

Highland Messenger.

LIFE IS ONLY TO BE VALUED AS IT IS USEFULLY EMPLOYED.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

Revolutionary Reminiscence.

In the early part of the revolutionary war, a sergeant and twelve armed men undertook a journey through the wilderness of the State of New Hampshire. Their route was remote from any settlements, and they were under the necessity of camping over night in the woods. In the early part of our struggle for independence, the Indians were numerous and did not regard it as a conflict carried on with so much zeal and ardor by the whites. Some tribes were friendly to our cause, while many upon our border took part with the enemy, and were very troublesome in their savage kind of warfare, as our countrymen often learned from the warlike experience of their midnight depredations. The leader of the above mentioned party was well acquainted with different tribes; and from much intercourse with them previous to the war, was not ignorant of the idiom, physiognomy, and dress of each, and at the commencement of hostilities was informed for which party they had sided the hatchet.

Nothing material happened the first day of their excursion; but early in the afternoon of the second, they, from an eminence, discovered a body of armed Indians advancing towards them, whose number rather exceeded their own. As soon as the whites were perceived by their red brethren, the latter made signals, and the two parties approached each other in an amicable manner. The Indians appeared to be much gratified with meeting the sergeant and his men, whom they observed they considered as their protectors; and they belonged to a tribe which had raised the hatchet with zeal in the cause of liberty, and were determined to do all in their power to injure the common enemy. They shook hands in friendship, and it was, "how d'ye do, pro, how d'ye do, pro;" that being their renunciation of the word brother. When they had conversed with each other for some time and exchanged mutual good wishes they at length separated, and each party travelled in different directions. After proceeding to the distance of a mile or more, the sergeant halted his men and addressed them in the following words: "My brave companions, we must use the utmost caution, or this night may be our last. Should we not make some extraordinary exertions to defend ourselves, to-morrow's sun may find us sleeping never to wake. You are surprised comrades, at my words; and your anxiety will not be lessened when I inform you that we have just passed our most inveterate foe, who under the mask of pretended friendship you have witnessed, would tell us into security, and by such means, in the unguarded moments of our midnight slumber, without resistance, seal our fate."

The men with astonishment listened to this short harangue; and their surprise was greater, as not one of them had entertained the suspicion that they had just encountered friends. They all immediately resolved to enter into some scheme for their mutual preservation and destruction of their enemies. By the proposal of their leader, the following plan was adopted and executed.

The spot selected for their night's encampment was near a stream of water which served to cover their rear. They felled a large tree, before which on the approach of night a brilliant fire was lighted. Each individual cut a log of wood about the size of his body, rolled it nicely in his blanket, placed his hat upon the extremity, and hid it before the fire; that the enemy might be deceived, and mistake it for a man. After logs equal in number to the sergeant's party were thus fitted out, and so artfully arranged that they might easily be mistaken for so many soldiers, the men with loaded muskets placed themselves behind the fallen tree, by which time the shades of the evening began to close around. The fire was supplied with fuel, and kept burning brilliantly until late in the evening, when it was suffered to decline. The critical time was now approaching, when an attack might be expected from the Indians; and the sergeant's men rested in their places of concealment with great anxiety till near midnight, without perceiving any movement of the enemy.

At length a tall Indian was discovered through the glimmering of the fire, (which was now getting low) cautiously moving towards them, making no noise, and apparently using every means in his power to conceal himself from any one about the camp. For a time, his actions showed him to be suspicious that a guard might be stationed to watch any unusual appearance, who would give the alarm in case of danger; but all appearing quiet, he ventured forward more boldly, rested upon his toes, and was distinctly seen to move his finger as he numbered each log of wood, or what he supposed to be a human being quietly enjoying repose. To satisfy himself more fully, as to the number, he counted them over a second time, and cautiously retired.

