

Miscellaneous.



FOR THE FREE PRESS.

ACROSTIC.

When, O when shall I embrace,
Inspiring saint! thy angel form—
Lo! I in semblance see thy face—
Love's brightest flame my breast doth warm.
In vain thee to forget, I strive,
About my heart thy image clings;
Myself of life I would deprive,
Had death in it no piercing stings.
As oft in pensive mood I stray,
Mourning my sad and wretched lot;
Before me doth thy image play—
Left as I am—by thee forgot.
Enslav'd by love's resistless chain—
Thou art the author of my pain.

SUSANNAH.

Halifax County, 1827.

TO A DYING INFANT.

Sleep, little baby! sleep!
Not in thy cradle bed,
Not on thy mother's breast
Henceforth shall be thy rest,
But with the quiet dead.
Yes—with the quiet dead,
Baby, thy rest shall be,
Oh! many a weary wight,
Weary of life and light,
Would fain lie down with thee.
Flee, little tender nursling!
Flee to thy grassy nest;
There the first flowers shall blow,
The first pure flake of snow
Shall fall upon thy breast.
Peace! peace! thy little bosom,
Labors with short'ning breath—
Peace! peace! that tremulous sigh
Speaks his departure nigh—
Those are the damps of death.
I've seen thee in thy beauty,
A thing all health and glee;
But never then wert thou
So beautiful, as now,
Baby! thou seem'st to me.
Mount up! immortal essence!
Young spirit! haste, depart—
And is this death!—Dread thing!
If such thy visiting,
How beautiful thou art!
Oh! I could gaze forever,
Upon that waxen face;
So passionless! so pure!
The little shrine was sure,
An Angel's dwelling place!

(continued from the 1st page.)

[Here follows some remarks on the alleged overture and reply of Gen. Jackson.]

"I hope Gen. Jackson did not intend [in his reply] that the whole human race should also be swallowed up, on the contingency he has stated, nor that they were to guaranty that he has an absolute repugnance to the employment of any exceptionable means to secure his elevation to the Presidency. If he had rendered the distinguished member of Congress a little more distinguished, by instantly ordering him from his presence, and by forthwith denouncing him and the infamous proposition which he bore, to the American public, we should be a little better prepared to admit the claims to untarnished integrity, which the General so modestly puts forward. But, according to his own account, a corrupt and scandalous proposal is made to him; the person who conveyed it advises him to accept it, and yet that person still retains the friendship of Gen. Jackson, who is so tender of his character that his name is carefully concealed and reserved to be hereafter brought forward as a witness! A man who, if he be a member of the House of Representatives, is doubly infamous—infamous for

the advice which he gave, and infamous for his willingness to connive at the corruption of the body of which he was a sworn member; is this the credible witness by whom Gen. Jackson stands ready to establish the corruption of men whose characters were never questioned!

When the alleged overture was made, the election remained undecided. Why did not Gen. Jackson then hold up to universal scorn and indignation the infamous bearer of the proposal, and those who dared to insult his honor and tamper with his integrity? If he had, at that time, denounced all the infamous parties concerned, demanded an inquiry in the H. of R. and established, by satisfactory proof, the truth of his accusation, there might and probably would have been a different result to the election. Why, when at my instance a committee was, on the 5th day of February, 1825, (only four days before the election) appointed to investigate the charges of Mr. Kremer, did not Gen. Jackson present himself and establish their truth? Why, on the 7th of that month, two days before the election, when the committee reported that Mr. Kremer declined to come forward, and that "if they knew of any reason for such investigation, they would have asked to be clothed with the proper power, but not having themselves any such knowledge, they have felt it their duty only to lay before the House the communication which they have received,"—why did not Gen. Jackson authorize a motion to recommit the report, and manfully come forward with all his information? The Congress of the nation is in session. An important election has devolved on it. All eyes are turned towards Washington. The result is awaited with intense anxiety and breathless expectation. A corrupt proposition, affecting the election, is made to one of the candidates. He receives it, is advised to accept it, deliberates, decides upon it. A committee is in session to investigate the very charge. The candidate notwithstanding remains profoundly silent, and, after the lapse of more than two years, when the period of another election is rapidly approaching, in which he is the only competitor for the office, for the first time announces it to the American public! They must have more than an ordinary share of credulity who do not believe that General Jackson labors under some extraordinary delusion.

