

Western Carolinian.

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TERMS.

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All letters addressed to the Editor, must be post-paid, or they may not be attended to.

GEN. SAUNDERS' ADDRESS.

Salisbury, Jan. 15th, 1828.

Gen. R. M. Saunders:
Sir: The committee of arrangements for you their respectful compliments, and express the high degree of pleasure which they felt in being present at the very able and patriotic address which you delivered on the 8th of January. For the purpose of giving circulation to sentiments so congenial with the feelings of every American, we ask a copy for publication. Your most obt. s^rv^ts,

T. G. Polk, P. White,
J. Sneed, S. Reeves,
D. Meenan, L. Mitchell.

Salisbury, Jan. 15th, 1828.

GEN. SAUNDERS: I am favored by the receipt of your note of this date, and herewith furnish, agreeably to your request, a copy of the address delivered in celebration of the 8th of January. You will please accept my respectful acknowledgments for the friendly approbation of the discharge of the duty assigned me.

Very respectfully,

R. M. SAUNDERS

To Thos. G. Polk, Junius Sneed,
Dan'l. Meenan, Philip White,
Sam'l. Reeves, Lucus Mitchell,
Coms. of Arrangements.

ADDRESS.

Fellow-Citizens: Thirteen years have elapsed since the occurrence of that event, so memorable in the history of our country, so conducive to its honor and its character, which we have this day assembled to commemorate. It is not to pay homage to kings or despots, to rejoice at the birth of a sovereign prince; nor is it to hail a Caesar returning in triumph from the field of battle, or to offer up our greetings for the success of one master over the downfall of another;—these things we leave to those whose destiny has placed them under a different form of government: But we have assembled in the character of freemen, on the yearly return of this day, to express our thanks and our gratitude to those who, on the field of battle, so nobly and so gallantly defended their country's soil, and gave victory to her arms.

The applause of the present and of future ages, is the highest reward that can be offered to illustrious men for distinguished services, and the noblest incentive to such as are ambitious of like honors themselves. It serves to consecrate the bold daring and gallant achievements of our countrymen, to excite and inspire in the youthful bosom a patriotic glow, that kindles and expands at the recital of such deeds, and awakens the proudest ambition of which the heart of man is susceptible—the desire of distinguishing himself in the service of his country. It carries the memory back to those events, cherished as sacred to the fame and fluttering to the pride and patriotism of the nation. Is there, then, an individual so lost to gratitude or to feeling, as not to hail the hour, when our countrymen in arms met the rude blast of war, stayed its fury, and gave security and protection to an exposed and vulnerable city? No; the honor of the American character forbids such ingratitude, and holds in perpetual remembrance a day thus consecrated in the hearts of our countrymen, and recorded on the brightest page of our country's history.

It is meet and proper, then, fellow-citizens, that we should, upon the yearly return of this day, indulge ourselves in all the luxury of feeling and glow of gratitude, in commemoration of the event we celebrate. For, next to the high duty of defending the liberties of our country, is that of honoring those who have preserved them, by the wisdom of their counsel or the valour of their arms. It was under these laudable feelings, that ancient republics had their festivals, and modern nations have their days of jubilee and rejoicing. Whilst, then, we hail the Fourth of July '76, as the birth-day of our Liberty and Independence, let us hallow the 8th of January, 1815, as a day devoted to the maintenance and preservation of those blessings. Memorable be the hour, and immortal the feelings it shall inspire.

In adverting to our early revolutionary history, we discover the highest acts of oppression on the part of the mother country, and the most humble petitions for a redress of grievances, on that of the colonies. These repeated evidences of the exercise of power, and the haughty rejection of what they had the right to demand, forced our forefathers to the bold resolution of throwing off the yoke of oppression; and proclaiming themselves free

and independent. This resolve, so momentous in its consequences, they did not adopt, until every hope for a redress of their wrongs had been banished, and even the blood of the American citizens had been made to flow upon the heights of Bunker's Hill. Then it was, that the tocsin resounded over every hill and filled every valley, that three millions of people burst their chains, rushed to arms, and swore to be avenged for the death of their brethren. How important this single engagement, waged on our part by a handful of honest yeomanry, hastily collected and illy armed, to the future liberties of their country! The life of the American citizen had been taken, a Warren had fallen, and from that period is to be dated the freedom of the republic. It was in vain to talk of a redress of grievances, or a submission to a power thus capable of sacrificing the lives of virtuous and innocent men. No, a mighty impulse was given to the ball of the revolution, courage animated every breast, and freedom was proclaimed from every tongue; the mountain wave of liberty began to roll, and to roll with a current not to be resisted. The voice of freemen, like the wind of heaven, was not to be stifled by the powers of a despot.

