

Extract from the unpublished Manuscripts of
Mr. Jefferson.

To DOCTOR WALTER JONES.

Monticello, Jan. 2d, '14.

DEAR SIR: I deplore with you the putrid state into which our newspapers have passed, and the malignity, the vulgarity, and mendacious spirit of those who write for them; and I enclose you a recent sample, the production of a New England Judge, as a proof of the abyss of degradation into which we have fallen. These orders are rapidly depraving the public taste, and lessening its relish for sound food. As vehicles of information, and a curb on our functionaries, they have rendered themselves useless, by forfeiting all title to belief. That this has, in a great degree, been produced by the violence and malignity of party spirit, I agree with you; and I have read with great pleasure the paper you enclosed me on that subject which I now return. It is, at the same time, a perfect model of the style of discussion which candor and decency should observe, of the tone which renders difference of opinion even amiable, and a succinct, correct, and dispassionate history of the origin and progress of party among us. It might be incorporated, as it stands, and without changing a word, into the history of the present epoch, and would give to posterity a fairer view of the times than they will probably derive from other sources. In reading it with great satisfaction, there was but a single passage where I wished a little more development of a very sound and catholic idea, a single intercalation to rest it solidly on true bottom. It is near the end of the first page, where you make a statement of genuine Republican maxims; saying, "that the People ought to possess as much political power as can possibly consist with the order and security of society." Instead of this I would say, "that the People, being the only safe depository of power, should exercise, in person, every function which their qualifications enable them to exercise, consistently with the order and security of society, that we now find them equal to the election of those who shall be invested with their Executive and Legislative powers, and to act themselves in the Judiciary, as judges in questions of fact; that the range of their powers ought to be enlarged," &c. This gives both the reason and exemplification of the maxim you express, "that they ought to possess as much political power," &c. I see nothing to correct either in your facts or principles.

You say, that in taking General Washington on your shoulders, to bear him harmless through the Federal Coalition, you encounter a perilous topic. I do not think so; you have given the genuine history of the course of his mind through the trying scenes in which it was engaged, and of the seductions by which it was deceived, but not depraved. I think I knew General Washington intimately and thoroughly; and were I called on to delineate his character, it should be in terms like these:

His mind was great and powerful, without being of the very first order; his penetration strong, though not so acute as that of a Newton, Bacon or Locke; and as far as he saw, no judgment was ever sounder. It was slow in operation, being little aided by invention or imagination, but sure in conclusion. Hence the common remark of his officers, of the advantage he derived from councils of war, where, bearing all suggestions, he selected whatever was best; and certainly no General ever planned his battles more judiciously. But, if deranged during the course of the action, if any member of his plan was dislocated by sudden circumstances, he was slow in re-adjustment. The consequence was that he often failed in the field, and rarely against an enemy in station, as at Boston and York. He was incapable of fear, meeting personal dangers with the calmest unconcern. Perhaps the strongest feature in his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration, was maturely weighed; refraining if he saw a doubt, but, when once decided, going through with his purpose whatever obstacle opposed. His integrity was most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known, no motives of interest or consanguinity, of friendship or hatred being able to bias his decision. He was, indeed, in every sense of the word, a wise, a good, and a great man. His temper was naturally irritable and high-toned; but reflection and resolution had obtained a firm and habitual ascendancy over it. If ever it broke its bounds, he was most tremendous in his wrath. In his expenses, he was honorable, but exact; liberal in contributions to whatever promised utility; but frowning and unyielding on all visionary projects and all unworthy calls on his charity. His heart was not warm in its affections; but he exactly calculated every man's value, and gave him a solid esteem proportioned to it. His person, you know, was fine, his stature exactly what one would wish, his deportment easy, erect, and noble; the best horseman of his age, and the most graceful figure that could be seen on horseback. Although, in the

