

## Biography.

### William Henry Harrison.

William Henry Harrison was born in Virginia in 1773. His father Benjamin Harrison was an influential member of the Continental Congress, and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He died before young Harrison had attained the age of manhood, leaving him no inheritance but his good name—a rich legacy, of which misfortune cannot rob him. Having commenced the study of medicine, he prosecuted it with ardor, until he had nearly completed his course of studies, when he determined to enter the service of his country as a soldier. His intention was approved by President Washington, who had been the warm friend of his father, and who gave him a commission in the army. He immediately started for the west, and reached the place of his destination shortly after the defeat of the unfortunate St. Clair. Gen. Wayne succeeded to the command of the army, selected him as one of his aids. His arduous duties in that difficult campaign were cheerfully and ably performed, to the satisfaction of his commander, although his constitution was at that time frail, and his health extremely delicate. His gallant conduct in the action which resulted in the total defeat of the Indians and termination of the war, was mentioned in terms of high approbation, by Gen. Wayne, in his despatches to the President.

On leaving the army in 1797, Mr. Harrison was appointed Secretary and *ex-officio* Lieutenant Governor of the North Western territory. The territory entered the second grade of government the succeeding year, Mr. Harrison was elected the delegate to congress, being the first man who represented the country north west of the Ohio in the councils of the nation. His first legislative act was an attempt to procure an alteration of the laws relative to the sides of the public lands. They were at that time offered for sale in tracts of 4000 acres, and consequently were out of the reach of the hardy pioneer and enterprising farmers who had driven the Indian from the soil and reclaimed it from the wilderness of nature. The system operated on them as a penalty, while it conferred a privilege on the avaricious monopolist and designing land jobber. After much opposition, Mr. Harrison succeeded in effecting the passage of a bill providing in future for the sale of the land in sections and half sections. His object was to have the land offered in half and quarter sections, but, though a bill containing this provision was passed by the house, it failed in the senate, which proposed the amendment

to have a conference between committee of both houses. This was laid the corner stone of that system which under the fostering care of the government, has opened an empire in the wilderness, inhabited by a million and a half of frenzied—owners of the soil which supports them, and unsurpassed in patriotism, virtue, intelligence and industry, by any other people on the face of the earth. To Harrison, more than to any one else, belongs the honor of producing these mighty results, and had he given no other evidence of his devotion to the west, this of itself would entitle him to a place in the very heart's core of the western people. His claim cannot be diminished by the supposition that, had he failed, the alteration in the land system would soon have been effected by some other person. It was expected that nearly all the land within the present limits of the state of Ohio would have been sold the very next year after the passage of Mr. Harrison's bill, to a few wealthy speculators. Their influence would have prevented an alteration of the system, until the grasping hand of an avaricious monopoly had seized the whole of the public lands, as the fairest prospect for speculation at that day. The whole country which now constitutes the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and the territory of Michigan, would have been under the dominion of a few wealthy land-holders. Its population would have consisted of their tenantry—miserable race of dependant beings, whose situation would have been little better than that of the vassals of the feudal nobility.

In 1801 the territory was divided, and Mr. Harrison appointed governor of the Indiana territory, which then entered into the first grade of territorial government. Seldom has a more difficult and important trust been confided to any man; by few it could have been so faithfully and satisfactorily discharged. His jurisdiction included that extensive region of country which now composes the state of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan territory, and the whole of Louisiana, from its purchase in 1803 until 1805. To survey the conditions, supply the wants, and redress the grievances of this vast district of wilderness country, inhabited by men of different nations and nations, required the most sleepless vigilance—the most untiring perseverance, and the most discriminating judgment, united to the most unwavering decision of character. The anomalous situation of the country rendered all experience or observation of the practice and laws of other states useless in governing it, and he had to rely on his own judgment, formed from surrounding circumstances, for regulations to suit the emergencies, of every occasion. His authority was almost unlimited. He had the power of appointing all officers, civil, and military, except militia officers above the grade of colonel—of dividing the territory into counties and townships, and confirming all grants of land to persons having equitable title to the same.

