

SPEECH

Of John Q. Adams, delivered on the last anniversary of our Independence, upon breaking ground on the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal; together with the address of Gen. Mercer, on the same occasion.

On landing from the boats, and reaching the ground (one or two hundred yards east of the line of the present canal) the procession moved around it so as to leave a hollow space, in the midst of a mass of people, in the centre of which was the spot marked out by Judge Wright, the engineer of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, for the commencement of the work. A moment's pause here occurred, while the spade, destined to commence the work, was selected by the committee of arrangements, and the spot for breaking ground was precisely denoted.

At that moment the sun shone out from behind a cloud, and, amidst a silence so intense as to chasten the animation of hope and to hallow the enthusiasm of joy, the mayor of Georgetown handed to Gen. Mercer, the president of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, the consecrated instrument, which having received, he stepped forward from the resting column, and addressed as follows the listening multitude:

Fellow citizens: There are moments, in the progress of time, which are the counters of whole ages. There are events, the monuments of which, surviving every other memorial of human existence, eternalise the nation to whose history they belong, after all other vestiges of its glory have disappeared from the globe. At such a moment have we now arrived. Such a monument we are now to found.

Turning towards the president of the United States, who stood near him, Mr. M. proceeded:

Mr. President: On a day hallowed by the fondest recollections, beneath this cheering (may we not humbly trust, auspicious) sky, surrounded by the many thousand spectators who look on us with joyous anticipation; in the presence of the representatives of the most polished nations of the old and new worlds: on a spot, where, little more than a century ago, the painted savage held his nightly orgies; at the request of the three cities of the District of Columbia, I present to the chief magistrate of the most powerful republic on earth, for the most noble purpose that was ever conceived by man, this humble instrument of rural labor, a symbol of the favorite occupation of our countrymen. May the use, to which it is about to be devoted, prove the precursor, to our beloved country, of improved agriculture, of multiplied and diversified arts, of extended commerce and navigation. Combining its social and moral influences with the principles of that happy constitution, under which you have been called to preside over the American people; may it become a safeguard of their liberty and independence, and a bond of perpetual union!

To the ardent wishes of this vast assembly, I unite my fervent prayer to that infinite and awful being without whose favor all human power is but vanity, that he will crown your labor with his blessing, and our work with immortality.

As soon as he had ended, the president of the United States, to whom Gen. Mercer had presented the spade, stepped forward, and, with an animation of manner and countenance, which showed that his whole heart was in the thing, thus addressed the assembly of his fellow citizens:

Friends and fellow citizens:

It is nearly a full century since Berkeley, bishop of Cloyne, turning towards this fair land which we now inhabit, the eyes of a prophet, closed a few lines of poetical inspiration with this memorable prediction:

"Time's noblest empire is the last:"

A prediction which, to those of us whose lot has been cast by divine Providence in these regions, contains not only a precious promise, but a solemn injunction of duty, since upon our energies, and upon those of our posterity its fulfilment will depend. For, with reference to what principle could it be, that Berkeley proclaimed this, the last, to be the noblest empire of time? It was, as he himself declares, on the transmutation of learning and the arts to America. Of learning and the arts. The four first acts—the empires of the old world, and of former ages—the Assyrian, the Persian, the Grecian, the Roman empires—were empires of conquest; dominions of man over man. The empire which his great mind, piercing into the darkness of futurity, foretold in America, was the empire of learning and the arts—the dominion of man over himself, and over physical nature—acquired by the inspirations of genius, and the toils of industry; not watered with the tears of the widow and the orphan; not cemented in the blood of human victims; founded not in discord, but in harmony—of which the only spoils are the imperfection of nature, and the victory achieved is the improvement of the condition of all. Well may this be termed nobler than the empire of conquest, in which man subdues only his fellow-men.

To the accomplishment of this prophecy the first necessary step was the acquisition of the right of self-government by the people of the British North American colonies, achieved by the Declaration of Independence, and its acknowledgment by the British nation. The second was the union of all these colonies under one general confederated government, a task more arduous than that of the preceding separation, but at last effected by the present constitution of the United States.

