

Mr. Lowrie, General Jackson and the President.

The National Intelligencer of the 8th instant contains the following letter from General Jackson, in answer to an inquiry made of him by Mr. Kremer, whether he had ever written a letter to the president, advising him to form his cabinet of "two distinguished federalists and two distinguished republicans."

Washington, May 6.

DEAR SIR:—I have received your letter of yesterday; and with much cheerfulness and candor, shall reply to your inquiry.

It has been repeatedly pressed before the public, that I had written a letter to Mr. Monroe, recommending him to select for his cabinet "two distinguished republicans and two distinguished federalists;" and that to Mr. Lowrie and Mr. Findlay, senators from the state of Pennsylvania, the letter had been read. I have not been able to persuade myself that the fact was so, inasmuch as our correspondence was private and confidential—because Mr. Findlay, who was present, has no recollection of it—because no such letter was ever written by me; because I have no recollection of any letter at all. I regret that Mr. Lowrie, in presenting this matter, should not recollect one material circumstance. When first it was spoken of, he stated to me and to others, that a letter purporting and declared to be mine, had been read to himself and Mr. Findlay, by the president, which advised that his cabinet should be formed of "two distinguished republicans, and two distinguished federalists." My reply to him was, that no such letter had ever been written by me; that so far as I could recollect, only one person, Col. Drayton, of South Carolina, had been recommended to him; that I had suggested to the president the propriety of appointing him secretary of war; for the reason that he was a man of high and honorable feelings, honest, virtuous, and of energetic character. Personally, I knew not Col. Drayton; but from information of his general character, I felt satisfied he could do more to correct the evils which unhappily prevailed in the army, than any other man of whom I had any knowledge. The contents of my letter, as read to him by the president, that two distinguished federalists, and two distinguished republicans, should be selected, was not only stated by Mr. Lowrie to me, but to yourself, and to Mr. Eaton, of the senate, and to others.

He has changed, however, his ground, and now says, it was a recommendation to the president, to form his cabinet from the two great leading parties of the country. Both statements are alike unfounded; no such letter was ever written by me; on the contrary, my advice to the president was, that in the selection of his cabinet, he should act upon principles like these; consider himself the head of the nation, not of a party; that he should have around him the best talents the country could afford, without regard to sectional divisions; and should, in his selection, seek after men of probity, virtue, capacity, and firmness; and, in this way, he would go far to eradicate those feelings, which on former occasions, threw so many obstacles in the way of government; and be enabled, perhaps, to unite a people heretofore politically divided. I gave it as my opinion, that the best evidence of devotion to the government, its constitution, and laws, which any could afford, was, when these were assailed, to venture forth in their defence, and maintain them amidst privations, and at the sacrifice of domestic quiet. That names were bubbles; and he who would, as Col. Drayton had done, abandon his fire-side and the comforts of home, and continue in the defence and protection of his country, through the war, merited the confidence of the government, let him bear what name of party he might; such a man I did recommend to Mr. Monroe; he was one I had never seen; yet one whose conduct, character, and good qualities, entitle him to any and every confidence. As well might the conclusion be adduced, that I had recommended a selection exclusively from one or the other of the parties, as that the cabinet, from a motive of policy, should be kept equally poised, by appointing two of each, for my advice was, to select men of probity, virtue, and talents, without regard to party.

The voice of Washington, in his farewell address to the nation, was, that party animosity was not to be encouraged, because "it was calculated to distract the public councils, and enfeeble the public administration;" and, with his, the voice of every patriot will accord. Virtue being the main pillar of a republican government, unless virtuous men shall be drawn into its administration, the fabric must tremble.—Designing and corrupt men may cover their intrigues under a pretended love for virtue and patriotism; but a truly pure man will be without disguise, verifying, as he passes along, the old adage, that the tree is best known by its fruit.

My letters have, by the president, and with my consent, been placed in the hands of a neutral friend, Mr. Eaton, who permits to publish them whenever he pleases to do so. I care not when

it is done, for I am without concealment of any kind. My opinions and sentiments, such as they have been written, or expressed at any time, each and every one are at all times welcome to. In public or in private letters, I breathe the sentiments I feel, and which my judgment sanctions; and no disposition will ever be entertained by me, either to disguise or to suppress them.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant.

ANDREW JACKSON.

GEORGE KREMER, esq.

The following is the correspondence of Gen. JACKSON and Mr. MONROE, relative to the letter on the subject of forming a cabinet, in 1817. A copy of the entire correspondence will, probably, in a day or two, be laid before the public, through the columns of the Intelligencer.

City of Washington, Jan. 16, 1824.

