

(From Hunt's Merchants' Magazine.)  
**MERCANTILE BIOGRAPHY.**  
JOSEPH HEWES.

The parents of Joseph Hewes were members of the Society of Friends, and at the time of their marriage resided in the colony of Connecticut, in one of the settlements the farthest removed from the coast of the Atlantic. In this situation they were obliged to bear the double persecution arising from the often excited hostility of the Indians, who roved through the forests in their vicinity, and the prejudice still remaining among the puritans of New England, against all that wore the quaker habiliments or professed the quaker doctrines.

For persons of this persuasion, and indeed for all that were ambitious of a quiet and secure life, a residence either in Connecticut or Massachusetts, was at that period far from desirable.

The government of Massachusetts had, in order to "promote enterprise and encourage volunteers," raised the premium on Indian scalps and prisoners to one hundred pounds for each; and in the temper of mind which is sufficiently indicated by such an enactment, a bitter and murderous warfare was waged against the natives of the forest, attended with circumstances often discreditable to the humanity of the white man, and with instances of reprisals and retaliation on the part of the Indian, involving the most shocking barbarities.

The province of Connecticut had refused to unite in any measures of war that were not defensive; but the Indians were not always careful to observe the boundary line between the colonies, or to discriminate between people so closely resembling each other in manner and appearance. The inoffensive and industrious farmers of Connecticut were, therefore, exposed to suffer the vengeance intended to be dealt upon the scalping parties of Massachusetts, and many of them moved off from the lands they had prepared for cultivation, to seek a more secure asylum in a southern colony.

Among these emigrants were Aaron and Providence Hewes, who made their escape from the scene of savage warfare not without difficulty and imminent personal risk; so near, indeed, were they to the scene of danger, that, in crossing the Housatonic river, they were almost overtaken by the Indians, and were within the actual range of their bullets, one of which wounded Providence in the neck. They took up their abode near Kingston, in New Jersey, where they found a peaceful and secure dwelling-place, and where they remained to the end of their lives.

Their son Joseph was born in the year 1730; and, after enjoying the advantages of education common at that period, in the immediate neighborhood of Princeton college, he went to Philadelphia to acquire a knowledge of commercial business. He entered, as soon as his term of apprenticeship in a counting house was closed, into the bustle and activity of trade; and, availing himself of the fortunate situation of the colonies in respect to commerce, and the great opportunities then offered by the British flag, particularly when used to protect American ships, he was soon one of the large number of thriving colonial merchants, whose very prosperity became a lure to Great Britain, and induced her to look to this country for a revenue.

Mr. Hewes did not remove to North Carolina until he was nearly thirty years of age, previous to which time he had been residing at New York and Philadelphia alternately, with occasional and frequent visits to his friends in New Jersey. Having made choice of Edenton for his future home, he soon became distinguished in the community of that city for his successful career as a merchant, his liberal hospitalities, great probity and honor, and his agreeable social qualities. Although nearly a stranger in the state, he was very shortly invited to take a seat in the colonial legislature of North Carolina—an office to which he was repeatedly chosen, and which he always filled with advantage to the people of that colony, and with credit to himself.

When the British ministry had proceeded so far as to close the port of Boston, (thus, by a most decided and severe act, evincing their fixed determination to proceed in their plan of taxing the colonies,) and the committees of correspondence, instituted first at Boston and afterwards elsewhere, had proposed a meeting of deputies to a general Congress to be held at Philadelphia, Mr. Hewes was one of three citizens selected by North Carolina to represent her in that assembly. On the 4th of September, in the year 1774, this first Congress began their session; and on the 14th of the same month, Mr. Hewes arrived and took his seat.

Immediately after the assembling of Congress, two important committees had been appointed, to whom, in fact, nearly all the business of the Congress was entrusted. The one was to "state the rights of the colonies in general, the several instances in which those rights are violated

# THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

BRUNER & JAMES,  
Editors & Proprietors.

"KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR  
IN DEBTS."



RULERS. DO THIS, AND LIBERTY  
Gentl. Harrison.

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or infringed, and the means most proper to be pursued for obtaining a restoration of them." The other was to "examine and report the several statutes which affect the trade and manufacture of the colonies." To the first of these committees Mr. Hewes was added very soon after he took his seat, and contributed his assistance to the preparation of their report, which was adopted on the 14th of October.

The non-importation agreement, recommended by this report and determined to be adopted, was a very remarkable event in the annals of the revolution. It could only have been thought of by men having the most perfect confidence in the integrity and patriotism of the people, without whose universal and strict resolution to maintain it, such a measure would be palpably unavailing. A system of privation not enforced by any law, nor guarded with any penal sanctions, but resting entirely on the deep and general sense of wrongs inflicted, and of the necessity of a united effort to obtain redress—it evinced a steady resolution, a sober patriotism, and a generous sacrifice of selfish views to the common good, unequalled in the history of the world.

If any class of people more than the rest were entitled to particular praise for the patriotic ardor which induced them to join in this combination, it was unquestionably the mercantile part of the community, who sacrificed not only many of the comforts and enjoyments of life, but gave up also the very means of their subsistence, in relinquishing the importing trade to which they had been accustomed to devote their capital and labor. Mr. Hewes was a merchant, and a successful one. He had been for more than twenty years engaged in the sale of merchandise imported chiefly from England and the British dependencies; but he did not hesitate on this occasion to assist in the preparation of the plan, to vote for it, and to affix his own name to the compact. The association recited, in the first place, the injuries inflicted on the colonies by the various acts of the British government, against which the report of the committee had been directed, and then declares that, "to obtain redress for these grievances—a non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation agreement, faithfully adhered to, would prove the most speedy, effectual, and peaceable measure."

