

GEN. ANDREW JACKSON, The President of the United States.

Now that the election is over, and this gentleman elevated to the Presidency, we shall not be suspected of being influenced by political considerations in giving a hasty and imperfect outline of his biography. He is a Mason, and one to whom the brethren of Tennessee are under many obligations; one whose service and influence were of primary importance in establishing, on an imperishable basis, the institution in the western country. It is mainly from this consideration, that we are induced to speak of him here. It is our intention (relying on the patronage of the brotherhood to enable us to continue the Amanth for a series of years to come of which the prospect at this time is encouraging), to give, in the course of our labors, occasional sketches of the lives and characters of those eminent men, of whatever country, who have adorned our institution, and been active in promoting its interests: And we take this occasion respectfully to invite our friends to furnish us with either biographical or obituary notices of such as may come under their observation.

Gen. Jackson was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, in October 1822; to which office he was re-elected the following year.—During his presidency—a uniform mode of work in the several degrees and many important regulations were adopted and much done for the good of masonry. On all occasions he has evinced a firm unwavering zeal for the prosperity of our institution, and shown himself the consistent friend and worthy mason.

He was born near Camden, S. C. March 15, 1767. His early life was devoted to study, in which he was deeply engaged until the revolutionary war brought the enemy in his neighbourhood, and left no alternative but to join either one party or the other. At the age of fourteen, encouraged by his mother he joined the American standard, and partook of the glory of the action at Stono. Not long after he was taken prisoner by the British army. At the close of the war, he returned to his classical studies, and at the age of eighteen entered a lawyer's office at Salisbury, N. C., where he prepared himself for the bar.

In the winter of 1786, he obtained a licence to practice, and removed to Nashville, Tennessee. Success attended his industry and talents, and he was soon appointed attorney general for the district. In 1796, he was elected a member of a convention to frame a constitution for that state; and a member of the House of Representatives of the U. States. In the following year he was transferred from the House to the Senate. In all these offices he acted invariably with the republican party, and was esteemed for the soundness of his understanding and the moderation of his democracy. In 1814, he was appointed major general in the United States' service, which office he had before held in the Tennessee militia.

He resigned his seat in the Senate in 1799, and was appointed one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. This appointment he accepted with reluctance, and withdrew from the bench soon after, having determined to retire to private life.

The occurrence of war with Great Britain roused his martial spirit, and he drew around his standard 2500 men whom he tendered without delay to his government. In November he descended the Mississippi for the defence of the lower country, which was then thought to be in danger: As soon as tranquility was restored, he returned to Nashville and communicated to government the result of his expedition.

In 1813, on the news arriving of the massacre at Fort Mims, by a party of the British, and a strong body of the Creek Indians, under the celebrated Tecumseh the legislature of Tennessee called into service 2500 of the militia, to march into the heart of the Creek Nation and revenge the massacre. The General, though at that time laboring under severe indisposition, reached the encampment on the 6th October, and took command of the expedition. After a very celebrated battle, he was obliged, for want of provisions, to march back to fort Strother where upon the arrival of the army, no stores were to be found, owing to the delinquency of the contractors. The half starved militia resolved, to a man, to abandon the service. On the morning when they intended to carry their resolution into effect, Jackson drew up the volunteer companies in front of them, and gave his mandate not to advance. The firmness displayed on this occasion was so striking that the militia returned to their quarters, and were the next day in their turn, employed to put in check a part of the volunteer corps who had mutinied. The General was obliged however, to withdraw his troops from fort Strother to fort Deposit, upon condition that if they met supplies, which were expected, they would return and execute the campaign. They had proceeded but a short distance, when they met one hundred and fifty beavers; but now they received his order to march back to the encampment. The

scene which ensued was characteristic of the General's firmness and decision. The whole brigade had put itself in the attitude of moving off forcibly; Jackson, though disabled in his left arm, seized a musket and resting it on the neck of his horse, threw himself in front of the column and threatened to shoot the first man who should dare to advance: Maj. Reed and Gen. Coffee placed themselves by his side. For several minutes the column preserved a menacing attitude, yet hesitated to proceed, at length it quietly turned round and agreed to submit. This was a critical period, and but for the daring intrepidity of Jackson, the campaign would have been broken up. A third considerable mutiny was suppressed in a similar manner. On the 27th Jan. 1814, the General came off victorious, after one of the most bloody battles recorded in the annals of Indian warfare. This battle struck a decisive blow, and the hostile Indians sued for peace. All resistance being at an end, the troops were marched home and discharged.

