

From the Troy Post, April 4.

Extracts from

General Wilkinson's Defence.

[The trial of General Wilkinson has excited so much interest during the winter past, that we presume it will be acceptable to our readers to see a part of his defence. It is said the trial will be published as soon as the sentence of the Court is made known. The following extracts are made from the exordium and conclusion of the General's defence.]

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Court,
"The case before you, however afflicting to the sensibilities of a soldier, has become too common in our own history, as well as that of other nations.

"The conflicts of Ministers and Generals appear to be the necessary consequences of every unsuccessful military expedition; failure produces discontent, discontent murmurs, murmurs re- crimination, and re- criminations inquiry. It is presumed there has been a fault somewhere; the public mind becomes restless, and the people must be satisfied, even at the expense of an hundred thousand dollars, without one cent of profit, as in the present case.

This would be well, were good to come of it; but as personal controversy seldom mends the heart or improves the understanding, it never should be suffered on slight grounds.

An upright and able minister would prefer to rest his political standing on his own reputation, sooner than seek to prop it by the persecution of a faithful, zealous, but unfortunate General. Such was the conduct of a Chatham, whose example it is impossible an Armstrong could imitate.

But my case is perhaps without an example: That of a minister of high standing and splendid talents, seducing an officer from an honorable command and the fairest prospects of fame, to put him on the execution of an impracticable project, without competent means; and because of its failure, to save himself from public odium, he resorts to tricks, stratagems, and perfidies, to cast the blame he has incurred from his own shoulders upon those of an officer he had deceived; and this officer! a man with whom he had been associated in the most interesting scenes of the revolutionary war; the friend of his juvenile days; to whom he professes to be bound by the sacred ties of personal confidence and attachment?

Mr. President, I disclaim high colourings in a case of such gravity, and should disdain to excite the feelings, or warp the judgment of my judges were I capable: the disclosures about to be made will test the truth, and determine my title to credibility.

From the common anxiety we have felt to conclude the procrastinated investigation with as little delay as possible, I have undertaken to perform in 12 days, a work requiring a month. It must not therefore be expected that I should present this defence in that connected, prepared state; with that regularity and complete arrangement, and analysis of the testimony, which it was my desire to submit to the deliberate understanding of this court, and to the sober reflections of my countrymen.

In forming a judgment on the whole or any distinct part of my conduct, I flatter myself the Court will be determined by circumstances as they appeared at the time; by the decisions of the moment and the apparent exigencies of the occasion; not by an after knowledge of facts which could not be known at the time.

Before I enter upon the investigation of the testimony, I consider it a matter of propriety towards the Court briefly to state the course I shall pursue: It will be recollected that a report touching the merits of that part of the campaign of 1813 in which I was concerned, at the call of the House of Representatives, was made up by that accuser and presented to that honorable body in the session of 1813-14; and it has been admitted by the Court, that that report should be taken as "prima facie" evidence on this enquiry: I have availed myself of this permission, to present such parts of that report to the view of the Court as tend to throw light upon the inquiry before it, and to explain the principles and motives of my actions in command, from the first order received at the dawn of the late war, to the termination of my command on the northern frontier last April.

I shall then, Mr. President, open the case with a brief narrative of facts and incidents; after which I shall proceed to compare and apply

the testimony, and will conclude with a rapid summary of the whole."

CONCLUSION.

"The artifices of my accuser prevailed; he deprived me of my sword in the dawn of the campaign; threw me out of the path of glory, and the injury is irreparable.

The troops formed and disciplined in hardships and suffering and perils, under my orders, when fitted for action and prepared to meet the enemy, were destined to gather laurels to decorate the brows of more fortunate men.

But amidst the ills inflicted upon me by this tyrant, the hand of Heaven was outstretched in my behalf; and the disgraceful flight of the Destroyer of the Capital of this country, placed the office he had abused in honorable hands, and secured to me an impartial tribunal to judge my conduct. A tribunal the first in point of rank and experience, one only excepted,* which ever assembled in the United States. But, Mr. President, I possess other sources of consolation, which no earthly power can take from me, I have borne arms and faithfully served my country through three wars! nay more—I have saved her from a civil war. How many toilsome days have I labored for the honor of my country! How many sleepless nights have I watched over her safety!—Thirty-nine years past I marched a company over the very ground on which I now stand—then waste, wild and uncultivated; now the scene of industry, of wealth and of talents; the seat of social refinement, of personal charms, and polished society. In October next it will be thirty-eight years since I led the captive Burgoyne from his intrenchment to surrender an army of six thousand veteran troops of Europe, on the plains of Saratoga, under a convention countersigned by the hand, which now presents it to the honorable court, with the prayer that it may be permitted to accompany the records of this day, and find a place in the archives of the war department.

