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From the Richmond Enquirer.

LAW SCHOOL IN BALTIMORE.

Extract of a letter from the Attorney General of the U. States to a friend in Richmond.

There is in Baltimore, an excellent law school, which is under the direction of Judge Dorsey, of the Maryland court of appeals. I have attended several of his lectures, and witnessed an examination of one of his classes; and I have certainly never seen nor heard of any institution in the U. States, which seems to me so well calculated as his to revive the race of those great men in our profession who shone forth at the close of the revolutionary war. Every thing depends on the head of such an institution. He should have a sound and vigorous intellect, capable of exploring the deepest and darkest recesses of the science; and such a passion for the science itself as may communicate itself to his pupils, and inflame them with emulation to follow his steps. Such a man is Judge Dorsey, and I have been highly gratified in witnessing the effects which he is already producing among the young men here. You know that in our state it is by no means common to meet with a young man who enters upon the study of the law *con amore* and with a view to eminence in the learning of the profession. He finds it necessary to adopt some pursuit, and he chooses the law because he fancies it the lightest in point of labor, and one of the most genteel of all the professions. He pursues the study, therefore, with little appetite, soon becomes weary of it, and is contented with just such a superficial acquaintance with the science as may gain him admission to the bar. Or if he aims at distinction, it is more commonly at political distinction; he regards the bar as a mere theatre for the display of elocution and what I have heard called *general talents*, and considers his licence to practice law, only as a passport to the legislature of the state and to political honors. This is the bane of our profession in Virginia, and it requires a potent remedy to counteract that repugnance to the learning of the law which seems to be natural to the ethereal geniuses of the South. Judge Dorsey, however, does contrive to counteract it even among the young Virginians who are with him, and to infuse an absolute passion for the most abstruse intricacies of the science.

His lectures are attended not only by his pupils, of whom he has a large body, but by the practising members of the bar. I have seen some of the oldest practitioners there, and have heard it said that the late Mr. Pinkney, learned as he was, has declared that he never left one of these lectures without some new and useful acquisition.

The Judge's mode of lecturing has to me all the interest of novelty. It is not a dull and prosing lecture read from his chair; but a warm and animated discussion, which he delivers *ad extempore*, from notes; standing, while he delivers it, and enforcing it with all the life and earnestness of look and gesture which we are accustomed to witness, only in real controversies at the bar. You may imagine, at first, that there would be something a little ludicrous in such vivacity of discussion without an adversary; and I confess that for a few minutes I had this feeling myself. It was, however, but a few minutes only; for I soon saw all around me, and felt in myself the advantage of this manner. For although he was treating of *estates upon condition*, over which the secluded student is so apt to doze, he contrived to keep his audience not only wide awake, but excited, and even eagerly excited, to mark the development of his subject, the solidity of his distinctions, the firmness with which he met the objections to his doctrines, (all of which he stated with great learning and candor,) and the cogency and justness with which he declared his conclusions. So that what we heard was not only a profound and acute lecture upon this branch of the law, but was also in itself an excellent model for forensic argument.

The private examination of one of his classes gave me not less pleasure. There were from twelve to fifteen young gentlemen ranged before him in a semicircle—and the subject of examination was the law of *contingent remainders* and *executory devises*, than which, you know, that there is not one in the whole circle of the science beset with greater difficulties. His mode of examination was

not less animated than his lecture; he began at the head of the class and passed around his questions with a rapidity calculated to surprise and confound such older students than those who were before him. You know that, in general, it requires some time to scan and weigh the precise terms of a question on this branch of the law before a man can trust himself to answer. But he had trained these young gentlemen to fix their attention, at a moment's warning, with such close and deep concentration, that it was very seldom that he had to repeat the most complicated question a second time; and though these questions, upon this abstruse and recondite subject, were discharged in a continued volley for more than an hour, there were very few of them that were not promptly and accurately answered. I confess that I was never more surprised than at this exhibition; for you may be assured that there are few practitioners of any standing, who could have passed through such an ordeal with equal safety and honor.

When the examination was over, the students in their turns, began to state to him some difficulties which they had encountered in their reading and some points of learning on which they had differed among themselves. These questions afforded a new proof of the zeal and assiduity with which these young men were exploring the hidden treasures of the law; for the questions were of a character to shew they had been working not only with industry, but even with delight at the very bottom of the mine, and trying every process which ingenuity and perseverance could suggest for the refinement of the ore.