He was succeeded by another Indian, who went through the same movements, and retired in the same manner. Soon after the whole party, sixteen in number, were discovered, cautiously approaching, and greedily eyeing their supposed victims. The feelings of the sergeant's men can better be imagined than described, when they saw the base and cruel purposes of their enemies, who were now so near that they could scarcely be restrained from firing upon them. The plan, however, of the sergeant was to have his men remain silent in their places of concealment till the muskets of the savages were discharged, that their own fire might be more effectual and opposition less formidable.

Their suspense was not of long duration. The Indians, in a body, cautiously approached, till within a short distance, they then halted, took deliberate aim discharged their pieces upon inanimate logs, gave the dreadful war-whoop, and instantly rushed forward with tomahawk and scalping-knife in hand, to despatch the living and obtain the scalps of the dead. As soon as they had collected in close order, more effectually to execute these horrid intentions, the party of the sergeant, with unerring aim, discharged their pieces, not on logs of wood, but on perfidious savages, not one of whom escaped destruction by the snare into which their cowardly and blood-thirsty dispositions had led them.

[From the Sunday School Journal.]

THE SIX VERSIONS.

Having been much interested in examining a specimen of a work proposed by Mr. Bagster, of London, in which the six principal English versions of the Bible will be presented in parallel columns. I thought some of your young readers at least, would be pleased to have an opportunity of noticing the gradual change that has taken place in our language in the last five centuries, and I therefore copy four verses of the epistle to the Hebrews from each version.

WICKLIFFE'S TRANSLATION, 1380.
bi feith noe drodde thorny answere (in kum of these thingis that yt weren not seen and schapid a schip in to the helthe of his house bi wiche he dampned the world and is ordeyned eire of rightwinesse which is bi feith.
bi feith, he that is clepid abraham: obid to go out into a place wiche he shoulde take into eritage, and he wente out: not wityng whidre he shoulde go. bi feith he dwelte in the lond of bibeest: as in an alien lond: dwellyng in litil housis with Isaac and Jacob ewen eiris of the same bibeest, for he abode the certee havynge foundemendis, whose buildre and maker is god.

TYNDALE, 1534.

By feith Noe honored God, after that he was warned of things which were not seen, and prepared the arke to the savinge of his householde, throwe the which arke; he condemned the worlde, and became heyre of the rightwinesse which cometh by feith.

By feith Abraham, when he was called obeyed, to go out into a place which he should afterwards receive to inheritance, and he went out not knowynge whether he should go. By feith he removed into the lond that promised him, as into a strange countre, and dwelt in tabernacles; and so did Isaac, and Jacob, heires with him of the same promise. For he looked for a cite having a foundation whose buildre and maker is God.

CRANMER, 1539.

By feith Noe beyng warned of God, eschued the things which were as yet not seen, and prepared the arke to the savinge of his householde thorow the which arke, he condemned the world, and became heyre of the rightwinesse which is according to feith. By feith Abraham, when he was called obeyed, to go out into a place, wiche he should afterward receive to inheritance; and he went out, not knowing whether he should go. By feith he removed into the land of promise, as into a strange countre, when he had dwelt in tabernacles; and so dyd Isaac and Jacob heires with him of the same promise. For he looked for a cite having a foundation, whose buildre and maker is God.

GENEVAN, 1557.

By feith Noe being warned of God, of the things which were as yet not seen, moved with reverence prepared the arke to the savinge of his householde, through the which arke, he condemned the world, and was made heyre of the rightwinesse which cometh by feith.

By feith Abraham when he was called obeyed God to go out into a place, which he should afterward receive for inheritance: and he went out, not knowing whether he should go. By feith he abode in the land, that was promised him, as in a strange countre, as one that dwelt in tabernacles and with Isaac and Jacob heires with him of the same promise: For he looked for a cite having a foundation, whose buildre and maker is God.

RHEIMS, 1582.

By feith Noe having received an answer concerning those things which as yet were not seen, fearing, framed the arke for the savinge of his house, by the which he condemned the world: and was instituted heire of the justice which is by feith.

By feith, he that is called Abraham, obeyed to go forth into the place which he was to receive for inheritance: and he went forth, not knowing whether he went. By feith he abode in the land of promise, as in a strange land, dwelling in cottages with Isaac and Jacob the co-heires of the same promise. For he expected the cite that

hath foundations: whose artificer and maker is God.