The third step, more arduous still than either or both the others, was that which we, fellow citizens, may now congratulate ourselves, our country, and the world of man, that it is taken. It is the adaptation of the powers, physical, moral, and intellectual, of this whole union, to the improvement of its own condition: of its moral and political condition, by wise and liberal institutions—by the cultivation of the understanding and the heart—by academies, schools, and learned institutions—by the pursuit and patronage of learning and the arts: of its physical condition, by associated labor to improve the bounties, and to supply the deficiencies of nature; to stem the torrent in its course; to level the mountain with the plain; to disarm and fetter the raging surge of the ocean. Undertakings, of which the language I now hold is no exaggerated description, have become happily familiar, not only to the conceptions, but to the enterprise, of our countrymen. That, for the commencement of which we are here assembled, is eminent among the number. The project contemplates a conquest over physical nature, such as has never yet been achieved by man. The wonders of the ancient world, the pyramids of Egypt, the Colossus of Rhodes, the temple Ephesus, the Mausoleum of Artemisia, the wall of China, sink into insignificance before it—insignificance in the mass and momentum of human labor, required for the execution—insignificance in the comparison of the purposes to be accomplished by the work when executed. It is, therefore, a pleasing contemplation to those sanguine and patriotic spirits who have so long looked with hope to the completion of this undertaking, that it unites the moral power and resources—first, of numerous individuals—secondly, of the corporate cities of Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria—thirdly, of the great and powerful states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland—and, lastly, by the subscription authorized at the recent session of congress, of the whole union.

Friends and fellow-laborers: We are informed by the holy oracles of truth, at the creation of man, male and female, the lord of the universe, their Maker, blessed them, and said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it. To subdue the earth was, therefore, one of the first duties assigned to man at his creation; and now, in his fallen condition, it remains among the most excellent of his occupations. To subdue the earth is pre-eminently the purpose of the undertaking, to the accomplishment of which the first stroke of the spade is now to be struck. That it is to be struck by this hand, I invite you to witness—[Here the stroke of the spade]—and in performing this act, I call upon you to join me in fervent supplication to Him from whom that primitive injunction came, that he would follow with his blessing this joint effort of our great community, to perform his will in the subjugation of the earth for the improvement of the condition of man. That he would make it one of his chosen instruments for the preservation, prosperity and perpetuity of our union. That he would have in his holy keeping all the workmen by whose labors it is to be completed. That their lives and their health may be precious in his sight; and that they may live to see the work of their hands contribute to the comforts and enjoyments of millions of their countrymen.

Friends and brethren: Permit me further to say, that I deem the duty, now performed at the request of the president and directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, and the corporations of the District of Columbia, one of the most fortunate incidents of my life. Though not among the functions of my official station, I esteem it as a privilege conferred upon me by my fellow-citizens of the district. Called, in the performance of my service heretofore as one of the representatives of my native commonwealth; in the senate, and now as a member of the executive department of the government, my abode has been among the inhabitants of the district longer than at any other spot upon earth. In availing myself of this occasion to return to them my thanks for the numberless acts of kindness that I have experienced at their hands, may I be allowed to assign it as a motive operating upon the heart, and superadded to my official obligations, for taking a deep interest in their welfare and prosperity. Among the prospects of futurity which we may indulge the rational hope of seeing realized by this junction of distant waters, that of the auspicious influence which I will exercise over the fortunes of every portion of this district, is one upon which my mind dwells with unequalled pleasure. It is my earnest prayer that they may not be disappointed.

