

Camden Gazette

And Mercantile Advertiser.

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SONG.

Busy, anxious, thrifty, try
Drink with me, and drink as I;
Freely welcome to my cup,
Gladly thou sip, and sip it up.
Make the most of life you may;
Life is short, and wears away;
Both sides are mine and thine,
Hastening quick to their decline.
Thine's a summer, mine no more,
Though repeated to thy score;
Thy score summers, when they're gone,
Will appear as short as one.

Anecdote of Mr. Keen.—One evening as that unrivaled actor, Mr. Keen, was walking by Drury Lane Theatre, he was addressed by a poor negro almost naked. The miserable condition of the supplicant excited Mr. Keen's compassion; as he wished to relieve him, but had not any money about him, with almost unexampled charity he took off his own great coat, and put it on the beggar, who was so dumbly greatly surprised, at such an act of benevolence.

A beautiful girl, on a sleighing party, was requested to put on a fox puppet; the gentleman who proposed it, thought he showed something of good breeding;—however, she refused, and replied with the greatest sang froid—“I use so much Fox about my person, I shall soon have all the Hounds after me.”

Horse before the cart.
The French said a young Irish harlequin, always put the horse before the cart, and I remember a loyal son of France who never spoke of Bona-parte but as *son dem start up*.

A monk, who was about to undertake a long voyage, was told by a friend, “do not fear any thing during a tempest, as long as the sailors swear and blaspheme; but if they pray—if they ask pardon of each other, they tremble.” No sooner was he at sea than a storm arose. The friar, who was uneasy, sent from time to time a brother of his order on deck to listen in the conversation of the sailors. “Ah, good God, father,” said the latter on his return, “all is lost, these wretches make the most horrible imprecations; you would shudder to hear them, their blasphemies alone are sufficient to sink the vessel.” “God be praised,” said the monk, “go to rest, all is well.”

GEN. WASHINGTON.

From Ramsay's Life of Washington.
The person of George Washington was uncommonly tall. Moral firmness and intemperance in the open country, the wholesome toils of the chace, and the delightful scenes of rural life, expanded his limbs to an unusual, but graceful and well proportioned size. His exterior suggested to every beholder the idea of strength united with manly gracefulness. His form was noble, and his port majestic.—No man could approach him but with respect. His frame was robust; his constitution vigorous, and he was capable of enduring great fatigue. His passions were naturally strong, with them was his first contest, and over them his first victory. Before he engaged in the continental wars, he had been

ed to command himself. The powers of his mind were more solid than brilliant. Judgment was his fort. To vivacity, wit, and the sallies of a lively imagination, he made no pretensions. His faculties resembled those of Aristotle, Bacon, Locke, and Newton; but were very unlike those of Voltaire. Possessed of a large proportion of common sense directed by a sound practical judgment, he was better fitted for the exalted stations to which he was called, than many others, who, to a greater brilliancy of parts, frequently add the eccentricities of genius.

Truth and utility were his objects. He steadily pursued and generally attained them. With this view he thought much, and closely examined every subject, on which he was to decide, in all its relations. Neither passion, party spirit, pride, prejudice, ambition, nor interest, influenced his deliberations. In making up his mind on great occasions, many of which occurred, in which the fate of the army or nation seemed involved, he sought for information from all quarters, revolved the subject by day and night, and examined it in every point of view. Guided by these lights, and influenced by an honest and good heart, he was imperceptibly led to decisions, which were wise and judicious. Perhaps no man ever lived, who was so often called upon to form a judgment in cases of real difficulty, and who so often formed a right one. Engaged in the busy scenes of life, he knew human nature, and the most proper methods of accomplishing proposed objects. Of a thousand propositions, he knew to distinguish the best, and to select among a thousand the individual more fitted for his purpose.

As a military man he possessed personal courage, and a firmness, which neither dangers nor difficulties could shake. His perseverance overcame every obstacle, his moderation conciliated all opposition; his genius supplied every resource. He knew how to conquer by delay, and deserved true praise by despising unmerited censure. Inferior to his adversary in numbers, the equipment and discipline of his troops, no great advantage was ever obtained over him, and no opportunity to strike an important blow was ever neglected. In the most ardent moments of the contest, his prudent firmness proved the salvation of his country.

The whole range of history does not present a character, on which we can dwell with such entire, unmixed admiration. His qualities were so happily blended, and so nicely harmonized that the result was a great and perfect whole.

The integrity of Washington was incomparable. His principles were free from the contamination of selfish and unworthy passions. His real and avowed motives were the same. His ends were always upright, and his means pure. He was a statesman without guile, and his professions, both to his fellow-citizens and to foreign nations, were always sincere. No circumstances ever induced him to use duplicity. He was an example of the distinction, which exists between wisdom and cunning; and his manly, open conduct, was an illustration of the soundness of the maxim, that honesty is the best policy.