circle of his friends, where he might be unreserved with safety, he took a free share in conversation, his colloquial talents were not above mediocrity, possessing neither copiousness of ideas nor fluency of words. In public, when called on for a sudden opinion, he was unready, short and embarrassed. Yet he wrote readily, rather diffusely, in a correct style. This he had acquired by conversation with the world: for his education was merely reading, writing and common arithmetic, to which he added surveying at a later day. His time was employed in action chiefly, reading little, and that only in agriculture and English History. His correspondence became necessarily extensive, and with journalising his agricultural proceedings, occupied most of his leisure hours within doors. On the whole his character was, in its mass, perfect, in nothing bad, in few points indifferent; and it may truly be said, that never did nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a man great, and to place him in the same constellation with whatever worthies have merited from man an everlasting remembrance. For his was the singular destiny and merit of leading the armies of his country successfully through an arduous war, for the establishment of its independence, of conducting its councils through the birth of a government, new in its forms and principles, until it had settled down in a quiet and orderly train, and of scrupulously obeying the laws through the whole of his career, civil and military, of which the history of the world furnishes no other example. How then can it be perilous for you to take such a man on your shoulders? I am satisfied the great body of Republicans think of him as I do. We were indeed dissatisfied with him on his ratification of the British Treaty, but this was short lived. We knew his honesty, the wiles with which he was encompassed, and that age had already begun to relax the firmness of his purposes: and I am convinced he is more deeply seated in the love and gratitude of the Republicans, than in the Pharisaical homage of the Federal monarchists. Fortie was no monarchist from preference of his judgment. The soundness of that gave him correct views of the rights of man, and his severe justice devoted him to them. He has often declared to me, that he considered our new Constitution as an experiment on the practicability of republican government, and with what dose of liberty man can be trusted for his own good: that he was determined the experiment should have a fair trial, and would lose the last drop of his blood in support of it. And these he repeated to me the oftener, and more pointedly, because he knew my suspicions of Col. Hamilton's views, and probably had heard the declarations which I had heard, to wit—"that the British Constitution, with its unequal representation, corruption, and other existing abuses, was the most perfect Government which had ever been established on earth, and that a reformation of these abuses would make it an impracticable Government."

I do believe that Gen. Washington had not a firm confidence in the durability of our Government. He was naturally distrustful of men, and inclined to gloomy apprehensions; and I was ever persuaded that a belief that we must at length end in something like a British Constitution had some weight in his adoption of the ceremonies of levees, birth days, pompous meetings with Congress and other forms of the same character calculated to prepare us gradually for a change which he believed possible, and so let it come on with as little shock as might be to the public mind. These are my opinions of Gen. Washington, which I would vouch at the judgment seat of God, having been formed on an acquaintance of 30 years. I served with him in the Virginia Legislature from 1769 to the Revolutionary war, and again a short time in Congress, until he left us to take command of the army. During the war, and after it, we corresponded occasionally, and in the four years of my continuance in the office of Secretary of State, our intercourse was daily, confidential and cordial. After I retired from that office great and malignant pains were taken by our Federal monarchists, and not entirely without effect, to make him view me, as a theorist holding French principles of government, which would lead infallibly to licentiousness and anarchy. And to this he listened the more easily, from my known disapprobation of the British treaty. I never saw him afterwards, or these malignant insinuations should have been dissipated before his just judgment as mists before the sun. I felt, on his death, with my countrymen, that "verily a great man hath fallen this day in Israel."

More time and recollection would enable me to add many other traits of his character; but why add them to you who know them well? and I cannot justify to myself a longer detention of your paper. Vale, propriaque tuum, me essetibi persuadeas.

TH. JEFFERSON.

The Emigrations have, this year, been fewer to the British Colonies and more to the United States than last year.

Russia and Turkey.—The "postscript" published in our last number, giving an account of several battles between the Turks and the Russians, proves to have been a hoax played off by some wag to astound the London stock exchange—for with a few changes of dates and names, it is a mere copy of an old official bulletin of a series of engagements between the Russians and Turks in former wars.

