashed to pieces.

The Michigan was decorated with several flags distributed over the deck; the one on the foretop was called CARTER BEVERLY, whose province it was to look out for breakers. There were on board one buffalo, two bears, two foxes, one raccoon, a dog, a cat, and four geese. The cat and two of the geese were taken up uninjured below the falls. The bears and the dog escaped to shore above the Cataract, free from injury. The buffalo passed down the great falls and was seen no more. The small animals were either destroyed or escaped unobserved to the shore. The number of spectators present on the occasion is stated at from 10 to 15,000. Five steam boats filled with passengers went down from Buffalo to the Falls. The number of geese on the shore and in the steam boats, was much greater than on board the Michigan, and it is thought they afforded fine picking to the wary hotel keepers and sportsmen of the neighbourhood. 16.

To the surviving Officers of the Revolution.

GENTLEMEN: Your just claim for some remuneration for half pay, as promised by Congress in 1780, and unfairly commuted in 1783 after the preliminary articles of peace were signed, the war in fact at an end, and the required service performed, was before Congress at their last session and not finally acted on. It is the advice of some Members of Congress, that they be furnished with the number of the officers on Continental Establishment, now living, and the rank they held at the peace of 1783. This is now doing in Kentucky and some other states; and it is desirable that it should be general: I therefore respectfully propose, that each report himself on or before the first of November next, to the Marshall of their respective State.

One of the Survivors.

☞ The Printers of the U. S. will be so good as to give the above an insertion.