It was in consideration of these eminent services, that he was in 1814, promoted to the office of Brigadier and brevet Major General in the regular army.

General Jackson, with Col. Hawkins, was deputed to negotiate with the vanquished Indians, for the purpose chiefly of restricting their limits, so as to cut off their communication with the British and Spanish agents. They reached their place of destination the 10th of July, and by the 10th of August, completely effected the object of their mission. During this transaction, his mind was struck with the importance of depriving the fugitive and refractory Indians of the aid and excitement which were administered to them in East Florida. For this purpose, he urged to the President the propriety of the measure, having already, from information he had received, anticipated the attack on N. Orleans. He accordingly addressed the Governor of Pensacola, and summoned him to deliver up the chiefs of the hostile Indians, who were harbored in the fortress. The Governor refused, and Jackson again addressed the government on the necessity of planting the American eagle on the Spanish walls. He addressed the Governors of Tennessee, Louisiana, and Mississippi, urging them to be vigilant and energetic, "for dark and heavy clouds hovered over the seventh military district." He sent his Adjutant General to Tennessee to raise volunteers, and himself proceeded to Mobile to put that region in a plan of defence. He perceived the great importance of this position, and he lost no time in strengthening it. Not long after his arrival, a squadron of British ships made an attack on the fort eighteen miles below the head of Mobile bay, but was repulsed with the loss of one of their best ships and 280 men, killed and wounded. The General, persuaded that unless Pensacola should be reduced, it would be vain to think of defending his district, took up his line of march and reached that place on the 6th of November. He found the fort garrisoned and prepared for resistance. He forthwith required their surrender, to be garrisoned and defended by the United States, until Spain should furnish a force sufficient to protect the neutrality of the place. The Governor refused; Jackson pushed forward to the attack, and after some carnage forced a submission. Two days after entering the town he abandoned it, having effected all which he intended.

He now proceeded to New Orleans, where he apprehended the most danger, and on the first of December established his head quarters at that place. Here he sounded the alarm of approaching danger; roused the legislature to lend him aid, and prepared with all expedition for the coming foe. Soon was his foresight realized. On the 14th, the British attacked the American flotilla on Lake Borgne, and captured it. On the 17th, Jackson reviewed the militia and harangued them in an eloquent and touching manner. On the 22d, the enemy were discovered advancing from the swamp and woods, about 7 miles below the town; and Jackson hearing of their approach, resolved to meet them. The attack was commenced on the 23d, about dusk, by the Americans; the battle continued till both parties were thrown into confusion by the darkness of the night; the enemy withdrew from the field of battle about a mile. The action, for boldness of conception, wisdom of policy and importance of the result, does infinite credit to the American hero.

Skirmishes were kept up by the two armies until the 8th of January, which has been justly styled "the memorable," when the enemy moved to the charge so unexpectedly and with so much celerity, that the American soldiers at the out posts, had scarcely time to fly in. The whole plain was one continued glare of lightning from the shower of rockets and blaze of cannon. Two British divisions, headed by Sir Edward Pakenham in person, in the mean time pressed forward. When they had arrived within a short distance of the entrenchment, the Americans discharged a volley of death into their ranks and arrested their progress. Sir Edward fell; Generals Gibbs and Keene were wounded and carried off the

field, which by his time was strewn with the dead and the dying. The enemy at last convinced that nothing could be accomplished, retreated in disorder and dismay. The loss, out of 1400, was nearly 800! while that of the Americans was but thirteen killed! On the 18th, the British took their shipping for the West Indies.

