

Andrew Johnson

Sprung from what is called the humblest origin; without the aid of money or advantage of education in early years; his youth and first manhood devoted to unintellectual manual labor; without the assistance of friends, family or position, he rose by regular, successive steps, from the Mayorality of an obscure country town to the second position in the Government of a Continent. His own brain, aided only by his own indomitable will, enabled him to remove every obstacle in the way to fame and fortune.

These obstacles, in the aristocratic days of the Republic, which have now happily, or unhappily, passed away, were neither few nor slight. Sneered at as a plebeian; denounced as an agrarian; as a man who delighted rather to drag down than to build up; as a bitter partisan; an unscrupulous politician; an unprincipled demagogue; by his opponents; by his associates tolerated, and in emergencies courted, because of his daring qualities as a leader of a forlorn hope in time of the desperate political peril; yet distrusted because of his intense democracy, his position was a peculiar and a difficult one. Always relying on, and always appealing to the people—arousing special confidence in their wisdom, patriotism and integrity; owing his success to popular suffrage; advocating on all occasions, all measures for the freedom and extension of that suffrage, he was thought to believe, or pretended to believe that the voice of the people recorded the will of Heaven.

Late, in his already eventful career, actual war succeeded political strife. Former friends and former foes now unite in denouncing him as revengeful, as malignant, as being filled with envy, hatred, malice and all uncharitable feelings, with feelings all intensified by the damning consciousness of being a foul traitor to the land of his birth, that land which to him had been so prodigal of honors; it is said that his brain, now maddened by continued intoxication, never refuses to devise the means for executing the decrees dictated in the hell he carries in his own bosom; that, renegade, traitor and tory, after having basely betrayed his mother land, he loses no opportunity of increasing his shame by adding to her misery.

Later still, in his still eventful career, as war ceases, fortune leads him up still higher. Many think and some say, that though the hand of Booth executed, the brain of Johnson conceived the plan which resulted in placing him in supreme control of one of the mightiest empires of the world. With scarcely a dissenting voice, our whole people at once cry out that our cup of misery is filled to overflowing—that death itself is preferable to being absolutely at the mercy of one who has both the head and heart of a fiend; but before the cry has been fully uttered, it is suddenly hushed, and our people stand amazed, for this fiend, ere the reverberations of his victorious cannon have ceased to sound, dashes recklessly in front of his victorious hordes and hurls them back from their conquered, crushed and fallen foe; cheated of the rich spoils they were so eager to clutch. We stand still more amazed. Do these soft, soothing, conciliatory tones; these kindly words of friendship, comfort, brotherly love, reconciliation, and far more precious than these, all these assurances of restoration to the rights and liberties of free men, do they come from the lips of this passion and liquor-besotted, this malignant man, this conscious traitor? It almost exceeds belief, yet it is true. In the very first moment of victory, before he could taste even, much less be cloyed with the sweets of revenge, amnesty and reconciliation are proposed; instead of malignant hate, kindness and protection are proffered; instead of the incoherent mutterings and wild wanderings of a drunkard, a clear voice, in calm, distinct tones, enunciates argument after argument, logical, convincing, irresistible; an agrarian and a leveller, he devotes himself to restoring the shattered ruins of his country; an unprincipled demagogue, who has won an ill-gotten success by yielding and pandering to the passions of the multitude; in open field, single handed and alone, he opposes the fierce universal cry coming up from a triumphant, united people, clamoring for vengeance, for blood, for spoils; the advocate and hero of majorities, he voluntarily throws himself with the handful of men defending the breach already carried; a bitter partisan, his comprehensive policy embraces alike friend and foe throughout the broad expanse of the empire; and unscrupulous politician, he plants himself squarely upon the constitution and laws of his country, and develops the full proportions of a statesman and a patriot; one single characteristic of days gone by, and one alone stands out prominent in the daring, indomitable will he exhibits. Has this man, been during a whole life time slandered, alike by friend and by foe? Was the gall of bitterness in his heart turned in the moment of victory, into the milk of human kindness? Was he changed, emasculated of evil, as it were, in the twinkling of an eye? Is he with still unquenched ambition, soaring to yet loftier heights, and is it for this, his indomitable will is subordinating all these passions so mighty in the human bosom? Whether we regard him as the magnanimous, chivalrous conqueror, whose enemies fall with his foes, or as the slave of some daring ambition, we must accord to him powers that an age rarely sees twice, and do him the honor to admit, that whatever of life, liberty or property we may retain, we owe all to Andrew Johnson.