The temper of Washington was of a particular kind. He overstepped the tedious forms of the schools; and by the force of a correct taste and sound judgment, seized by the great ends of learning, without the assistance of those means which have been contrived to prepare less active minds for public business. By a careful study of the English language; by reading good models of fine writing, and, above all, by the aid of a vigorous mind, he made himself master of a pure, elegant, and classical style. His composition was all nerve; full of correct and manly ideas, which were expressed in precise and forcible language. His answers to the innumerable addresses which on all public

occasions poured in upon him, were promptly made, handsomely expressed, and always contained something appropriate. His letters to Congress; his addresses to that body on the acceptance and resignation of his commission; his general orders as commander in chief; his speeches and messages as President, and above all, his two farewell addresses to the people of the United States, will remain lasting monuments of the goodness of his heart, of the wisdom of his head, and of the eloquence of his pen.

The powers of his mind were in some respects peculiar. He was a great practical, self-taught genius; with a head to devise, and a hand to execute projects of the first magnitude and the greatest utility.

There are few men of any kind, and still fewer of those the world call great, who have not some of their virtues eclipsed by corresponding vices. But this was not the case with General Washington. He had religion without austerity, dignity without pride, modesty without diffidence, courage without rashness, politeness without affectation, affability without familiarity. His private character as well as his public one, will bear the strictest scrutiny. He was punctual in all his engagements; upright and honest in his dealings; temperate in his enjoyments; liberal and hospitable to an eminent degree; a lover of order; systematical and methodical in all his arrangements. He was the friend of morality and religion; steadily attached to public worship; encouraged and strengthened the hands of the clergy. In all his public acts he made the most respectful mention of Providence, and in a word, carried the spirit of piety with him both in his private life and public administration.

Washington had to form soldiers of freemen, many of whom had extravagant ideas of their personal rights. He had often to mediate between a starving army, and a high-spirited yeomanry. So great were the necessities of the soldiers under his command, that he was obliged to send out detachments to seize on the property of the farmers at the point of the bayonet. The language of the soldier was, give me clothing, give me food, or I cannot fight, I cannot live.—The language of the farmer was, protect my property.—In this choice of difficulties, General Washington not only kept his army together, but conducted with so much prudence as to command the approbation both of the army and of the citizens. He was also dependent for much of his support on the concurrence of thirteen distinct, unconnected legislatures. Animosities prevailed between the southern and northern troops, and there were strong jealousies between the states, from which they respectively came. To harmonize these clashing interests, to make uniform arrangements from such discordant sources and materials, required no common share of address. Yet so great was the effect of the modest, unassuming manners of General Washington, that he retained the affection of all the troops, and of all states.

He also possessed equanimity in an eminent degree. One event tenour marked the goodness of his mind in all the variety of scenes through which he passed. In the most trying situations he never despaired, nor was he ever depressed. He was the same, when retreating through Jersey from before a victorious enemy, with the remains of his broken army, as when marching in triumph into Yorktown, over its demolished fortifications.—The honors and applause he received from his grateful countrymen, would have made almost any other man giddy; but on him they had no mischievous effect. He exacted none of those attentions; but when forced upon him, he received them as favours, with the politeness of a well-bred man. He was great in deserving them, but much greater in not being elated with them.

GENERAL JACKSON.