SIR: Having written a letter in answer to one from you, I think, in the early part of 1817, giving my opinion of certain characters which you had named, and who had been recommended to you for your executive council and heads of departments; and not having any copy here, will you have the goodness to forward me a copy of that letter. If that is inconvenient, send me, this evening, if you please, the original, which shall be returned to you, as soon as I take a copy. Your compliance will oblige me.

I am, very respectfully, your friend,
ANDREW JACKSON.
JAMES MONROE,
President of the United States.

Washington, Jan. 16, 1824.

DEAR SIR: Since the receipt of yours of this day, asking for your letter addressed to me, about the time I came into this office, I have been engaged in searching for it among my papers, but have not yet found it. I very well recollect the letter, as well as my answer to it, and well know that I have both, and that the difficulty experienced in finding them proceeds from my having taken too good care of them. I will continue my search to-morrow, and I hope with better success, unless I may have left them in the country. Your letter did you honor. It expressed noble and manly sentiments, having for their object the preservation of our republican government, by a generous exercise of power, by the republican party, in a way to inspire general confidence, and draw the union together. I hope, however, to find your letter to-morrow, and in which event I will send it to you.

With great respect and sincere regard,
JAMES MONROE.

Gen. ANDREW JACKSON.

Washington, Feb. 22, 1824.

SIR: The four private letters heretofore addressed to you by me, to wit, of the 23d October, and November 12, 1816; January 6, and March 18, 1817, and which were last evening handed me by Mr. Hay, are returned to you. The day is too inclement for me to go out, or I should have handed them to you myself, as requested by Mr. Hay, and promised by me.

Mr. Hay showed me Mr. Lowrie's note. I could not discover from it the date of your letter that he had obtained. I have to request that these private letters of mine to you be safely preserved, as it may become necessary for me to ask for a certified copy of them. I have not a distinct recollection of the substance of your several letters to which mine are answers. If you know the date of your letter to me that Mr. Lowrie is possessed of, I will thank you to advise me, that I may write home for the original.

I am, sir, with due respect, your most obedient servant.

ANDREW JACKSON.

JAMES MONROE,

President of the United States.

Washington, Feb. 22, 1824.

DEAR SIR: I have no knowledge of the date of the letter to which Mr. Lowrie refers, nor can I imagine in what manner any letter of mine to you or other friends should have got into the possession of any one. At the time I was about to form an administration, I communicated freely with some members of congress, who had co-operated with me in the war, and in whom I had perfect confidence. I also corresponded with some other friends at a distance. It was natural, at that time, that I should communicate to those near me the opinions of distinguished characters at a distance, as having weight in my decision, as to the arrangement. But I have no recollection of giving any copy of my views on the subject to any one. The copy in question, if correct, must be resorted to, for unfriendly purposes, and in breach of confidence, and has probably been purloined. I recollect writing you a letter, in answer to yours recommending colonel Drayton, in which I concurred with you in the great result, that the president ought to be at the head of this nation, rather than of a party, but thought that that result could only be brought about by time, considering the circumstances in which we were then placed. By perusing your letters, I find that you essentially concurred with me in that sentiment, although you inclined to the opinion that such men as Col. Drayton, who had gi-

ven such proofs of patriotism and devotion to the cause of his country, ought to be considered as having a just claim to the confidence of the government, and, in fact, to be considered as republicans. The copy of this letter I have not been able to find, nor do I recollect ever seeing it, or your letters, till within a few days past, since the year 1817.

To Mr. Lowrie's note I have given no answer, nor shall I. Let him take his course; we stand where we did. My confidence, given at the time referred to, has been, in any manner abused, or the letter been purloined, that is an incident which must dishonor the party guilty of such acts. I do not think that there is any thing in your letters which can injure you, nor in mine, in reply to them; but the contrary. Duplicity, by reserve, and silence, is what the transaction, and all connected with the present movement, merit.

I have done what I could to moderate and put down party spirit, believing that, by so doing, I gave the best support in my power to our republican government. It can only be put down by the republican party, and, while that party is in power, by a magnanimous policy. Persecution would keep the federal party, which, at one time, was, in certain members of it, a monarchical one, alive, and give it force.

With sincere regard, I am, dear sir,
yours,

JAMES MONROE.

Gen. ANDREW JACKSON.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, Mar. 3.

After the presentation of petitions—
Mr. Hamilton, of South Carolina, from the militia committee to which was referred the message of the president of the United States on the claim of Massachusetts for services rendered by the militia of that state during the late war with Great Britain, made a report, accompanied by a bill "to authorize the settlement and payment of the claims of the state of Massachusetts for certain services rendered during the late war."

