

A BEAUTIFUL SKETCH OF A PATRIOT—AND A MAN.

FROM THE ENQUIRER.

Departed this life on the 25th of last month, at Buck Spring, in the county of Warren, N. Carolina, the venerable NATHANIEL MA- COON, in the 79th year of his age. For three or four weeks he had suffered from a spas- modic affection of the chest and stomach, but it was not so severe as seriously to in- terrupt his usual exercise and employment. About four days before his death, he was partially confined to the house—enjoying, however, with his usual flow of spirits, the society and conversation of his numerous friends who visited him daily, and watched with anxious and distressing solicitude every symptom which threatened to snatch from them their dearest and best friend and benefactor. He retained his intellectual facul- ties to the last—his conversation was cheer- ful—his mind tranquil and composed until the scenes of life closed upon him. In this most afflictive dispensation, it must be a source of great consolation to his numerous friends and relatives that he died in ripe old age, and without pain, and blessed, it is hoped, with the brightest claims to the rich rewards of a truly virtuous and eminently useful life.

Mr. Macon was one of the few Patriots of the American Revolution who survived to tell the trials of that day to the present generation. In the memorable year 1776, then not 18 years old, and while a student at Princeton New Jersey, burning with youthful ardor, and fired by holy enthusiasm in the cause of public liberty, he abandoned Collegiate duties and performed a short tour of duty in a com- pany of volunteers; thus, in his youth evincing an attachment to those principles which in after-life he supported with so much firm- ness, ability and unflinching consistency. After his return from N. Jersey, hearing of the fall of Charleston, S. C., in the spring of 1780, he joined the militia troops of his native State as a common soldier, and continued with them till the provisional articles of peace were signed, in the fall 1782. During this eventful period, he gave proofs of that indifference for office and emolument, and that unaffected devotedness to his country's good, which his fu- ture history so conspicuously illustrated. He served in the ranks as a common soldier—and though command and places of trust and confi- dence, as well as of relative ease and security, were often tendered him, he invariably de- clined them—desiring only to occupy the sta- tion and share the hardships and perils com- mon to the greatest portion of his fellow soldiers—and although in very numble cir- cumstances as to property, he never would charge or consent to receive one cent for such services. He gave his heart and soul to the cause in which he had embarked—he loved his country, and like a dutiful son, gave her in time of need—"twas all he had"—his personal services. And now that that coun- try smiles with prosperity, and has, with a munificence deserving all praise, made liberal provisions for the soldiers of the Revolution, still did he decline the proffered bounty. Ot- ten has he been heard to say, (disclaiming all imputation upon others,) that no state of for- tune could induce him to accept it. In those times, too were developed the noble traits of Roman character which attracted to him the confidence and esteem of his countrymen. He became generally known throughout the State, and won for himself a popularity to which his country is indebted for his long and useful and illustrious services in the public councils. His countrymen elected him, while yet in the ar- my, and scarcely twenty-four years of age, a member of the State Legislature without his solicitation or even knowledge—and, reluctant to part with his comrades in arms, he was in- duced only by the persuasions of his com- manding officers to accept the station. After serving in this capacity many years, he was cho- sen at the age of thirty-two a member of Con- gress in the House of Representatives—and took his seat at the 1st session of the 2d Con- gress, in 1791, which he filled uninterruptedly under successive elections till the winter of 1814—when he was chosen by the Legislature a Senator in Congress without his solicitation, and in one sense against his wish; for his max- im was, "frequent elections and accountability at short intervals." In January, 1816, being then at Washington in the discharge of his duties as member of the House of Representa- tives he resigned his seat in that body and assumed his new station as Senator. On that occasion he declined and rejected double pay for travelling, although abundant precedents entitled him to it. The Legislature continued to him this honorable distinction and high trust till November, 1828, when he was in- duced by "a sense of duty," springing out of his advanced age and infirmities, to resign—re- signing at the same time the offices of Justice of the Peace and Trustee of the University of N. Carolina, both of which he filled for many years. During his Congressional career, he was chosen in 1801, at the 1st session of the 7th Congress, Speaker of the House of Rep- resentatives, and continued to preside over the deliberations of that body till the 10th Congress. The duties of the Chair were dis- charged by him with distinguished abilities, and an impartiality which secured the esteem and affection of his political friends and won the confidence and admiration of his political ad- versaries. Not being able from severe indis- position to attend at the commencement of the 10th Congress, a new incumbent was elected to the Chair. He was several times elected President pro tem. of the Senate, and the last time chosen to that station, he declined his ac- ceptance. The office of Postmaster-General was twice offered him: But office, however high, or emolument however great, had no charm for him. His engagement was always to his constituents, and that he was determined to fulfil to the letter. No lure could tempt him to lay it down. His was the ambition that prompted only to virtuous deeds. He sought with great earnestness and untiring industry the path of duty, and fearlessly pursued it—obliging no one from favor or affection, and yielding nothing to the suggestions of resent- ment or enmity. Indeed there was no pas- sion he would gratify at the expense of duty.