It was observed that the first step towards the accomplishment of the glorious destinies of our country was the Declaration of Independence. That the second was the union of these states under our federative government. The third is irrevocably fixed by the act upon the commencement of which we are now engaged. What time more suitable for this operation could have been selected than the anniversary of our great national festival? What place more appropriate from whence to proceed, than that which bears the name of the citizen warrior who led our armies in that eventful contest to the field, and who first presided as the chief magistrate of our union? You know that, of this very undertaking, he was one of the first projectors; and if, in the world of spirits, the affections of our mortal existence still retain their sway, may we not, without presumption, imagine that he looks down with complacency and delight upon the scene before and around us?

But, while indulging a sentiment of joyous exultation, at the benefits to be derived from this labor of our friends and neighbors, let us not forget that the spirit of internal improvement is catholic and liberal. We hope and believe that its practical advantages will be extended to every individual in our union. In praying for the blessing of heaven upon our task, we ask it with equal zeal and sincerity upon every other similar work in this confederation; & particularly upon that which, on this same day, and perhaps at this very hour, is commencing from a neighboring city. It is one of the happiest characteristics in the principle of internal improvement, that the success of one great enterprise, instead of counteracting, gives assistance to the execution of another. May they increase and multiply, till, in the sublime language of inspiration, every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the crooked straight; the rough places plain. Thus shall the prediction of the bishop of Cloyne be converted from prophecy into history, and, in the virtues and fortunes of our posterity, the last shall prove the noblest empire of time.

From the N. Y. Morning Courier.

Police Office.—Mr. E. J. Roberts appeared at the office last evening to answer a complaint made against him by M. M. Noah, of the N. Y. Enquirer. It appeared, that in consequence of an article which was published a few days ago in the Enquirer, reflecting on the character of Mr. Roberts, he, to resent it, came to the determination of inflicting upon the proprietor of that paper personal chastisement. Accordingly he met him last evening about 8 o'clock going into the Park theatre in company with Mr. McGowan, and having waited for a short time until they had separated to ascend the steps, Mr. Roberts, armed with a cow-skin, approached Mr. Noah, and telling him to "defend himself," immediately struck several severe blows over the face. They struggled until they got into the corridor before the box-entrance, where they clenched, and after some wrestling, they both fell, Noah underneath.

While on the ground pummeling and scraping each other's faces, Mr. Raymond, the officer who attends the theatre, assisted by another, raised Mr. Roberts from off Mr. Noah and brought him to this office. In the struggle, Raymond, in consequence of his interference received a deep cut with the cow hide across his hand, which Mr. Roberts disclaimed any intention of inflicting. Mr. Noah made affidavit of the assault, which, indeed, must have been a pretty rough one, if we are to judge from the gash in his face.

Justice Hopson ordered Mr. Roberts to procure bail, to the amount of \$500, to appear to answer the complaint at the next session. The parties were then dismissed.

The disturbance which this difficulty occasioned outside the theatre produced, considerable alarm within. It was supposed the incendiaries were at work.

Mr. Roberts was lately a partner of M. N. Ab. [Mr. Roberts has been fined \$150, and bound over to keep the peace.]

Cavalier Courtship.—The ceremony of marriage among the Ketchicks, is performed on horseback. A girl is mounted who rides at full speed. Her lover pursues; if he overtakes her, she becomes his wife, and the marriage is consummated on the spot.

After this she returns with him to his tent. But sometimes happens that the woman does not wish to marry the person by whom she is pursued; in this case she will not suffer him to overtake her. We were assured, that no instance occurs of a Kalmuck girl being thus caught, unless she has partiality for her pursuer. If she dislikes him, she rides neck or nothing, until her pursuer's horse becomes exhausted, leaving her at liberty to return, and to be afterwards chased by some more favored admirer.

[Clarke's Travels.]

The canal boat Remittance, from Auburn, passed through Schenectady one day last week, for Albany, propelled by steam.—Bath N. Y. Adv.

FOR THE FALLADUM.