The documents connected with the trial of Arbuthnot and Ambrister, are now before the people of the U. States, who are capable of exercising their sovereign right in deciding on the merits of the case. Fortunately no foreign government interposes on this subject—no remonstrance from abroad calls upon us for justice—no sovereign demands redress—it is a question to be decided by the dispassionate investigation and voice of the people—it is not for us to say, whether an act of injustice has been committed, or a stain affixed upon our national escutcheon; it is for us to clear up a point of honor, voluntarily, and to approve or disavow the conduct of the commanding general. It unfortunately happens that the character and military career of General Jackson, precludes, in some respects, a dispassionate investigation. His eminent and most valuable services during the late war, have created no sentiment of gratitude in the minds of those who were opposed to the war. The friends of Great Britain cannot feel cordially disposed towards the hero of New Orleans, and his unpleasant temper, connected with local disputes, his harsh and lofty style of complaint, has soured many persons who are free to admit his extraordinary merit and services, and his general humane character. These are obstacles to a favorable explanation of his measures. The question for decision is, simply, were Arbuthnot and Ambrister executed conformable to the law of nations? Because, if they were so executed, all cause of complaint ceases to exist. It is first necessary for us to glance at the situation of our borders, and the protection due to our frontier settlements. We, who are comfortably situated in a flourishing and populous city, armed at all points, and surrounded with the conveniences, the pleasures, the luxuries of life, will find it difficult to imagine the dreadful situation of our settlers, who with their wives and infants, their aged parents and relations, are suddenly taken in upon by a horde of merciless savages; who, with horrid forms and frantic yells, burn their dwellings, and scalp, like the aged and the innocent—we cannot fully realize these dreadful scenes by a cold description; and before our sympathies are enlisted for two men, who deserved their fate, whether they were legally executed or not, let us look at home, and see the blood of our defenceless people, shed by the hands of ruthless barbarians. What induced the Indians to attack us? We were doing them no wrong—we neither murdered their people nor destroyed their dwelling—peace with them has been our anxious wish.—Who set them on? These two men—they furnished them with arms and ammunition; infuriated them with rum; rendered savages yet more savage, and then led them on to attack a people with whom they were at peace, to massacre infants and women, who never could have harmed them;—these men, and not the Indians, merited punishment—the deluders, not the deluded, deserved death. Why are we to be eternally the victims of these foreign mercenaries—of these civilized savages? Well, they are taken, and in arms, and they are to be dealt justly by according to the law of nations. And what does that law, which is our law say? That he who is taken as a spy lurking in a camp, he who, while his country is at peace with a nation, is found in arms against that nation, aiding and abetting its enemies, shall suffer death. Nothing is clearer, and more universally admitted by civilized nations. Who were Arbuthnot and Ambrister? They were not Indians—they were not Spaniards—they were Englishmen. Did the British authorize their bearing arms against us? No. Then they were violating the law of nations, by taking up arms against a country at peace with theirs—they were spies in our camp; and, by the *lex of war*, they

were subjected to the punishment of death. General Jackson, when they were taken prisoners, calls a court martial, which was composed of honorable men, to try these prisoners. The laws of our country, founded on the law of nations, was before every member of this court; and, after a full, patient and strict examination, the prisoners are found guilty, and are sentenced to die. After this decision, the court martial reconsiders Ambrister's sentence, and reverses it, ordering him to be whipped, chained, and to work on the public roads for one twelve months. General Jackson being the executive officer, strikes his pen through the reconsideration of Ambrister's sentence, and orders them both to be executed. Here is the rub—here is one of the strong grounds of complaint against the general—here he is censured for reversing the order of the court martial.

Now, what is the duty of this court martial? To try the prisoners for certain charges; they are tried and found guilty; what follows? *Why, the application of the law of the land in punishment of these crimes.* All the court martial had to do, was to ascertain whether they were guilty. The law was beyond their control; it was not a malleable substance, to be warmed or cooled, according to their sympathies or prejudices. They were bound to try faithfully, and if convicted, to apply the penalty of the law as faithfully; they had no right, neither expressed nor implied, to consider their sentence—they could have given the prisoner another trial, and found him guilty of a minor offence, which would subject him to a minor punishment, but this they do not—they still record a verdict against the prisoner, which by the law of the land, which law they are sworn to obey, subjects him to the punishment of death, and yet reconsider and reverse the sentence. This, to all intents & purposes, is extra judicial, erroneous and void. If he is guilty, the law, not the court martial, fixes the punishment.—It is then said, that no execution can take place in time of peace, without the consent of the president; yet no one will attempt to say that these executions occurred in times of peace.

We are, by no means, the friend to high handed authority, or sweeping usurpation—we have more than once said it to be our duty to censure General Jackson, and we shall set towards him as we hope to do towards every man in power. Censure when it is merited—approve when approbation is due. We never will become a party to any personal object—to support or condemn, according to policy. We cannot perceive in these charges any good grounds for indiscriminate censure. If foreign emissaries will put arms in the hands of savages, to be used against our defenceless settlers, infants and women, then we say, hang them, as a warning to other sanguinary adventurers.—We are not a nation to be thus insulted and outraged.—We are capable of defending the rights of persons and the rights of soil, and we need not refer to the many parallels in history to justify our course.

The following was submitted in the House of Representatives of the United States, on the 11th instant: REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.

Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, after recalling the recollection of the House to the fact, that, at the session before the last, he had proposed a resolution for the reduction of the army, announced his intention to renew that proposition. He yet thought the measure necessary. In all free countries that standing armies are dangerous to liberty, was a truth generally admitted, and in this country particularly, solemnly recognized. In this belief, he said, he had grown up; in this belief he had lived. His opinion as to the expediency of reducing our present military force, remained unaltered by the events which had elapsed since he before suggested it—he might say, he add-