In 1836, his fellow-citizens again called him from his cherished retirement, by electing him a member of the convention, charged with the important duty of revising and reforming the Constitution of his native State, of which body he was chosen President by unanimous suffrage. In 1836, he was chosen an Elector of President and Vice President—on the Repub- lican Ticket—and at the proper time repaired to the seat of Government and performed the duty required of him. This was the closing act of Mr. Macon's public life.

Of his political creed it is scarcely necessary to speak. His unchequered consistency—the frank and manly avowal of his opinions on all proper occasions—the prominent and dis- tinguished part it was his lot to act in support of every Republican administration, sufficient- ly proclaim it. Suffice it to say, he was a Re- publican of the old school—and possessed, without qualification or abatement, the affec- tion and confidence of a Jefferson, a Madison, a Monroe, and a Jackson—and of the whole host of distinguished statesmen with whom he was a co-laborer in the cause of democracy and free government. His political princi- ples were deep-rooted—He became attached to them from early examination, and was con- firmed in their correctness from mature reason and long experience. They were the princi- ples of genuine Republicanism—and to them through life he gave a hearty, consistent, and available support. With them he never com- promised; and the greater the pressure, the more pertinaciously he stood by them. Adop- ting, to the fullest extent, the doctrine which allowed to man the capacity and the right to self-government, he was a strict construction- ist of the Constitution of the United States—and never would consent, however strongly the law of circumstances—the common plea of tyrants—might demand it, to exercise doubtful powers. Jealous of Federal authority, his most vigilant efforts were directed towards re- straining it within due limits. A Democrat by nature as well as education, he was persuaded, that on the popular part of every government depends its real force—its welfare—its securi- ty—its permanence—its adaptation to the hap- piness of the people.

Though so long honored and so many years the depository of public confidence and public trusts, he had the rare merit of never having solicited any one to vote for him—or even in- timated a wish that he should; and, though no one ever shared more fully the confidence and esteem of a large circle of warm and influential friends—his is the praise of never having solicited the slightest interest for his own preferment.

But it was in private life, the rare excellen- cies of this great and good man shone bright- est. "To be and not to seem" was his max- im. Disdaining the pride of power—despis- ing hypocrisy—as the lowest and meanest device—with an honest simplicity and Roman frank- ness of manners, he gave to intercourse an ease and freedom which made his society and conversation sought after by all who knew him. Industry, economy and temperance distinguished the character of Mr. Macon, during every portion of his long life; and he was always truly exemplary in the discharge of every social and domestic duty. His love of justice and truth and his integrity of heart, commanded universal confidence, esteem and respect. In his dress—his manners—his habits and mode of life, he indulged no fond- ness for superfluities—yet he never denied himself the use of what was necessary and convenient. The vainness of ostentation and the littleness of pride, were alike disgusting to him. His neighbors, even the humblest, visited him without ceremony—and in all their difficulties, applied to him for advice and com- fort, which he never failed to afford in a manner the most acceptable. The society of his neighborhood, embracing an unusually large circle, seemed, as it were, to constitute but one family, of which he was the head and the guide—and the riches stores of his mind were common property. Such was the moral influence which he exerted around him, that his example and his precept were allowed the force of law. His heart was the seat of be- nevolent affections; and that he enjoyed while living the happiness which attends their con- stant exercise, was sufficiently attested by the many of all ages and both sexes who attended his interment, with tears and deepest sorrow. And that he was not wanting in the offices of humanity, was proven by the heart-rending scene exhibited by the moans and lamenta- tions of his numerous black family, when they were permitted to view for the last time his mortal remains. They indeed had cause for sorrow. Never had slaves a kinder master. In every thing connected with their health and comfort, he made the most liberal and ample provisions—in food, raiment, bedding and dwellings. In sickness, his attentions to them were those of a kind master and friend, nor did he neglect their moral instruction and disci- pline.

