

Phillipsborough Recorder.

UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE LAWS—THE GUARDIANS OF OUR LIBERTY

Vol. XVII.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1836.

No. 840.

GENERAL HARRISON.

At a public dinner given to Gen. William B. Carter on the 17th ult. at Parisville, Tennessee, James Maloy, a revolutionary soldier, gave the following toast:—"Gen. Harrison. We don't know you, nor we don't want to know you." Now, although Gen. Harrison was engaged early and zealously in the last war, and fought more battles than any other commander who served in it, and "never was beaten;" and although a vote of thanks was given him by the Legislature of Tennessee for his gallant conduct at the battle of Tippecanoe; and although Congress awarded him the thanks of the nation and a gold medal for his brilliant achievement near the river Thames; and although he stood high in the estimation of the people for his prudence as governor of the North Western Territory, and for his skilful management of the various public trusts which had been committed to him, and at the close of the war stood in the foremost rank of the military commanders who had been engaged in it; yet so long has he been secluded from public view that many of our readers can say with the Tennessee veteran, "We don't know you;" but we trust few of them would add, "we don't want to know you." For the gratification, then, of those who would desire to know something of him, we give the following brief sketch of his life.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

William H. Harrison was born in 1773 at Berkeley, the family seat of his father, a James river in Virginia. He was the youngest son of Benjamin Harrison, who bore a conspicuous part in the councils of the nation, during the revolutionary struggle, and was one of the illustrious signers of the Declaration of Independence. The subject of this sketch was placed at an early age at Sidney College, where he remained until he was seventeen years of age, having received a good classical education. He then commenced the study of medicine, and in 1794, repaired to Philadelphia to pursue his studies with more advantage. But the death of his father at this time checked his professional aspirations, and the note of preparation which was sounding through the country, for the campaign against the Indians of the West, decided his destiny. Against the advice of his friends, he solicited and obtained from Colonel Washington, a commission in the army, and departed to join St. Clair at Fort Washington, now Cincinnati; but that unfortunate General had already been defeated by the Indians, and a large portion of his bravest officers and men had been massacred by the savage foe. The defeat and return of the troops, did not damp the zeal of young Harrison. He devoted himself ardently to the study of the theory of military tactics—and in the following year, when General Wayne assumed the command, Ensign Harrison was appointed one of his Aids, and participated in the successful actions which distinguished that campaign. In the affair of *Rough de Boue*, he signalized himself by his courage and conduct, and was specially named in the official report of that engagement, by the Commander in chief.

After the treaty of Greenville in 1795 Captain Harrison was left in command of Fort Washington—and soon after married the daughter of Judge Symmes, the proprietor of the Miami purchase. In 1797, being tired of a garrison life, he resigned his commission, and commenced his civil career, as Secretary of the North Western Territory. In 1799, he was elected the first delegate to Congress of that extensive region, which now comprises Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. He devoted much attention to improving the land system of the territory. He was appointed chairman of the committee on lands, and framed an able report, in consequence of which a bill was framed, and after undergoing some amendments in the Senate, passed into a law, which was calculated to be of immense advantage to the poor settler, and to restrain the capriciousness of the speculator and the rich monopolist.

In 1801, he was appointed by President Adams, Governor of Indiana, and entered on the duties of his office at the military post of Vincennes. He was invested with powers which have never been conferred on any other officer, civil or military. Among other duties, he was appointed commissioner to treat with the Indians—and in this capacity concluded fifteen treaties, besides purchasing the title to upwards of seventy millions acres of land. The conduct of Governor Harrison while he held this important and responsible situation, loudly proclaimed his prudence and talents. In his intercourse with the Indians, he made use of justice tempered with mildness, conciliation combined with firmness, accompanied by a never slumbering watchfulness.

He was thus enabled to overcome difficulties, under which an ordinary capacity must have been prostrated. His correspondence with Mr. Jefferson from 1802 until 1803, is a recorded testimony of the ability and success of his administration.