On the 15th May the porte received the declaration of war by Russia, and on the following day the news of the passage of the Pruth. Commissioners of the divan publicly announced the declaration of war in the market-places and the mosques. At the same time an ordinance was issued for a general arming, strictly enjoining all the Mussulmans to unite for the defence of their religion and their country, and to go to the residence of the chiefs of the several quarters to receive arms. It is by these measures that the porte has answered the declaration of Russia, and it is preparing to support the contest. At the same time it has made the European ministers acquainted with its resolution, requesting them to inform their respective courts that it was going to try the fortune of arms in defence of its incontestible rights, and that it would rather perish than suffer laws to be dictated to it as long as it had arms in its hands.

To the general surprise, the tranquillity of the capital has not been interrupted in this critical moment. The standard of the prophet, which is generally displayed on all declarations of war, has not yet been hoisted.

The Russians are prosecuting the war with great vigor, but have not as yet effected any important measure. At the last accounts the emperor Nicholas and the grand duke Michael, were at Ismail.

All the necessary materials are being collected to lay bridges over the Danube in three places, namely—between Ismail and Tomarewa, at Gallatz, and at Oltenitz, between Rudschuck and Silistra. Important military operations were expected, and the more so as the delay of eleven days had expired, which the pacha of Ibrail who declared he had no orders whatever to commit hostilities, had obtained for the purpose of procuring instructions from Constantinople.

The London papers of June 13th, state on good authority that the Turkish troops, who are disciplined in the European style, are in excellent spirits—that they go through their evolutions with a precision quite astonishing for the time, and mount guard with bayonets fixed, in true soldier-like style. The men appear to glory in the adoption of the improvements. They are dressed in trousers, short coats, and cloth caps.

Bucharest, May 20.

The head-quarters of count Wittenstein are at Hadschi Capitan, within two cannon shots of Ibrail, which is closely invested. The grand duke Michael arrived here on the 17th, the day before the artillery for the siege arrived there. The Turkish governor, being summoned to surrender the place, replied, that he did not know that the sultan his master was at war with Russia, and he could not without his orders, give up the place which was entrusted to him. Every preparation was immediately made to obtain possession as soon as possible of that important fortress, and to render the navigation of the Danube free, from Ismail to Oltenitz, where a bridge is to be erected. The bombardment of the fortress of Ibrail is to commence on the 18th. The number of Russian troops at present in Wallachia amounts to 50,000 men of whom 6,000 have remained at Bucharest; the others have proceeded towards Giergevo and Oltenitz, and to Little Wallachia. The chief command of this corps is confided to general Roth who is collecting all the materials necessary for throwing a bridge over the river at Oltenitz.

GRADUATES AT WEST POINT.

List of cadets who graduated at the United States institution at West Point this 4th July, 1825, with their rank in the class and the states from which they came, copied from the merit roll published by order of the academic staff.

No. 1. Albert E. Church, Connecticut. 2. Richard C. Fildman, Maryland. 3. Hugh W. Mercer, Virginia. 4. Robert E. Temple, Vermont. 5. Charles O. Collins, New York. 6. James Ivers Austin, Massachusetts. 7. Edmund French, Connecticut. 8. Joseph L. Locke, Maine. 9. George E. Chase, Massachusetts. 10. John F. Lane, Indiana. 11. William Palmer, do. 12. Thomas B. Adams, Massachusetts. 13. Robert E. Clary, Massachusetts. 14. Robert Sevier, Tennessee. 15. William W. Mather, Connecticut. 16. Eos G. Mitchell, do. 17. James F. Izard, Pennsylvania. 18. Thomas Cutts, Maine. 19. William H. Baker, Vermont. 20. James L. Timponson, Tennessee. 21. Gustavus I. Rousseau, Louisiana. 22. Benjamin W. Kinsman, Maine. 23. Jefferson Davis, Mississippi. 24. William L. E. Morrison, Illinois. 25. Samuel K. Cobb, Alabama. 26. Samuel Torrence, Ohio. 27. Amos Foster, New Hampshire. 28. Thomas Drayton, South Carolina. 29. Thomas C. Brockway, Connecticut. 30. John R. Gardner, New York. 31. Crafts J. Wright, Ohio. 32. James W. Penrose, Mississippi. 33. Philip R. Van Wyck, New Jersey.

