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## Political.

FROM THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER, JAN. 14.  
 Sir—My attention has been so engaged, that I forgot to mention the honorable notice bestowed upon me, by a writer in the National Intelligencer, of the 28th and 29th of Dec. a member, who signs himself *F at Justia*—an ominous signature, perhaps, and not the less so, because the author seems to have no idea of the precise import of the phrase. If my signature had any one to think me an Englishman, his will betray no man into the mistake that he is a *Roman*. I had not intended to reply to him at all; for what would be the use of arguing with a man, who is so unacquainted with our institutions, as to believe that Congress is not the tribunal to decide on Gen. Jackson's case; and who seriously demands of me, to point out the distinction in principle, between the proclamation of martial law and the impressment of a horse? But he has stated one or two facts, which I think deserve notice.

Introduced the grant of lands by the Creeks to General Jackson, in my first letter, by remarking that I was sorry (I was sincerely so) to say any thing, which might seem to affect his private character; of which not knowing any thing, I was careful not to speak any harm. Nor should I have alluded to the fact, if it had not been of a public nature and of public consequence.

The only information I had, was drawn from the journals of Congress. Gen. Jackson was one of the commissioners for negotiating a treaty with the Creek Indians. The Creeks made a grant of land to him certainly, and I believe, to others of the commissioners. The President recommended to Congress, that a law should be passed for confirming these grants. The bill for that purpose was indefinitely postponed in the Senate (24th April, 1816) the House of Representatives having previously (on the 16th) refused, by a large majority, even to consider it. Both Houses doubtless, thought with me, that such a grant was contrary to the known policy of the Government. Now, Mr. *Fiat* says that the Creeks pressed the grant upon him contrary to his wishes, and even made his acceptance a condition of the treaty; and that when General Jackson did accept the grant, he told them, he would prevail with the President of the United States, to dispose of it for the benefit of the poor and distressed of their own nation. Of these facts, I never before heard the last suggestion or rumor; and whenever there shall be any better evidence of them, than the assertion of an anonymous writer, who himself does not state them as facts, with his own knowledge, I shall be very ready to do the General justice, and acquit him of all improper or selfish motives. I do not ask such evidence as would be required in a court of justice; the General's own word would be sufficient for me.—Or, if any kind of proof can be adduced that he endeavored to prevail with the President, to apply the grant to the charitable purposes that have been mentioned, I shall be satisfied. I do not wish to lay the least blame on him, but what the naked truth may import. He has enough to bear—and I have no personal resentments, no private ends, to gratify or accomplish.

This writer states another fact; that the President and the Secretary of War, Mr. Calhoun, have assented to the principle of Gen. Jackson's order of April, 1817, forbidding the officers of his division (which means, in this case military district) to obey the orders of the war department, unless communicated through him. How that affair was adjusted, I cannot tell. But this I know, that in the summer of 1817, after that order was published, an order was sent direct from the war department to the commandant of the forts and garrisons of Norfolk in this state; and that the order was obeyed. I expected Gen. Jackson would arrest the officer; he did not. I concluded he had yielded to the point. I should, now, have very little confidence in Mr. *Fiat's* information, if it were not in some measure corroborated by a letter from the General to the Secretary of War, of 20th January, 1818, in which I mark this passage:—“Your letter enclosing your order of the 29th ult., has been received. Like yourself, I have no other feelings to gratify, than those connected with the public good; and it gives me pleasure to find that we coincide in those opinions calculated to produce it. Responsibility now rests where it should, on the of-

fer issuing the order, and the principle acknowledged is calculated to ensure that subordination so necessary to the harmonious movement of every part of the military machine.”—What are the opinions in which they coincide? What the principle acknowledged? If it turn out, that the principle of Gen. Jackson's division order, has been assented to by the Executive, I pledge myself to take up the subject with Mr. Secretary Calhoun, in a military as well as constitutional point of view, and to show that it is preposterous and dangerous in the extreme.—What this Mr. *Fiat* calls *military science* (which I thought quite another thing) is not confined to the army.

This writer, speaking of a fact I stated on the authority of Gen. Jackson's biographer, politely tells me—*this is untrue*; because, forsooth, I omitted to mention a circumstance, which having come to Gen. Jackson's knowledge many months after the transaction of which I complained, could not have entered into the motives of his conduct, and, therefore, had no bearing on the argument. The writers in the northern prints who have thought proper to comment on my letters, have given us still prettier specimens of that sort of politeness, which adorns the conversation of common soldiers when they suppose their officers are out of hearing. Perhaps they learned their manners in that school.

I am reprehended for calling Mr. Duncan *the noted Duncan*. I will explain the reason of the epithet. I understood this to be the same man, who acknowledged on oath, that he advised General Wilkinson to make a false copy of a letter and to swear that it was a true one. If I am mistaken in the identity I hardly ask Mr. Aid de Camp Duncan's pardon.