The following is a copy of the report:—
The committee on militia affairs, to which was referred the message of the president of the United States, on the claim of Massachusetts for services rendered by the militia of that state during the late war with Great Britain, beg leave most respectfully to report:

That, in considering the subject submitted to their investigation, they have been fully impressed with its intrinsic importance, and its association with events which were once the occasion of much sensibility and excitement. They trust however, that they have approached the discussion, devoid of all prejudice, with an honest desire, in doing justice, to sustain those great principles of concord and power, which are essential to the durability of this union.

Your committee deem it entirely unnecessary, that they should recite all the circumstances comprising a history of this claim, as they are generally known to the nation, and are to be found in an authentic shape, in the documents accompanying the president's message. To this source your committee would ask a special reference.

It will be sufficient for present purposes to premise that a large portion of the claim of Massachusetts does not appear to be affected by those constitutional difficulties, which so long in the consideration of the executive of the United States, operated as an impediment to its adjustment.

Your committee are unanimously of opinion that the services rendered by the militia of Massachusetts, which may be considered beyond all exception, and as entitled to remuneration, are comprised in a class of cases, in which, by the spontaneous impulse of the militia, with or without the sanction of the executive of that state, or with or without a requisition on the part of the officer of the United States commanding the department, they assembled, either for the purpose of repelling actual invasion, or under a well founded apprehension of invasion. It is, in fact, on this principle, and on this principle only, that the claims for militia services of the various states have been audited and allowed at the department of war. Services of this description, patriotically performed, ought not to be prejudiced by a pre-existing difference of opinion between the executive of Massachusetts and the commanding officer of the United States' forces, as to an abstract construction of the constitution, when such a difference of opinion appears to have had no sort of effect on the extent and character of the services afforded. But, on the other hand, your committee are equally unanimous in declaring, that, in all cases where the acts of the executive of Massachusetts gave a direction to the services of the militia of that state, in opposition to the views of the general government, the claim for such services is altogether inadmissible; for these, the government of Massachusetts may be considered to have incurred an ulterior and exclusive responsibility to her own people.

Your committee waive the discussion of the question, how far the renunciation, on the part of the executive and legis-

lature of the state of Massachusetts, of the unconstitutional principles on which the then governor of that state acted, in the early stages of the war, is necessary to the allowance of any portion of the claims of the state for the services in question. These claims, when first presented for adjustment, immediately after the late war, were considered rather in the mass, than in reference to the particular items of which they are composed. In fact, at that early period, the principles on which the claims for militia services ought to be audited and allowed, were but imperfectly fixed. The subsequent presentation and examination of the claims of the several states, for such services, have shed much light on this subject, and have afforded many advantages at the present moment in examining those of Massachusetts. Distinctions, important to the elucidation of principles, and to the ascertainment of justice, have been taken, and sustained, which might naturally have been overlooked at the commencement of the discussion.

Your committee, however, cannot abstain from indulging in one remark, that, if the fact of the government of Massachusetts having declined, for some years subsequent to the late war, to renounce the unconstitutional doctrines of her then executive, as developed in the opinions of the judges of her supreme judicial court, can be supposed ever to have borne upon that portion of the claim which the committee have recommended for payment, the recent disavowal of her present executive and legislature furnishes at least a belief that all danger of a future collision between the general government and the states, in reference to the authority of the former over the militia of the latter, has been permanently removed. In this light, the committee cannot but regard the renunciation as honorable to the chief magistrate and legislature of Massachusetts, and as highly useful in fixing the true interpretation of the constitution, on an interesting and important point. This disavowal, in consonance, as it is affirmed, with the sentiment of the great mass of the people of Massachusetts, is indeed a reiteration of the language which was expressed by the senate of that state, as early as October, 1812, at the moment when the unfortunate irritation between the national and state functionaries was most exasperated, and when remuneration for these services formed neither a subject of calculation or desire.

Your committee, in conclusion, recommend that, in all cases where the militia of the state of Massachusetts were called out in conformity with the desire of an officer of the general government, or to repel actual invasion, or under a well founded apprehension of invasion, during the late war, the claim of the state for such militia services be allowed, under the usual rules of auditing and allowing similar claims; provided the number of troops so called out were not in undue proportion to the exigency.

Your committee likewise recommend, that the claims of Massachusetts, not comprehended in the above description of cases, be disallowed. And, in conformity with the foregoing principles, ask leave to report a bill.

Which report was referred to the committee of the whole.

Mr. Taylor, of New York, from the joint committee appointed to consider the subject of the day for terminating the present session of congress, reported an amendment to the resolution from the senate on that subject, proposing to substitute the nineteenth day of May for the day proposed by the senate.

