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THE VINCENNES GAZETTE.

BY S. HILL & R. Y. CADDINGTON.
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SAMUEL HILL.

R. Y. CADDINGTON.

From the Pennsylvania Whig.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF JACKSONISM.
Upon the demise of the lamented CLINTON, I introduced Gen. Jackson, by letter to a particular friend of his, Henry Post, Esq. of New York, as one who could impart to him a correct knowledge of Gov. Clinton's character and views. To the letter, which I addressed to him on that occasion, I received the following answer: I quote this letter now merely to illustrate his deep duplicity, in relation to the epistle that will ultimately appear.

Hermitage, April 12th, 1825.

My Dear Sir,

Your letter introducing to me Henry Post, Esq. Jr. of New York, has been transmitted to me by Henry Post in a letter of date 25th July last.

I feel much indebted to you for this introduction, as it has been the cause of H. Post writing me a long and very interesting letter on the subject of the death of our lamented friend Mr. Clinton, which I have read with great satisfaction, and much interest. I never write on politics, and I have to request the favor of you, when you write Mr. Post, so to inform him, and make a tender to him of my respectful compliments, with my thanks for the communication he has had the goodness to make to me.

With a tender of good wishes to you, and your amiable family, believe me to be with great respect,

Your most obed. serv't.

ANDREW JACKSON.

Mr. STEPHEN SIMPSON.

We have here his solemn declaration—*Never write on politics*—I cannot there fore reply to the letter of Mr. Post; and you must excuse me to him, by presenting this view of his character, with the following anonymous letter written by Gen. Jackson to promote his own election, to the whilst editor of the Philadelphia Mercury. The letter is without date, postmarked "Nashville, Tenn. December 27, (1817)—paid 50." It enclosed to the best of my recollection, an article from the Richmond Enquirer, from the pen of Mr. Ritchie, the editor, attempting, to detain Mr. Jefferson's assertion that Jackson was totally unfit for the Presidency; and that the nomination was as absurd as it would be to attempt to make a sailor of a cock or a soldier of a goose. Jackson was stung to the quick by this ridicule, and whilst yet writhing under it evidently composed the following letter, intending when he commenced it to attach his proper signature to it as usual; but not thinking this prudent, as he proceeded towards the conclusion, he altered his mind, and left his hand writing, to speak as to its author in this calculation he was perfectly correct. I immediately recognised not only his writing, but his style, manner, spelling and ungrammatical arrangement; and so soon as received, I answered it, in the mode suggested by the signature:—My Dear Sir, yours without date, postmarked 27th December and signed J. Subscribing, in relation to the calumny of Gov. Coles, has been safely received; and I shall in shortly proceed to state the facts to the public, which your letter has so undesigningly touched that gentleman &c. &c. This no doubt remained as to the letter being written by Gen. Jackson himself, for he

never denied it, and after wards, when I addressed him a second time, on the same subject in relation to his statement of Gov. Coles being contradicted by an eye witness, he again admitted the anonymous letter to be his. But before I proceed further in this development, it will be necessary to transcribe the letter itself.

Post mark—Nashville 7th Dec. 1827.

DEAR SIR,

Gov. Coles—(as he says) Mr. Jefferson's opinion of Gen. Jackson as respects his fitness for the Presidency.

Now Sir, please place Gov. Randolph's statements of Mr. Jefferson's opinion respecting the Gen's incapacity for that office with that which I enclose you of Gov. Coles—then ask the public which is to be relied on, the son-in-law of the deceased Jefferson or this said Ex-Governor of Illinois—and as near as I can recollect he held a commission as Colonel in the last war on the Northern frontier—and as near as I can recollect a certain gentleman of equal rank and high standing in the army of the United States did publicly exclude this Ex-Governor Coles, then a Colonel in the army of the United States, merely for the simple fact of lying. In being convinced I may be mistaken as to that fact, but this is certain, he stood in disgrace in the army as an officer and as a gentleman—What think you of this Mr. Simpson, I suppose you will say it is much on a par with the rest of the General's calumnies.

Respectfully, A SUBSCRIBER.

S. SIMPSON, Esq.

The substance of this I immediately incorporated into an editorial article for the Philadelphia Mercury. The reader will perceive the glaring impropriety of this letter, without my elucidation of its indecencies. It presented Andrew Jackson in the attitude of a man electioneering his own merits for the highest station in the country; and descending into the political arena to boast of his own qualifications and talents, through a newspaper devoted to his election!!! and this too, under a cloak, the base disguise of an anonymous slanderer against the reputation of one of whom he was evidently ignorant. It was not to clear or defend himself from a false charge, but to aspire to the talent of a statesman which he never possessed, which had been broadly and sarcastically denied to him by Thomas Jefferson. The vanity alone of such an attempt on his part ought to have scorched his cheeks with shame, but when to this vanity he superadded the baseness of a slander upon the character of Gov. Coles. A Jackson shrinks up to the smallest possible measure, in the scale of human merit.