Mr. *Fiat* is offended with me for calling *necessity the tyrant's plea*. If the express on had not become proverbial, I should have acknowledged that I borrowed it from Milton—“So spake the fiend and all necessity.” *The Tyrant's plea*, excused his devilish deeds.”

It is not my fault, that my catalogue of General Jackson's misdeeds is black, any more than that it is long. I heartily wish its complexion could be changed, and its length curtailed.

I expected to be accused of malice towards General Jackson; and prepared my mind to bear that piece of injustice; *namque in hoc tempore, obsequium amicos, veritas autem parit.*

I expected, too, to be called *Englishman*, and *Tory* and to be charged with *British feelings and propensities*; these being the invariable answers, which a certain class of politicians in this country (whose capacities can only be expressed in negative quantities) always make to whatever they find undeniable in fact or irrefragable in argument. I shall not defend myself as last a charge I deserve. But I will tell these gentlemen, that what they denounce as *British feelings and propensities* are *Virginia feelings and propensities*. I know, that I represent the sentiments of the great majority of the good people of this commonwealth, including in my of our best and wisest men. As for myself, I am (thank my stars) a native *Virginian*, descended from native *Virginian* ancestors on all sides for many generations.

There is one observation, however, which I have heard from all quarters, that I certainly never anticipated. I have heard these papers called *bold very bold*. I protest I did not mean them so. I have lived to see Washington and Jefferson (to name no others) treated with the most unbounded freedom in the public prints,—all their measures arraigned, their motives impugned; the one charged with *French*, and the other *British propensities*; and the private character of the latter wantonly exposed and traduced. I have known the present President successively charged with *French* and *British propensities*. What ever men thought of all this I never heard their public accusers charged with *boldness*. What is there in General Jackson's character or services, which should exempt his conduct from public examination? Is it that he has an army at his command? The evil of his example has attained to a greater height than even I imagined, if men's minds are so affected with the fear of his power, that they think me *bold*. Perhaps the Government is right to temporise. For my part, as I entertain no personal ill will towards him, so neither do I stand in the least fear of him.

ALGERNON SIDNEY.

## Congressional Proceedings.

IN SENATE.  
 MONDAY, FEB. 15.  
 Mr. Eppes, from the committee of finance, for whom the subject had been referred, reported a bill further supplementary to the act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage.

The President communicated the general account of the Treasurer of the United States, from January, to July, of the last year, and

the accounts of the War and Navy Departments from October, 1817, to October, 1818, together with the reports thereon; which were read.

Mr. Wilson, from the committee of claims, reported a bill for the relief of Vincent Grant, which was read.

Mr. Fromentin submitted a motion to instruct the library committee to enquire into the expediency of further extending the privilege of using the books in the library of Congress.

The following bills were severally read the third time, passed and returned to the House, viz.

A bill for the relief of Adam Kingsley, Thomas French, and Charles S. Leonard; a bill for the relief of Henry Davis; a bill for the relief of Benjamin Pool; a bill for the relief of George and Forsyth; and a bill providing additional penalties for false entries for the benefit of drawback, or bounty on exportation.

The following engrossed bills were severally read the third time, passed, and sent to the House for concurrence, viz.

The bill confirming the claim of Alexander McComb to a tract of land; the bill for the relief of B. and P. Jourdan; the bill for the relief of Michael Hagan, and the bill for the relief of the heirs of Edward McCarty.

The Vice President of the United States having retired from the chair:

The Senate proceeded to the election of a President, pro tempore; when Mr. Barbour, of Virginia, was duly elected, and took the chair accordingly from whence he made his acknowledgments to the Senate for the honor conferred on him.

On motion of Mr. Burrill, it was

Ordered, That the Secretary wait upon the President of the United States, and acquaint him with the election of Mr. Barbour, as President pro tempore of the Senate, and that he make a similar communication to the House of Representatives.

The bills which passed the other House on Saturday, were received and read.

The resolution from the other House appointing a committee to enquire into and report the business necessary to be acted on during the present session, was received, and on motion of Mr. Wilson passed three readings by general consent, was agreed to; and Messrs. Burrill and Morrow appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill to incorporate a company to build a bridge over the eastern branch of the Potomac; the bill concerning the heirs and legatees of Thos. Turner, deceased; the bill respecting the location of certain sections of land to be granted for the seat of government for the State of Indiana; the bill to allow further time to complete the issuing and location of military land warrants; and the bill for the relief of Joseph Lefebvre, severally passed through committees of the whole, and were ordered to a third reading.

Several other bills had a partial consideration and were referred; and several bills received a second reading in course.

TUESDAY, FEB. 16.

Mr. Macon, from the committee on foreign relations, to whom the subject had been referred, reported a bill in addition to the act concerning tonnage and discriminating duties in certain cases, which was read.

