

HORNETS'



NEST.

"QUI ME COMMOVERIT (MELIUS NON TANGERE CIAMO)
"ELEBIT, ET INSIGNIS TOTA CANTABITUR URBE."

BY BRYANT BRAMBLE, ESQ.

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TERMS OF THE NEST

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POLITICAL.

FOR THE HORNETS' NEST.

Messrs. Editors,
The following letter fell into my hands by accident.—It breathes such a spirit of pure republicanism and independence, that I send it to you for publication.

Your's &c.
Q in the Corner.

DEAR NEPHEW,
By your neighbour _____, I have heard of your intention of becoming a candidate to represent your county in the State Legislature, which gives me much pleasure; as I have great confidence in your integrity and purity of principle. But as old men are fond of giving advice, and your youth and inexperience may make it useful to you, I take the liberty of a friend, in giving you such as my experience justifies; and as formal advice is not the most pleasing to young men, I shall by a succinct account of what I did not do, while in public life, point out what I wish you to avoid; and I hope your good sense will dictate to you your proper course.

My first outset was a deputy sheriff, in which office, I did not distress the debtor, either for my own or any other persons emolument. I did not take bribes from the debtor to delay sales, nor did I withhold from the creditor his money longer than I had an opportunity of paying him—contenting myself with the legal emoluments of my office. By this conduct, I soon became sheriff; and by pursuing the same line of conduct, I acquired the good will of my fellow-citizens, in so high a degree, that I was elected by a large majority over all the candidates offered with me. To procure reelection, I did not make use of improper means; I did not slander my opponents, nor tell lies upon them; I did not boast of my own merit, nor deride theirs; I did not give richers of grog. It is true, I was wealthy, I had always a style of hospitality which answered the same purpose as this, without any view to popularity. Fond of home, yet every, I thought it more to procure that society, a good table, to which persons of all ranks were invited to seek it at taverns,

or cock-fights. Still, I was choice in my company; for the honest and intelligent were always welcome, whatever their situation in life. No rank or pretensions could ever induce me to receive with more than constrained civility, the scoundrel or the hypocrite: it is true, by this means I procured a character for singularity, which I retain to this day; yet I cannot help thinking, that were all to pursue my plan, there would be fewer scoundrels and hypocrites than at present.—When I took my seat in the legislature, I did not, from a desire to make myself conspicuous, pester the house with long speeches on subjects I did not very well understand; but during several sessions was merely a yea and nay man—always paying strict attention to what was going on, so as to be able to vote correctly. In a short time, I became disgusted with those members who seemed to have attended the legislature, not for the purpose of serving their country, but to serve themselves or their friends: this led to such bartering of votes, as put it in the power of those who were unprincipled enough to take advantage of it, to fill every office of consequence in the state, with those of their party. I have seen a judge bartered for a general—a governor for a senator, &c. &c.—but I did not disgrace myself by joining in these cabals, but used all my influence to oppose and check such vile proceedings. I can assert that during my services for twenty years, I never did barter my vote—I never did vote for a federalist, not even the _____ himself. I never voted for any of those office-hunters, who were federalists in one company and republicans in another; and when none but men of this description were in nomination, I contented myself with putting in a blank ticket. Of all the offices which were to be filled, I was most cautious for whom I voted to fill that of Judge—believing differently from most of my colleagues, that it was of little consequence who filled that office, provided he possessed sufficient legal knowledge. You may therefore imagine my extreme regret, when I saw a federalist or an office-hunter placed upon the bench. You will probably ask me why I was in this case so fastidious?—Simply, because I was convinced no officer in the State has it so much in his power to disseminate his political opinions as a judge; nor are there any men within the state who take more pains to do so; besides, the patronage they possess in having the appointment of Clerks of the superior court and courts of equity, who again may use their influence for party purposes. But still worse, the possibility (nay I have heard it asserted, the thing has been) of judges sinking the judge in the politician, while in the performance of their duties. There are many other things, such as members supporting their republican characters by voting for resolutions pledging their lives and fortunes in support of the administration of the General Government, and being federalists and enemies to it all the rest of the session. It is true, I generally voted for such resolutions, though I never saw any necessity for them; first, because I have always been governed by measures

not men; (which should be the golden rule of politicians.) Therefore, pledging myself to support an administration, whatever their future measures may be, is a stretch of confidence which ought never to be placed in any set of men, however wise their administration may have been; for men are liable to err: secondly, because I saw the men who supported these resolutions, afterwards refusing to lay a small additional tax in order to place the state in a proper attitude of defence.

The most galling thing to me during my publick services, was to hear the federalists boast of being able to fill almost all the important offices of the state; and that if two republican candidates were to offer for the same appointment, that he who procured their support must be elected:—thus, proving that the legislature held a number of members, who were only nominal republicans; or so weak, as to be influenced by the insinuations of their political opponents. It is true, that a majority of our legislature for many years has been republican; but I am sorry to say it, our republicans are a rope of sand.

I am my, dear Nephew,
Your's, &c.

To _____

DOMESTICK.

CONSTITUTION & JAVA.

FROM THE N. Y. COM. ADVERTISER.

The English official account of the action between the above vessels, has at length reached this country in the form of a letter, stated to be from lieutenant Chads to John Wilson Crocker. But the palpable misrepresentations with which the letter abounds, create a belief, that it was not written by lieutenant Chads; for, as a seaman, it is to be presumed he never would have committed himself in the manner that letter does commit him. It is, therefore, a fair inference, that the letter was written by John Wilson Crocker—to himself—by order of the Admiralty. But be it from either, it carries its own refutation; and needs only to be read, to show the absurdity and falsity of its statements. When, however, such evident marks of the want of magnanimity on the part of an enemy, who had proof of his being well fought by his foe, and certainly experienced generous treatment after his capture, are exhibited to the public, it then becomes an act of but common justice to expose such illiberality in its proper colors, and to state facts which delicacy alone, towards a vanquished foe, had suppressed. I shall notice in succession the observations in the letter alluded to.