"Tyrants! in vain ye trace the wizard ring;
"In vain ye limit mind's unwearied spring;
"What! can ye tulle the winged winds asleep,
"Arrest the rolling world, or chain the deep?
"No!—the wild wave contemns your scepter'd hand;
"It roll'd not back when Canute gave command."

Such were the effects of a single engagement at the commencement of our revolutionary struggle, which contributed so largely to widen the breach and add to the necessity that forced "the representatives of the United States of America in general congress assembled," to use their own bold language, "to denounce our separation from Great Britain, and hold them as we hold the rest of mankind—enemies in war, in peace friends." How pleasing then the reflection to the patriot, that he is permitted thus to look back and contemplate the beginning of a contest, in its result so fortunate for him, so happy for his country. It was indeed followed by other engagements, that of Saratoga and Trenton, Princeton and Monmouth, to the north—the Cowpens, Guilford, and the battle of the Eutaw Springs, perhaps the most bloody of the whole, to the south—yet none of them could vie in import with that when first the American citizen met the British soldier. There was another engagement, in its consequences a still more brilliant character, like that we this day celebrate, the surrender at York town—on whose height the American Eagle of Liberty perched, and flapping his wings in triumph, hallowed the freedom of this Western World. Let it not then be said that the green laurel should alone adorn the Statesman's brow, no, it belongs alike to the hero of the field and the orator of the Senate, and it is for the hand of the freemen to bind the wreath and award the honor.

Thus commenced and thus terminated the contest, which gave liberty and independence to our country. And having formed a constitution upon the principle that man is capable of self government, and of administering to his own happiness,—our beloved country was about to enjoy a peaceful repose, and the patriot to realize all those blessings our free and happy form of government was so well calculated to impart. It had been the wisdom of her policy to cultivate friendship with all nations; by an active commerce abroad to enrich herself, and an industrious agriculture at home to render her people happy and contented. But whilst engaged in these laudable pursuits, and in "the full tide of successful experiment," it was her fate to meet her former enemy as a rival, and after sustaining repeated acts of outrage and aggression, to gird on the armour of defence, and again encounter the rude shock of war.

It is not my purpose to inquire into the causes, much less into the policy of this contest. It belongs to the Senators and Representatives of the nation to settle its policy and discuss its justice. They did, in June, 1812, proclaim the nation at war, and it became the wish as well as the duty of every good citizen, to see that it was brought to a fortunate and honorable termination. Our army was small, and our people by their habits fitted rather for the arts of peace than the science of war. Hence at the outset this contest was waged with alternate success and reverse—and though the STAR SPANGLED BANNER had floated in triumph over the briny deep, we had but little to boast of victory upon land. A Brown, a Scott, and a Gaines, had indeed sustained the honor of our arms, at Chipewewa, Bridgewater and Erie—yet, sad reverses had darkened the brilliancy of their achievements. On our south-west-

tern borders, we were engaged with the "merciless Indians, whose inhuman rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions." But here, from the peaceful walks of private life, was to spring up a man, who, at the head of his favorite militia, by the sagacity of his plans, and the boldness of their execution, was to ward off the scalping knife, hush the savage yell, and give security and protection to our mothers, our wives, and our children. Yes, this militia officer, whose future lot it was to cast so bright a halo around the name of his country; had, at the outset, applied in vain to be received into the regular ranks of her army:—He had no court friend, to urge his claim; no friendly herald to appeal to in his behalf: it was his fortune to force himself into the service of his country; not through favor or entreaty, but by the gallantry of his acts. Andrew Jackson, a native of South Carolina, for sometime a citizen of this place, had removed at an early period to the State of Tennessee, where he had filled some of the highest offices in civil life. On the first call for the services of the militia from his adopted State, he, with the assistance of others, raised a volunteer corps, and by the order of the government, descended the Mississippi, under the expectation of meeting the enemy at an exposed point. This not proving the case, he was ordered to disband his troops; and by sharing in all their toils and privations, on their march home, he first gained the confidence and attachment of the militia, which ever after riveted their feelings so strongly to wards him. He did not long remain idle, before he was called to head an expedition against the most formidable and warlike of the Indian tribes. How he discharged this high trust, the victories of Talladega, of Emucklaw, of the Horse shoe, where sunk the brave Montgomery, foremost in battle, and a conquered foe, whose soil now constitutes a part of our extensive domain, bear witness to his prowess and superior capacity for military command. About this period he is commissioned a Major General in the regular service, marched into Florida in pursuit of the enemy, and finds it necessary to punish the perfidy and humble insolence of the haughty Spaniard.