The Philadelphia Convention.

This body met yesterday, and a more important gathering never assembled since the organization of the Government; one fraught with greater interest, not only to the Southern people, but to the whole country. The South, however, is more particularly interested in its action, for on the result of its deliberations depends, in fact, our very existence as a people. Momentous issues hang upon the result. It is for that Convention to breathe into an exhausted body the breath of life,—to impart energy to a prostrate and paralyzed people,—to recognize us as entitled to all the prerogatives of our race and color. We await the result with an anxiety the most intense. Should wise counsels prevail; should a spirit of conciliation be exhibited, and a disposition to "let the dead past bury its dead" be the rule of action, then may we indulge in some hope of the future. But if tests are to be applied; if oaths that no honorable Southern man can take, are to be required of our delegates before they are admitted to the deliberations of the Convention, then it would have been better for us had the meeting never been called. The effect will be but to increase the Radical strength, and give intensity to Radical hate. What that will be we have had sufficient evidence by their action in Congress. We

are to be disfranchised; our property to be confiscated; not recognized as a portion of the body politic, but degraded from our high estate, and a menial class elevated above us.—All the images of society are to be torn away, as a stigmatized people—we are to know no word, or indulge in any thought, but that of obsequious submission to the arbitrary will of our Christian conquerors. We are to be turned over to the tender mercies of the Puritans of New England, whose glorious mission is, as they themselves claim, to evangelize our land with a sword in one hand and a flaming torch in the other, to extend civilization by fomenting intestine strife, and to add to the honors of the past by inciting a war between the races. These are some of the results we may expect in the event of the failure of the Philadelphia Convention. No wonder then, that our people are anxious and disturbed. It is not for ourselves alone we feel this apprehension, for in the ordinary course of nature we must soon leave the stage of action, but for our children and for those who are to come after us. Happy would it be for them, had they never been born, than to grow up as subject to a ruthless radicalism; to the tyranny of an irresponsible majority which is the worst species of all despotisms. We can only hope that a spirit of enlarged conservatism may prevail in the Convention; that the people, through their representatives, may so deliberate, that peace may be restored to our distracted country, and that the South, relieved from the incens that is crushing out its vitality, and participating in the common benefits of a common country, may once more become erect, and prosperous and happy.

The Philadelphia Convention.

At the present writing, I. P. M., we have received no later advices from Philadelphia than those published in our edition of yesterday. We must confess to some solicitude as to the reasons which induced Vallandigham and Fernando Wood to withdraw from the Convention. They were our strongest friends during our struggle for independence, and were subjected to arbitrary arrest and imprisonment for their action in our behalf. Without being further advised in the premises, this action looks somewhat ominous. All parties favorable to the enforcement of the President's policy were invited to send delegates to the Convention; old party issues were to be forgotten, and a union of all conservatives was to be arranged, founded upon the approval of the policy of the President, and in opposition to the arbitrary rule of the radical party. If the peculiar friends of the South are not allowed admission if they are to be taboed on account of their friendship towards us, as exhibited during the war, it argues badly for any benefit that we may expect to derive from the action of the Convention. We had hoped that the alarming state of public affairs, and the desire of all true patriots to avert threatened calamities and give peace to our distracted country would create a spirit of conciliation and forgetfulness of the past. We are afraid that our expectations will not be realized,—that the obligations of party are stronger than the promptings of patriotism, and that for an indefinite period, we must bear with that "hope deferred which maketh the heart sick."

