

# Highland Messenger.

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

VOLUME I.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

**TACT AND TALENT.**—Talent is something, but tact is every thing. Talent is serious, sober, grave and respectable; tact is all that, and more too. It is not a seventh sense, but it is the life of all the five. It is the open eye, the quick ear, the judging taste, the keen smell, and the lively touch; the interpreter of all riddles, the surmounter of all difficulties, the remover of all obstacles. It is useful in all places and at all times. It is useful in solitude, for it shows a man his way into the world; it is useful in society, for it shows him his way through the world. Talents are power; tact is power. Talent is weight; tact is momentum. Talent knows what to do; tact knows how to do it. Talent makes a man respectable; tact will make him respected. Talent is wealth; tact is ready money. For the practical purposes of life, tact carries it against talent ten to one. There is no want of dramatic tact, or talent; but they are seldom together; so we have successful pieces which are not respectable, and respectable pieces which are not successful. Take them to the bar, and let them shake their learned curls at each other in legal rivalry. Talent sees its way clearly; but tact is first at its journey's end. Talent is a man who comes from the bench; but tact touches fees from attorneys and clients. Talent speaks learnedly and logically; tact triumphantly. Talent makes the world wonder that it gets on so fast; tact excites astonishment that it gets on so fast. The secret is, it has no weight to carry; it makes no false steps; it hits the right nail on the head; it loses no time; it takes all hints, and by keeping its eye on the weather-cock, is ready to take advantage of any wind that blows.

Take them into the church. Talent has always something worth hearing; tact is always sure of abundance of hearers. Talent may obtain a living; tact will make one. Talent gets a good name; tact gets a great one. Talent conceives; tact converts. Talent is an honor to the profession; tact gains honor from the profession.

Take them to court. Talent feels its way; tact makes its way. Talent commands; tact is obeyed. Talent is honored with approbation; tact is blessed with preference. Place them in the senate; talent has the ear of the house; but tact wins its heart, and gains its votes. Talent is fit for employment; but tact is fitted for it. It has a knack of slipping into place, with a sweet silence and gliding movement, as a billiard ball insinuates itself into the pocket. It seems to know every thing without learning any thing. It has served an invisible and temporary apprenticeship. It wants no drilling. It never ranks in the awkward squad. It has no left hand, no deaf ear, no blind side. It puts on no looks of wonderous wisdom, it has no air of profundity; but plays with the details of place, as dexterously as a well-taught hand flourishes over the keys of the piano-forte. It has all the air of common place, and the force and power of genius, it can change sides with a key, presto movement, and be at all points of the compass, while talent is ponderously and learnedly shifting a single point. Talent calculates clearly, reasons logically, and utters its oracles with all the weight of justice and reason. Tact refutes without contradicting, puzzles the profound without profundity; and without wit, outwits the wise. Set them together on a race for popularity, pen in hand, and tact will distance talent by half the course. Talent brings to market that which is needed; tact produces that which is wished for. Talent instructs; tact enlightens. Talent leads where no one follows; tact follows where the humor leads. Talent is pleased that it ought to have succeeded; tact is delighted that it has succeeded. Talent toils for posterity, which will never repay it; tact catches the passion of the passing hour. Talent builds for eternity; tact on a short lease, and gets good interest. Talent is a fine thing to talk about, and to be proud of; but tact is useful, portable, always alive, always marketable. It is the talent of talents, the availability of resources, the applicability of power, the eye of discrimination, the right hand of intellect.—*London Atlas.*

**DOUBLING CAPE HORN.**—The following graphic account of doubling Cape Horn, we copy from a letter from an officer of the U. S. ship Constitution, dated the 9th of January last.