The first assertion, that the Constitution "was made out to be a large frigate" is incorrect, and is disproved by the fact, that she was supposed by the officers of the Java, to be the Essex, which they were informed had sailed for Java but four days previous to the arrival of the Java at that place. This all the officers of the Java, and lieutenant Chads himself, admitted, whilst on board the Constitution; and they expressed their astonishment at her appearing so very small,

which appearance was in consequence of her being disguised with paint.

The second assertion states, that the Constitution tacked and made all sail away upon the wind; and at the same time mentions the Java being to windward. The absurdity and contradiction of this sentence must be palpable to the mind of every seaman.

The third assertion, that the Constitution opened her fire at one half mile distance, which was not returned until the Java was close upon her weather-bow, is followed by a declaration of the same ignorant writer, "that they could not bring her to close action," although they were close upon her weather-bow and to windward! And he admits that the Constitution was lying too, and says, the Java had greatly the superiority in sailing.

"Our opponent avoided close action and fired high." If the writer of that letter had been there and spoken the truth, he would have acknowledged, that the Constitution even exposed herself to a raking fire to get the position of close action; and that the Java, believing the Constitution to be the Essex, with carronades, made every possible manœuvre to prevent the Constitution closing with her. This was, however, effected in spite of all the exertion on board the Java; and so close a position was taken, that it was presumed the action would have been decided without further manœuvre; both vessels laying within pistol shot, the Java to windward, so that each vessel could bring all her guns to bear upon the other. But to the great astonishment of all on board the Constitution, the Java put her helm up and wore round, to get clear of the excessively heavy fire from the Constitution, thereby exposing herself to a raking fire. If it had been the inclination or intention of captain Lambert to have boarded, which that writer asserts to be the case, he certainly could have taken a position favourable to such an attempt. But lieutenant Chads told the commodore, they never had any intention of boarding, and observed, "Sir, against such a crew as yours it would have been impossible to have succeeded." The acknowledgement of the writer "of having a great part of her crew killed and wounded—their bowsprit and three masts gone—several guns useless—many of their mates and midshipmen killed, and the greater part wounded," is a sufficient comment upon the assertion that the Constitution fired high as the masts! It proves at least, that the hull, as well as the masts and spars, was the object of her aim. The assertion that the Java was not able to keep the weather gage, is equally false with the others;—she retained it during the whole of the action, and on every tack. And when the Java, at 5 minutes past 4, struck her flag, the Constitution laid under her lee, and in that position ceased to fire. On seeing the Java's flag struck down, she then shot round to repair her damages; and when she employed the flag was hoisted on board the Java, which was a general disgust on board the Constitution. It was evident that the Java could make no manœuvre, and that this

manœuvre was made for the false pride of desiring that in the report of the action, its duration should be lengthened. Our presumption proved correct, on bearing down upon her she struck her flag the second time, although neither vessel fired a shot after 5 minutes past 4, and the action having continued precisely one hour 3 minutes a great part of which time was taken up in manœuvring.

The last assertion, respecting the number killed and wounded on board the Constitution, is also incorrect. It is a fact that she had not a man killed when in close action with the Java; and her killed and principal part of her wounded, were at long shot. Charity induces me to believe that the postscript to the letter is a forgery, if the letter itself be not; for Lieut. Chads saw the list of the killed and wounded on board the Constitution (and made a minute of the same) which correctly stated 9 killed and 25 wounded, including the Commodore. And not a man of our wounded died until some time in January, after the Java's crew had left us. We lost only 4 of the wounded, and some of them died north of the equator; yet the postscript states that, on the 3^d of Dec. 2 days after the action, 3 of our (the Constitution's) wounded, "are since dead." At the time the letter is dated, Lieut. Chads could not have been acquainted with the extent of the killed and wounded on board the Java; for it was the third day after the action before all the prisoners were removed from the Java.

The following plain statement of facts by "an American," may be relied on as perfectly correct.

An officer on board the U. S. Frigate Constitution.

A true statement of the relative force of the U. S. frigate Constitution, and the British frigate Java:—

CONSTITUTION.		JAVA.	
Guns.		Guns.	
Gun deck,	30	Gun deck,	28
Quarter deck,	16	Quarter deck,	14
Forecastle,	8	Forecastle,	6
		Shifting gun,	1
			49
Weight of shot in a Broadside.			
CONSTITUTION.		JAVA.	
Gun deck, 15 guns, 22lb. shot each,	330	Gun deck, 14 guns, 16lb. shot each	264
Quarter deck and Forecastle, 11 carronades, 11lb. 7oz. each,	325 5	Quarter deck and Forecastle, 9 carronades, 11lb. 10oz. each,	303
Forecastle, 1 King gun, 22lb.	22	Forecastle, 1 King gun,	12
	677 5	Shifting gun,	34
	603		

As to the British report of the number of men on board the Java being incorrect, the officers of the frigate Constitution are not in the least astonished, well knowing the fact of the misstatement, that the officers of the Java did use on board the Constitution, respecting the number of the Java's crew. Lieut. Chads and Capt. Marshall, previously to the prisoners being all removed from the Java to the Constitution, on being asked the number of men the Java had on board, did not answer, and that this

[For remainder see last page.]