For this act, some would fain have tarnished his laurels and branded his name with infamy. Not so the Representatives of the people, who could not censure, much less condemn one to whom the Nation was so great a debtor. From thence he is directed with an accelerated march to hasten to the defence of New Orleans. How important the trust, how threatening the danger, and how feeble the means to ward it off. Just before this period, an insulting foe had marched over our land, under their bold leader, with the sword of death in the one hand and the torch of conflagration in the other.

The proud capital of the nation is captured with scarcely a struggle, and laid in ruins: a monument of daring in trepidity on the part of the enemy, and of lasting disgrace to ourselves. Thus flushed with success, the enemy returned under the hope of surprising a flourishing City, and with orders to lay that in ashes: But in this they were deceived, and themselves met with defeat and discomfiture, and their leader with death, at the hands of a militiaman. Foiled in this attempt, it was now their whole force was to be concentrated, and directed to fall with its heaviest bolt, upon that great depot of the Western States, the City of New-Orleans. Their troops had just been freed from an enemy, who for years had made Kings and Emperors tremble for their thrones. The war of the Peninsula was at an end; and the invincibles of Wellington were to be transported to our shores, in order to put to flight our despised militia, and handful of regulars. Our army was but as a vanguard in comparison to the thousands with whom these transports had been in the habit of contending. Their officers too, the ablest of the army of the continent, united all the advantages of skill, to that of experience and discipline.—With this immense odds in their favor, the stoutest American heart was made to cower, and those charged with the administration of our government, trembled for the result. They would most willingly have despatched an officer of more experience, and as they thought better qualified to command and direct the operations of our troops. But already did they imagine the Eagle was grappling with the Lion, and little did they know the superior capacity of him; then at his post; of one, who proved himself able to cope with the greatest commanders of the day; of one, who uniting wisdom in the art of war with courage, contempt of danger with untiring perseverance, dexterity with presence of mind, activity with the most perfect command of him-

self; of one, who conceived his plans with the progressiveness of the rising storm, and executed them with the rapidity of the thunderbolt—unruffled in the heat of battle, accurate and concise in his orders, foreseeing every thing, prepared for every thing, capable of the most daring enterprises, and lost to every idea of personal safety; he alone was qualified to lead his troops to victory. If victory was attainable. His own troops had been hastily brought together, of the most discordant materials, of inferior numbers, and unused to contend with such an enemy.—These were not the only difficulties, formidable as they were, that encompassed our commander. He was in a country but recently adopted into the American family, of a heterogeneous population, and indicating strong symptoms of disaffection to his cause. But his mighty genius met and banished every difficulty. He had just been joined by the intrepid Gen. Coffee, and his brigade, when he received intelligence that the enemy had succeeded in entering the Bayou Bienvenue, and had debarked a considerable part of his force, with which he had advanced to the highlands on the Mississippi, and occupied a position not more than seven miles below the City. The crisis was now approaching, and General Jackson foreseeing the danger of suffering the enemy to attack him, determined himself to become the assailant. This bold and hazardous, but necessary enterprise, was performed on the night of the 23d of December, and was attended with a success beyond the expectation of the most sanguine.—The enemy were forced to retreat, and our commander drew off his forces with but a trifling loss—save only in the death of the brave Colonel Lauderdale, a valuable officer, who fell gallantly, whilst animating his men, and leading them into action. Having then, by this masterly movement, warded off the present danger, he was allowed a few days longer, which he spent with sleepless nights in preparing for that event so important to his own fame, to the honor, and perhaps the liberty of his country. The night of the seventh of January came—the "note of preparation" and the movements of the enemy, gave evidence that the day of battle was at hand. Our troops remained behind their breastworks, under orders to be ready for the first signal. Every one waited the dawn of day, with deep anxiety, but with calm intrepidity, expecting the attack of our enemy with his fifteen thousand bayonets, besides his ten thousand sailors and marines. The morning of the Eighth of January, at length came, and exhibited the enemy upon the banks of the Mississippi.—Their parole and countersign, "Body and Beauty"—whilst the chivalrous motto of "victory or death" was echoed along the American line. A congreve-rocket, like a meteor, flashed through the air, and gave the signal for attack. In a few moments, was heard, that constant rolling fire, whose tremendous noise resembled rattling peals of thunder. Then it was, that the British officer was seen animating his troops and urging them on to those batteries from whose fire came the volleys of death. Their commander in chief, Sir Edward Pakenham, the *elève* of the Duke of Wellington, fell whilst animating his troops to the first assault. In a second attempt, Generals Keane and Gibbs, shared a similar fate. Every effort for a third trial failed, and they were forced to shelter themselves in a ditch for the remainder of the day. Never has it been the fortune of any commander to gain so complete a victory against such fearful odds, and with so small a loss. The enemy repulsed at every attack, driven back and dispirited; commander after commander taken from the field of battle in the arms of death—whilst every attempt to renew the assault, proves unavailing—victory declares in favour of the Americans arms. Well might its hero have exclaimed in the language of the Roman General, *Veni, Vidi, Vici!* Anxiety, which had stood on tiptoe, carried the glad tidings through our land, spoke quiet to the patriot's bosom and proclaimed a day that must ever inspire the highest ebullition of national feeling. Such, my countrymen, is the day, such the victory we celebrate; and whilst we drop the tear of regret for the fate of such as fell in the arms of victory, we pour forth our warmest gratitude to those who survive to receive the smiles and the applause of a grateful country.