Whilst doubling Cape Horn, we experienced a tremendous gale. For twenty-two days it blew with awful violence, and snowed, and rained and hailed almost incessantly. Occasionally, there would be a cessation of the gale, and the sun would shine out clear and beautiful; but this was only the precursor of more gales, blacker clouds, and if possible more tremendous seas. One can hardly form an idea of the power and sublimity of a storm at sea, who

has not experienced one. You must hear the howling of the wind—the incessant roar of the ocean, and behold the mountain waves, appearing as if they would swallow the ship—at one moment lifted up on the monstrous waves, and then pitched head long into the trough of the Ocean—the waves breaking over the decks, the masts creaking, the vessel groaning, and hear the hoarse trumpet as the orders are given—in order to realize it. Nearly all the time, during the height of the storm, we lay under storm stay-sails. All the higher masts were sent on deck with the yards and sails, leaving the ship with only her main and top masts, in order that as little surface as possible might be exposed to the wind. The most wearying thing during the storm, is the pitching and rolling of the ship, which you must be constantly guarded against, or you may be killed at any moment. A number of the midshipmen were injured by being precipitated down the cockpit hatch. One night a large mahogany table came tumbling down and deposited itself, legs up, along side my cot. Camp stools and chairs went dancing about, as if possessed of life.

But the most amusing occurrence during a gale, is the eating, or rather the manner in which it is performed. The table being lashed, and the plates and dishes placed upon it, we sit down to dine. Now on shore it is a perfectly easy thing to eat your dinner, and if hungry, quite agreeable. But suppose some one should get under your table, and suddenly raise one side up so high as to form an angle of nearly forty-five degrees with the walls of the room, and another standing behind, jerk your chair from under you sliding away on hands and feet to leeward, while your neighbor, who may, by holding on to the table, maintain his seat, gets the contents of the soup tureen in his lap, and after picking up the fragments of the broken dishes, and re-seating yourself at the table, you have time to eat a moment, and the same operation is repeated. You would not, I am sure, think this a very agreeable way of dining. Some of my messmates secured themselves at table by holding on to life lines, which are cords secured to the beams overhead, which was the only way of maintaining a fixed position. When the caterer, who presides at the table, finds a sea coming, which can be known by the motion of the ship, he sings out, "hold on to the potatoes," "take care of the soup," "look out for the dishes," or whatever may be on the table, and each one secures whatever he can; but notwithstanding all our precaution, we lost most all our crockery. The ship was much strained, in consequence of her rolling in the trough of the sea, and her masts loosened; but we did not sustain any serious damage.

**AN EXTRACT.**—Go out beneath the arched heavens, in night's profound gloom, and say, if you can, "There is no God!" Pronounce that dread blasphemy, and each star above you will reproach you for your unbroken darkness of intellect—every voice that floats upon the night winds will bewail your utter hopelessness and despair! Is there no God? Who, then, unrolled that blue scroll, and threw upon its high frontispiece the legible gleaming of immortality? Who fashioned this green earth, with its perpetual rolling waters, and its wide expanse of islands and main? Who settled the foundations? Who paved the Heavens with clouds, and attuned, amid the banners of storms, the voice of thunder, and unchained the lightnings that linger and lurk and flash in their gloom? Who gave the eagle a safe eyrie where the tempests dwell and beat strongest, and to the dove a tranquil abode amid the forests that ever echo to the minstrelsy of her moan? Who made thee, O man, with thy perfect elegance of intellect and form? Who made the light pleasant to thee, and the darkness a covering and a herald to the first beautiful flashes of the morning? Who gave thee that matchless symmetry of sinew and limb? That regular flowing of blood? Those irresponsible and daring passions of ambition and of love? No God! And yet the thunders of Heaven, and the waters of the earth are calm. Is there no lightning that Heaven is not avenged? Are there no floods that man is not swept under a deluge? They remain, but the bow of reconciliation hangs out above and beneath them. And it were better that the limitless waters and stony mountains were convulsed and commingled together—it were better that the very stars were confagrated by fire, or shrouded in gloom, than that one soul should be lost, while mercy kneels and pleads for it beneath the altar of intercession.

**GOOD HUMOR** is the clear blue sky of the soul, on which every star of talent will shine more clearly, and the sun of genius encounters no vapors in his passage. 'Tis the most exquisite beauty of a fine face; a redeeming grace in a homely one. It is like the green in the landscape, harmonizing with every color, mellowing the glories of the bright, and softening the hues of the dark; or like a flute in a full concert of instruments, a sound, not at first discovered by the ear, yet filling up the breaks in the concord with its deep melody.