How unlike all this is to the general mode of prosecuting the study of the law in Virginia, I need not suggest to you; and my anxiety that that state shall keep the high ground of the forensic hour which has distinguished her, renders me solicitous that the advantages of this institution should be known among you. If the age of great men is ever to be restored among us, it can only be by such a course of discipline as Judge Dorsey has adopted. I pray you to devise some effectual means of calling the attention of your state to this excellent school.

FOREIGN.

FROM ENGLAND.

New-York, May 12.

By the arrival, late on Saturday evening of the *William Thompson*, and yesterday evening of the *Manhattan*, and regular packet ships, the editors of the Commercial Advertiser have received their regular files of London, Liverpool, and other English provincial papers to the 8th of April inclusive.

We are yet in as great uncertainty as ever respecting the commencement of hostilities on the continent of Europe. The story put forth about the French Declaration of war, said, in our papers, to have been contained in the London Sun of the 3rd April, turns out to have appeared in that paper on the day preceding, and to have been a stockjobbing trick. The London editors seem to arrogate the privilege of *hoaxing* John Bull whenever it suits them.

A great fuss appears to have been made at Paris about the departure of the Dutchess d'Angouleme for Bordeaux, just as if the invasion of Spain depended on the appearance of a woman at the head of the French armies. Private letters, received in London from Paris, dated the 4th of April, state, that the moment hostilities commence, a manifesto will be published in the *Moniteur*, to coincide with a proclamation to be issued by the Commander in Chief. Of this manifesto and proclamation, and of the crossing of the Pyrennees, we have of late heard so much, without one or other of them appearing or taking place, that we almost begin to think that the French government is playing off a game similar to that practised by Russia, last year, in reference to Turkey. The one day we are told that the 1st of April (a hoaxing day to be sure) had been finally fixed for the French legions entering the Peninsula. By next arrival we learn, that the invasion of Spain has been postponed for ten days (i. e. to the 5th of April) and now we are assured, that no movement of the invading army was expected to take place till the 17th or 18th.

We are assured, however, that preparations for war are going on briskly through France. Still we observe, by the latest advices from Paris, that no effort has been made by the ministry to obtain a vote for raising 60,000 men, although this levy had been long talked of as absolutely necessary to insure success in the contest with Spain. The Duke d'Angouleme is stated to have reviewed the 5th Division of the Army of the Pyrennees; a step which has hitherto been generally regarded as an indication that a blow would immediate-

ly follow.—Instead of this, we are informed, that the Royal Duke set out for Bayonne, without any intimation given when he was expected to return, or when the army under his command was to commence its operations. We refer our readers to an extract given below, from the Liverpool Advertiser of the 8th April, as containing some very pointed remarks on the consequences, which are likely to flow from the dilatory conduct of the French cabinet.

We have some long details in the London Courier respecting the conspiracy, formerly noticed, of certain French officers to overthrow the Bourbons, and place the young Napoleon on the throne. The conspirators are said to have started from different points on the same day, and that their principal committee sat at Vittoria, in Spain, whether the different members had proceeded, after having arranged channels of communication with Lisbon and Corunna. A few of the principals were to remain at Paris and London to act as circumstances might require. This plot seems to be regarded by most of the London papers, as the mere invention of the Courier, got up for the purpose of influencing, in some way or other, the existing disputes of France and Spain. We never attached much credit to it.

M. Rouen, Advocate, and five others, had been tried at Paris for uttering seditious cries, and resisting the agents of authority on the day when M. Manuel was excluded. The Advocate was fined 400 francs, and sentenced to be imprisoned one year; and a M. Seucier, a merchant, was sentenced to be imprisoned for six months, and to pay a fine of 50 francs.

All the Spaniards at Bayonne, suspected of attachment to the Constitutional system, had been expelled by order of the French government.

The Duke d'Angouleme had refused to admit the Junta of Catalonia into his presence in that character, but that he would receive them as private individuals.

Accounts from Bayonne of the 27th March, say, that General Guilleminot had been arrested, charged with a military conspiracy, and conveyed to Paris for trial. Why not try him on the spot?

It appears from Lisbon papers, of the 20th March, that a detachment of the Portuguese Constitutional troops had suffered by incautiously exposing itself to the cavalry of the rebels. No apprehensions, however, were entertained that this rebellion would become formidable, as the state of the country rendered it impossible that it could spread to other provinces.

Advices from Hamburg contain the proceedings of the Swedish Diet, respecting a plot that had been formed to charge the King, the Crown Prince, and the Royal Family, with a design to subvert the Constitution. The plot was timeously discovered, but the authors of it remained concealed.

Accounts received in London the 6th April, (Sunday), from St. Petersburg, announced some movements of Russian troops; but in what direction is not mentioned.