Mr. President, may the war-worn veteran, with a ruined constitution, the fruit of the services of his whole life, and staggering under the load of obloquy heaped on him by his accuser, be permitted to produce a more recent instance of his zeal in the public service; to show that if he has not been triumphant; that if he has been deprived of the opportunity to swell his name in the annals of blood.

The testimonials of those meritorious, gallant officers, Com. McDonough and major general McComb. (see app. No. 79) seconded by the credential of a respectable eye witness, a citizen of this State, will prove beyond doubt, that my agency contributed essentially to our naval triumph on Lake Champlain, and the preservation of our garrison at Plattsburgh. From these documents it will appear, that had for my precaution in establishing a battery at the mouth of Otter Creek, the early movement of the enemy made against that point in May last would have blocked up our squadron for the season: The shores of the Lake would have been exposed to his ravages, and Plattsburgh must have yielded to his superior force.

Mr. President and Gentlemen, whatever may be my future destiny at this moment wrapt in clouds, I shall bear in grateful recollection the patience with which you have waded through the tedious inquiry. I confide in the justice of your award, because I am satisfied it will be founded in integrity. Whatever it may be, I am prepared to meet it with complacency, and were it proper for me to express a wish on the awful occasion, which interests my feelings closer than life itself, I should say—If Guilty, let my punishment be exemplary—If innocent, acquit me with honor.—Then I shall not have lived in vain."

* The Court before which the celebrated Maj. Andre was tried.

GENERAL JACKSON & MARTIAL LAW.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at New Orleans, to his friend in New-York, dated March 10, 1815.

"Monday by an express from Washington we heard of the President's ratification of the treaty of peace. The Messenger however, unfortunately received from the bright heads of affairs at the seat of government, a letter of an old date ordering the general to raise three regiments, instead of receiving the dispatches relative to the peace. He luckily, however, happened to bring with him a letter of introduction from the Post Master General, to the Post Masters, &c. on the route, urging them to send him on, and after he should be tired out to send on in like manner other successors, with

all possible expedition and at any expense, no matter what. By which letter of introduction we learn that the despatches he ought to have brought relate to peace and the President's ratification.

The eminent services of General Jackson, in the defence of this district, would entitle him to every thing that the gratitude of a country could bestow, if his subsequent conduct had taken nothing from the account. After the capture of the gun boats, he proclaimed the establishment of martial law, whether with or without authority, nobody was then disposed to enquire. A voluntary submission to the power of one man, who had firmness enough to hold the reins of government, and courage enough to rely on himself, in a most critical emergency, every one then felt to be required by the occasion. But recently an indiscreet use of that power in keeping some regiments of our local militia, on irksome service at the outposts, after the danger was over, while regular and draft militia were idle, has raised discontents, which, fostered by the intrigues of Governor Claiborne (as Jackson supposed) of the French Consul, and operating on his too impatient, violent temper, inflamed by unwise counsels, have impelled him, step by step, to the most shocking violation of the constitution without necessity and without excuse.

The dissatisfaction produced by this unequal imposition on some of the local militia, induced many of them, in order to elude it, to apply to the French consul to be recognized as French subjects, and who very readily granted them certificates to that effect. Jackson then issued a general order commanding all such certificate French subjects, (many of whom had been fighting at the lines while the enemy was near) to retire after a limited time into the interior, not so near Baton Rouge. This produced considerable murmurs which were noted by the intrigues of Claiborne, who, sick of envy, and desirous with a view to this opportunity, of contributing to lower the man, who had so much eclipsed him.