In 1811, owing to the intrigues of the British with the Indians, hostilities were rendered unavoidable. Governor Harrison summoned to his assistance Col. Boyd of the 4th U. S. regiment, who was then at Pittsburg—and embodied a militia force to meet the sudden emergency. To these were added a gallant band of volunteers from Kentucky, consisting of about sixty-five individuals. With this force he immediately marched towards the Prophet's town at Tippecanoe. On the 6th of November he reached the place, and made several fruitless attempts to select a proper position for encampment during the night, under promise from the Chiefs to hold a conference next day. The ground which was chosen for an encampment was admirably adapted to baffle the success of a sudden attack; the only kind which Harrison supposed would be attempted. On the morning of the 7th, just before daylight, the Indians made a desperate onset, with their usual yells and impetuosity—but owing to the masterly arrangement of the troops and the vigilance and experience of their commander, they were defeated with great loss, although at the expense of some of the most gallant spirits of the age—among whom was the chivalrous Jo Davies of Kentucky. Governor Harrison received a bullet through his neck, yet without touching his neck. The Legislature of Kentucky at its next session passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That Governor William H. Harrison has behaved like a hero, a patriot and a General; and that for his cool, deliberate, and gallant conduct at the battle of Tippecanoe, he well deserves the thanks of the nation.

From this time until the war with Great Britain, Gen. Harrison was continually engaged in negotiating with the Indians, and preparing means for resisting their more extended attacks. In August 1812, he was appointed Major General in the Kentucky militia, and immediately applied himself to the proper organization of the army on the north-western frontier. After the disgraceful surrender of Hull, he received the appointment of Major General in the army of the U. States—and his duties embraced a large sphere, and were exceedingly arduous and complicated. Every thing was in confusion, and money, arms and men, where to be raised—but he proved himself fully equal to the task. On the 5th of October 1813, he brought the British army and their Indian allies, under Proctor, to action near the river Thames—and the victory achieved on this brilliant day by undisciplined militia over the veteran troops of England was decisive, and infused joy and animation over the whole Union. For this important action, Congress voted Harrison a gold medal. It was in this action that General Harrison originated the successful manoeuvre of charging through the British lines with mounted infantry—which was gallantly executed by Col. Johnson.

The north-western frontier being relieved, Gen. Harrison proceeded to Washington, and on his way was received with enthusiasm, and honoured with the highest marks of distinction that can be offered to a citizen by a republican people.

In the spring of 1814—owing to some misunderstanding between Secretary Armstrong and himself, General Harrison resigned his commission. Mr. Madison, who was not in Washington at the time, wrote to Governor Selby that "it would not have been accepted if he had been in Washington."

Immediately after this, Gen. Harrison retired to his farm at North Bend in Ohio, and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, but was soon afterwards successfully called by the people to represent them in the Congress of the United States, and in the Legislature of the state. 1821-2, he was elected to the Senate of the United States. In 1828, he was appointed Minister to Columbia, which station he held until he was recalled by President Jackson. He again retired to his farm—and in 1834 on the almost unanimous petition of the citizens of the county, he was appointed prothonotary of the court of Hamilton County, which office he attends in person. General Harrison has always been distinguished by a generosity and liberality of feeling, which has been exercised beyond what strict justice to himself and family should have permitted. With ample opportunities of amassing immense wealth, he ever disdained to profit by his public situation for private emolument—and after forty years devotion to his duties in the highest station, both civil military, and he finds

it necessary in the evening of his life to exert his energies for the comfort of a large family. But the extreme temperance and simplicity of his habits have preserved those energies, both physical and mental, in almost youthful vigour.

From the Cincinnati Daily Gazette.

THE RULE OF LAW.

It is conceded, on all hands, that there is a prevalent feeling throughout the country, favorable to a disregard of the laws. Every man entertains, in a greater or less degree, the disposition to sit as judge in his own case; pass upon his own wrongs, real or imaginary, and become his own avenger according to the measure of his strength. Hence individual outrages, assaults, murders, and other wrongs. Hence, too, the concerted action of excited citizens, commonly called mobs.

Some one supposes wrong is done or contemplated—that is, wrong in his own estimation of right and wrong. He broods upon it, talks about it, and obtains an auditory; infuses into all or a portion of that auditory his own spirit. A union of sentiments is produced respecting the conduct and business of their fellow citizens. Pronouncing such conduct and business injurious to the common interest, they determine to reform it by a short process. They consider the law as nothing. The rights of their fellow-citizens they refuse to recognize, because they have adjudged the exercise of them to be mischievous. Violent movements are made—most illegal acts are perpetrated with impunity. Prosecutions are found unavailing. Men look upon each other in stolid astonishment, or engage in vituperative recrimination.

In the mean time, the spirit of insubordination to law, of contemptuous disrespect for the rights of others, gathers strength. Encouraged by one for one purpose, by another for another purpose, it accumulates power, and its impetus becomes uncontrollable. Not unfrequently its ravages resemble those of an avalanche. It is but to look all around us, with an eye of observation and intelligence, to perceive how prominently the suggestions here made stand out before us. Suppose untoward circumstances should compel a bank, in our Western cities or villages, to stop payment, can any one place limits to the evils that one fiery evil spirit might produce?