Thus triumphed Gen. Andrew Jackson, by a wonderful combination of boldness and prudence; energy and adroitness; fortitude and anxious patriotism. On his return to the city of New Orleans, he was hailed as its deliverer! The most solemn and lively demonstrations of public respect succeeded each other until the period of his departure for Nashville. Soon after the announcement of peace, he retired to his farm, once more to enjoy its rural pleasures.

In January 1818, the General was again called into active service, and after gaining new acknowledgments, and new marks of admiration, again returned to the beloved retirement of his farm.

On the meeting of Congress, he repaired to Washington to explain the transactions of his last expedition, in person, and to defend himself from the imputation of an intention to violate the laws of his country, or the obligations of humanity. This he did in a most able manner, and to the satisfaction of his countrymen, who, upon his journey through some of the states, testified by unceasing plaudits, their gratitude for his usefulness. After the session of the Florida the President appointed him first commissioner to receive the provinces, and afterwards their governor.

On the 5th of July 1821, he issued a Proclamation, his proclamation, announcing the possession of the territory, and the authority of the United States. On the 7th Oct. 1821, ill health obliged him to relinquish his office as governor, and to return to Nashville. In the autumn of 1823, he was elected to the Senate of the United States. Before this election, he was appointed by the President minister plenipotentiary of Mexico; but he declined the honor.

In person, Gen. Jackson is tall, and remarkably erect and thin. His features are large; his eyes dark blue, with a keen and strong glance. His demeanor is gentle and easy; affable and accessible to all; of great mildness and kindness of disposition.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

It will be recollected by the readers of this paper, that in Governor Plumer's letter to Mr. Adams, published by us on the 17th ult. it is asserted that Alexander Hamilton, of New York, had consented to attend a meeting of the leading Federalists in New England, which was to have taken place at Boston, in the fall of 1804, to concert measures for seceding from the Union; and that the project failed by the death of Gen. Hamilton that summer. In consequence of these publications, James A. Hamilton, Esq. son of the late Gen. H. has called on Mr. Adams, to know whether he has any evidence of, or believes in, the participation of A. H. in any project to effect a dissolution of the Union. In answer, Mr. Adams has sent Mr. Hamilton the following letter:

Washington, 8th March, 1829.

JAMES A. HAMILTON, Esq. Washington. Sir, In answer to your letter of this date, I take the liberty of referring you to Mr. Plumer himself for any explanation of the statement in his letter of the 20th December last.

The information which I received in the spring of 1804 at Washington, was entirely distinct from, and independent of, that of Mr. Plumer. A part of it was not that your father had consented to be placed at the head of the project or to take a part in it, but that it had been communicated to him with a view to engage his co-operation in it, and that in the event of a necessity for the employment of military force for its execution, it was contemplated that he should be placed at its head. My informant, to the best of my recollection, was Mr. Uriah Tracy, then a Senator from Connecticut—I say, to the best of my recollection, because, at one of my conversations with Mr. Tracy, on this subject, another member of Congress, also now deceased, was present, and I am not perfectly sure from which of them it was that I received this information. After the close of that session of Congress, being at New York on or about the 7th April, 1804, Mr. Rufus King informed me that a person had been that day conversing with him, and also with your father, as I understood Mr. King in favor of the project; but that he himself, and that he was happy to say, your father also, entirely disapproved of it.

This is all the evidence I have that your father was made acquainted with the project; solicited by others to join it; and intended by them to be placed at its head—That he was said to have consented to attend a meeting at Boston in the autumn of 1804 stands upon other testimony than mine. That he ever assented to the project of a separation, I do not know nor believe, and from the information given me by Mr. King, had reason to believe the contrary.

With regard to my inferences or beliefs, from the testimony of Mr. Plumer, wish-

ing to do all possible justice to the memory of your father, I cheerfully state them at your desire.