It should turn out as we sincerely trust it may, that Vallandigham and Fernando Wood, voluntarily declined to present their credentials, fearing their presence might jeopardize the harmony of the Convention, or impair its influence at the North, it will but add to our debt of gratitude to them. While deeply deprecating the feelings which should render this necessary, as evidence that the desire to restore the Union, has yet much of party ally mixed up with it, we are glad that the good sense and genuine patriotism which has marked the course of these distinguished gentlemen in the past, has controlled their action in this matter. They feel as we do, that the last hope for a restored Union upon honorable grounds now rest with this Convention. Upon its action the rest of the country depends more than any similar body that has met since the formation of the government.

This Convention composed of gentlemen of eminent abilities and enlarged statesmanship, from every section of the Union, assembled in fraternal council, aware of the terrible dangers which immediately threaten the Republic, and animated by the lofty purpose of thwarting the nefarious objects of the enemies of the government, can hardly fail to do much to accomplish their important and patriotic work. And we hope that the apparent want of sincerity in the exhibition of feelings or opinions which excludes such men as Vallandigham and Wood from its deliberations, and the undignified clap-trap which marked its opening scene, are merely the awkward gratings of the new machinery of a National Convention.—When the members have had time to mingle together, and the delegates from Massachusetts and South Carolina harmonize in feelings and purpose in reality, as they do in appearance, when the novelty of the situation is melted by a sincere reciprocation of good-will, we hope their deliberations will be marked by good sense, enlightened patriotism and enlarged conservatism. The country with listening ears, in the meantime, stands on tip-toe. We trust our dispatches to-night will bring us further and more favorable news.

We know of no slavery equal to that of adding a daily newspaper. The incessant strain upon the brain, the necessity of being compelled to write a certain amount of matter within a given time is, of all things, the most wearying and debilitating. It prostrates one's energies, deranges the nervous system, impairs digestion, and brings on a general feeling of collapse. It is particularly trying to one's constitution in these days when the dog star rages, and the heat is dense enough to be almost cut with a knife. Yesterday was one of the days we had imagined, and read of in history, but never felt before. Perfectly calm and still, the sun poured down with such fury that the earth fairly baked, and biped and quadruped alike dissolved in streams. It was hot, and the night brought no relief, for myriads of musical insects, with long bills and very sharp notes, made night hideous with melodious strains, and put all ideas of sleeping entirely out of the question.

We have always regretted the obstinacy of Pharaoh of old, in not letting the children of Israel go when Moses first made the demand upon him. A pig-headed, self-willed, cross-grained old specimen of humanity, had he consented at once, we should never have been troubled with the plagues of Egypt, and could have enjoyed our rest in quiet, undisturbed by the visitations of blood thirsty mosquitoes, annoying house flies, aggravating fleas, and divers other nuisances, too numerous to mention. We are worn out, collapsed, par-boiled, our brain hisses in our skull like boiling water in a skillet, and we think our physical and mental state a sufficient excuse for any short coming this morning, for we can, with a good conscience, charge our deficiencies, not to any want of energy

on our part, but the intense heat of the weather, and the obstinacy of old Pharaoh of Egyptian memory.

THE QUARANTINE SYSTEM.—We heard it rumored upon the streets yesterday, that the new system of quarantine recently inaugurated, has met with a modification in its present right enforcement. After examination by the Port Physician, if there is no sickness aboard, a report will be forwarded to Gen. Sicksel and if it meet with his approval the vessel will then be allowed to proceed to the wharf and discharge her cargo.

We observe with pleasure any measures tending to advance the commercial interests of the place, compatible with the health of the community. If there is no sickness on board these vessels of course our health will not be endangered.