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the territorial judges, he was authorized to adopt and publish such laws of the states as might be applicable to the situation, and necessary for the government of the territory. When Harrison was appointed governor, he declared that he would not hold the office longer than the people he was to govern desired, and as a proof of the justice and mildness of his conduct, it may be remarked that at the close of each term, the people unanimously petitioned for his re-appointment. As governor, he was *ex officio* superintendent of Indian affairs. He made no less than thirteen treaties with them while governor of Indiana, by which he obtained the relinquishment of their title to sixty millions of acres of land for a less sum than has since been paid for one tenth of that quantity.

In 1806 the celebrated Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet, commenced their intrigues among the Indian tribes, exciting their discontents, and urging them to hostilities against the whites. These disturbances were fomented by the British. In 1811 the hostile disposition of the Indians was so apparent that the Governor deemed it necessary to organize the militia and place the territory in a position of defence. Being reinforced by three hundred and fifty U. S. infantry under colonel Boyd, and a detachment of volunteer militia from Kentucky under colonels Davies and Owen, he commenced his march against the Prophet's town, in obedience to the order of the President. His orders were imperative to avoid hostilities of any kind and to any decree, not absolutely required. On the night of the 6th November the troops encamped on an open plain, within two miles of the Prophet's town, the spot having been selected by two officers who were despatched in advance of the army to examine the ground and select the most suitable spot for encampment. Before daylight on the morning of the 7th they were attacked by the treacherous Indians, who had but the evening before sent a deputation of three of their principal men to request a suspension of hostilities. The particulars of this battle are too well known to require re-capitulation. Gov. Harrison received the commission of major general in the Kentucky militia, and was appointed to the command of the expedition against Canada. On reaching his place of destination, he was informed of his appointment as a brigadier general in the regular service. He declined accepting it, until he could learn how far he would be compelled to act in subordination to General Winchester, the commander of the Northern Army. On hearing of his appointment by the governor of Kentucky he was confirmed by congress in his command, and on the 17th September following, following, a decree was entered in the cause dissolving the marriage between the cause and on the 25th of November a motion was made on petition and affidavits on the part of the defendant to be let in to make her defense, alleging that that decree had been obtained by fraud—in the mean time, however, the complainant had married a second wife. The Vice Chancellor heard the motion and set aside the decree, from which the complainant appealed to the Chancellor. After a full argument of the case upon the same statement of facts which appeared before the Vice Chancellor, at the same time referred the case of Benjamin Clark, a master in chancery, to take the testimony thereon, and report his opinion thereon to the Vice Chancellor, and in case it should appear that the defendant was not guilty of the adultery charged in the bill, but that the complainant had forgiven him—to which report the complainant excepted and arrangement before the vice chancellor the exception was sustained which left the decree of the 15th Oct. in full force. This case was decided the 5th Oct. inst. Richard Mott of counsel for complainant, and E. Gardner of counsel for defendant.

**ON A SINGULAR ALTERATION IN THE BLOOD, THE EFFECTS OF ILLNESS.**

The alteration occasioned in the animal humors by illness, are so closely connected with chemistry, that it is sometimes impossible to comprehend them without calling in the assistance of that science. We are now no longer in that disagreeable predicament in which the errors of chemistry render an association of that art with medicine dangerous. Some of our most experienced chemists have thrown so much light on the animal economy, as to induce us to hope that chemistry will assume a happy influence over the science of medicine. One of the means to accelerate the progress of this influence, is carefully to mark the nature and alteration of the humors in sick persons, and to connect the phenomena they present with the knowledge of chemistry. With this view I now present the public with a singular symptom which I observed in the blood of a sick woman, of which I have hitherto met with no example.