KING JAMES, 1611.

By feith Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an arke to the savinge of his house, by the which he condemned the world and became heire of the rightwinesse which is by feith.

By feith Abraham when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed, and he went out not knowing whether he went.

By feith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange countre, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.

For he looked for a cite which hath foundations, whose buildre and maker is God.

[This last is our present version, but there has been some change in orthography since it was first printed. I add in the same order two well known verses from the same epistle, and as the variety of expression may serve to show the fullness of the original meaning.]

But feith is the substance of things that he is hoped for, and an argument of things not seen, and in this feith we have gotten witnessinge.

Faith is the sure confidence of thynges which are hoped for, and a certayntie of thynges which are not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good repute.

Faith is that, which causeth those things to apperaynd which are hoped for, and showeth evidently the things which are not seen. For by it our elders were wel reported of.

And feith is the substance of things to be hoped for, the argument of things not apperaynd. For in this the old men obtained testimonie.

Now feith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the Elders obtained a good report.

THE REV. J. W. FLETCHER.—His courage and intrepidity were remarkable. There is an anecdote related by his biographer on this subject, so striking, that I cannot resist the temptation of presenting it to your readers. Mr. Fletcher had a very profligate nephew, a military man, who had been dismissed from the Sardinian service for base and ungentlemanly conduct. He had engaged in two or three duels, and dissipated his resources in a career of vice and extravagance. This desperate youth waited one day on his eldest uncle, General de Gons, and presented a loaded pistol, threatened to shoot him unless he would immediately advance him five hundred crowns. The General, tho' a brave man, well knew what a desperado he had to deal with, and gave a draft for the money, at the same time expostulating freely with him on his conduct. The young man rode off triumphantly with his ill-gotten acquisition. In the evening, passing the door of his younger uncle, Mr. Fletcher, he determined to call on him, and began with informing him what General de Gons had done, and as a proof, exhibited the draft under de Gon's own hand. Mr. Fletcher took the draft from his nephew, and looked at it with astonishment. Then after some remarks, putting it into his pocket, said, "It strikes me young man, that you have possessed yourself of this note by some indirect method; and in honesty I cannot return it, but with my brother's knowledge and approbation." The nephew's pistol was immediately at his breast. "My life" replied Mr. Fletcher, with perfect calmness, "is secure in the protection of Almighty power; nor will he suffer it to be the forfeit of my integrity and of your rashness."

This firmness drew from the nephew the observation, that his uncle, De Gons, though an old soldier, was more afraid of death than his brother. "Afraid of death!" rejoined Mr. Fletcher; "do you think I have been twenty-five years minister of the Lord of life, to be afraid of death now! No, sir, it is for you to fear death. You are a gamester and a cheat, yet you call yourself a gentleman! You are the seducer of female innocence, and still you say you are a gentleman! You are a duelist, and for this you style yourself a man of honor! Look there, sir: the head eye of heaven is fixed upon you. Tremble in the presence of your Maker, who can in a moment kill your body, and forever punish your soul in hell." The unhappy man turned pale, and trembled alternately with fear and rage. He still threatened his uncle with instant death. Fletcher, though thus menaced, gave no alarm, sought for no weapon, and attempted not to escape. He calmly conversed with his profligate relation; and, at length perceiving him to be affected, addressed him in language truly paternal, till he had fairly disarmed him. He would not return his brother's draft, but engaged to procure for the young man some immediate relief. He then prayed with him, and after fulfilling his promise of assistance, parted with him, with much good advice: on one side, and many fair promises on the other.

The power of courage, founded on piety and principle, together with its influence in overcoming the wildest and most desperate profligacy, were never more finely illustrated. It deserves to be put into the hands of every self-styled "man of honor," to show him how far superior is the courage that dares not sin, to the boasted prowess of a mere man of the world. How utterly contemptible, the desperation of a duelist appears, when contrasted with the noble intrepidity of such a christian soldier as the humble Vicar of Madeley!