FREE SCHOOLS.—The progressiveness of the age has not as yet extended itself in one material particular. The opposite spirit of times manifested has not as yet been directed in that channel. We allude to the establishment of free schools in our community, and State. A field is thus offered for the extension of our charity. It behooves the community to act in regard to the matter if they would train the minds and direct the morals of the youth of the indigent poor of their vicinity. Children who, possibly, before the war might have been afforded an opportunity to gain knowledge, are now, through force of circumstances, denied the benevolence of the State and the people at large for the attainment of an ordinary education.

If we are not mistaken, there is at present existing in our city no free school, with, perhaps, the exception of that established, on the occupancy of this city by the Federal forces, by the saintly (C) Rev. Jas. Thurston, whose sole object, to judge by his actions, was that of training the minds of the children of the indigent lower classes, in a manner conducive to his own purposes, and those of his Radical supporters.

Such a state of things should not be allowed to exist.—We, who are not unmindful of our own honor and interests, and those of our own State, should see that it is remedied. The condition of the masses should be improved. We are, with the age, ignorant and inattention to intellectual pursuits are productive of viciousness and crime. For the sake of the future, and in justice to generations yet to come, the minds of the youth of the poorer classes should meet with that refining influence which education can alone impart. "Knowledge is power," says the sage, and without the attainment of knowledge our condition is indeed deplorable.

If the public desire to manifest their benevolence, no more fitting mode could be proposed than the one alluded to. If we are not enabled to observe the advantages of the course, and the benefits resulting therefrom, perhaps in future years the coming generations may be enabled both to see and enjoy the blessing bestowed.

1860 vs. 1866.—EXTRACTS.—As an evidence of the enterprise and industry of the Southern people, and of the energy shown by them since their minds have been diverted from the field of strife, and allowed to engage in peaceful pursuits, we publish below the exports for the week ending August 8th, 1866, and those for the week ending August 9th, 1866. In 1866, we were placed in a position of commercial prosperity; the country was fertile and productive; every thing necessary for the advancement of trade was at hand; our shipping facilities were numerous and convenient; and the benefits resulting from a large and continued peace with the world, had left every avenue open to our commerce.

Now, the position is somewhat changed, the country has been overrun and devastated. We have recently emerged from a struggle, the shock of which was felt in every Southern home. Four years spent in the struggle for constitutional freedom had well nigh exhausted our every energy. Our country was nearly depopulated; our commerce destroyed. With no advantages; no capital wherewith to build our shattered fortunes; unable to assist ourselves, and none to lend a helping hand, our condition was deplorable indeed. Trade was dormant, agriculture neglected, and the country in a measure depopulated. It might be said that the country was not so ruined, but that it might be the stoniest heart have trembled, when just emerging from defeat and utter ruin, with evident starvation staring them in the face. Yet, such was the indomitable and unquenchable spirit of our people that instead of being weighed down with this combination of misfortunes, they, with commendable ardor, while laboring under every disadvantage, determined to build up a name for themselves, and engaged at once in the pursuits of agriculture and commerce.

But little over a year has elapsed since the close of our deadly and sanguinary strife, and compare the exports of one week in 1860, with those of one week in 1866. This alone will rank Wilmington as a flourishing seaport, and her inhabitants as a commercial people. Her actions, and her habits as a commercial people. Her actions, and her habits as a commercial people. Her actions, and her habits as a commercial people.

Our future prosperity is certain, if dependent upon our people, who taking but little interest in the affairs of the nation, and who only demand that their rights be respected, have given that attention to business second to none others. While this spirit continues we may hope for the best. In a few short months we hope to be able to record the exportation of produce, far exceeding that of August 1860, or any previous time.

EXPORTS From the Port of Wilmington, N. C., for the Week ending August 8th, 1866, and August 9th, 1866. COASTWISE. Spirits Turpentine, bbls., 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Crude, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Tar, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Pitch, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Rosin, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Flour, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Beans, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Sea Island, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Copper Ore, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Cotton, bales, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Sheet Iron, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Yarn, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Checks, 1,670, 1866, 2,724. Lumber, feet, 159,688, 166,359. Newspaper, bbls., 38. Saw Wood, cords, 9. Empty Barrels, 9. Iron, boxes and tons, 7. Shingles, 69,680. Juniper Staves, 6,016.