I believe then implicitly the statement of Mr. Plumer as made by him, namely, that he was informed at the session of Congress in 1803-4, that your father had consented to attend the proposed meeting in the autumn of 1804 at Boston—and that in 1804—5 he was informed that the meeting had been prevented by your father's decease—I believe also the fact that he had consented to attend the meeting—But the information given me by Mr. King, I believe, that in consenting to attend the meeting, your father's purpose was to dissuade the parties concerned from the undertaking, and to prevail upon them to abandon it. My belief is founded upon my entire confidence in the veracity of Mr. Plumer upon the general coincidence of the information stated. In his letter with that which I had contemporaneously received at Washington, and upon the remarkable fact mentioned by him, that he was told at the subsequent session of Congress, that the autumn meeting at Boston had failed in consequence of the decease of your father—That the project was continued or resumed, notwithstanding your father's decease, until the Hartford Convention in 1814, I also believe.

I had further reason for believing that the project was disapproved by your father, because it had originated principally from dissatisfaction at the annexation of Louisiana to the Union, a measure which from common report, I understood, was approved by him.

I am, with respect, Sir, your very humble servant,
J. Q. ADAMS.

FROM THE CAPE FEAR RECORDER.

Banks, Currency, Bank of the State.

A part of the last Session of the General Assembly was occupied in matters appertaining to the Banks and the currency. No act however, was passed altering their relations to the public; but a bill was introduced by Mr. Fisher of Salisbury, for the consolidation of the existing corporations; and the creation of a bank to be styled, "The Bank of the State." Recommendations afloat for an extra Session, indicate uneasiness, if not dissatisfaction: opinion does not tally with the mere non feasibility of its agents. With the extrusion of any opinion as to the expediency of an extra session, I am disposed to offer some reflections upon topics, which now agitate the people. I am in favor of Mr. Fisher's plan, as the only feasible measure, in relation to the difficulties of the State, so far as those difficulties are referrible to the Banks, the Currency, and the involvements of my Fellow Citizens: I acknowledge great distrust of my own views however, when the respectable Representatives of Newbern, Buncombe, and Halifax, are opposed to them; for although Mr. Fisher's Bill, does not appear to have been discussed, the discountenance of those Gentlemen is explicit. I very probably err and entertain false notions and may indulge myself in visionary hopes; but I have no disposition to mislead; or to operate upon the temper of the times; without promoting the real interests of the State. It is not my wish to inflame but rather to tranquillize the passions; and to repress all calculation which is not grounded on just principles; and which may not be found upon investigation, to conduce to useful and legitimate results. There is certainly a feeling of depression, nay of instability, if not of future insecurity; and much of moral suffering and pecuniary embarrassment, now existing in this State. To my particular object in this communication may be added a higher motive, it may attract the attention of others, and elicit an enlightened expose of the present situation and future prospects of North Carolina; a satisfactory solution of her alleged retrogradation, and if the fact be so, to the suggestion of commensurate remedies.

With the avowal of my opinion of Mr. Fisher's Bank Bill (subject to certain inconsiderable modifications) and of my further purpose, to offer an apology for its support, I claim in advance some allowance for matters, whose absolute relation to it, may not be so apparent; but whose connexion with interests sufficiently imposing, will justify their inclusion.

Are the great interests of North Carolina really depressed? Are her lands, their cultivation, and general improvement, and her products, decreasing in value? Is her capital diminishing?