A woman between thirty and forty years of age, fell into a nervous disorder and a deep melancholy, which particularly affected the stomach and digestion. A continuance of complaints for some months, the seat of which, she always said, lay in the epigastric region, reduced her to a skeleton; to these symptoms were joined a slight fever, her skin was discolored, and a livid paleness took place of her natural complexion. This continued some weeks, when she was brought to the Hotel Dieu, at Paris. She was seized with a convulsive shaking, and great weakness. When she was brought in, her pulse was weak, her lips discolored, her tongue white and moist, her weakness extreme, and her voice almost extinguished; her hearing dull, attended with a tinkling in the ear; every thing announced a languor occasioned by the decomposition of the fluids. Some days after, she was seized with faintness, and these were followed by some drops of blood issuing from the eyelids, nostrils, and ears. A nurse who attended her, was much surprised to observe that the cloth with which she wiped away those drops of blood from her face, was marked with spots of a fine blue. Having communicated this circumstance to a surgeon who attended, he assured himself of the fact, and came to acquaint me with it. I went to the hospital, and wiped away some drops from her eyelids; the linen which was marked with this liquid, appeared brown while it was wet, and in drops, but when dried, which it did before my face, changed to a very fine blue, not very deep. This color remained for several days, although exposed to the air, but after some weeks, it altered to a dirty green, and soon after to a yellow. Acids had no effect on the matter which formed this color, and which did not change to a red; alkali dissolved it, and made it almost disappear, leaving on the linen a slight stain of yellow, or color of rust. These circumstances would induce us to suspect that the matter which caused the color, was analogous to prussian blue. This singular symptom continued some days, and from observations made on the linen employed to wipe her face, there were but few drops of blood issued.

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If these experiments are sufficient to determine, with certainty, that the blood contained a true Prussian blue, we may not be surprised that all the materials of which this composition consists exist actually in the blood, and have been able to form themselves in that liquid by the effects of a long illness. Mr. Bertholet has proved the presence of the *azote*, or base of phlogisticated air, and the base of the atmospheric air in animal matters; it is also certain that the base of inflammable air and matter, are also therein in great quantity; the *oxyde* of iron is also easily demonstrated in the blood, so as to have been looked on by many physiologists as the cause of the color. There is then in the blood every principle necessary for the composition of Prussian blue; but the question is, by what mechanism has the order of their proportion and their affinities been changed? To solve this problem, it is necessary to be better acquainted with the animal substances than we are as yet; and it is necessary to ascertain, with greater precision, the alterations of which they are susceptible.

*The case of William J. Dunn, against Lucretia H. Dunn, his wife, was disposed of by the vice Chancellor on the 5th inst. This suit was commenced the 10th Sept. 1833, and on 15th Oct., following, a decree was entered in the cause dissolving the marriage between the cause and on the 25th of November a motion was made on petition and affidavits on the part of the defendant to be let in to make her defense, alleging that that decree had been obtained by fraud—in the mean time, however, the complainant had married a second wife. The Vice Chancellor heard the motion and set aside the decree, from which the complainant appealed to the Chancellor. After a full argument of the case upon the same statement of facts which appeared before the Vice Chancellor, at the same time referred the case of Benjamin Clark, a master in chancery, to take the testimony thereon, and report his opinion thereon to the Vice Chancellor, and in case it should appear that the defendant was not guilty of the adultery charged in the bill, but that the complainant had forgiven him—to which report the complainant excepted and arrangement before the vice chancellor the exception was sustained which left the decree of the 15th Oct. in full force. This case was decided the 5th Oct. inst. Richard Mott of counsel for complainant, and E. Gardner of counsel for defendant.*

**Young Marcy.**—This unfortunate youth who was sentenced to the Massachusetts State Prison for life, for *assisting* in the *contagion* of the Ursine Convent at Charlestown, while all the older rogues in that disgraceful transaction were let off without any punishment at all, has been pardoned by the Executive council of that state and was discharged a few days since from his imprisonment. His conduct during the confinement had been so perfectly praiseworthy as to acquire the regard and good opinion of all the officers of the prison. He has been placed under the guardianship of Dr. Hooker, of East Cambridge, by his own choice, and that gentleman has procured him a situation in a cabinet maker's shop in the country, where he will remain until he arrives at full age, and with the express stipulation that he is not during the time to go within fifteen miles of the scenes of his boyish恶习.

**Legislation at large.**—It appears that the common council of the city of Boston has decided to send *seventy-two* representatives to the Legislature at the next session. It seems to us that it would have been wiser, "under all the circumstances of the case," if the common council had resolved that "every free white male citizen" of Boston should be considered hereafter as a member of the Massachusetts legislature, *ex officio*. It must be a very flattering distinction now-a-days, to be elected a member of the "General Court" from Boston. It will be a general court, sure enough, at this rate. A modest man would hardly dare sit in that court at this time, lest he be suspected of being a *black slave*.

they should catch him before he suspected his danger, and make a legislator of him.