He was fond of reading, but his favorite study was Man. To this predilection did he owe that consummate knowledge of the human character, and those practical lessons of wisdom, of so much consequence to the conduct of life, which gave him rank among "wise and best."

Such was Nathaniel Macon of North Caroli- na—the kind neighbor—the warm-hearted friend—the affectionate relative—the fearless advocate of public liberty—the enlightened statesman—just man. He has sunk to rest, but his memory will live in the hearts and affections of his countrymen and in the record- ed pages of his country's history.

The writer of this imperfect sketch knew him well, and is painfully sensible how inade- quately it portrays his public services or pri- vate virtues. He offers it, however, as the humble tribute of grateful affection to the mem- ory of one whom he both loved and admired. July 8th, 1837.

Communicated for the Pennsylvaniaian. TEXAS—NO. III. July, 1837.

My Dear— You are aware that Texas is the north-east- ern portion of what was the Mexican territory.

It is separated from the United States only by the narrow Sabine and a geographical line, (not yet well defined,) intersecting the Red and Arkansas rivers, and bearing off into the vast terra incognita of the Rocky Mountains. Its western and north-western boundaries have not (of course) been yet fixed, and they must form the subject of future negotiation with Mexico. The Rio Nueces, or river of Nuts, was the boundary between Texas and Tamulipas, previous to the revolution, but the Rio Bravo del Norte, or as it is generally called, the Rio Grande, is now generally con- sidered as the natural and probable future boundary between Texas and Mexico. The source of this river, its courses and mag- nitude, all indicate that it is the only proper national boundary east of the great isthmus di- viding North from South America. The opin- ion is entertained by many who have bestowed some attention on the subject, that this was the boundary between France and Spain, as the proprietors of Louisiana and Mexico, and of course, after the cession of Louisiana, between the United States and Mexico. I have heard that on some old maps of Louisiana, at Paris, this river was marked as the bound- ary. The Sabine is certainly a most magni- ficent stream, compared with the Rio Grande, or Bravo del Norte. The time may not be distant, when the circumstances and subjects of the Florida treaty will again demand public attention. The opinion prevails in Texas, that the whole of the country now known by that name, was a part of Louisiana; it remains to be seen what it will be.

Without an accurate definition of its bound- aries, the extent of Texas cannot be con- jectured with any probable accuracy. Coahuila and Texas are estimated in the last maps of Mexico, as containing only one hundred and ninety-three thousand six hundred miles. I am satisfied that Texas alone is much more extensive. Mr. Morfit, the Agent of the U. States, who visited Texas, estimated its area (I think) at three or four times the size of Vir- ginia. This opinion, I should incline to think, is much nearer the truth. It is impossi- ble, however, to judge accurately of the extent of a country, much of which is yet so little known, or of its population, which is now gaining daily accessions from numerous emi- grants.

