

ered in that body, ventured to ascribe to the celebrated captors of major Andre, a character the most infamous and detestable; and to their conduct on that occasion, motives the most sordid & odious. He accused these men of being as often in the camp of the enemies of their country, as our own; of being men destitute not only of patriotism, but of common honesty and honor; of belonging to that detestable gang usually known by the name of *cow boys*. He charged them in effect, therefore, with being the vilest of thieves and robbers; & in doing so, represented general Washington and the congress as bestowing the public praise and the public bounty upon wretches utterly base and contemptible from mere motives of policy. There was, in this attempt, an intrepidity worthy of a better cause; but at the same time a rashness which he will never cease to repent. Colonel Tallmadge has endeavored to tear the fairest leaf from our history, and to deprive the yeomanry of our country of a theme in which they gloried, and of an example whose influence is not less extensive and important than was that of the immortal William Tell. If he has done so, when there was the least possibility that he might be in an error; he could never upon reflection justify himself. But if he has done so upon slight, upon very slight grounds; not from his own knowledge, but from the calumnies of the environs, and the mere suspicions of an enemy, he has incurred a responsibility, which he must meet; a responsibility from which the personal respect with which he may have been heretofore regarded, ought not to protect him, nor general coincidence of political opinion to release him.

Upon what grounds did the colonel accuse these men of being *cow boys*? of being as often in the enemy's camp, as in our own? Did he know the facts? If he did, he must have seen them steal; he must have seen them in the enemy's camp! But he does not pretend this.—What then is the evidence of these facts? At most hearsay—which *might* indeed be true—but it might also be, as in fact it was, false. This evidence was assuredly too loose, for the charge he advanced—against men whose service has certainly been important; and who, absent, were not in a condition to justify themselves. The colonel is a christian. Did he here observe the golden rule? The colonel has his enemies: how would he feel, if the community should judge of his character by their calumnies?

The utmost that can be said in palliation of colonel Tallmadge's conduct is, that he believed what he said to be true. He believed them to be *cow-boy* plunderers, because he heard so! He believed they would have permitted Andre to proceed, if he had had more to give them, because Andre said he was of that opinion! Upon such grounds the colonel employed the weight of his character, and the authority of his

place, to consign to infamy the three men who had saved West Point and the army!

There is not a court of justice in Christendom which would not spurn such evidence. There can therefore be no fear that it will be received by a grateful people. And although we are fully persuaded that nothing has appeared to put the accused upon their defence, yet we proceed gratuitously, to lay before our readers such conclusive testimony as will satisfy the whole world.

And first, as to these men being *cow boys*. Their neighbors would be, of all others, most likely to know the fact, if it were so: and the annexed certificate from men aged and venerable, will show that they were not even suspected. But the oath of Mr. Van Wart is decisive.

As to the second point, whether the captors of Andre would have released him for a very large bribe, provided he could immediately paid it, that is a circumstance which could be known only by themselves. And Mr. Van Wart expressly denies the imputation in the annexed affidavit.

The only possible question that can remain is, whether the witness is worthy of credit. To this point we bring men who have known him from his infancy, men whose venerable hairs are silvered by age; they speak to us from the verge of the grave; and they unite in the declaration that no man is more entitled to be believed than *Isaac Van Wart*.

The nature of the case does not admit of testimony more precise, perfect and and conclusive. The refutation is solemnly sworn to, and by a man who, in moral and religious deportment during a long life, has had no superior.

(To be concluded next week.)

[From the Buffalo Gazette of January 14.]

THE GRAND CANAL.

What object of a secular nature can reflect more pleasing sensations on the mind than a contemplation of the growth and prosperity of the country that gave us birth? When we turn our mind to the Western Canal, in what ratio shall we compute the future growth and prosperity of the western section of our country, should this grand object be effected; a plan calculated to reduce the price of exportation so that heavy articles of produce would bear transportation from the western lakes to New York? Then should we see the frontier countries on Lake, St. Clair, Huron, Michigan, and Superior, floating their richest produce into the great emporium of their country. What internal improvement can surpass the one now in contemplation? The country generally have but a faint view of the magnitude of this object: they do not consider that it will meet navigable equal to a canal 3926 miles in length or upwards. But to prove this it will only be necessary to shew the circumference of the lakes and length of the rivers that connect them. This is not accurately known, but according to the best calculation,

