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By George Howard,

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COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

ANDREW JACKSON.

"Jackson, all hail! our Country's pride and boast,
Whose mind's a council, and whose arm's a host!
Welcome, blest chief! Accept our grateful lays,
Unbidden homage of our grateful praise.
Remembrance long shall keep alive thy fame,
And future ages venerate thy name."

No name, recorded in the military annals of the United States, possesses so much eclat as that of Andrew Jackson; one only excepted—that of the transcendent Washington. The history of Jackson's life is less known than we might suppose it to be, considering the circumstance just mentioned, and the real magnitude and variety of his public services. An additional interest results to his exploits and character, from the important relation in which he now stands to the American people, as a candidate for the splendid office of Chief magistrate.

ANDREW JACKSON is of Irish parentage. His father and mother emigrated to South Carolina, in the year 1765, with two sons, both young, and purchased a tract of land, on which they settled, in what was then called the Waxaw settlement, about forty-five miles above Camden. Here was born, on the 15th March, 1767, Andrew, the subject of the present sketch. His father died soon after, leaving the three children to be provided for by the mother, a woman who would seem to have possessed excellent feelings and considerable strength of mind. The scantiness of their patrimony allowed only one of them to be liberally educated; and this was Andrew, whom she destined for the sacred ministry. He was sent to a flourishing Academy in the settlement, where he remained, occupied with the dead languages, until the Revolutionary War brought an enemy into his neighborhood, whose approach left no alternative but the choice of the American or British banners. The intrepid and ardent boy, encouraged by his patriotic mother, hastened, at the age of fourteen, in company with one of his brothers, to the American camp, and enlisted in the service of his country. The eldest of the three, had already lost his life in the same service, at the battle of Stono. The survivors, Andrew and Robert, having been suffered to attend the country drill and general musters, were not unacquainted with the manual exercise and field evolutions.

After retiring into North-Carolina before the British army, with their corps, they returned

to Waxaw settlement, and found themselves suddenly engaged with a superior British force, who surprised a gallant band of forty patriots, to which they belonged, routed it, and took eleven prisoners. Andrew Jackson and his brother escaped from the field, after fighting bravely; but, having entered a house, next day, in order to procure food, they fell into the hands of a corps of British dragoons, and a party of Tories, that were marauding together. Andrew, when under guard, was ordered by a British officer, in a haughty manner, to clean his boots; the youth peevishly refused to do so, claiming, with firmness, the treatment due to a prisoner of war. The officer aimed a blow at his head with a sabre, which would have proved fatal, had he not parried it with his left hand, on which he received a severe wound. His brother, at the same time, and for a similar offence, received a gash on the head, which afterwards occasioned his death. Thus, did his only relatives, two of this estimable family, perish in the spring of life, martyrs to their patriotic and courageous spirit. Andrew and his companion were consigned to jail, in separate apartments, and treated with the utmost harshness; until, through the exertions of their fond mother, they were exchanged, a few days after the battle.

Andrew returned to his classical studies, as a means of his future subsistence, with increased industry; and, at the age of eighteen, in the winter 1784, repaired to Salisbury, in North-Carolina, to a lawyer's office, in which he prepared himself for the bar. In the winter of 1786, he obtained a license to practice; but finding this theatre unfavorable for advancement, emigrated to Nashville in 1788, and there fixed his residence. Success attended his industry and talents; he acquired a lucrative business in the courts, and ere long was appointed attorney-general for the district; in which capacity he continued to act for several years.

The progress which he made in public estimation, by his abilities and services, is marked by his election, in 1796, to the Convention assembled to frame a Constitution for the state. In this body he acquired additional distinction, which placed him, the same year, in Congress, in the House of Representatives, and the following year, in the Senate of the United States. He acted invariably with the Republican party in the National Legislature, but grew tired of an unavailing struggle in a small minority, and of a scene of discussion and intrigue for which he did not deem himself as well fitted as the successor, for whose sake, no less than for his own gratification, he resigned his post in 1799. While a senator, he was chosen by the field officers of the Tennessee militia, without consultation with him, major-general of their division, and so remained until 1814, when he took the rank in the service of the U.S. On his resignation as senator, he was appointed one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. He accepted this appointment

with reluctance, and withdrew from the bench as soon as possible, with the determination to spend the rest of his life in tranquillity and seclusion, on a beautiful farm belonging to him, and lying on the Cumberland river about ten miles from Nashville. In this retreat he passed several years, happy in the indulgence of his fondness for rural occupations, and in the society of an affectionate wife and a number of honest friends. His quiet felicity was, however, broken up by the occurrence of the war with Great Britain. It roused his martial and patriotic temper; and when the acts of Congress (of the 6th February, and July, 1812) which authorize the President to accept the services of fifty thousand volunteers, were promulgated, Jackson published an energetic address to the militia of his division, drew two thousand five hundred of them to his standard, and tendered them without delay to the federal government. In November he received orders to descend the Mississippi, for the defence of the lower country, which was then thought to be in danger. In January, in a very inclement season, he conducted his troops as far as Natchez, where he was instructed to remain until otherwise directed. Here he employed himself indefatigably, in training and preparing them for service. But, the danger which was meant to be repelled, having ceased to exist, in the opinion of the Secretary of War, he received instructions, from the latter, to dismiss at once from service those under his command.

We have now reached what may be called the second principal era in his life.