The Spaniards have a squadron cruising in the Mediterranean, consisting of one 64, a frigate, and corvette, and a brig of war.

The King of England had another attack of the gout at Brighton, from which, however, he speedily recovered so as to be able to attend a Privy Council in two days thereafter.

The disturbances in Ireland continued, and regular battles were fought at every meeting of the opposing parties. The Revenue for the quarter ending April 5th, was expected largely to exceed the receipts for the corresponding quarter of last year.

From the Liverpool Advertiser of April 8.

However much disposed the ruling faction in France may be to unchain the dogs of war, and spread ruin and desolation over a land that has dared to proclaim itself free, in the hope—we trust the vain hope—of restoring to an imbecile Monarch and ignorant and corrupt priesthood the iron sceptre of civil and ecclesiastical despotism, its means of doing mischief, thank Heaven, are not commensurate with its wishes; and the extraordinary imbecility of its councils is much more likely to ruin the cause it has espoused than to injure those against whom its hostility is directed. The delay which this imbecility has occasioned in the commencement of hostilities, will produce effects most advantageous to Spain. It will afford time for calling forth those resources which zeal and patriotism will not fail to discover and render available. Indeed the Cortes, in their prompt removal of the Legislature and the King from the capital to a place less exposed to a military surprise, have evinced a correctness of judgment and a decision which cannot fail to afford the best founded hopes that their future proceedings will display equal

wisdom and energy. To France this delay will operate most injuriously—it will afford time for the seeds of discontent which have been so generally disseminated through the French army to ripen into overtacts of disaffection and revolt: it will create doubt and general suspicion and alarm, even in that portion of the military which is the best affected, and will entirely destroy that confidence in the wisdom of those who have to direct its movements, without which numbers, instead of insuring victory, serve only to aggravate the disgrace of defeat. We noticed last week a report which had obtained very general credit, that a most formidable conspiracy had been discovered among the officers of the French army of the Pyrennees; and though the French papers have said little upon the subject, there is no doubt that it was of a nature sufficiently alarming to awaken all the apprehensions of the government. The state of the press in France renders it almost impossible to procure, through this medium, the knowledge of any facts which the government is interested in concealing, which may account for the paucity of the details we have on the subject; and the late act of the power exercised in suspending two of the most popular journals, on the alleged ground of their inflammatory tendency, will much increase the difficulty of obtaining this sort of information.

The proceedings in the French Chambers do not throw much light on the state of the army. M. De Labourdonnaye, in the Chamber of Deputies, on Monday the 31st ult. animadverted upon the tardy and indecisive policy of M. de Villele, with respect to Spain, and upon the failure of his promises, "that Royalist principles should obtain a signal triumph." He also complained, that an army full of ardour remained inactive on the frontier, and that it already begun to want necessaries. This is an important admission; for, if the arrangements of the Ultra Ministers for supplying the army were so defective, that it already experiences the want, even in France, of the necessary supplies, what has it to expect in a country which will present nothing but difficulties, and which will be cleared of every article which could possibly be useful to it? The answer of the President of the Council was silent on this alleged deficiency of supplies to the army, and was confined to the vindication of the Budget. On the following day, the discussion was resumed; when M. Villele concluded a speech upon the finances, by declaring that France was rapidly approaching towards the point at which it would be freed from difficulty; that its present embarrassed situation was altogether transient; that it was not the effect of war, but of *threatened war*, and of the uncertainties which attend that menace. Incerititude (he observed) was of all things that which was most dreaded by the French people."

The French Minister leaves them in full possession of this dreaded incertitude; he does not tell them when, or how, it is to terminate—whether this year or the next—whether in war or peace. A question has been started of very great moment, and has been discussed at some length, both in the English and French newspapers, which originated in an inquiry made of Mr. Canning, in the House of Commons, whether this country was bound by any treaties to guaranty to the Bourbon family the possession of the Throne of France? Mr. Canning, in substance, replied, that, in case an attempt was made to replace any of the Family of Bonaparte on the Throne of France, this country was bound to co-operate with the other Members of the Alliance to prevent it. With respect to any other cause which might deprive that family of the French Crown, the Allied Powers (in which this country was included) were only bound to take into consideration whether any, or what, measures should be adopted. The French "des Debats," referring to this question, contends that this country is bound by the most solemn treaties to guaranty that order of things in France which was established after the final overthrow of Bonaparte; and the English "Courier" defends the correctness of this conclusion.

Bayonne, March 27.—We have a mail from Madrid, but it has brought us no news later than the 19th.