The circumference of lake Erie is, miles	300
The length of Detroit River,	28
The circumference of lake St. Clair,	90
The length of St. Clair River,	28
The circumference of lake Huron,	1000
The length of St. Mary's River,	40
The circumference of lake Superior,	1500
The circumference of lake Michigan,	940
	3926

This calculation being accurate, we find a frontier country, bordering on navigable waters a distance of 3925 miles, intercepted only by a portage of nine miles between lakes Huron and Superior, a great portion of which country is of a superior quality for cultivation.—Were this chain of communication extended to Hudson River, then would the hardy sons of Columbia have scope for their unrivalled spirit of enterprise and industry. Nor would the wonder stop here: the southern and middle states would no more be a continent, but converted into islands. A channel would be cut from Green Bay & lake Michigan to Winebago lake, from thence through Fox and Ouisconsin rivers to Mississippi river, or from Michigan through Chicago and Illinois River to the Mississippi. From the west comes the Missouri river, said to be navigable one thousand three hundred miles. What fields for enterprise—wealth would be floated down these channels! From Ohio and Michigan, the produce of the field; From lakes Michigan & Superior, fish, copper and peltry; from Illinois and Missouri, coal, lead, salt, buffalo robes & peltry. To the extent of this body add the natural limbs, the numerous rivers that empty into the great lakes, some of which are navigable many miles, could not volumes be written on the propriety of this great work? Fellow citizens, would “not this communication between Hudson and lake Erie, afford to the U. States more ample means of promoting every social interest, than have heretofore in any country been accomplished in any human enterprise.” Be excited then in the great work. Let the general government be interested, and appropriate some of the lands bordering on these waters. Let the state of N. York press forward the work—the state of Ohio and territory of Michigan assist in the enterprise; & all with heart and hand accomplish the work in a manner calculated to reduce the price of transportation, so that heavy articles of produce will bear transportation from the lakes to New York and New Orleans.

COLUMBUS.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Extract of a Letter from a gentleman in Wayne county, I. to his friend in Jefferson.

SIR,

It appears that the editor of the little *Western Sun* has been

teeming his political nonsense on Noble and Hendricks—he, like the little *scunk*, thinks to deter who stand in his way by his attack. He says those gentlemen have written a joint letter to the acting secretary of war, requiring the reason the militia of this state were not more promptly paid for their services: this he wishes to torture into a crime! Strange indeed that any man (no matter how feeble,) should be so senseless and stupid as to attach blame to public servants, for performing duty strictly enjoined on them by the citizens, previous to their leaving the state, as well as by joint letters which must have reached them shortly after their arrival at the City.—See the little *Sun* like the animal teeming his water erect, but his power proves too weak to reach his object: the dirty water descends with double force on his own head, and he perishes in his filth;—poor little *Sun* must shortly set, never more to rise.

To the people of Jefferson County, (Indiana.)

You have no doubt seen Mr. B. Whitson's syllogism, and strictures on a communication which appeared sometime since over the signature of ‘Simon Maggus.’ If the author of Simon were so disposed he would not ask an easier task, than to turn into downright burlesque all that Mr. B. W. has advanced in his elaborate production against him; but this he feels no disposition to do, as sufficient animosity has been displayed already. It has been alledged by some that Simon intended his ironical production to operate against the interests of Vital Religion, but this is a grand mistake, and if he has wounded the feelings of any individual, who, in sincerity, and honesty, are endeavoring to do what they believe to be right, he now publicly asks their pardon, but to the man who cloaks himself with a profession of religion in order that he may the better execute his schemes of rascality Simon has no apology to offer. The question now arises, is there any such characters amongst us? I answer yes, and although Mr. B. W. has affirmed “that general M^rFarland was not elected upon the principle of his being a base character,” yet it is notorious that numbers in this county who profess the christian religion gave as their best reason for supporting the general, that they believed him to be a most consummate villain!! and if this be denied Simon will in his proper name prove it. Was not this sufficient to make Simon take the stand he did? and does not such conduct in professors of religion give abundant room for such observations as Simon made with regard to honesty, probity, moral rectitude, &c? I would ask Mr. B. W. if he would think it right to support any man for public office, who whilst he made a profession of religion and held an office in the church, could join when in company with an avowed contemner of christianity in sneering at the religion which he professed, & affirming that it was all d—