The British and the celebrated *Tecumseh* had stirred up the Creek nation of Indians, parties of whom made irruptions into the state of Tennessee, committing the most barbarous outrages upon defenceless and insulated families. Having obtained a supply of ammunition from the Spaniards, at Pensacola, a band of six or seven hundred warriors assaulted *Fort Mimms*, situated in the Tennessee territory, in the Mississippi territory, succeeded in carrying it, and butchered nearly all its inmates; three hundred persons, including women and children. Only seventeen of the whole number escaped to spread intelligence of the dreadful catastrophe. The news produced the strongest sensation in Tennessee; and all eyes were, at once, turned to Jackson as the leader of the force which must be sent forth to overtake and punish the miscreants. He was at this time, confined to his chamber with a fractured arm and a wound in the breast, injuries received in a private rencontre. It was resolved by the legislature to call into service thirty-five hundred of the militia, to be marched into the heart of the Creek nation, conformably to the advice of Jackson, who, notwithstanding the bodily ills under which he labored, readily undertook the chief command in the expedition. He issued an eloquent and nervous address to the troops, on the day of the rendezvous, in which he told them, among oth-

er things, "We must and will be victorious—we must conquer as men who owe nothing to chance; and who, in the midst of victory, can still be mindful of what is due to humanity." On the 7th October, 1813, he reached the encampment, altho' his health was not yet restored. In this campaign, the battles of Talladega, Emuckfaw, and Horse-shoe, fully established his character, as a skillful commander, vigilant disciplinarian, and dauntless soldier. At the Hickory ground, the principal chiefs of the hostile tribes sued for peace—those who rejected this measure, had sought refuge along the coast and in Pensacola. Much of the property plundered by them at Fort Mimms and along the frontiers was brought in and delivered up. All resistance being at an end, and there being no longer any necessity for maintaining an army in the field, orders were issued on the 21st of April, for the Tennessee troops to be marched home and discharged.

The complete and final discomfiture of so formidable a foe as this confederacy of Indians, drew the attention of the general government to the Tennessee commander, and produced a speedy manifestation of the respect entertained for his services and character, in his appointment as Brigadier and brevet Major-General in the regular army. A commission of Major-General was forwarded to him in May, 1814. General Jackson was deputed with Col. Hawkins as Commissioner to negotiate with the Creeks; and on the 10th of July, he reached Alabama on this errand, and by the 10th of August accomplished an agreement, under which the Indians bound themselves to hold no communication with the British or Spanish garrisons, or foreign emissaries, and conceded to the United States the right of erecting military posts in their country.

During this transaction, his mind was struck with the importance of depriving the fugitive and refractory savages of the aid and incitement which were administered to them in East Florida, and he at once urged on the President the propriety of attacking and dismantling Pensacola. He addressed the Governors of Tennessee, Louisiana and the Mississippi Territory, soliciting them to be vigilant and energetic, "for dark and heavy clouds hovered over the seventh military district."

Towards the end of August, the noted Col. Nichols, with a small squadron of British ships, arrived at Pensacola, and shortly after, made an attack on Fort Bowyer, at the entrance of Mobile Bay. Nichols was repulsed with the loss of his best ship and 230 men killed and wounded. Jackson afterwards attacked Pensacola, and having driven away the British, forced the hostile Creeks to fly to the forests, and produced a salutary impression on the minds of the Spaniards, he repaired to New-Orleans, on the first of December, and there established his head quarters.

With what warmth of feeling, and glowing fire of soul, he entered on a seemingly forlorn and

hopeless effort, let his first address declare:

"Your government, Louisianians, is engaged in a just and honorable contest, for the security of your individual; and her national rights. The only country on where man enjoys freedom; where its blessings are alike extended to the poor and to the rich, calls on you to protect her from the grasping usurpation of Britain:—she will not call in vain. I know that every man whose bosom beats high at the proud title of freeman, will promptly obey her voice, and rally round the eagles of his country, resolved to rescue her from impending danger, or nobly die in her defence. Who refuses to defend his rights when called on by his government, deserves to be a slave—deserves to be punished as an enemy to his country—a friend to her foes."

Louisiana was ill supplied with arms: Its motley population, French and Spaniards, were not yet sufficiently fond of the American government to fight very desperately in its defence. New Orleans was unprepared to withstand an enemy and contained but too many traitors or malcontents. Jackson was nearly disabled in body, by sickness and fatigue—he expected a large and perfectly appointed British force—his only means of resistance were the few regulars about him, the Tennessee volunteers, and such troops as the state of Louisiana might itself raise. He summoned, at once, the governor and the citizens to exert themselves—he set them the example of unremitting activity and stern resolution. Volunteer companies were raised, batteries were repaired or constructed, and gun-boats stationed on the most eligible points on the river. He roused the Legislature, who before had done little or nothing, to lend him their concurrence. His language to them was, "with energy and expedition, all is safe—delay further, and all is lost."

Jackson was not long in discovering the truth of what had been communicated to him by the Governor of Louisiana, that "the country was filled with British spies and stipendiaries." He suggested to the Legislature the propriety and necessity of suspending the privilege of *habeas corpus*. While that assembly were deliberating slowly upon their power to adopt the measure, he proclaimed the city of New-Orleans and its environs to be under *martial law*, and established a most rigid military police.

On the 23d, at one o'clock in the afternoon, positive information of the landing of the British was brought to Jackson. He resolved to meet them *that night*. As he was marching through the city, his ears were assailed with the screams of a multitude of females, who dreaded the worst consequences from the approach of the enemy. "Say to them," exclaimed he to a gentleman near him, "not to be alarmed; *the enemy shall never reach the city.*"

Our limits will not permit a detailed account of the events which led to the great and last struggle, on the memorable 8th of January. On that the British forces, amounting to 9000 men, attempted to storm the American entrenchments defended by not more than 3000 effective men; but were repulsed with immense slaughter. The British