We learn from Saragossa that two superior officers have come from Mequenza, to go and make proposals for a capitulation to the Constitutional General, which are said to be accepted.

Two officers of the Patriots have gone to Mequenza, to remain there as hostages.

It is also said, that the Chief Canape has surrendered at discretion to Gen. Ballasteros, who has granted both him and his men a full and entire pardon.

Mina continues to organize his army, which is devoted to him.

Jaureguay, the Pastor, is still at Irun,

where he is preparing to make a passage, if, as it is believed, only the troops of the Faith will attempt the passage; it is said, in fact, that the French army will not move at present, because it is only half complete, and also because it has no means of conveyance to advance, and certainly they will want them in Spain, where they will find nothing. The Pastor has said that they called him a brigand; that he would fully justify this appellation when the French shall enter France, if, as it is believed, only the troops of the Faith will attempt the passage; it is said, in fact, that the French army will not move at present, because it is only half complete, and also because it has no means of conveyance to advance, and certainly they will want them in Spain, where they will find nothing. The Pastor has said that they called him a brigand; that he would fully justify this appellation when the French shall enter

General Luiz de Ruy, after the affair of the 15th, with his vanguard encountered the factious, and an action took place, with loss on both sides; he thought fit to concentrate the troops under his command, & transferred his head quarters to Amarante, from whence he wrote the following despatch:

"Most illustrious and excellent Sir, I have given orders to fortify the interesting points of the Tamega, to leave them secure, to be able to do which, I am anxious to move upon Trás-os-Montes."

"By accounts which I have received from the Governor of Beira, I know that the passages of the Douro are guarded. The factious have not yet come down upon our detachments; the bridge of Caves is secured, and I send thither some of the troops that arrive.

"The spirit of the troops is excellent, and they are eager to revenge the outrage done to the brave Cazadores. The people of this part of Trás-os-Montes are also almost all in a state of insurrection, deluded by the proclamation of Antonio de Silveira, and armed; but I fear nothing from the arming of the people, as when we enter again, the presence of our troops will keep them in check.

"I hope that the Brigadier Claudino will join me as soon as possible; as soon as he arrives, and some more force, I will effect the movement of our troops. I do not much desire to trouble the militia, who ought only to be employed in garrisons and convoys; but, unless I obtain some more troops of the line, it will be absolutely necessary to employ them in other services. I have sent to the governor of the district of Oporto for 3,000 pair of shoes, the troops being nearly bare-footed, from the long marches and the dreadful roads in the mountains.

"In order to cut off the rebels from a retreat by Galicia, I applied to the general of the province of Ornese, and to the commander of the forces at Monterio, with a view to gain time to meet again with the rebels, who suffered a considerable loss in the skirmish of the 15th. A great part of the Cazadores, who were taken prisoners, fled; but the people took some, and delivered them at Chaves. Several have come to our posts of Lamego, Cavez, and here.—Nothing can equal the constitutional spirit of these soldiers—a spirit which likewise distinguishes the troops of the line that I have here, and those that defend at the Tamega.

"Of the commanders of the two battalions which fought, I do not find that any saved himself except Major Lima, commander of the 7th, the first attacked, and which most resisted the impetuosity of the cavalry. The unfortunate Brigadier Pamplona, after the light troops had dispersed, joined the 21st of the line, and with it opposed the enemy for some time, making great slaughter among them; but, at length, he yielded to the superiority of the cavalry which surrounded him, and he was taken prisoner in a house to which he retired, being denounced by the owner of it.—This is what I have learned by persons who came from those parts. I am taking measures for the public safety of this country, which is tranquil.

"God preserve your excellency.

Luis Do Rigo Barreto.

Head Quarters at Amarante,

March 17, 1823.

To the most illustrious and excellent Manuel G. de Miranda.

Diary do Governo, 20th March.

A gentleman, who has just arrived here from a tour through France, brings intelligence that it is probable the French army will never cross the Pyrennees. He describes the people, wherever he went, as exceedingly disaffected to the war, and (which is a strong sign of the times) under such a government as not afraid to avow their opinions. In the cafes, in the diligences, wherever he went, he heard the same expressions of disapprobation against war, mingled with imprecations *a la Francaise* on its abettors. All private letters concur in the assertion that the army of the Pyrennees has more to do with the existing conspiracies than the Ultra prints are willing to admit.—Instead of 100,000 men, scarcely 60,000 can be assembled, who, partly from dislike to the enterprise, and partly from fear of the Spanish mode of warfare, are much more apt to look behind than before them.—*Southampton Chron.*