The 400th anniversary of the art of Printing, was to be celebrated at Faneuil Hall, Boston, on the 24th inst. Printers in every part of the Union, together with their associates in the art, were invited to attend.

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**—The friends of Religion must be much gratified in contemplating the character of the anniversary meetings of the different sects of Christians. The spread, strength, activity and enthusiasm of feeling and discipline which they manifest, form the noblest and holiest argument in favor of Religious freedom. That ingenious and learned statistician, H. C. Carey, shows that the contributions for religious purposes, are more liberal in this country than any other. That the American Clergy is eminently exemplary will be conceded. The vices which disgrace politico-religious church establishments, were the leaven of worldly ambition and material interests is mixed up with creeds, and their exposition, are hardly known here. Where the people are left free to sit in judgment on the moral qualities and habits of living of the clergy, they will certainly insist on a coincidence of character with profession. Coarse propensities and indecent practices are here always visited with signal punishment when found in the sacred calling.

That magnificent praise "What other nations call religious toleration, we call religious rights," should be deeply impressed on the heart of every American. The term toleration as regards religion, it may be remarked, is still in the mouths of Christians here, notwithstanding it is insulting and ridiculous. Who is there to tolerate, and what is there to be tolerated, in the matter of abstract belief and its avowal in profession and practice? Until there be found a power above the Constitution, which professes no particular Christian sect, the expression is devoid of point and decency.

The subject of religious rights in England is becoming particularly interesting to inquirers on the subject. The position of the English Protestants is one worthy of remark, owing to the differences existing among some of the leaders as regards the Church establishment. The celebrated Dr. Chalmers is high in favor with the Bishops for his lectures delivered in London, favorable to the established Church, as the edifice under whose protecting towers the Church of Scotland has grown securely. The learned divine seems ignorant of the unequalled prosperity of religion in this country without any resort to political preference and military force in its favor. The political economists of England in and out of the pulpit do not understand the great solution of the problem as it is going on in this country: that under law every thing should be free in the social world as it is in the natural, and that truth can only be arrived at through such means. We here know no Christian sects which do not appear satisfied (as we judge from their publications constantly before us) with their distinct positions; their several relations, and their general influences, workings and hopes.—*Phil. Gaz.*

## POLITICAL.

### EXTRACTS

From Mr. Poinsett's speech, on the General Appropriation Bill, April 27, 1840.

Mr. Poinsett commenced by showing, that the Administration members, had commenced the course of irrelevant debate, by lugging in Gen. Harrison and party politics. That Mr. Duncan, of Ohio, set the example. He charged it to Duncan's face, and dared him to deny it. That he was followed in the same course by Weller, Atherton, Clifford, Parmenter, and Jameson, who read the whole of one newspaper, (the Nashville Union,) and parts of others, as a part of his speech. He goes on to say,—

I perceive, Mr. Chairman, that the last Globe contains the speech of the gentleman from Ohio, (Mr. Duncan,) and that, in recommending the speech to the Public, its Editor says, "it has a spice of coarseness suited to the Western People." I presume, sir, that our People of the West will fully appreciate the compliment paid to their taste. I, sir, have yet to learn that our People are less intelligent or less observant of the decencies and proprieties of life than the People of other portions of the Union; and I have greatly mistaken their character if any respectable man of any party will countenance and approve any such vile garbage as is contained in this specimen of coarseness issued to suit the taste of the West.—Could I overcome my repugnance to read such ribaldry, I would give the committee some "beautiful extracts" from this speech; but I should then be compelled to pollute my printed remarks with their insertion, and, therefore, I forbear. At the suggestion of a gentleman immediately before me, I will, however, read one extract, assuring the committee that I mean no contempt by its introduction.

"Mary Rogers are a case, And so are Sally Thompson, General Jackson are a horse, And so are Col. Johnson."