At length an anonymous piece was published, vindicating these French subjects and casting on the arbitrary conduct of the General; Mr. Louaillier a member of the Legislature, a meritorious and popular citizen, was ascertained to be the author, and was forthwith arrested and he still remains confined; Judge Hall of the U. States District Court, who issued a habeas corpus on the application of Mr. Louaillier's counsel, was likewise arrested on Sunday night, and has remained a prisoner in the barracks ever since. Mr. H—, for some indiscreet words uttered in the street, was likewise arrested. Application was made to the Supreme Court for a habeas corpus, but pending it, he was released on giving a kind of security to appear before a court martial, and the application was withdrawn at his request.—News of peace arrived that day.

Mr. Dick, the U. S. District Attorney, on Wednesday, made an affidavit of Judge Hall's illegal confinement, and applied to Judge Lewis for a habeas corpus, which was issued and disobeyed. Mr. Dick, for this act, was arrested, and is still detained in the barracks. An order for the arrest of Judge Lewis likewise issued, but was withdrawn. Under these circumstances, it is most deeply to be regretted, that the official notice of the ratification of the treaty should have been left behind by the express.

Ev. Post.

From the New-York Evening Post. NEW-YORK, March 25.

A treaty of "peculiar felicity."—The information contained in the following editorial article, from the United States Gazette, claims the attention and the serious reflection of every lover of truth. The reader will observe that the respectable editor pledges his reputation for the correctness of his statement. Let us see the man of any standing who will venture to deny it.

"It is probable that some of the journeymen and underworkers of the administration, (who are employed to repeat, like parrots, every day & every hour, that the late war was necessary and just in its origin, and honorable and successful in its termination,) may, in part, believe what they say. But not so Madison himself & those who assist him in the management behind the scenes. They are not deceived, but deceivers. They have seen all the degrading and humiliating correspondence which has taken place between our Commissioners and those of Great-Britain, at Ghent, which they dare not permit the people to see. Mr. Madison had

that correspondence before him when he had the assurance to send a message to Congress accompanying copies of the ratified treaty, in which he says:—

"I congratulate you and our constituents upon an event which is highly honorable to the nation, and terminates, with peculiar felicity, a campaign signalized by the most brilliant success."

When penning that sentence, Mr. Madison, as well as every member of one of the houses to whom it was addressed, knew, officially, that the British Commissioners had peremptorily refused even to enter into any discussion of those topics which constituted the alleged causes of the war.

We state as a fact that in the project of a Treaty, offered by the American Negotiators, there was a long article on the subject of impressment, drawn up in detail and with great care, containing a proposal that the United States should adopt effectual measures to prevent British seamen from being employed in their navigation, which being satisfactorily accomplished and faithfully observed, Great Britain should stipulate to abstain from searching American vessels for seamen. The same article contained provisions respecting the restitution of seamen heretofore impressed.—The project having been submitted to the British commissioners, was returned by arguments. But the only notice which they designed to take of this all important article which was forever to secure to the United States "free trade and sailors' rights," was simply to write at the bottom of it the civil word, "INADMISSIBLE."

Our ministers afterwards attempted to have the point reserved for future discussion and adjustment, by obtaining a stipulation that nothing in the treaty should be construed to prejudice the claims of either party on the score of maritime rights. Even this negative concession was absolutely refused, and our commissioners were left to their choice to take the treaty as it is, or to have none.

When the treaty was received by the President, it was sent by him to the Senate, without any of the correspondence between the commission which led to the conclusion of it. The Executive was the Executive to gratify even that body with a sight of those documents, that no copies had been made. The Editor is enabled, from information which he has received from unquestionable sources, to state these facts, & he pledges his reputation to his readers for their being substantially correct.—An attempt was made in the Senate to procure a vote for the publication of the correspondence, but the motion was overruled by the executive majority.

ANSWER OF MR. CLINTON. To the Republican Meeting held in the city of New-York, of which GURDON S. MUMFORD, Esq. was chairman, and ARTHUR SMITH, Esq. secretary.

Fellow-Citizens,
When absent from this city, I had the honor to receive your resolutions approbatory of my conduct.—On my return I hasten to express the feelings which animate my bosom on this distinguished occasion.