POLITICAL.

EXTRACT

From a speech by Mr. CUSHING, of Massachusetts, on the motion made by him to strike out the enacting clause of the Independent Treasury Bill, May 20, 1840.

For the security of the public money in the hands of its agents under this bill, the Administration proposes to rely (in addition to the integrity of the officers) upon,—1st. bonds; 2nd. inspections; 3rd. penal provisions.

Every thinking man must admit that it will be impossible to secure the public treasury by the suretyship bonds which the bill calls for. Individuals cannot give adequate bonds for the millions to pass through their hands or to remain in their custody. The President assumes that only five millions will be on hand at any time. I shall disprove this hereafter; but for argument's sake I also assume this at present. Taking the whole sum at five millions, a large sum will be at New York for example. Can the receiver general at New York give good security for three, two, or even one million of dollars? We know he cannot. There are few men in the country of sufficient wealth to render their bond good to that amount; of such men there is probably not one who would be willing to become security for a receiver general. We know how the thing must and will be done. The receiver general will obtain the signatures of as many friends as he can, each to be responsible to a certain amount. And if the principal becomes a defaulter, the sureties will, most of them, devise means to convey their property from the Government, and thus to escape. Or perhaps, they will come here and pray for an act of Congress for their relief; as the sureties of Swartwout have done this very session. So that, on the whole, the suretyship must be conceded on all hands to be but very imperfect at best as a means of protecting the Government.

Next, the bill provides for the supervision of the depositories by the Treasury Department. But it is obviously impossible for the Government to have consueance of the conduct and personal habits of numerous agents scattered all over the Union. The ingenuity of fraud will outstrip the vigilance of the Government. Special or itinerating agents may be sent, without notice, to inspect the depositories; but how easy it is by the artful arrangement of accounts to deceive such inspectors!

But whatever security the Government may have, by these or any other means, with individual depositories, it has identically the same in the case of banks, and something more. Personal integrity is a thing not peculiar to Government officers on the one hand, nor to bank officers on the other; nor is the want of it peculiar to either. In each case the individuals trusted are men, and subject to the infirmities of the human condition, and alike capable of the breach of trust and of crime. In each case the person offending may be arrested and punished for his criminal acts. In the case of bank officers, as of the officers created by this bill, bonds are taken to make good any defalcation of which they may be guilty. To one, as to the other, a system of supervision by public agents, is applicable. But while in all these particulars the two cases are perfectly parallel, or at any rate, there is no advantage in favor of special Government depositories, it is obvious to see that other and great advantages, on the score of safety, remain altogether peculiar to banks, as they have been constituted hitherto, under charters, either from the States, or from Congress. For, in addition to all the security which is common to the two modes of deposit, a special or a bank depository, the depositor in bank has the ample and complete security, of the capital stock of the bank; the Government has the inspection of the directors and stockholders, in addition to its own; and, above all, the bank cannot abscond. Its officers may abscond, but its capital stock remains fixed by its charter in the State which establishes it. Your Swartwouts may, on the approaching discovery of their defalcation, take passage for England by the first packet, but not so of the Bank of New York, or the Massachusetts Bank.

Upon the whole reason of the thing, therefore, I hold it to be clearly shown that bank depositories are, in their nature, safer than individual agents as depositories. And the unbiased and spontaneous action of individuals in the management of their own private affairs, where no party influences intervene, or, if they do, are overcome by the consideration of private interest, confirms the conclusions; for who, that is in the way to have large sums of money on hand, keeps it in his own safe or vault, or in the custody of his clerk or other agent? No man does this willingly. Every body sees that, if he is known to have large sums of money in his house and in his own custody, habitually, he exposes himself to robbery or theft; and that, whatever confidence he may place in the integrity of a clerk or cash-keeper of his own, money deposited in bank is much more securely disposed of. And he acts accordingly.