FOREIGN. Spirits of Turpentine, bbls., 1,660, 1866, 800. Crude, 1,660, 1866, 800. Rosin, 1,660, 1866, 800. Lumber, feet, 140,565.

Although in some articles the exports of the week given in 1860, exceed those of the past week, on the whole the summing up—taking into consideration the changed aspect of affairs—is indeed encouraging, and are but an earnest of our redoubled efforts in future.

POST OFFICE AT ROCKY POINT, NEW HANOVER CO.—We are glad to announce that at last this Post Office has been established. Mr. B. Mastey, Mr. Stacey, Mr. Stacey, Mr. Stacey has received his commission. This desirable result has been brought about mainly by the most persevering efforts, for many months, over many difficulties, on the part of one or two gentlemen in that vicinity. The mails should now be promptly and regularly forwarded from Wilmington to that office, for the people of New Hanover living near the Railroad have long suffered for the mail facilities and are exceedingly anxious to get the mails. The mail matter for Rocky Point, Lillington, Moore's Creek, Black River and places contiguous to these points, all pass through the Rocky Point Postoffice, and hence the importance of the re-establishment of this office. The inconvenience to which the people of this county have been so long subjected for want of mails is great, and now let the papers and letters go forward to them with accuracy and promptness, through the proper official channels of the Postoffice Department.

By all means let the mails at once go to Rocky Point from all directions, and to the upper part of New Hanover.

We trust the old friends and patrons of the Journal, in that section, who have been out of from mail facilities, will now send forward their names. We shall attempt to make our paper as acceptable as of yore.

A PAINFUL ACCIDENT.—An accident, exceedingly painful in its nature, occurred at the residence of Mr. James L. Corbett, on the Plank Road about nine miles from the city, on Tuesday morning. The facts as received are as follows: The daughter of Mr. Corbett, about five years old, whose Christian name was Serena Elizabeth, was, about 5 o'clock in the forenoon, performing some task allotted her by her mother, and in attempting to pass through the doorway was killed by the discharge of a gun in the hands of a youth of twelve years, named W. Francis Alexander, son of Mr. Obadiah Alexander. The contents

of the gun entered the head of the unfortunate child just above the neck, causing a wound which produced instantaneous death.

The lad in whose hands the gun was held at the time of its discharge, was engaged in raising and letting the hammer fall gently upon the cap, in order to fix it so securely. He had called at the house in order to prevail upon the brother of the deceased to accompany him to the field to mind crows. The accident, of which he was the innocent cause, grieved the lad deeply, and it drove him almost to madness to think that he had caused the death of his innocent playmate.

A jury was summoned by Coroner J. C. Wood to attend him to the residence of Mr. Corbett, and on arriving at the spot an inquest was held. After an examination of several witnesses, and it being shown that the most friendly relations existed between the two parties (the deceased and young Alexander), the jury rendered a verdict that the deceased came to his death by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of W. Francis Alexander.

The deceased was a most interesting and intellectual child, and her sorrowful fate has cast a gloom over the whole community.

NEW ENGINE.—The Wilmington and Manchester Railroad Company—a corporation, the energy of whose officers seems to be untiring—received on Tuesday another addition to their present fine rolling stock, in the shape of a fine new Locomotive, named the H. T. Peake. This engine is of superior make, and was manufactured in Schenectady, N. Y., and conveyed overland to this place.

A Letter from General Lee. The following is a copy of the letter written by General R. E. Lee, to the committee of ladies, declining their invitation to attend the ceremony of erecting a monument over the remains of his daughter at the Warren White Sulphur Springs: Ladies—I have read with deep emotion your letter of the 17th instant, inviting my dear family to witness the erection of a monument over the remains of my daughter, at Warren White Sulphur Springs, on the 8th of next month. I do not know how to express to you my thanks for your great kindness to her while living, and for your affectionate interest in her after her death. My gratitude for your attention and consideration will continue through life, and my prayers will be daily offered for the repose of the Most High for his boundless blessings upon you.