Let every man who values legal security ponder upon this suggestion. Should not an effort be made to cultivate the old notion of legal security? At every risk, every man's legal rights must be secured to him. Those who would, in any case, overleap the law, must be met as traitors, and treated as traitors to our institutions. The passions, the prejudices, the conveniences of the instant should be weighed against permanent security.—Who can hesitate in his preference? My motto is—"the law and its equal protection." Where this rule is steadily, resolutely, and firmly enforced, there is every man secure. There can be rest "under his own vine and fig tree and none to make him afraid." But where it is tolerated to dispense with the law, for the convenience or in conformity with the prejudices of one, or of many, there is the worst of all tyranny—misrule and insecurity. This used to be mere speculation in our country—it has assumed a frightful visage of reality, the gorgon features of which should awaken every man to the threatened consequences.

PUBLIC OPINION IN VIRGINIA.

From the Norfolk Herald.

What especially excites our astonishment, if, indeed, there is anything to be wondered at now-a-days, is the *sans froid* with which the nineteen [Maryland Electors] elected for an entirely different purpose, assume to dictate to the people the method by which they are to escape from the awful *premonition* which they (these identical nineteen) have themselves got them into. Elected by the people, in obedience to the Constitution, for the specified object of perpetuating the Government by the election of the Senate, they first nullify the Constitution and prostrate the whole machinery of government, and then coolly turn round to the people and tell them, "you can meet at your respective court houses next month, and choose *sic* delegates for each county to go into Convention and form a new Constitution!" If such conduct meets the approval of a majority of the people of Maryland, we may indeed apprehend the worst. But this is not all: having arrogated to themselves the entire sovereignty of the State, they undertake to negotiate with their co-electors of the majority, and to prescribe the terms upon which they are willing to spare the existence of the Constitution. Assuming themselves to be the representatives of a larger number of the people than that which is represented by the twenty-one,

they propose, as the only terms upon which they will go into the election, that the twenty-one shall yield the Senate to their nineteen. "You will have the majority in the other House, therefore give us the Senate," is their proposal; or, in other words, "give us the power which you hold under the Constitution, and we will be satisfied with the Constitution as it is." This is the sum and substance of this great reform movement. Give Van Buren the ascendancy in the Legislature, and a fig for reform!

No pretext can justify their conduct. The inequality of representation is acknowledged to be a grievance; but the same grievance existed in Virginia for many years, and was redressed without revolution. Counties in Virginia with 100 to 150 votes, sent as many representatives to the Legislature as those which could give from one to two thousand. But the large counties did not dream of revolution. The people themselves throughout the State took up the cudgels, they asked no favors of paragon electors or representatives, but at their State elections in 1828 recorded their votes for and against the calling of a Convention to amend the State Constitution.

By this mode of ascertaining the opinions of the People, though irregular and informal, the following Legislature were clearly convinced that it was their pleasure to have a Convention, and they accordingly passed a law directing polls to be held in April, 1829, to take the sense of the People, which being ascertained to be decidedly in favor of a Convention, an election took place throughout the State, under a provision of the same law, in the following month, for delegates to form a Convention. The whole process was perfectly simple, and caused no agitation or alarm.

Why could not the People of Maryland get up a Convention in the same quiet and orderly way? If there be in reality, as the Van Buren men contend, a large majority of the People opposed to the existing Constitution, they should have adopted the Virginia method of making it known to the Legislature. That they have not resorted to that or some other equally unequivocal mode of proving the wish of the majority of the People to be in favor of a Convention, renders it somewhat doubtful whether there is such a majority to be found in the State, and further confirms the fact that the act of the recalcitrant nineteen Electors has, in truth, no reference to reform, but is a sheer manoeuvre to serve the cause of their party, reckless of all consequences. Upon their heads be the responsibility!

From the Lincoln Transcript.