A STATEMENT

Of the votes given in Dearborn county at the Annual Election, 1828.

TOWNSHIPS,	Rankin	Union	Green-Creek	Laughing	Sparta	Lawrenceburg	Marchester	Kelso	Logan	TOTAL
Governor,										
James B. Ray	135	74	74	112	54	154	201	36	6	846
Harbin H. Moore	89	50	14	71	63	245	31	16	9	588
Israel T. Canby	119	4	15	79	16	201	67	52	121	674
Lieut. Governor,										
Milton Stapp	49	33	21	49	18	61	20	18	6	275
Abel C. Pepper	292	89	81	210	115	538	269	86	130	1810
Congress,										
John Test	175	120	84	119	99	354	118	42	18	1129
Jonathan McCarty	164	7	22	141	34	243	175	62	118	965
Senator,										
John Watts	290	119	89	247	118	73	35	24	9	1013
Ezra Ferris	31	6	8	7	13	493	238	66	103	965
Representatives,										
George H. Dunn	95	16	8	15	34	483	226	48	36	961
James T. P. Block	245	102	101	240	121	98	25	2	86	1020
Arthur St. Clair	131	4	7	11	0	412	206	67	122	960
Horace Bassett	236	120	96	237	131	109	33	2	6	970
Samuel H. Dowden	4	1	0	6	3	307	75	74	24	494
Warren Tebbs	39	1	0	8	2	363	192	81	112	798
Davis Weaver	131	33	45	198	71	103	36	4	63	648
Thomas Guion	202	120	100	242	125	67	19	9	5	839
Joel Decoursey	152	65	43	41	21	15	2	2	2	343
Mark McCracken	6	2	0	2	0	73	129	40	52	304
Robert Rowe	2	1	0	0	0	88	54	28	12	185
Aaron Cross	0	0	0	1	0	1	29	0	0	31
Sheriff,										
John Spencer	174	41	38	133	26	280	172	65	113	1042
Thomas Longley	133	74	51	64	56	165	54	24	14	635
For a Convention to revise the state constitution										308
Against it										1779

The strange combat.—It was during the last war of this country with Great Britain, that circumstances led me to be a passenger on board one of our large merchantmen, in which I had embarked what little property I possessed; our seas were at that time covered with small privateers belonging to both belligerents, who did more injury to the commerce of both nations than the several public armed vessels of either. They almost invariably eluded the pursuit of the large frigates and ships of the line by hauling sharp on the wind when they discovered an enemy; and their peculiar schooner rig, and being built expressly for sailing, would give them a distinct advantage over their square sail enemies in beating to windward. Again, their lighter draught of water when near the shore would frequently enable them to run so close in, that they could not be attacked unless in boats; and every one who has ever read the account of the attack upon the privateer Neutchelet, by the boats of the Eudymion, (I believe,) which engagement happened near Nantucket, will easily see how little force it requires to beat off boats, or sink them previous to boarding. Be these things as they may, I return to my story. We had been sailing for two days with a good breeze, though now and then it would lull, and then we sagged heavily along through a fog, almost as dense as the waters which bore us.

We were not far from our port, and our captain was willing to crowd sail right and day, as the risk of capture was superior to that of shipwreck, or disasters from a crippling of our spars. Our ship was of about 400 tons, heavily laden, and not a swift sailer. Her captain was a man of shrewd judgment, of inflexibility of purpose, and rather given to taciturnity. He was of a slight figure, gentlemanly to his equals, decided and prompt to those under him in his orders, and execution of their fulfilment. His keen dark eyes and naval officer gait, showed a kind of courage, which one would call daring, if they had watched his countenance on particular occasions. Yet at other times, he seemed to be rather the careful matiner who would reef for safety, when safety did not apparently require it. He was one of those kind of men who seemed to be inclined to bend the purposes of others to his own, while they were kept in ignorance of his views. I have seen him fix his eagle eye upon a sailor and require of him to look him steadily in the face for five minutes, and then dismiss him without a comment or reason for so doing; but I would bet my life almost that he had one.