There is probably no country on earth, of the same extent, containing as many fine streams, adapted to the purposes of navigation or man- ufacturing. From the Rio Grande to the Sa- bine, a distance of about five hundred and fifty miles, the Gulf of Mexico receives (besides those streams) the Rio Nueces, the Mission, the San Antonio, the Guadalupe, the La Baca, the Colorado, the San Bernare, the Brazos, the San Jacinto, the Trinity, and the Nechos Rivers; besides Buffalo Bayou, Chocolate Creek, Oyster Creek, Ceraneway Creek, and a number of other Creeks and Bayous, some of which are navigable for a considerable dis- tance. Some of these streams admit vessels of one hundred and fifty tons burthen, for fifty or sixty miles; and steamboats of one hun- dred and seventy tons, for three to four hun- dred miles. For a considerable distance from the coast, the current of these streams is very gentle; the country between them has the ap- pearance of an alluvial formation, but the pro- cess has been so slow and gradual, that the inhabitants are exempt from many of the in- conveniences of such countries. There are few good springs in the country bordering along the coast. Live oak forests abound in this region. The interior, as you leave the gulf, becomes more and more broken, until it terminates in high mountains, at the distance of two hundred miles from the coast. Good spring water is abundant after you leave the coast. A large portion of Texas (perhaps two-thirds) is in prairie. There are some parts of its eastern territory where timber is abundant, but in the beautiful romantic regions of the San Jacinto and Guadalupe it is scarce.

The principal timber of Texas are red and white oak, live oak, post oak, cotton wood, ash, elm, hickory, pecan, red cedar, pine and cyp- res. The magnolia is very abundant, attains great size, and enriches the forest scenery of Texas by its unrivalled beauties. The Mes- quit or Musaget tree also abounds, and is pec- uliar to the regions of the far west. It is useful for fuel and many other purposes, and seems to have been adapted by nature to sup- ply the necessities of the pioneer settler on the prairie. The forest or fruit trees of Texas, with very little pains, will grow rapidly on the prairies, so that orchards or groves may be had by those who desire them in a few years. Indeed, if the theory be true, that prairies are produced and preserved by the savage hunters firing the autumnal grass, forest trees will soon spring up when the country becomes sufficiently settled and cul- tivated, to put an end to this custom. The prairies of Texas are interspersed with small groves of trees, or as they are called, "islands of timber." Without any undergrowth, these groves present a beautifully picturesque appearance, as the approach of the travellers startles the herds of deer from their shelter under the trees. They generally cover from one to ten or twenty acres of ground, and frequently serve a valuable purpose as land- marks in traversing the prairies. Travelling parties often bivouac for the night, or cook their rough repast in these "islands of timber," and there are few who have been to Texas who will not remember the joy they have felt in meeting unexpectedly with some friend "from the States," at these points of rendez- vous.

The forest land of Texas is generally heavy timbered, and the labor of clearing it is very great. The settlers erect their cabins on the edge of the timber, clearing only as much of it as will suffice to enclose that portion of the prairie which is designed for cultivation. Houses are built there without much regard to architectural effect. The mildness of the climate requires but little artificial shelter for man; at any season, and some persons in- habit tents throughout the year. The cabin or log-house is the most common dwelling; it is built of hewn logs, with an open passage between two rooms, a chimney or large jam at each end, and a "loft" above—there the traveller will generally find genuine hospi-

talities, sometimes meeting with refinement that is not surpassed any where, and, if he brings news from the Old States," (as Arkansas and Michigan, among the rest, are already styled,) he is greeted with enthusiasm by the entire family. There are few public buildings of any sort in the country, a neat State House is on the blocks at Houston, but the "Gov- ernment" while at Columbia, on the Brazos, were quartered without much pomp in a small cabin, fifteen or twenty feet square, with a slab roof and the bare bosom of mother earth uncorrupted, for a floor. Its walls gave token of the times, by the rich military trophies with which they decorated, but besides this, there was no ornament or ostentation in the "White House" of the in- fant Republic.

The prairies are covered by a luxuriant growth of green grass, and immense herds of cattle are seen in all seasons grazing upon them. The cattle of Texas are very fine, and keep fat winter and summer, without any other food than the prairie grass. Below latitude 31, what is called the "red grass" abounds, and is remarkable for the superior quality of its hay; above that latitude there is a very fine silk-like grass, called by Mexi- cans the Mesquit of which stock are very fond. It grows abundantly in the most arid parts of the country, and when apparently parched by the sun, is still preferred to other grasses that look more inviting. On the bot- tom lands there is a grass resembling rye very much, and is called the "wild rye."