And the history of the Treasury of the United States furnishes a great body of facts to the same point. In a Treasury report which I have before spoken of, Mr. Woodbury elaborately argues, and conclusively proves, from the experience of the Government, the superior safety of bank depositories over all others. Nay, in that document he covers the whole question; for he says that individual agents will prob-

ably be found "less responsible, safe convenient, and economical." As a specimen of the spirit and reasoning of that document, I give the following extracts:

"It is a singular fact, in praise of this description of public debtors, the selected BANKS, that there is not now due on deposits, from the whole of them which have ever stopped payment, from the establishment of the Constitution to the present moment, a sum much beyond what is now due to the United States from one mercantile firm that stopped payment in 1825 or 1826, and of whom [which] ample security was required, and supposed to be taken, under the responsibility of an oath. If we include the whole present dues to the Government from discredited banks, at all times and of all kinds, whether as depositors or not, and embrace even counterfeit bills, and every other species of unavailable funds in the Treasury, they will not exceed what is due from two such firms."

"These circumstances, with the preference in case of failure belonging to depositors and holders of their bills over the stockholders, united with the security, if not priority, given to the Government, render them, in point of safety, generally much superior to individual agents of the United States."

"It is gratifying to reflect that the credit given by the Government, whether to bank paper or bank agents, has been accompanied by smaller losses, in the experience under the system of State Banks in this country at their worst period, and under their severest calamities, than any other kind of credit the Government has ever given in relation to its pecuniary transactions."

These paragraphs of Mr. Woodbury's report contain statements of facts which it is impossible to contradict. Nor have these facts, so far as I know, ever since been denied, notwithstanding the change in the policy of the Administration. It is true, a Treasury Document has come in this session, which is calculated, on a hasty inspection, to mislead the mind into some conclusions adverse to those of the Secretary's old report; but which more carefully examined, confirms it in all its parts. [Ex. Doc. No. 10.]

This document comprises a table of the amount of loss to the Government in successive periods by the non-payment of custom-house bonds; and this is obvious having nothing to do with the present question, which is a question, not of debt, but of breach of trust on the part of the agents of the Government.

Another table in the same document gives the losses by Deposit Banks as follows:

From 1789 to 1812, inclusive, none appearing on the books 1813, '14, '15, '16, none; 1717, \$77,027; 1818, none left unpaid; 1819, \$36,966; 1820, none left unpaid. For 1821, \$337,530; '22, \$34,398; '23, \$56,929; '24, \$301,633; '25, \$130,244. In 1826, none left unpaid; '27, '28, '29, '30, none; 1831, \$17,530; 1832, '33, none; 1834, \$9,415; 1835 and '36, none. Total from 1789 to 1836, inclusive, \$894,722.

That is to say, the whole sum which the Treasury has lost by deposit banks, from the beginning of the Government to 1837, is but about two-thirds of what has been lost under this Administration by a single collector of the customs in New York.—The same table undertakes to give an estimate of the amount the Government lost, chiefly during the last war with Great Britain, by the receipt of Bank paper; but that question belongs to another branch of the subject.

The same document contains a table of the loss of the Government by disbursing officers, and a table of loss by collecting officers, in each case from 1789 to 1836, inclusive, which present the following results:

1. Disbursing officers.	
Aggregate amount of loss in civil department,	\$898,023 50
Aggregate amount of loss in military and naval,	4,058,549 97
	\$4,956,573 47
Number of defaulters, civil department,	244
Number of defaulters, military and naval,	2,516
	2,760
Loss per head, civil department,	\$3,680
Loss per head, military and naval,	1,513
	\$5,193

2. Collecting officers.	
Aggregate amount of loss by collectors of the customs,	\$1,198,979 91
Aggregate amount of loss by collectors of internal revenue and direct tax,	422,265 76
Aggregate amount of loss by receivers of sales of lands,	397,304 14
	\$2,038,549 81
Number of defaulters in the custom house,	87
Number of defaulters in the internal revenue, &c.,	243
Number of defaulters in the public land receipts,	27
	357
Loss per head among collectors of the customs,	\$13,781
Loss per head among collectors of internal revenue, &c.,	1,820
Loss per head among receivers of public lands,	14,715
	\$5,737