This, sir, is a specimen of Congressional speech-making, and if it is not coarse enough to suit the taste of the most vulgar, the gentleman will, doubtless, upon another trial, improve both his style and his rhymes. With the aid of other kindred spirits, he will, doubtless, in his next effort, favor us with something still more disgusting and foolish.

I, Mr. Chairman, as a Western man, have watched, with something both of sorrow and anger, the continued insults which have been offered to the West, since Gen. Harrison became a candidate. No sooner was his name announced, than we were sneeringly told that he was but a "paltry Log Cabin Candidate;" as though a residence in an humble dwelling constituted a crime, or at least a disqualification for office. Another writer of the Administration, defending this scornful allusion to the people of the West, speaks of the tenants of the log cabins as "having souls suited to the dirt hovels in which they live." And now, sir, the most loathsome trash is published under the name of a speech, and it is said by the official organ that its coarseness will suit the Western people.

Amongst other things, the gentleman from Virginia quotes the Florida war as an item of "extraordinary expenses," and says that many of the Opposition voted supplies. I have not examined the journal, neither shall I; for I consider it as quite immaterial who or what party voted for or against the appropriations. It is enough for me to know that a war with the Indians existed in Florida, and that the Government made estimates and demanded supplies. They were granted; and the Administration is responsible for the manner of the expenditure. But, sir, this is another instance of the fairness with which the Opposition are treated. If they vote supplies, they are accused of extravagance, and the President protests that he is not responsible. Had they refused to vote the money demanded by the Government, a want of patriotism would have been ascribed to them, and they would have been branded as enemies of the country. But, Mr. Chairman, I will proceed to prove that the prosecution of this war has been most shamefully wasted; and I will cite a few instances of the lavish extravagance which I charge upon the Administration.

In Senate document, 2d session 25th Congress, vol. 3, I find a statement of contracts for fuel, transportation, &c. for the Quartermaster's Department for 1837, and signed "T. Cross, Acting Quartermaster General." Here, sir, I find in part, how the thirty millions have been expended in Florida. I will give the committee a few items of steam-boat contracts for 1837.

### For Charter of Steamboats.

Watchman,	\$450 pr. d. or \$164,250 p. an
Mobile,	465 do.
Ann Calhoun & 2 barges,	169,745 do
Henry Cromwell,	400 do.
Hyperion,	300 do.
Leflore,	300 do.
Charleston,	200 do.
Florida,	3,750 pr. mo. or 45,000 do
John McLean,	3,000 do.
Camden,	4,000 do.
James Adams,	4,000 do.
Altamaha,	5,000 do.
	3,500 do.

In short, sir, by this document it appears that there were chartered, during the year 1837, thirty-five steamboats, forty-three schooners, two sloops, twenty-five brigs, six ships, making in all one hundred and eleven vessels chartered, during the year

## 1837, for the prosecution of this Florida war—this war, sir, which we, a nation of millions, have waged for years with some 500 naked warriors. And, besides the one hundred and eleven vessels chartered, I find upwards of one hundred contracts, some of them of a very large amount, for transportation of troops, forage, arms, horses, &c. during that year, for this war. Sir, the party in power is justly chargeable with having involved the country in this war unnecessarily, and then of having wasted the money appropriated for its prosecution.

I will give also another charge from the same document: "For transporting 100 cords of fire wood from New Orleans to Fort Brooke, East Florida, and one assistant Surgeon, \$2,000." Here, sir, is charged twenty dollars per cord for carrying fire-wood from New Orleans, besides the original cost and other expenses; and that, too, to a country where, as I am assured by gentlemen well acquainted with the country, thousands of cords of wood could be cut in sight of the fort to which this wood was sent. I am also informed that wood has often been taken from Florida to New Orleans for sale; and I should not be surprised if this wood was originally from Florida, and, after being shipped to New Orleans and properly seasoned, was shipped back again to afford a little patronage. These, sir, are a few specimens of expenditure in the Florida war for 1837. I could for hours read charges equally obnoxious to censure; and, sir, I have had a resolution on your table ever since the first resolution day of this session, asking the Secretary of War for a detailed account of the expenditures of the war, and the friends of the Administration, by some miserable subterfuge or quibbling point of order, refused to call for the statement. And yet, sir, this is called a representative Government, and we assume to be the Grand Inquest of the Nation, and the people are told that all officers, from the President down, are strictly accountable. Yet we cannot ask how \$30,000,000 of their money has been spent without being told by gentlemen that the Opposition voted supplies for the war, and that these expenditures are "extraordinary." Truly, sir, they are "extraordinary," and therefore it is that I demand a full and explicit statement as to their nature.