Ever since the recognition of our national independence, the eyes of the enlightened friends of the human race, in all quarters of the world, have been turned to the U. States, to witness the great experiment which is trying here, whether man, under any circumstance, is capable of enjoying the blessings of freedom; and whether he is not doomed, by the infirmities of his nature, and the perversities of his destiny, to renounce the high prerogatives of self government. If, in a state of society the most favored, from the diffusion of knowledge, and the condition of property—remote from the intrigues and influence of the old world—blessed with a constitution of government founded upon the representative principle, and uniting with it, by the adoption of the confederate system, the advantages of power, extended territory, and national greatness—and which promises an exemption from those dreadful convulsions and calamities that have disgraced and afflicted mankind—if, under all these circumstances so propitious, a failure should take place, the cause of civil liberty and of rational freedom would be deprived of its strongest support and the most malign effects to the dignity and welfare of the human race, would ensue.

In order to preserve the principles of our government, and to protect the prosperity of our country, it is essentially necessary that we should

cherish the republican system in its utmost purity—that we should maintain the ascendancy of law and good order—and that we should perpetuate the union of the states. The history of the world proclaims the natural alliance between anarchy and tyranny; and if, in the awful visitations of Divine Providence, we are doomed to travel the round of human calamity, and to become beasts of burden or of prey to creatures like ourselves, we must look for the immediate and operating causes, in the dissolution of the Union, and in the establishment of a military despotism; the former will entail upon us all the evils of never ceasing and destructive wars, and the latter will result as a necessary consequence, if it does not previously arise from the operation of fatal and pre-existing causes.

In you, my much respected friends, I have uniformly witnessed the most decided and honorable attachment to the principles of our government, and the prosperity and honor of the United States. In the midst of senseless clamor and malignant denunciation, you have continued

Unmoved, Unshaken, unswayed, unterrified.

The enlightened friends of wise and patriotic measures, not the blind followers of individuals, and never forgetting that respect which honorable men must always entertain for themselves, and that affection which patriots must invariably feel for their country.

The good opinion of such men is to me of more value and in higher estimation, than all that office can confer. Beholding in you, not the political insects of an hour, nor the pusillanimous of a night, but the firm and stable fixture of republicanism, true to yourselves, to your friends and to your country, in the worst as well in the best of times, I tender to you the assurances of my unalterable regard, and of my profound respect.

DEWITT CLINTON
New-York, April 6.

[From a late London Paper.]
EXPULSION OF LORD COCHRANE, From being a member of the Order of the Bath.

In consequence of a meeting of the members of the Order of the Bath, a warrant was agreed upon, signed by Francis Townsend, Esq., King of Arms of the Order of the Bath, to remove Sir Thomas Cochrane, from being a member of the Order.

Accordingly, with a warrant signed by Lord Viscount Sidmouth, as secretary of state for the home department, a few minutes before 1 o'clock, in King Henry VIII's Chapel, Westminster Abbey, and proceeded to ascend the ladder placed for that purpose, to remove the banner of Lord Cochrane from its conspicuous appointed situation, which was the fourth from the top, on the right side of the Chapel, between those of Lord Beresford and Sir Barent Spencer.

His arms were afterwards unscrewed from his stall; and it so happened they were unscrewed on the brass plate by the same youth who screwed them up. The helmet, crest, mantling and sword; with all his Lordship's insignia of the Order were then taken down from the top of the stall.

The most degrading part of the ceremony then took place, of his Lordship's banner being kicked out of the Chapel, and down the steps leading to the Chapel, by Mr. Townsend, King of Arms of the Order; and the curious coincidence of circumstances was, that the same two young men who introduced his Lordship into the Chapel at the time of the installation, for him to be installed on the occasion, happened to be there by mere chance.

Nothing of the kind, as to the removal of a Knight from the Order of Bath, has occurred since its establishment in the year 1725.

BAYONNE, Jan. 31.

The Spanish government has taken one step towards mercy, or rather towards justice. The minister Cevallos, convinced that the rigidity used against the libereaux, was only to aggravate more and more their minds, and annihilate the restoration of tranquillity, has presented H. C. M. with a well digested note, to treat him to put a stop to every arrest and detention of the libereaux, and to give an order to recall every one of them, who, as means of security, had fled to other countries.

This step says the minister, is required by humanity, and the generosity of our government wants yet the restitution of all the property seized.

The King has been pleased to accept the memorial, and send it to the council, by which it is expected it will be accepted.