On motion of Mr. Ruggles, the committee on the post office were instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from Caniz to Runley in Ohio.

Among the petitions received and referred to-day, was one, presented by Mr. King, from the stockholders of the Bank of the United States resident in the city of New York, deprecating the abrogation of the Bank charter, and praying that measures may be adopted by Congress to restore the Bank to the confidence of the public.

Several bills from the other House were read a second time and referred.

Mr. Van Dyke, from the committee on pensions, made an unfavorable report on the petition of Archibald Felts, which was read.

Mr. Stokes, from the committee on the post office and post roads, to whom had been referred, an enquiry into the expediency of authorizing the Postmaster General to employ an armed guard for the protection of such mails as he might deem proper, made a report, declaring such authority inexpedient; which report was read.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the amendments of the House of Representatives to the bill to increase the salaries of certain officers of government. (Proposing to increase the salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Court and those of the Assistant Postmasters General.)

Mr. Talbot moved to refer the amendments to a select committee, with instructions to make provision in the bill for increasing the salaries of the Judges of the District Courts of the United States.

Much discussion took place on this motion; after which it was negated by yeas and nays as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Crittenden, Dickerson, Edwards, Eppes, Gaillard, Lacock, Macon,

Noble, Palmer, Ruggles, Stokes, Talbot, Taylor, Thomas, Williams, of Miss. Wilson—16.

NAYS—Messrs. Barbour, Burrill, Daggett, Eaton, Fromentin, Gadsborough, Horsey, Hunter, Johnson, King, Leake, Meilen, Morrill, Otis, Roberts, Sandford, Storer, Tait, Tichenor, Van Dyke, Williams, of Tenn.—21.

The question was then taken on concurring in the amendments of the House of Representatives; and decided in the affirmative, by yeas and nays, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Barbour, Burrill, Daggett, Fromentin, Gaillard, Gadsborough, Horsey, Hunter, Johnson, King, Leake, Meilen, Otis, Ruggles, Sandford, Storer, Tait, Thomas, Tichenor, Van Dyke, Williams, of Tenn.—21.

NAYS—Messrs. Crittenden, Dickerson, Eaton, Edwards, Eppes, Lacock, Macon, Morrill, Morrow, Noble, Palmer, Roberts, Stokes, Talbot, Taylor, Williams of Miss. Wilson—17.

Three several bills which were yesterday ordered to a third reading were accordingly read the third time, passed, and returned to the other House; and the bill respecting the location of certain sections of land to be granted for the seat of government for the State of Indiana, was also read the third time, passed, and sent to the other House for concurrence.

The motion submitted yesterday by Mr. Fromentin, was taken up and agreed to.

The committee on pensions were, on motion of Mr. Van Dyke, discharged from the further consideration of the petition of — Langston.

Eleven or twelve private bills passed through committees of the whole and were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading; and

The Senate adjourned.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Treasurer of the United States, transmitting statements of his accounts; which letter and statements were ordered to lie on the table.

Among the memorials presented to-day was the following:

By Mr. Sergeant, the petition of sundry mechanics of Philadelphia, stating, that, late in the year 1806, they made large shipments in American and Colonial Produce from parts of the United States to the port of Antwerp in France; that the vessels in which their shipments were made were carried into England, under the Orders in Council of Great Britain and, after being subjected to illegal duties, were released; that upon their arrival at the port of Antwerp, the ships, with their cargoes, were seized under the decrees of France, commonly called the *Berlin and Milan Decrees*, and were sold and the proceeds paid into the Treasury of France; that all their efforts to obtain redress have been unavailing, and praying that such measures may be adopted by the Government of the United States as will induce that of France to grant them compensation for their property, as well as for its detention.

The Memorial was read, and referred to the Secretary of State.

A petition was also presented by Mr. Pindall, from sundry inhabitants of the State of Virginia praying to be permitted to settle on Columbia river in the Missouri territory, at a point below the head of the navigation on said river; and referred to the committee on public lands.

A memorial was presented, also, by Mr. Sykes, from George Williams, explanatory of his conduct as a Director, on the part of the Government, of the Bank of the United States; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Smith, of Md. reported a bill making an appropriation for carrying into effect the provisions of an act passed on the 1st day of March 1817, making reservation of certain public lands to supply timber for naval purposes; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. reported a bill for establishing an additional Military Academy, and a Military School of application; which was twice read and committed.

The bill for the relief of Patrick Callan, was taken up, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The House having again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Smith, of Md. in the chair on the bill to authorize the people of the Missouri territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of the same into the Union.

The question being on the proposition of Mr. Tallmadge, to amend the bill by adding to it the following proviso:

“And provided, That the further introduction of slavery or involuntary servitude, be prohibited, except for the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been fully convicted; and that all children born within the said state after the admission thereof into the Union, shall be free at the age of twenty-five years.”

The debate which commenced on Saturday, was to-day resumed on this proposition; which