The wet or rainy seasons of this country are generally in winter and spring. In the south-western part of Texas, the climate is very dry, but very little rain falling sometimes for a period of several months. The dews are copious, though the Mexicans were in the habit here, as indeed, every where else, of irrigating the lands they cultivated. I have been informed by one who has resided many years in Texas, that he has only seen the ground once thinly covered with snow, in the region of the Brazos, though he has several times seen what is called a "spit- ting of snow." The heat of summer is never violent;—the sea breeze keeps up a delight- ful temperature along the coast, and in the interior until you come to the elevated or mountainous region, where the atmosphere is tempered by other causes.

The lands of Texas are admirably adap- ted to the production of sugar, cotton, corn, oats and wheat. The latter grows best in the interior or hilly country. Owing to the expen- sive fixtures necessary to prepare it for market, little sugar has yet been cultivated in Texas, though it has been ascertained, beyond doubt, that the cane succeeds very well there. The climate renders it a sure crop; and it is said not to require annual plantings. I have also understood, that in the best situa- tions, its sweetens or matures several joints higher than in less genial climates. The lands of Texas are very productive in cotton, yielding more to the acre, and of superior quality, to most lands that have been tested. I have heard some astonishing accounts of their crops, from persons who had raised cot- ton in several of the States, but lest I should exaggerate, I will not venture to state the qualities. I was informed by a very intelli- gent merchant of New Orleans, that some crops of cotton from Texas, had brought several cents more in the pound than any other then in market. In consequence of the disturbed state of the country, the agricul- tural resources of Texas have been very inadequately tested. A fine crop of cotton and corn is now growing, and the prepara- tions which have been made, and are making for the next year, will increase the produc- tions of the country.

Indigo grows spontaneously in Texas, but no experiments have been made to warrant an estimate of its value,—I have heard of its being manufactured in families for their own use.

The fig, the lemon, every variety of the melon, grapes, &c. mature abundantly, and with excellent flavor, in Texas. The apple has not succeeded well there, though it is the country for the peach; the tree and the fruit attain to an unusual size there. There are few nuts in the country besides the pecan and hickory nut; I did not see or hear of a chest- nut tree. I am yours, &c.

TEXAS.

We have received the "Houston Telegraph" of the 8th June. It reports the Proceedings of Congress, down to the 1st. They were organizing their Government in its various branches. They were passing a new Land Bill, which fixes the tariff on coffee at one cent per lb.—salt, 3 cents—jewelry, 33 1-3 per cent. ad valorem, &c. They had some difficulty in organizing the Red River Collection District—a motion being made to postpone its opera- tion "until the boundary line (with the U. S.) should be defined." This proposition, how- ever, was rejected, and the title of the District was altered to that of St. Augustine. They were also organizing their Diplomatic De- partment—a bill having passed the Senate, "for appointing Secretaries of Legation to England and France, with salaries of \$3,000 each, and the appointment of the present Com- missioner to England as Minister Plenipoten- tiary, and the appointment of a Commissioner to France with plenary powers." G. S. Mc- Intosh has been appointed Secretary of Lega- tion to England. The President of the Re- public had refused to sanction the joint Reso- lution, requesting a flag of truce to be sent to Mexico. In acting on the resolution origi- nally, Mr. Horton warned Senators how they passed it; that it "might end in the destruction of their navy, and in the worse treatment of those unfortunate citizens of Texas now sup- posed to be prisoners at Matamoros. He stated, that a neutral vessel with a flag of truce would be a much safer and better mode to carry out the intention of the resolution; that their enemy was a demi savage race, uncivil- ized & unenlightened, who had already proved their regard for flags of truce and negotiations,

by their conduct with this Republic on former occasions."—And another resolution was im- mediately adopted, advising the President to suspend the release of the Mexican prisoners now in the Republic, until the fate of the Texian Prisoners (Wharton and others) was ascertained.

The Telegraph states the arrival of the Tom Toby at Galveston, with a "very valu- able prize of a large fine brig, strongly built and capable of being fitted out as a man of war, bearing guns heavier than any now in the Mexican Squadron. She was captured on the coast of Campeachy, having 200 tons of salt on board. The Tom Toby was left in hot pursuit of two Mexican Schooners."—Many of the soldiers on furlough were daily arriving at Houston "by fifties"—and the Telegraph compliments in the highest terms their orderly and peaceful deportment.