THE APPROACHING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

On what side soever we turn our eyes the prospect is cheering, and every day's intelligence strengthens the belief that Van Buren cannot be elected. It has been demonstrated by the elections which have taken place, that all hope for Van Buren is cut off in the states of Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Alabama, N. Carolina, Maryland and Vermont. A partial election, and all the information received from that quarter, leaves no doubt that the state of Mississippi goes against him likewise. It seems to be equally certain, and beyond doubt, that the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, S. Carolina, Massachusetts and Delaware are against him. The prospects in Virginia and Georgia, (the last hope for Van Burenists in the south) are brightening every day. In Tennessee Judge White's friends not only constitute a majority, but his popularity is overwhelming; and notwithstanding the efforts made there by the Vanites to crush Judge White with the name of General Jackson, yet there is a name of mightier influence that overshadows that state—there is a current of enthusiasm which bears the name of Judge White triumphant over every impediment—the people of Tennessee know his worth and abilities, and they rush to his support with a promptness, spirit and unanimity, creditable alike to their intelligence, independence and patriotism. In Rhode Island and New Jersey the contest is doubtful; if Van Buren should get these it will be by bare majorities. In the state of New York the war against the "spoils party" is waging under their own walls with a spirit of energy and promptness that has scattered terror and dismay into the Van Buren ranks.

All things moves that Jacksonism and Van Burenism is separate and distinct, and that it is vain and decidedly the reverse of truth to say that the Van Buren party is the party that heretofore elected General Jackson; it also shows that Van Buren has no fixed thing based on the good intelligence of the country, and that the followers of Van Buren party, are destitute of fixed and

are a heterogeneous compound, made up of the most discordant and incongruous materials, which may mix but can never mingle—whose only bond of union is a common love of the "spoils of office"—not that we believe the entire party is made up of such materials, for we have no doubt there are many honest and patriotic men among them, but that its leaders are those who give tone to its counsels and direct its movements—those who act the part of fagles and trumpeters because of their direct personal interest in the issue of the contest. What states, we would ask, were they which were most desirous of electing General Jackson in 1824? Were they not North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama and Pennsylvania? And where are those states now? Not on the side of Van Buren. Where are the states in which Mr. Van Buren has the greatest popularity of any in the United States? Connecticut and New Hampshire. Yet these states have been throughout opposed to General Jackson, and have never voted for him in any election. In Connecticut where the Hartford Convention was held, where they have been uniformly in favor of the tariff, and have on all occasions opposed all the measures of the Republican Party—have never yet given an electoral vote for Gen. Jackson, Van Buren has a greater popularity than in any other portion of the United States; yet we are told that this is the Republican and Jackson Party, and the people of Tennessee, North Carolina, Alabama, and all others of the Republican States, are denounced as Nullifiers and Federalists because they have independence enough to exercise their own opinions in the choice of a President, and firmness enough to oppose the election of Van Buren.

Gen. Harrison on Emancipation.

A friend has handed us the Address of the Van Buren Convention to the people of Indiana, (a non slaveholding state, be it remembered,) by which we find that Gen. Harrison is there opposed as an enemy of Emancipation—and certain acts of his, while governor of the northwestern territory are cited to substantiate the charge. In 1803, we are told, he caused a law to be enacted in that territory "compelling all negroes, mulattoes, &c. coming into the territory under a contract of service, to perform the same—thus virtually legalizing slavery even for life! And subsequently, in 1805, and again in 1807 (says the Indiana Van Buren Convention) he gave his executive sanction and approval to bills of the territorial legislature, authorizing the owners or possessors of negroes or mulattoes under fifteen years of age, to bring them into the territory, and hold them in slavery, if males, until thirty-five years of age, and if females until thirty-two years of age, without their consent, and that if the negro when brought into the territory should be above fifteen years of age, he might be doomed to slavery for life, if an agreement to that effect could be extorted from him in the presence of the clerk of the court." And yet Gen. Harrison is in this state stigmatized as an abolitionist!

Lynchburg Virginian.

If the people of the United States fail to elect a President, the election devolves on the House of Representatives. If the people fail to elect a Vice President the election devolves on the Senate. The Whigs have two candidates for the Presidency, and the Tories three for the Vice Presidency. If, therefore, our opponents have a right to charge us with attempting to throw the election of President into the House, we have a still better right to charge them with attempting to throw the election of Vice President into the Senate. Why is it that, amid all their inflammatory harangues upon the danger of corruption in the House in the election of the first officer of the nation, we hear not a single word from them relative to the danger of corruption in the Senate in the election of the second? Can there be no bargain and corruption except in the popular branch of Congress? Is the aristocratic branch, as it is used to be termed by Tories, entirely secure against all improper influence?

Louisville Adv.

Great Field.—A field of 15 acres of land belonging to Mr. Peter Aekerman of Fishkill, Dutchess county, New York produced 555 bushels of wheat.