### INTERESTING TRIAL.

During the session of the circuit court for Davidson county, which adjourned a few days since, a case was tried of more usual interest to the public. It was that of Meek against Philips, for the value of a slave, who had been killed by Philips whilst in the employment of Meek as his overseer.

The following abstract of the evidence was furnished us by a disinterested member of the bar, who was not engaged as counsel on either side of the cause:

"It appeared in evidence, that the negro had disobeyed Philip's orders in going away one night without his permission, for which in accordance with his duty, he undertook to chastise him. The boy proved somewhat refractory, and probably made resistance though there was no direct evidence of the fact.—From Philip's admissions which must be taken for, as well as against him, it seems he had a scuffle with the boy who gave him a blow, which produced pain. Philips with assistance finally subdued and tied him.—While endeavoring to swing him to the limb of a tree he resisted, by pulling back—whereupon Philips who is a large and strong man gave him several blows upon his head with the butt of a loaded horse-whip. Having tied him to the limb, the rope gave way, and the boy fell to the ground—when Philips gave him several violent kicks in the side, and again swung him to the tree, called for a c. w. hide which was accordingly brought, and the chastisement commenced anew. The suffering wretch implored for mercy in vain—Philips would whip him awhile and then rest, only to renew his strokes and wreak his vengeance, for he repeatedly avowed his intention of whipping him to death, saying he had as good a negro to put in his room, to remunerate his master for him. The sufferer, writhing under the stinging tortures of the lash, continued to implore for mercy, while those who were present, interposed and plead too, in his behalf—but there was no relenting arm, until life was nearly extinct and feeling had taken its departure. He was cut loose, bleeding, and weak, overcome with extreme exhaustion and debility, and died in a few minutes after."

It was not the contest between the parties for the value of the slave, which gave to this cause this interest which induces us to call the public attention to it. No man who witnessed the trial cared whether Meek or Philips should have a few hundred dollars more or less; but every one present had his feelings of humanity outraged, to hear detailed the shocking barbarities inflicted by a man of course and brutal disposition, when his passions were once aroused, for a small delinquency on the part of an ignorant and unprotected fellow creature. Slaves in this country, are very inadequately protected by law. The force of public opinion is the principal check upon the passion and tyranny of the whites towards them; for although our laws make their wanton destruction illegal, yet, as these laws must be executed by white men, in the capacity of judge and jurors, and as no black can give evidence against a white man they are legally a poor, helpless, unprotected class of people; and when we consider them, in a political point of view, without education, without the stimulus of public opinion, without the incentive of character, pride or ambition, without any important interest in the result of their own labor, and exertions, we shall be brought to the conclusion that it is strange they are no worse; and that they are entitled to the utmost forbearance and compassion from their owners, and to all the protection from oppression and outrage which humane and enlightened public opinion can allow them.

In the case referred to, the jury of course found a judgment for the plaintiff, and Philips has cause to congratulate himself that he escaped with the payment of a small sum of money instead of being arraigned as a criminal at the bar of his country.

### SOLOMON AND QUEEN SHEBA.

The power of Solomon having spread his wisdom to the utmost bounds of the known world, Queen Sheba, attracted by the splendor of his reputation, visited the poetical king at his own court. There, one day, to exercise the sagacity of the monarch, Sheba presented herself at the foot of the throne; in each of her hands she held a wreath, one composed of natural and the other of artificial flowers. The florist, whoever he was, had so exquisitely imitated the real natives of the garden, that at a distance it was held by the Queen, for the king's inspection, it was deemed impossible for him to answer the question she put him, which wreath was the production of nature, and which of art? The sagacity of Solomon seemed perplexed. The honor of the monarch's reputation for divine sagacity seemed diminished, and the whole Jewish court looked solemn and melancholy. At length expedient presented itself to the king, and it must be confessed, worthy of the natural philosopher. Observing a cluster of bees hovering about a window, he had it opened; the bees rushed into the court, and immediately alighted on one of the wreaths, whilst not a single one fixed on the other.