Messrs. Editors:—On perusing your paper of the 26th inst., I discovered an address to the people of Dearborn county signed Mark McCracken, in which there are several misrepresentations and gross falsehoods. After a short preamble in which we are informed the squire has "witnessed the retreat of the family of the forest changed into fertile fields," he tells us he "hesitates to approach the subject for which he has taken up his pen." But the "duty which he owes to himself, his friends and his family," prompts him to explain a subject which interests him and perhaps some others. He says "it will be recollected that Mr. Daniel Plummer has been a candidate for representative three times and has as often failed; and that I (Mark McCracken) have for three successive years given way for him to secure his election." This is not the fact—Mr. Plummer never has been a candidate three years in succession, consequently Mr. McCracken must be mistaken. In 1821 and 1822 Mr. Plummer from the urgent solicitations of his friends consented to become a candidate for the State Legislature, and but for the mischievous interference of this same squire McCracken and some of his friends would no doubt have succeeded. At this time I believe Mr. McCracken had never been thought of, as a man qualified for a representative, by any person except himself. This proves then that he could not have given way three times, (particularly three times in succession) to favor the pretensions and secure the election of Mr. Plummer. He states it was expected he would be the candidate this year. I should like to know by whom it was expected, or wished. Mr. McCracken seems particularly anxious that Manchester should be represented in the next General Assembly, and would fain make the people believe that he is the only man in it qualified for that station—that he is the only man who can possibly be brought forward with any prospect of success—stick to this Mark—"Brag is a good dog;" and I have no doubt you will prove yourself as good as any of the breed. Mr. McCracken observes that his announcement was not known at the time the delegation was appointed. This may be the fact; but if it had been known it could have made no difference, for it had long since been ascertained that he was not the choice of a majority of the people of Manchester. With regard to his willingness to give way to others, I would observe that heretofore he has never done it.

Fellow-Citizens view his conduct at the present time. A committee has been appointed to ascertain the will of the people of Manchester on this subject. This has been done as near as the nature of the case would admit, and resulted in his rejection. To these proceedings he now tells us he was opposed; but think ye he would have told us so if he had been nominated. No fellow-citizens he would have told you it was the "voice of the people expressed," and that it was your duty to obey it and vote for him. He tells us "it is in vain for Mr. Plummer to say he had no agency in bringing himself before the people." If Mr. McCracken intends by this insinuation to say that Mr. Plummer made use of any exertions to force himself upon the people as their choice, he does him injustice, for I state it as a matter of fact that Mr. Plummer did not wish to be a candidate, but consented on the condition that a majority of the citizens of Manchester would say it was their wish. This they have done so far as they have made any expression on the subject. So soon as their will was known a system of wicked and persecuting opposition was raised against Mr. Plummer which caused him to decline. Mr. McCracken knowing that the other upper townships feel under obligations to support a candidate in Manchester, will no doubt insist upon being supported by them. But fellow-citizens be not deceived: a majority of the citizens of Manchester do not wish him elected.

ELIAS MILLIKEN Jr.

The frigate Constitution. A friend has recently furnished the editors of the Boston Commercial Gazette, with the following interesting article relating to "Old Ironsides," the first ship of our navy, and revered as the pet which disproved the proclaimed invincibility of an enemy.

Frigate Constitution, commonly called "Old Ironsides."—On the 4th inst. this favorite and fortunate ship came up and anchored off the navy yard. When off India-wharf, she fired a national salute in honor of the day.

The return of this noble frigate to the place of her nativity, and on the 4th of July too, may be reckoned among the instances of good luck that has always attended her. She was launched from Hart's ship yard at the North End, in October, 1797, and is consequently nearly thirty-one years old. The severe labor that attended her birth, which was only effected at the third trial, was seized upon by the enemies of a navy as prophetic of ill luck! With how little reason, her brilliant career has fully demonstrated. We may safely challenge the annals of naval history to name the

ship that has done so much to fill the measure of her country's glory—She sailed on her first cruise, on Sunday the 22d of July, 1798, under the command of capt. Samuel Nicholson, and returned about the middle of November. This was during the brief war with the French republic.—We notice the appointment of Isaac Hull as her 4th lieutenant. In May, 1803, com. Ed. Preble was appointed to her command, and in June he sailed with the squadron for the Mediterranean, destined to act against Tripoli. To all conversant with this scene of war, it is well known the Constitution acted a conspicuous part, in fact bore the brunt of the battle. After the destruction of the Philadelphia of 44 guns, she was for a long time the only frigate on the station, and being ably seconded by the smaller vessels with the gallant Decatur, did more to humble the pride of the Barbary states, than all Christendom ever did before or since.