I am told, sir, that a steamboat was offered to the Government for about \$14,000 and refusing to purchase, they chartered her until they paid some \$72,000. I am told, sir, that plank in several instances has cost \$1 25 per foot, or \$125 per hundred feet. Also, that fire wood has cost \$50 per cord. Sir, it is the duty of the Administration party to give the People light on this subject, and to relieve themselves, if they can, from the charges of waste and peculation.

I believe the charges to be true, from what I have seen of the documents now before me, and this is but the account for one year. I should, amongst other things, like to see what amount has been expended for the "blood hounds," which, as every person now acknowledges, have turned out to be common curs, and not worth a shilling a head. I presume that this expenditure, with the contingencies, cost some thousands. I perceive, also, that one man has been paid \$7 50 per day, and subsistence, for transporting forty bushels of corn, in sacks, from one post to another in Wisconsin. Flour has been transported from one place to another until it cost \$50 per barrel, and then sold at one-fourth of the cost of transportation. In short, sir, did I not see these things stated in official documents, I could not have believed it possible that such gross mismanagement existed. But I must leave this branch of expenditure, thus hastily glanced at, and pass to another.

The gentleman, from Virginia, in his anxiety to defend his new allies, quotes the expenses "of Indian emigration and subsistence for Indians," as an item of expenditure for which many of the Opposition voted, and the gentleman classes it under the head of "extraordinary expenses." I shall not deny that many Opposition members did vote for the estimates demanded by the Administration for this branch of the public service. I think they were quite justifiable in so doing. But, sir, could any one of the Opposition have ever supposed that the money voted would have been so shamefully squandered, absolutely wasted, as the reports of the officers in that department prove it to have been? I will cite one or two instances, out of the many I could enumerate, to prove the unjustifiable and criminal abuses which have been practised on this subject.

Document No. 127, of 3d session of 25th Congress, is a letter of Mr. Poinsett, Secretary of War. In that document I find a communication from the Commissary General of Subsistence, addressed to Mr. Poinsett, and I there perceive that the Government, after purchasing unnecessarily a vast amount of provisions, &c. "for the army, sent into the Cherokee country," and, having no use for it, ordered it to be sold, and I will quote an extract from that communication:

"The supplies sold consisted of 50 barrels pork, 2,645 barrels flour, 821 barrels hard bread, 272 bushels beans, 16 bushels cornmeal, 169 bushels corn, 506 bushels salt, 75,027 pounds sugar, 41,297 pounds coffee, 5,438 pounds rice, 531,020 pounds bacon, 28,181 pounds soap, 14,110 pounds candles, 371 gallons whiskey, 5,145 gallons vinegar, and all the issuing apparatus, such as scales, weights and measures, used while the volunteer-troops were in service." These articles produced the net sum of \$32,117 90."