About the time the article was published, in the Mercury, Gov. Coles happened to be in the city, and struck with the flagrant character of the calumny, little thinking or rather never dreaming that the author of it was Andrew Jackson! he immediately waited upon Mr. Joseph R. Rogers, and directed him to institute a suit against me for a libel. Mr. Rogers, however reluctant to proceed to this extremity, advised an explanation and recall of the calumny, from the editor of the paper, (myself) for which purpose, he waited upon Mr. James N. Barker, the present collector of this port, who was the particular friend of Gov. Coles, and had served with him in the army of the northern frontier. Mr. Barker agreed with Mr. Rogers, that it was preferable to procure a recall of the slander, through the paper in which it was published, for which purpose he waited upon me, in company with Mr. Henry Horn. I met the two gentlemen on the bank steps, as I was in my way to the publication office. Mr. Barker soon convinced me from his personal knowledge, that the whole statement of Gen. Jackson was founded in error, and constituted one of the most glaring calumnies that had ever been uttered. I therefore expressed my readiness to publish an explanation calculated to vindicate the character of Gov. Coles without reflecting upon myself; and he agreed to draw a short article putting down the slander, which was inserted in the columns of the Mercury. Approaching that this ascription of falsehood and calumny, to a man of Gen. Jackson's temperament, would excite unnecessary excitement among us, I again addressed him on the subject of his anonymous letter, and explained the necessity of making a recantation of the error alleged against Gov. Coles; out to which I believe, I received no answer. Now for his feelings moved him against me, I never learned, and little cared. Mr. Barker however was the first to receive a local appointment from the new President, and the most lucrative in his gift. How he might have fared had Gen. Jackson known him to be the author of the article that proved him to be the basest and slanderingest, cannot now be known. Mr. Barker's conduct, however, on the occasion was every way honorable, disinterested and correct. He knew his friend to be aspersed, and he adopted the best means of wiping the poisoned arrow back upon its author.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

TRAITS OF CHARACTER.

Some of the original supporters of President Jackson are developing the

"secrets of the prison house," the traits of character that mark them, or that have marked them, and their political course. We have occasionally noticed their mutual criminations and recriminations, without publishing them at length. Their verbosity, if nothing else, has forbidden this. Some recent disclosures have been made, by those who have acted a part until wearied with the drudgery imposed upon them, in support of the present men, who manage the Executive department of this country, that deserve a detailed notice.

In the debate on the nomination of Mr. Van Buren, Mr. Senator Poinceter referred to a letter from a Mr. Samuel E. Clement of N. York, to prove a conversation with Mr. Van Buren, showing that his appointment as Minister to England entered into the original plan of dissolving the Cabinet. This drew upon Mr. Clement the indignation of "the party." The progressive attacks and denunciations have induced Mr. Clement to come before the public with the development of the following facts.

A newspaper called the Long Island Patriot, published at Brooklyn, New York, belonged to a certain John T. Bergen, now a member of Congress, and some other leaders of the Van Buren school in that state. Clement was induced to become the Editor and Proprietor of the paper for the benefit of "the party." To aid him in sustaining the paper, "the party" procured him the appointment of Postmaster at Brooklyn. The paper did not succeed. Clement's health declined, and he applied to "the party" to take it off his hands. They agreed to do so, provided he would resign the Post office, with the paper! He was obliged to conform to their terms. He resigned the Post Office and they had no other person appointed as they chose.

Mr. Clement makes this charge against Mr. Congressman Bergen, Mr. Postmaster Barry, and the members of "the party" in New York, in direct terms. Is it not, it true, an abuse of the most serious kind? Ought such a charge to pass unheeded? Are the people content that prodigal politicians shall thus make a trade of the newspaper press and of the Post office patronage? Such corrupt courses must destroy all political morals, and with them the institutions of the country?

We have another instance of the demoralizing practices of our present prominent public men, in the conduct of President Jackson himself, during the late canvass. The reader cannot have forgotten that, in 1827, Gov. Coles, of Illinois, stated a conversation with Mr. Jefferson, in which that sage said we might as well "attempt to make a sailor of a cock, or a soldier of a goose, as a President of Gen. Jackson." Stephen Simpson has recently published the subjoined, as received from Gen. Jackson himself, and in his own hand writing, in relation to this subject:

Post mark Nashville—27th Dec. 1827.