There was an attempted rescue of Murrell, the "land pirate," from the penitentiary at Nashville, Tenn. About 400 persons had simultaneously and secretly congregated there for the purpose. Most of them have been arrested.

## WEEKLY MESSENGER.

### Printer's Retreat, Indiana.

#### Saturday, October 31.

##### PROBATE COURT

The Switzerland probate court, will sit at the court-house in Vevay, on the second Monday in November next.

##### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The board of county commissioners will meet at the court house in Vevay, on Monday, the 1st day of November next.

**QUERY.**—How is it that some of the branches of our state bank refuse to receive the notes of other branches, either in payment of debts or on deposit; yet will pay out, at their counter the notes of those very branches that they refuse.

**LOANS.**—The farmers and mechanics of Indiana, ought to bear in mind, that their real estate is bound to redeem some four or five hundred thousand dollars with its interest, borrowed by the state and loaned to the state bank; on every dollar of which the banks loan out two for one, and yet charge the farmer and mechanic about ten percentum per annum, and this, too, while some favorites, have accommodations at six percentum. We do hope our next legislature will pass a law compelling the banks to loan to all, upon like terms.

**USTRY.**—Three or four good responsible men, will put their names on a note—present it to some branch, which will refuse to discount or loan the amount; but the same men, drawing a bill of exchange, can have the amount loaned them, by the same branch—Thus, it works, they are not favorites, they cannot borrow at the usual rate, but must give them about ten percentum.

**QUERY.**—Is it usual—is it honorable, for the officers of a bank to run about the streets and tell what accommodations have been made or refused at their bank.

**GOVERNOR.**—James Whitcom is named as a candidate for the office of governor—we have, also, been informed that James G. Read, will be a candidate for the same office.

**SLAVERY.**—In an adjoining column will be found a notice of a trial in Tennessee, between Meek and Philips, two negro owners. Such scenes are of frequent occurrence in the southern slave states. Yet slavery is encouraged by the free states, and even a branch bank of the state of Indiana, will loan money to negro dealers in Kentucky, to take gangs of poor, half starved human wretches, from Kentucky, where humanity still hovers over a majority of the white inhabitants, to Louisiana, where the negroes life is of less value than that of a dog.

**PENSIONS.**—The Palladium says that "the editor of the Weekly Messenger, is still harring away about the non payment of pensions in this district." True! We do so, and are now enabled to show, that an unpardonable negligence is manifest on the part of the officers of the state bank. The documents below, fully sustain us in all our harping—we said that a sufficient of funds, to pay the pensioners had been placed in the hands of the agent, as early as July last—that up to the 15th of September last, about one third the pensioners, only, had been paid, &c. The documents show, that when the suspension took place, there was \$2,058 more, in the bank, than was required to pay all the pensioners, in the state; the agent has still on hand, an overplus of \$12,078. The Palladium says we were *pigged* at the officers of the branch, because they, long since, refused to pay the pensioners, the first moment they heard of it; it would, at least, have saved a long, tedious tramp to many soldiers—for this neglect, those editors are liable to many inferences, which our readers can make for themselves.

**WAR DEPARTMENT.**  
*Pension office, September 23, 1835.*  
Sir—Your letter of the 14th inst. has been received. A remittance of \$10,000 will be made to you immediately. I am sorry to observe, that it is your intention, in case of any deficiency of funds at your agency, to defer payment, until the receipt of money from the department. Such a practice has NEVER EXISTED at any of the agencies; and it is apprehended, that it will cause much complaint. I am respectfully, &c.

**JAMES M. RAY, esq.**  
acting for the pension agent, Indianapolis.

### WAR DEPARTMENT,

*October 12, 1835.*

Sir—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 30th inst. in relation to a deficiency of funds required for the payment of pensioners at the branch of the state bank at Lawrenceburg.

The enclosed report, from the commissioner of pensions, will show you the amount of the first remittance for this object, at the parent bank—the cause of the deficiency, that occurred at the above branch, and measures that were promptly taken to place the requisite funds at its disposal.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
**LEW. CLARK,**

*Editor of the Messenger.*