In short, such a variety of service and perilous adventure has never been achieved by any single vessel. She soon after returned home, where she remained unemployed, or nearly so, till the commencement of the late war with Great Britain.—This was on the 18th of June, 1812. On the 12th of July she left the Chesapeake for New York, and on the 17th discovered and was chased by a British squadron consisting of the Africa 64, and four frigates, for three days and three nights.—She escaped at last by skilful management, and arrived in Boston harbor on the 26th of July.—This was one of the most brilliant exploits of the war.—After remaining a few days in port she sailed again, and on the 19th of August fell in with, and after an engagement of thirty minutes, captured H. B. M. frigate Guerriere of 49 guns, and 302 men. After burning her, capt. Hull returned again to Boston, on the 30th August, and soon gave up the command to capt. William Bainbridge, who, with the same crew, shortly after sailed on another cruise to South America, where on the 29th of December of the same year, after an engagement of about two hours, she captured H. B. M. ship Java of 49 guns, and upwards of 400 men. This was one of the severest contests of the war. The Java was likewise burned and the Constitution returned again to Boston.

In June, 1813, capt. Charles Stewart was appointed to her command, and on the 30th of December she proceeded to sea, notwithstanding Boston was then blockaded by seven ships of war. She returned on the 4th of April, 1814, and was chased into Marblehead by two of the enemy's heavy frigates, La Nymphe and Junon. About the middle of December, 1813, she proceeded on her second cruise under capt. Stewart, and on the 28th of February, off Madeira, after an action of forty minutes, she captured H. B. M. ship Cyane of 34, and levant of 21 guns, and upwards of 300 men. The Cyane arrived safe and now forms a part of our navy; but the Levant was recaptured. The Constitution herself was chased by a squadron under sir Geo. Collier, consisting of the Leander and Newcastle of fifty guns each, and the Acasta of 44. Her usual good fortune however attended her, and she arrived safe in the United States. Peace had now been proclaimed, and she remained unemployed again we believe, with a single exception, until the cruise from which she has just returned, after an absence of more than three years, the details of which have not yet transpired.

She is now to undergo all necessary repairs, and on the first emergency will, forthwith, be ready to serve her country. About seven years since she was hove out and completely examined at the navy yard in Charlestown, when her timbers, &c. were found in remarkable good order, a fact which, after twenty-five years wear and tear and hard service, redounds not a little to the credit of the old fashioned mechanics of Boston.

In her actions with the Guerriere and Java, the Constitution mounted 54 guns, and 52 when engaged with the Cyane and Levant. Her loss in the action with the Guerriere was killed and wounded, 14; with the Java 34, and with the Cyane and Levant, 14 more—total, 62. The Guerriere's loss, killed, wounded and missing, was 103; the Java's, 161; Cyane's 33; Levant's, 39—total, 341; or in the proportion of five and a half to one. The prisoners were nearly one thousand.

Coolness.—The phlegmatic indifference of the Turkish character was strikingly apparent in a circumstance that occurred at the battle of Navarino. After the action, a wounded Turk threw himself into the sea, and, after swimming for some time, laid hold of the Alcione. The men on board perceiving that it was a man whose arm was broken, and hanging down took him on board. He made a sign that he wished to have the arm cut off. M. Martineng, the chief surgeon, complied with his desire. When the operation was over, he begged a pipe and some tobacco, and set and smoked his pipe, looking about him all the time. As soon as he had done, without saying a word, he plunged into the sea, and swam back again to his own vessel.

Nat. Intel.