DEAR SIR,

Gov. Coles—(as he says) Mr. Jefferson's opinion of General Jackson as respects his fitness for the Presidency. Now Sir, please place Gov. Randolph's statements of Mr. Jefferson's opinion respecting the General's incapacity for that office with that which I enclose you of Gov. Coles—then ask the public which is to be relied on, the son-in-law of the deceased Jefferson or this said Ex-Gov. of Illinois—and as near as I can recollect he held a commission as Col. in the last war on the Northern frontier—and as near as I can recollect a certain gentleman of equal rank and of high standing in the army of the United States, did publicly exclude this said Ex-Gov. Coles, then a Col. in the army of the U. States, merely for the simple fact of lying. In being convinced I may be mistaken as to that fact, but this is certain he stood in disgrace in the army as an officer and as a gentleman—what think you of this Mr. Simpson, I suppose you will say it is much on a par with the rest of the General's calumnies.

Respectfully,

A SUBSCRIBER.

S. SIMPSON, Esq.

Upon the basis of the statement made here, by Gen. Jackson, Simpson prepared and published an editorial article, making the charges alleged against Governor Coles. It was soon after ascertained, that the whole was a gross calumny, and to escape an action for a libel, Simpson retracted the entire charge. It would seem difficult to decide which deserved the most pointed reprobation, the under copy of General Jackson in writing such an article, his miserable composition, or his unpardonable falsehoods. Viewed in any of these aspects, it is truly humiliating to know that the author attained the Chief Magistracy of the country, that honorable in support him for re-election, and that public sentiment is so perversely misled, as to render that election at least probable.

It is proper to note here, the very similar traits of character, in these two transactions. Gov. Coles narrated a fact concerning Gen. Jackson, that was unacceptable to him. Immediately his reputation is attacked by Gen. Jackson himself, and a tissue of accusations published against him, denouncing or at truth. So Clement narrated a fact implicating Mr. Van Buren in a deep political intrigue, and a similar

attack, one alike unfounded, is made upon him. It is not surprising that the Nashville and Albany Regencies should have so readily assimilated. These two facts serve to show that their political morals and political tactics are identical.

There is a further trait of character in these two transactions, that ought to be noted. The discountable facts disclosed were concealed whilst the operators were all of the same party. Simpson adhered to Jackson long after he received the article above published. With a full knowledge of all that it disclosed of Gen. Jackson's utter unfitness for high and honorable trust, an unfitness demonstrably resting upon a defect of education, and an equal defect in moral sentiment, Simpson continued to advocate his election to the Presidency. How can such a proceeding be reconciled to the duties of patriotism? In like manner, Clement after he had been made the victim of "the party,"—after he had witnessed their huckstering control of the Post Office patronage, to aid in the corruption of the press, continued his adhesion to them, looked up to Mr. Bergen as his patron, and partook of his hospitalities. Tired at length of hopeless dependence, for bread, he turns his attention elsewhere, begins to make disclosures, is denounced, and denounces in his turn. Such facts ought to arrest the attention of all honest men. They disclose the real characters of those, in whose hands the control of public affairs is now placed, and show how dangerous it must be to continue them in those hands.

From the Pennsylvania Whig.

GEN. JACKSON.

There is great doubt whether General Jackson will find relief from the dismissal of his old companion and trophy. His constitution is evidently impaired, by the exaltation of his nervous system. He is by nature, more impatient of control than any man who has lived since the days of Nero. When thwarted in his most vicious purposes, he is most deeply excited. He can neither eat or sleep. He generally suppresses violent raving, except in the presence of special confidants; and, although, when in company, he maintains an exterior of peculiar courtesy, yet he is often nearly insensible to what is passing around him. When in this combustible mood, he has frequently been seen, at his dinner table, in the midst of a large company, (after taking wine with those he most valued, with marked courtesy of manner,) sink down in a gloomy silence, drumming his fingers on the table for an hour, wholly unconscious of what was passing. Dinner being over, he tries to be social, but talks so incoherently, that you would really doubt whether he is entirely sane. These reveries are the workings of a mind disturbed by tumultuous and violent passions, brooding over some plan to break down the restraints of his station, and indulge, in full blast, the delight of demolishing all who are supposed to thwart his wishes. Those who know him best, say that his whole life has been marked by successive conflicts with his fellow men, in which the defect of argument, on his side, was always supplied by a threatened use of the dirk and pistol. It is also said of him, that his nature constantly requires some victim, on whom to vent the exacerbations of his furious rage. These excitements have been more frequent and deep, since his elevation to the Presidency, than before—while the necessity for restraint has been more imperative; and both together, have corroded his system, which is fast wearing out—not only the physical, but the mental in teguments are quite thread bare.

It may be said that these are infirmities of nature, which invite our charity rather than our censure. Not so. The savage who is ignorant of the moral law, may, perhaps, be excused for cultivating his passions and his vices; but he who would be esteemed wise or great, must cultivate his virtues, and exhibit a high example of moral excellence.