It is possible that he may urge, by way of excuse for what must be deemed his culpable concealment of meditated corruption, that he did not like to volunteer as a witness before the committee, or to transmit to it the name of his friend, the distinguished member of the House of Representatives; although it is not very easy to discern any just reason for his volunteering now, which would not have applied with more force at that time. But what apology can he make for his failure to discharge his sacred duty as an American Senator? More than two months after the alleged overture, my nomination to the office which

I now hold was made to the Senate of the United States, of which Gen. Jackson was then a sworn member. On that nomination he had to deliberate and act, in the most solemn manner. If I were privy to a corrupt proposal to Gen. Jackson, touching the recent election; if I had entered into a corrupt bargain with Mr. Adams to secure his elevation, I was unworthy the office to which I was nominated; and it was the duty of Gen. Jackson, if he really possessed the information which he now puts forward, to have moved the Senate to appoint a committee of enquiry, and by establishing my guilt, to have preserved the National Councils from an abominable contamination. As the conspiracy of Geo. Kremer & Co. had a short time before meanly shrunk from appearing before the Committee of the H. of R. to make good their charges, I requested a Senator of the U. S. when my nomination should be taken up, to ask of the Senate the appointment of a committee of enquiry, unless it should appear to him to be altogether unnecessary. One of our Senators was compelled, by the urgency of his private business, to leave Washington before my nomination was disposed of; and as I had but little confidence in the fidelity of the professed friendship of the other, I was constrained to present my application to a Senator from another State. I was afterwards informed that, when it was acted upon, Gen. Jackson and every other Senator present was silent as to the imputations now made, no one presuming to question my honor or integrity. How can Gen. Jackson justify to his conscience or to his country this palpable breach of his public duty? It is in vain to say that he gave a silent negative vote!

He was in possession of information which, if true, must have occasioned the rejection of my nomination. It does not appear that any other Senator possessed the same information. Investigation was alike due to the purity of the National Councils, to me, and as an act of strict justice, to all the other parties implicated. It is impossible for him to escape from the dilemma that he has been faithless, as a Senator of the United States, or has lent himself to the circulation of an atrocious calumny.

I rejoice again and again, that the contest has at last assumed its present practical form. Heretofore, malignant whispers and dark surmises have been clandestinely circulated, or openly and unblushingly uttered by irresponsible agents. They were borne upon the wings, and like them were invisible and intangible. No responsible man stood forward to sustain them, with his acknowledged authority. They have at last a local habitation and a name. Gen. Jackson has now thrown off the mask and comes confessedly forth, from behind his concealed batteries, publicly to accuse and convict me. We stand confronted before the American people. Pronouncing the charges, as I again do, destitute of all foundation, and gross aspersions, whether clandestinely or openly issu-

ed from the halls of the Capitol, the saloons of the Hermitage, or by press, by pen, or by tongue, and safely resting upon my conscious integrity; I demand the witness, and await the event with fearless confidence.

The issue is fairly joined. The imputed offence does not comprehend a single friend, but the collective body of my friends in Congress; and it accuses them of offering, and me with sanctioning, corrupt propositions, derogating from honor, and in violation of the most sacred of duties. The charge has been made after two years deliberation. Gen. Jackson has voluntarily taken his position, and without provocation. In voting against him as President of the United States, I gave him no just cause of offence. I exercised no more than my indisputable privilege, as, on a subsequent occasion, of which I have never complained, he exercised his in voting against me as Secretary of State. Had I voted for him, I must have gone counter to every fixed principle of my public life. I believed him incompetent, and his election fraught with danger. At this early period of the Republic, keeping steadily in view the dangers which had overtaken every other Free State, I believe it to be essential to the lasting preservation of our liberties, that a man, devoid of civil talents, and offering no recommendation but one founded on military service, should not be selected to administer the Government. I believe so yet, and I shall consider the days of this Commonwealth numbered, when an opposite principle is established. I believed, and still believe, that now, when our institutions are in comparative infancy, is the time to establish the great principle, that military qualification alone is not a sufficient title to the Presidency. If we start right, we may run a long race of liberty, happiness and glory. If we stumble in setting out, we shall fall as others have fallen before us, and fall without even a claim to the regrets or sympathies of mankind.

I have never done Gen. Jackson knowingly any injustice. I have taken pleasure, on every proper occasion, to bestow on him merited praise for the glorious issue of the battle of New-Orleans. No American citizen enjoyed higher satisfaction than I did with the event. I heard it for the first time on the Boulevards of Paris. * * * This concession is not made for the purpose of conciliating the favor or mitigating the wrath of Gen. Jackson. He has erected an impassable barrier between us, and I thank my God that He has endowed me with a soul incapable of apprehensions from the anger of any being but himself.

I have as your Representative freely examined and in my deliberate judgment justly condemned the conduct of Gen. Jackson in some of our Indian wars. I believed, and yet believe him to have trampled upon the Constitution of his country, and to have violated the principles of humanity. Entertaining these opinions, I did not and could not vote for him.