THE REMEDY.

There have been so many projects brought before the public as remedies for our present distress, that the mind of the community is rather bewildered than enlightened on the subject. Every thing within the whole range of legislation has been suggested. With one set of projectors, government is expected to do every thing—with another set it can do noth- ing. We are rather more inclined to side with the latter than the former. We conceive that it is in the power of Government to do at least very little. The people must in a great measure work out their own cure. The scheme of a National Bank, whether it be a new Institution or one engrafted on the pre- sent Pennsylvania Bank, whatever may be thought, in short, of the efficacy of such an establishment, to preserve specie payments after their restoration, it can do nothing, under present circumstances, to effect the restoration itself. This attempt to institute a National Bank, while the balance of payments is against the country, must terminate in an aggravation of present evils. All the efforts of Mr. Dallas to restore specie payments when he so ably presided over the Treasury Department, were rendered unavailing by the single circumstance that the Foreign Exchanges were against the United States, and when Mr. Jones imported specie as the basis of its operations, it left the country nearly as rapidly as it was introduced.—It was not until after a struggle of three years, and being on the verge of bankruptcy, that it was able to place itself in a condition of safety. It had by its forced im- portation of silver during an unfavorable ex- change, and its large issues on a narrow basis of the precious metals, aggravated the evils it attempted to cure. And when it did go into successful operation it was not before the for- eign exchanges were in that state that allowed specie to remain in the country. The process was however a painful one. There was a great prostration of the credit of local banks and the currency was righted and purified in this manner and by this only.

This process must be undergone again, if a National Bank is at all established on sound principles. The foreign exchanges must be in that state which will allow specie to remain in the United States. Any attempt to effect this object before the unfavorable exchange is redressed, would be premature, and in aggra- vation of present ills, because it would be in obvious counteraction of the laws of trade. Painful as the truth is, a large number of the State institutions must be destroyed before the end can be accomplished of a restoration of specie payments. It is the only conceivable mode of purifying the currency. This was the process by which the National Bank under Mr. Chaves' administration, not under that of Mr. Jones, worked to advantage. It was when the current of specie was setting in and not when it was going out, that the scheme, being in harmony with the laws of commerce, became useful; but then the currency had been extensively curtailed.

There is one mode and only one mode, under existing circumstances, by which the at- tempt to institute a National Bank has any prospect of success, and that is by the aid of foreign capital. If a bank with a large capital should be established, and its stock should be taken principally in Europe, it would operate to a certain extent on the foreign exchan- ges. That portion of its capital which consisted of specie, would of course then be intro- duced from abroad by the action of the foreign exchanges; but any attempt to establish a bank of any kind, under present circumstances, from domestic resources, must, in the nature of things prove a failure.

The utmost that the Government can do, is by the issue of Treasury notes to supply, so far as such issue may be absolutely necessary for the Government expenditure, the wants of merchants for the means of domestic remit- tance. To the extent, and no more, of any de- ficiency in the revenue, an issue of Treasury notes may take place, not only without depre- ciation, but commanding a premium in the market. The discredit into which this specie of government emission fell during the last war was owing to the discredit of the Government itself. The case is now quite different. If the issue is limited in amount, and if it even were extended, so as not to exceed what would be required in payments to the Government, this or any other kind of government paper could not, under present circumstances, un- dergo depreciation. The notion that such an issue would require a specie basis, as we have heard suggested, is erroneous, provided it is limited in the manner we have stated. The convertibility of paper of any kind into specie, is not an absolute condition for the preserva- tion of its value. It is the limitation of its amount, so that no more can fill the channel of circulation than if the precious metals were employed, which would effect all the purposes of convertibility. But an issue of Treasury notes to this extent would form a very inade- quate amount for purposes of domestic ex- change. Yet the Government might not be warranted in going beyond the limits of its actual wants, in the creation of government pa- per. [Charleston Post.