If these interrogatories are answered in the affirmative, whence the cause? Can it be ascribed to the involvements of the people with the Banks? If with the Bank to what extent, and do these involvements become embarrassing from the measures of the Banks? Are these measures unjust or impolitic, due regard being had to the interests of debtor and creditor; and of the community at large? Are there any unjust complaints of the State, or of individuals, against the Banks; under this head—the policy of Banks; and the operation and influence of our own, upon the fortunes of the State, will be considered. Have the rights and interests of the stockholders, especially as distinguished from the complainants, which apply to the control and management of the Pres-

ident, Directors, and Officers of the Institutions, been disregarded? If pecuniary embarrassments do exist, and greater impend, by the necessary policy of the monied Institutions, do they admit of correction or mitigation? Would Mr. Fisher's Bill be the means of restoring the currency and of alleviating the embarrassments of the debtor, without jeopardizing the character and interests of the State? There can be no question in my mind, that the great interest of North Carolina, viz: her agriculture, is languishing, real estate is a drug, and so far as my observation goes, cultivation, and general improvement, have a dejected appearance; and I incline to the opinion that the value of her products for market is diminished. Statistical data for the last item in political-economics are wanting, but may hereafter be partially supplied, should a resolution of Mr. Storrs of New York, be adopted. After this opinion an answer to the question of capital is superseded.

May it not be safely pronounced the era of decline, when money is scarce, and ceases to find profitable employment in the improvement of a country?

The embarrassments of the people are principally with the Banks; the debt is between four and five millions of dollars; the number of individuals throughout the State, indebted to the Banks, will not probably exceed two thousand; and of these two thousand so indebted, it may be, that not more than the one half are seriously embarrassed. This debt is generally due to other citizens of the State, who are creditors as holders of Bank Notes, or as Stockholders. If Mr. Gaston's opinion is right, one third of the debt due each Bank, is from its own Stockholders. I forbear my conjectures as to the amount that the President and Directors, might themselves owe: it would amuse, but could not profit.

Can the involvements as thus stated, explain the actual condition and prospects of a State, which in point of population and territory ranks as fifth in the Union? We know that the reduction of circulation, will depreciate property; but there has been no such reduction of the circulating medium in our State, as can satisfactorily account for her present and for years past declining condition.

The evils which exist must, I think be ascribed to other causes; those other causes, may be the vast uncultivated domains, to the southward and westward, which allure our people from their homes by the promise, whether true or false, of more eligible settlements; and by which her active capital is withdrawn; the unequal and oppressive operation of the tariff; the unfavorable relation in which we stand to the Federal Government for its expenditures; the expense of transportation for our productions, and which of course diminishes their value; the want of political character and reputation. It would be too great a digression from my ultimate object, further to enlarge upon these topics, however deserving of grave and minute examination.

To excite the industry of the country, by rendering her labor more profitable, is indeed worthy of the venerable gentleman, who by reputation is the author of essays, with the signature of Carlton. Let us understand the real bearings of the Banks upon the community and their connexion with the depressed value of property, but don't make them the scapegoat of untoward circumstances; unwise legislation of the General Government and its partial operations; of our own imprudent conduct; and of the reckless fanaticism of some of our northern brethren.

Our State is not wanting in advantages of soil and climate, of individual character, worth and intelligence; let the former be properly promoted, and the energy and influence of the latter, judiciously directed, they will certainly insure to her, a commanding attitude in her relations to the Union.—If our pride has been hitherto, insufficient, our energies may yet divorce us from an intellectual apathy, which alone impedes our advance to a more exalted destiny. Although the involvements of our people do not satisfactorily account for the general aspect of our affairs, it is by no means my disposition, to underrate their difficulties with the Banks.

The liquidation of their debts, by instalments of the tenth, the rate at which payments are required, is extremely embarrassing and distressing, and there is no question, that a pressure upon that class of the community, who are indebted to the Banks, operates with very extensive ramifications upon the general prosperity.—To exact the payment of a debtor, is certainly not unjust, and can only be impolitic, if when so exacted, it shall not profit the creditor; but it is certainly impolitic, wantonly to endanger its security; or to evince a spirit of oppression.

The condition of the Banks, indebted as they are to others; and the necessity they are under by the limitation of their charters, of winding up their affairs, sufficiently justify their course, even if the clamor against depreciated paper, did not imperiously impose it upon them.

The Stockholders and those indebted to them, are not the only persons concerned; the community at large is inter-