I might here pause to contemplate a victory, so brilliant in its character, so glorious in its result, and so fortunate in its consequences, but that I am addressing an audience, who have themselves witnessed its animating effect upon their own feelings, and the proud title it has given to the American name. It closed the war in a blaze of glory, proved the ability and efficiency of our militia for defence in the hour of danger, and silenced for-

ever the assertion, that a republican form of government is too weak for belligerent operations. Whilst, then, it shall be our constant prayer to that over-ruling God, who rides upon the whirlwind and directs the storm, to conduct our beloved country through the long avenue of time; to grant that the goddess of Liberty who has left her abode upon the continent of this old world, may long find a resting place upon the American mountains. And if in the revolution of events, it shall be the fate of our nation again to be involved in a state of war—we have in the bright example of those, whose victory we this day celebrate, that which shall give courage to despair, nerve the arm of the brave and teach the citizen soldier how to render his name and his deeds... Immortal.

Duelling.—Gov. Clinton, in his message to the legislature of New-York, at its present session, thus bears witness against the murderous practice of duelling. This testimony should carry more weight with it, from the circumstance of Gov. C's. having once been concerned in a duel himself; but has since been brought to see the folly and wickedness of the practice.

A prominent and besetting evil of the times, is the practice of duelling, which frequently ship-wrecks the peace of families, and destroys the lives of useful members of society.

In these cases, false notions of honor are arrayed against the dictates of morality, the prescriptions of law, and the injunctions of religion. The extermination of this moral Hydra has been found more difficult than the physical Hydra of antiquity. The severity of penal inflictions has been rendered nugatory by the want of certainty, and chivalric folly has prostrated the most sacred considerations. The failure of past preventives ought not to deter from the application of new expedients. If public opinion is unable to arrest this aggravated evil, the arm of the law ought to be stretched forth, full of terror and replete with punishment. The most effectual prescription heretofore applied was the requirement of an oath from every person entering into office, that he would not be concerned in duelling, but this having been abolished by the new constitution, other measures must be pursued. As most duels take place out of the state, might it not have a preventing effect, to direct magistrates to make strict inquiry into the charges, and in their discretion to imprison the offenders until notice can be given to the Executive of the state in which the crime was committed, so that he might make the constitutional requisition for their being delivered up for punishment. And if a homicide of this character, is perpetrated, may it not be advisable to consider it so in the state where the person dies, as well as in that where the wound was inflicted. Most duels are brought to a fatal termination by the misconduct of seconds, who, in the confidence of self security, and in the headlong career of demented quixotism, close the door against reconciliation,—and they ought therefore to be visited with exemplary punishment, especially in challenges ending in duels. And where homicides have taken place out of our jurisdiction, what is now adjudged only a misdemeanor or breach of the peace, ought to be deemed a felony, and subjected to punishment in the state prisons. And by such energetic measures, it is earnestly to be hoped that this disgraceful evil and high handed offence may be expelled from our country.

Morgan, again.—The "Advocate" newspaper, printed in the western part of New-York, after alluding to Hill as the murderer of Morgan, says:

"This man has undergone another strict examination, by three attorneys, in the presence of many other respectable gentlemen, which continued six hours, and resulted, as we are informed by a gentleman present, in the entire conviction of all who attended, that he is in fact the murderer of William Morgan. He has accordingly, on his own confession, been committed to prison. He stated, we are told, in the most positive and explicit terms, every transaction, and particularly respecting the awful tragedy, without the least contradiction or discrepancy. He gave the names and number of accomplices, who, we believe, through the timely notice of the Lewiston Convention, that they were "all found out," have left the country and it is to be feared are now beyond the reach of conviction and punishment."

Louisiana Crops.—The crops throughout the whole of the state of Louisiana are asserted to be remarkably productive—that of Cotton in particular, is better than has been known for a series of years. The quantity of sugar promises to be very great and remarkably fine. The indigo crops have been highly productive; but very little of that article is now cultivated in the country, except in the lower bayou settlements.