This, sir, is the "official account." Does any gentleman here deny it? Is there any one of the Administration party who wishes to give an explanation? If so, I will give way. Not one, sir. Then, let none of the Administration papers throughout the Union dare to deny this statement. And what do I prove by this, Mr. Chairman? That this vast amount of supplies, collected unnecessarily, cost, as will appear by the accounts of the Department, upwards of two hundred and sixty thousand dollars, including transportation, commissions, buildings erected for their preservation, &c. and were sold by this all-wise and competent Administration for less than one-fifth of cost. This, sir, is the manner in which the money of the People is wasted. I will ask the gentleman from Virginia if it was possible for any honest man to anticipate such unjustifiable squanderings of the public money? It seems, sir, that the 28,181 pounds of soap were not needed by the army. It ought never to have been sold, sir. It should have been shipped to Washington, and would have served as a fraction of the quantity requisite to cleanse this foul Administration. But, sir, I will give you another item of sales of stores, &c. purchased unnecessarily, and sold at auction in the Cherokee country, in 1838, and embraced in this same communication. I find, sir, that corn, which cost the Government at least one dollar and a half, and in many instances, two dollars per bushel, and accumulated unnecessarily in vast quantities, was sold by this economical Administration as follows:

8,381 bushels corn, at 17 cents per bushel.
5,275 do.
4,290 do.
400 do.
4,239 do.
11 do.
10 do.
4 do.
14 do.

This, sir, is a specimen of the prices at which this article was sold, and thousands of dollars thrown away in this one article of corn alone. And this, sir, is only a fraction of the quantity sold. I find, further, sir, that oats purchased at double the usual cost, were sold at 4 cents per bushel. This corn and oats were not damaged; for the report states them to have been sound, and the damaged corn sold separately. I could proceed, sir, to enumerate hundreds of cases of the same nature, but time will not permit. I will close by giving an extract from a letter of the Creek Agent, at Fort Gibson, addressed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, complaining of the action of the Administration in forwarding such immense quantities of supplies unnecessarily to that post, and which also had to be sold at an immense sacrifice:

"But, whatever be the apology of the measure in question, whether it be ignorance of the resources of the country, distrust of the capability of the officers charged with the subsistence of the Indians, or a dread of a failure of their efforts in that respect, one thing is demonstrably true, that the great loss which is now inevitably consequent upon the measure might have been avoided had timely directions been given to dispose of this extraordinary supply of provision as soon as it was ascertained not to be needed."

## He again says:

"Instead of this, cargo after cargo continued to arrive as the necessity decreased."

Again, sir, the same agent says:

"I repeat, sir, fearless of contradiction, had the agents here been instructed, in the first instance, as agents of the Government ought to have been, where its interest was concerned, the public would not have sustained the loss of a single dollar; the provision purchased in New Orleans would have been sold, and not transported here, as has been the case, at an enormous expense, where it was not needed, and at additional expense of several thousands to erect suitable buildings to cover it from the weather."

This gentleman, sir, for his plain speaking to the Government officers, was treated with official insolence, and immediately resigned his station. A mean, obsequious, fawning sycophant would have been cherished and patronized by them. Here, sir, is another instance of hundreds of thousands of dollars squandered. Who could have dreamed of "such blundering policy!" And yet the gentleman from Virginia says the Opposition voted for "Indian subsistence," &c. and he is loud in praise of an Administration which is thus, by its own official documents, convicted of incompetence, waste, and extravagance, and it may be something worse. I believe, sir, that all these unnecessary purchases were made to give profitable contracts to favorites.

We have been told, sir, that the public buildings are another source of "extraordinary" expense. I will, sir, for a moment, refer to this matter, and in that moment convince the committee that another high handed and unjustifiable act of this Administration has cost the People, unnecessarily three hundred thousand dollars. I refer to the Post Office building. The Committee on Public Buildings of the House of Representatives, in order to ascertain the actual cost of the building proposed to be erected, made a demand for a detailed estimate of the cost of a split granite building. It was furnished, and amounted to two hundred and eighty thousand dollars. But, sir, no sooner had Congress adjourned, than the President ordered the erection of a marble building—a perfect palace, which is now estimated by Administration gentlemen to cost six hundred thousand dollars. This, sir, will explain to gentlemen why this branch of expenditure is termed "extraordinary." But, sir, there is another matter connected with this subject, and which is admitted even here by the friends of this Administration. After the money appropriated by Congress had been expended, fearing that at its next meeting, it might arrest the work, or demand an explanation of this enormously increased expenditure, the Executive allowed the work to progress on credit to the amount of \$65,000, and

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