I have always cherished the intention of visiting the town of Warren, and in doing so, which has been my wish for some time, but I have not been able to do so. I must be excused from attending with more privacy than I can hope for on the occasion of your proposed meeting.

There are more controlling considerations which will prevent my being present. My mother, who for years has been afflicted with a chronic disease, which has rendered her unable to travel, is now in a very feeble state, and I must submit to the force with which they were surrounded in the States to which they belonged. General Lee said to my father, when he was wounded by him, at the request of President Lincoln, about taking command of our army against the rebellion, "I am hanging upon the decision of the Virginia Convention, and I look upon the secession as unachieved. If I owned the four millions of slaves in the South I would sacrifice them all to the Union; but how can I draw my sword upon Virginia, my native State?" He could not determine then; said he would consult with his friend General Scott, and went on the same day to Richmond, probably to arbitrate difficulties, and we see the result. It is hard for a noble mind to tear itself from home, kindred, friends, and native soil, and go into opposite ranks to crush them all. This was the case of Stephens as well as Lee. It was the case of nearly every elevated soul in the South, who before the outbreak of the war, were States, delinquent in all its duties, had failed to make preparation to arrest violence at the outbreak, and cure the phrenzy by binding it in the beginning, and prevent its running on until it became a sectional war, and, in effect, a National War, in its intensity, and in the number of its victims, who were brought to consider the success of the one the subjugation of the other.

As the South grew weaker and began to stagger under the heavy blows of the gigantic North, all her brave spirits rallied to her support. Even the friend General Scott, and went on the same day to Richmond, probably to arbitrate difficulties, and we see the result. It is hard for a noble mind to tear itself from home, kindred, friends, and native soil, and go into opposite ranks to crush them all. This was the case of Stephens as well as Lee. It was the case of nearly every elevated soul in the South, who before the outbreak of the war, were States, delinquent in all its duties, had failed to make preparation to arrest violence at the outbreak, and cure the phrenzy by binding it in the beginning, and prevent its running on until it became a sectional war, and, in effect, a National War, in its intensity, and in the number of its victims, who were brought to consider the success of the one the subjugation of the other.

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Letter from Hon. Montgomery Blair. William C. Bryant, Esq., Editor of Evening Post: MY DEAR SIR: A writer in your paper makes severe animadversions on the Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, provoked, it seems, by a letter written by him to me. His assuasive tone, the patriotic feeling, the resigned, self-denying devotedness with which he acquiesces in the fortune meted out to himself in common with his fellow-citizens of the South, and would now turn adversity itself to good account by making it redound to a more close, more cordial and secure Union than that which preceded hostilities, finds no toleration. It is amazing, after the horrid struggle in which our kindred of all the States have been decimated, that any one should now be found unwilling to be appeased and to renew fraternal feeling. Mr. Stephens' great crime, in the eye of the Post's contributor, is, that the same spirit now animates him that made that most eloquent of all appeals in his speech to the people of the South, in which the revolutionary conflict at the opening, by preventing the secession of Georgia from the Union, and which now pleads for its restoration, having, in the interval, stood by the State and the South.

But there is anything unnatural or unparliamentary in this. Do we not see the high intelligence and noblest sensibility that adorn our country drawn to the side of those who have fallen into error from honorable motives, although these motives may have been instilled into the community by artful, intriguing, selfish men for selfish ends, at war with the public good? Does not every candid mind now perceive, that looking back to the thirty years history of secession, that it was a war of sections, that gradually brought to the issue and trial of battle, by the ambition of a few political leaders who availed themselves of the difference in the great common interests, North and South, which was the result of the high intelligence and noblest sensibility that adorn our country drawn to the side of those who have fallen into error from honorable motives, although these motives may have been instilled into the community by artful, intriguing, selfish men for selfish ends, at war with the public good? 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