After some discussion, the report was ordered to lie on the table.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from Thomas J. Rogers, resigning his seat as a member of this house, from the state of Pennsylvania; which was laid on the table; and it was

Ord read, That the governor of Pennsylvania be informed of the vacancy occasioned by this resignation.

On motion of Mr. Letcher, of Ken. the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the state of the Union. Mr. Dwight in the chair, on the renunciation addressed to the congress of the United States, by the state of Kentucky, on the subject of the decision of the supreme court, in the case of Green vs. Biddle, involving the constitutionality of the occupying claimant laws of Kentucky, as they are usually called.

Mr. Letcher then submitted a proposition, in the following words:—
"Resolved, That provision ought to be made by law, requiring, in any case decided in the supreme court, in which shall be drawn in question the validity of any part of the constitution of a state, or of any act passed by the legislature of a state, that justices shall concur in pronouncing such part of the said constitution or act to be invalid; and that, without the concurrence of that number of said justices, the part of the constitution or act of the legislature, (as the case may be,) so drawn in question, shall not be deemed, or holden, invalid."

Resolved, That the justices aforesaid, in pronouncing their judgment in any such case, as aforesaid, ought to be required by law, to give their opinions, separately and distinctly, if the judgment of the court be against the validi-

ty of the part of the constitution or act drawn in question, as aforesaid.

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to report a bill in conformity to the preceding resolutions."

Mr. Letcher proceeded at considerable length to deliver his sentiments in support of the resolutions he had proposed; when a debate arose, which continued till half past four o'clock, without being concluded.

Mr. Forsyth offered the following amendment, as a substitute to the first of the above resolutions:

Resolved, That a quorum of the supreme court, to transact the business of that tribunal, should consist of such a number of the justices comprising it, that a majority of the quorum shall be a majority of the whole court, including the chief justice.

Mr. F. supported his motion in a short speech; and Messrs. Wickliffe, Clay, Forsyth, Webster, Mercer, P. F. Barbour, Randolph, and Trimble, having, respectively, spoken at considerable length on the question, the committee rose, on motion of Mr. McKim of Maryland.

And then the house adjourned.

Tuesday, May 4.

After acting upon several bills of a private or local nature, the house went into committee of the whole on the bill "reducing into one, the several acts for establishing and regulating the post office department."

Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 5.

Mr. Cooke offered a resolution requesting the president to lay before this house, at its next session, a detailed report of the system of fortifications as at present contemplated, with various other information relative to the fortifications of the United States.

The house went into committee of the whole on the bill to reduce into one the several acts establishing and regulating the post office department.

Considerable conversation took place relative to the extra allowances to certain postmasters, and several provisions to that effect were stricken out.

The committee then rose, reported progress, and having obtained leave to sit again.

The house adjourned.

Foreign Intelligence.

By the arrival at New-York on Wednesday evening of the British packet Frolic, in 30 days from Falmouth, London dates have been received to the evening of the 1st April inclusive. Despatches supposed to relate to the slave trade, were brought by this arrival, and have been forwarded to the British minister at Washington.

Information has been received in London that the differences between the Dey and the English government had been amicably settled. No particulars are mentioned.—The French frigate Hermoine of 44 guns, in passing the blockading squadron off Algiers, thinking it unnecessary to hoist her colors, was attacked by the British frigate Naiad of 38 guns, when an action took place, during which, it is said, the Hermoine received a good drubbing; after the loss of several men and acknowledging the country to which she belonged, she was allowed to proceed. No interruption of the harmony subsisting between the two powers was expected from this circumstance.

Success continues to attend the Grecian patriots. Coron surrendered to them on the 18th Feb, and they had succeeded in taking the works of Lepanto, in which they derived great assistance from the English officers of engineers.

Accounts from Constantinople of the 24th Feb. still speak of armaments fitting out for another campaign against the Greeks. If the intelligence, however, received there from Egypt, by the way of Odessa, proves correct, the Porte will have enough to occupy its hands without renewing its attempts on the Morea. A ship, it is stated, had arrived at Constantinople, in 40 hours from Egypt, with the alarming intelligence that Ali Pacha, the enterprising vice roy of Egypt, had declared himself independent of the Turkish government. This chief had been long suspected by the Porte, who had, in vain, tried every method to weaken him. Latterly he had been ordered to march 10,000 men against the Greeks; but instead of obeying the Sultan's mandate, he embraced this opportunity to set up for himself. This event is not only expected to complete the emancipation of Greece, but to shake all the eastern provinces of the Turkish empire, if not to give the death blow to the power of the porte.

The slave trade piracy bill had passed both houses of parliament, and received the assent of his majesty.

Accounts from Madrid of the 18th