After skimming through the mist for two days, (of which I have spoken,) I happened, to be on deck with the captain. I was in conversation with him as to the probability of reaching our port free from the enemy's cruisers. He replied with his usual brevity, "the fog and carrying sail alone will save us; I am made if we escape; if not, I am ruined." He spoke this in the same tone of voice that he would have spoken a common order—he looked up and said, sternly, there is a fog eater—at this moment the sun seemed to flash upon our deck, and the fog rose from the sea like the hoisting of a curtain at the Theatre—a smart breeze took us back, and before an order was given, we saw directly under our lee, a little black looking, sharp built, tall rigged, port bearing schooner, whose decks were crowded with men. "I know her ejaculated our captain; the next thing there came a ball dancing across our bows in imitation of a distracted porpoise. Our captain took the helm from a sailor, and gave orders to lay to.

Another shot came within a few feet of the captain's head, and passed through the main sail, which he seemed to regard as little as he would the flapping of the wings of a sea gull. But his countenance grew dark and terrific—he had not a gun on board.

The privateer braced shroud on the wind, and at the second tack came within musket shot; a boat came on board and we were ordered under the pigme's lee in style of an admiral in the British navy. In the mean time the wind had freshened, and the captain had privately given orders to have every sail in readiness for instant setting. The boat left us, and we bore down apparently for the purpose of fulfilling the command which had been given us. To secure and pack my papers was but the work of a moment, for an anticipation of the event of capture had placed me on my guard in this particular. When I returned on deck, we were almost within hail of the stranger under a flowing sail; which, in order to bring us to a proper luff under the lee of the privateer, would seemingly require to be immediately taken in. The captain was still at the helm, and he was intent, apparently, upon coming as near the stern of the opposite vessel as was possible, though at times he seemed to grasp the privateer at a glance; his brow was knit, and the veins of his forehead seemed to be swollen—he heeded nothing around him. At this moment he gave the word—"square away," which brought our bows on the centre of the vessel of our enemy—"Hull," said its captain; at the same moment the flash of a gun and its ball were both seen and heard from the port holes of our antagonist—it raked us fore and aft, cutting every thing before it; another moment, the bow of our heavy vessel struck the quarter of the privateer with a tremendous crash—another moment and she passed over her, and nothing was to be seen of our capturer but a few floating barrels, some spars, and human beings, who had escaped for a few moments the yawning deep. Never shall I forget the cry which came from that vessel, as our own was passing: it was allied to nothing human; it was of such shrill distress, that a maniac's imagination alone could grasp its dreadfulness.

In a few days we reached our port, but since our arrival, and even to the present hour, I cannot forget the going down of the privateer, over which our vessel boomed as if but a floating stick of timber was in its path. The death shriek will visit me in dreams, and scare sleep from the "still watches of the night."—Bachelor's Journal.

Extract of a letter from Messrs. H. Gates & Co. dated MONTREAL, July 20, 1828.

"Since this month commenced, we have scarcely had one clear sunshine day; on the contrary, all over this district the rain has descended in torrents, laying the low land one or two feet under water, laying the grass and grain flat, the potatoes under water, and creating great alarm amongst the farmers, and, indeed, the whole community."

Mad Horse! A very distressing spectacle was witnessed yesterday morning, on Grandy street, near the Bridge, that of a horse, the property of Mr. William H. Thompson, under the influence of hydrophobia; the poor animal we learn, was in a violent paroxysm, flying first in one direction, then in the another, utterly insensible of danger. Our informant states, that the horse was bitten a short time since, by a rabid dog belonging to Mr. Deuby, which was afterwards killed.

[Norfolk Beacon.