Be it observed, that these tables do not include the large defalcations, which have occurred or come to light under the Ad-

ministration of Mr. Van Buren. And yet here we have seven millions of loss by defaulting government agents, to contrast with less than one million of loss in the same period by deposit banks; those defalcations occurring in every branch of the public service, but being especially large in the disbursements of the army and navy. And this document, therefore, the latest on the subject, completely substantiates the statements made by Mr. Woodbury in his former report, and confirms, in the most striking manner, the conclusions to which I had arrived by general argument, in proving, by the actual experience of the Government, the superior safety of banks over individuals as the fiscal agents of the Treasury.

[From the Winchester Virginian.]

THE MILITARY BILL.

This paper contains the report of the Secretary of War, detailing the manner in which the Administration wishes to organize the militia of the United States. Some of our warm Administration friends object to the title given to this report. A bill to raise and keep up a standing army of one hundred thousand men.—The man who is willing to give to his mind fair play and to judge for himself, will see that the report asks

1st. That every free bodied white male citizen of the United States between the ages of 20 and 45 to be enrolled—see 1st section of the bill.

2d. That within three months from his enrollment, he must arm himself at his own expense—see 1st and 4th sect.

3. That within _____ months from the passage of the law, 100,000 men must be drafted for active service, from Virginia, there must be raised 6,000 men—see 10th sect.

4th. That a reserve of 100,000 men more must be armed and organized—see 12th sect.

5th. That this body of 200,000 men is to be kept up constantly by draft from the whole mass of the militia—see the 13th sect.

6th. That the Union is to be laid off into ten military districts—Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia to be the 5th district—see 14th sect.

7th. That the President may call out the whole body of this force of 100,000 men twice a year, at such times and such places within the district, as he chooses—see 17th sect.

8th. That whilst they are thus called out, and whilst going to and returning from the place of rendezvous, this army of 100,000 men is to be in the service of the United States—see same sect.

9th. That whilst thus in service they are to be under such regulations as the President may think proper to adopt—see same sect.

10th. If a citizen fail to march when ordered by the President, he is to be fined not less than half a month's pay, nor more than three months pay, (not less than \$5 nor more than \$30)—see 26th sect.

11th. That this fine is to be inflicted by a court martial—see the same section.

12th. That unless the fines are paid, the citizen may be imprisoned by the court martial for one month for every five dollars of the fine—without attempting to collect the fines by subjecting property—see same sect.

13th. That the court martial certifies the fines to the United States Marshal and he collects them in summary process of distress—see 20th sect.

14th. That if the citizen have no property, then he must suffer imprisonment unless the fine is paid—same sect.

We cannot find room to say more at present on this project of the Administration. Our readers will now read and judge for themselves—they will see whether this all is humbug. And the Administration will bear the voice of the people on this matter like the voice of seven thunders.

Who did it.—We were struck the other day, by the plain common sense exhibited by a gentleman from the country in conversation upon politics. We remarked to him that we were rejoiced to hear that he was no longer a supporter of the present administration, and observed at the same time, that he had undoubtedly good reason for his change of opinion.

"My reason is a very plain one," said he, "one that every man can understand. I looked round me and found every thing going wrong, and I asked myself what made it so, who made it so? and my reason told me that those who have power, must have made it. The Whigs have no power—they could not have brought about this state of things—the Van Buren men have had all the power and must have done it."

This reason seemed to us a sound one. He had come to the same point that he would have done had he waded through the whole field of argument.—*Alex. Gaz.*

The Tippecanoe Clubs of New Orleans celebrated the victory of Fort Meigs on the 5th inst. General Gaines attended, and gave the following toast:—
By GENERAL GAINES. A perfect union of principles such as animated the fathers of the revolution—principles such as marked the character of George Washington—the first and only patriot of America, who was indeed the President of the United States, and never President of a party. Believing Wm. Henry Harrison will follow in the footsteps of George Washington, I desire that he may be the President of the United States.