PENNSYLVANIA OPINIONS.

The custom which exists in many of our sister states, and which sanctions individuals who are disposed to enter upon public life, in coming before the people as candidates, however repugnant to our views of delicacy and propriety, is far more favorable to the cause of liberty than the vile caucusing intrigue and official nominations, with which our politics have been too generally conducted. In one case a citizen appears before the public in all the dignity of manhood, and by a display of his principles and opinions, enables his fellow citizens to form some estimate of his capacity. The professions which he makes of his political principles and views, afford an opportunity for his constituents to judge of the orthodoxy of his sentiments. Whilst his public declarations constitute a pledge of the system he will pursue, and form a complete check upon his own conduct in future. In the other case, a few office holders and office hunters, are put in motion, by a hint from Washington or Harrisburg, to assemble in their warehouses, and holding their obscure cabals with the sounding appellations of public meetings, to look round on accomplices to perpetrate the evils which ignorance and covet very have engendered—and to under-

mine the boasted freedom of election.—Three or four men choose their delegates of many hundreds, and these, in their choice of candidates, are actuated by no other motives than the elevation of themselves or their friends. The real welfare of the public, the sole object of representative government never enters into the spirit of their measures, however it may form a part of their lip professions.

We trust the day is at hand, when the chasement indicted upon the country, by the folly and incompetency of our rulers, will open the eyes of the people to their interests. We trust the day is not distant when those who aspire to office, will appear before the public, with an avowal of their principles, and when questions like these, will decide upon their claims:

Are they, from principle, opposed to the anti-republican practice of corrupting the streams of liberty, by legislative nominations?

Are they hostile to the intrigues of office holders, who regulate the machinery of party, solely with the view of keeping themselves in place, whilst they profess a devotion to the cause of the people?

Are they friendly to internal improvements, and have at heart the good of the country, the protection of industry, and the real comforts of the laboring classes?

Are they capable, and are they honest? An affirmative answer to these questions, should place a candidate upon exalted ground; for the principles contained therein, must sooner or later predominate in the state, or like the republics of old, we shall crumble into dust.

JACKSONISM IN N. HAMPSHIRE.

There are a number of people who give themselves no concern about an election until the day, when without even knowing who are the candidates, they go to some person they are acquainted with, and ask them for a ticket. Such men as these have as much to do with liberty, and about as much right to it as a monkey; all they know about it is by instinct, and a little better off than the slaves of the southern states, they do not immediately feel the lash, but perhaps may hereafter. To combat prejudice and awake the mind to a clear and independent exercise of its rights—to substitute truth for error, and reason for systematic belief, would be an herculean task; however, we cannot forbear applying the following anecdote to these people, as at present a truly striking similarity exists.

A person at an inn was informed that his house was on flames—*"You had better inform my wife,"* said he with great composure, *"for I never have any thing to do with family affairs."*

So it is with the man who says, I never trouble myself about politics, I will ask neighbor such a one, he gets the papers and knows all about it.

"Our republic has become deranged by party spirit—every man in these times seeks his own preferment, and loses sight of the welfare of his country, in pursuit of that of his own. A change is necessary for the preservation of our republican institutions, and the welfare of our country. Every man in a free government ought to feel an interest in its welfare and happiness, and ought to exercise his own free will in its support, without regard for men in or out of power, for the poor man stands on a level with the rich in regard to voting at elections.

"A man that would sell his vote, or suffer himself to be led to the polls, by a set of busy politicians, there to drop in his vote at their pleasure, is not worthy to be called a republican, or a free citizen, exercising the right guaranteed to him by the constitution and laws of his country.

"Caucusing has become the channel through which the men in power carry on their electioneering business, and is a most grievous outrage on the rights of the people—an outrage of the most frightful nature—and one that will one day shake the foundation of the republic, if not discontinued in due time. Let officer elect officers, and we are no more a free people, exercising the rights granted to us by our constitution, or free suffrage.

"The honest farmer thinks all is right that officers of government does, and so don't trouble himself about what they are doing, but vote as they direct by caucus or secret meetings. The rage for office has become an object of speculation. All sense of honor or shame is lost in the pursuit of office—every means is tried—personal solicitation for votes—stratagem and intrigue are all tried—and, like the soldier, who wins his glory by fighting, the man that acquires these public offices, is sure of office or preferment.

"The offices in the gift of the executive are still worse—they are generally filled without any deliberation or care. When a man holding a high office, retaining some distance from the seat of government is taken ill, preparations are immediately made for a race to the seat of government. And accordingly, as soon as the breath is out of him, and he is sometimes before, twenty three, and sometimes more, set on full gallop for the seat of government, and the shortest horse wins the race—the first there is almost sure of getting the office.

Great men should have great secrets.