Such an agreement was then concluded, to the observance of which, the associates were bound by the sacred ties of virtue, honor, and love of country. It was recommended to the provincial conventions, and to the committees in the respective colonies, "to establish such farther regulations as they may think proper, for carrying into execution this association."—Congress, after adopting an address to the people of Great Britain, an address to the king, and one to the people of Canada, all distinguished by uncommon elegance and force of diction, and having resolved that it was expedient to meet again in May of the succeeding year, adjourned on the twenty-sixth of October, and Mr. Hewes returned to his home in North Carolina.

In the ensuing spring, a convention of that colony was held at Newbern, when Mr. Hewes was elected a member of the Continental Congress about to assemble; the general assembly approved of this choice, and at the same time resolved to adhere strictly to the non-importation agreement, and to use what influence they possessed to induce the same observance in every province. Mr. Hewes attended accordingly at Philadelphia when the new Congress assembled in May, and continued with them until their adjournment, the last day of July. The battle of Lexington had occurred a few weeks before the meeting of Congress, and the first business that came before them was the examination of the depositions of witnesses, which, at that period, or at least on that occasion, supplied the place of military reports, of the killed, wounded, and missing, as well as of the movements of the hostile forces. The first resolution of the Congress was, however, notwithstanding the excitement naturally caused by the actual commencement of war, to present another loyal and dutiful address to the king; at the same time, now first glancing at the possibility of a separation, in a recommendation to the Provincial Congress of New York to prepare vigorously for defence, "as it is very uncertain whether the earnest endeavors of the Congress to accommodate the unhappy differences between Great Britain and the colonies by conciliatory measures will be successful."

The battle of Bunker's Hill, and the appointment of a commander-in-chief of the army, with a long list of major-generals and brigadiers, in the succeeding month, placed the true nature of the contest more distinctly in the view of the people of America, and of the world. The Society of Friends, of which Mr. Hewes' parents had been members, as well as himself in his youth, were now straining every nerve in an effort to prevent the revolutionary, republican, and warlike doctrines of the times, from gaining a reception among the quakers. The society was numerous, wealthy, and respectable, and their opposition was powerful and active. In the beginning of the year 1775, they had held a general Convention of the "people called quakers" residing in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and had put forth a "testimony," denouncing the Congress and all its proceedings. This, however, did not have any effect on Mr. Hewes, or if any, not the effect intended. He broke entirely from communion with the quakers, and became not only a promoter of war, but a man of gaiety and worldly habits—even to the extent of being a frequent visitor of the ladies, and partaking, even with glee and animation, of the pleasures of the dance, in which he is said at all times of his life, after escaping from the restraints of his quaker education, to have taken much delight.

In the recess of Congress, between July and September, he did not return to North Carolina, but made a visit to his friends in New Jersey, and was at hand when the next session was begun. He was placed on the Committee of Claims, and that charged with the fitting out of the armed vessels ordered to be built or equipped for Congress—the germ of the United States' navy; and thus he became, in effect, and in the nature of his duties and responsibilities, the first secretary of her navy. In the commencement of the next year, Mr. Hewes, having attained great respect in Congress by his excellent qualities and habits of close attention to business, was chosen a member of the secret committee, a post of extreme difficulty, and great responsibility, and requiring the closest application.

It was within the recollection of some of the long surviving patriots of this period, that Hewes was remarkable for a devotedness to the business of this committee, as complete as ever the industrious merchant was known to give his counting house. After this time he was generally appointed on the most important committees, such as that to concert with General Washington a plan of operations for the ensuing campaign; the one entrusted with the difficult task of digesting a plan of confederation; another charged with the superintendence of the treasury; one raised for the purpose of inquiring into the causes of the miscarriages in Canada, and several others of less moment. Mr. Hewes was, during this period, a most active man of business; the disbursements of the naval committee were under his especial charge, and eight armed vessels were fitted out with the funds placed at his disposal. He was attentive also to the condition of North Carolina, then direfully distracted with civil wars, and menaced also by the common enemy; gunpowder and other munitions of war were sent by him at his own expense, but re-imbursed afterwards by Congress, to supply the exigencies of the republican troops in that part of the country. He had the satisfaction of being present during all the debate on the question declaring independence, and of voting in favor of the instant adoption of that imperishable manifesto which has made the 4th of July a jubilee for this nation. In voting on this side he acted in accordance with a resolution passed by the North Carolina convention, on the 22d of April preceding, empowering the delegates from that colony to "concur with those of the other colonies in declaring independence."

North Carolina had thus the merit of being the first one of the colonies which openly declared in favor of throwing off all connection with Great Britain, a spirited and manly determination which entitled the leading men of that state to distinguished praise. Mr. Hewes, by his indefatigable exertions in the equipment of the naval armament, as well as by the fearless constancy with which he advocated independence, had acquired, to a very great degree, the esteem and respect of the people whom he represented. In the beginning of the year 1777, therefore, he was again chosen a delegate,

with such powers as to make whatever he and his colleagues might do in Congress obligatory on every inhabitant of the state.

Mr. Hewes, however, did not accept this appointment. He left to his colleagues the tour of duty in Congress, and devoted himself to his private affairs, and to the benefit of his state at home, during the greater part of that year and the whole of the next, nor did he resume his seat until the month of July, 1779. He was at this time in very ill health, his constitution had been totally broken down, and he was able to give little more assistance to the public councils of the nation. His end was rapidly approaching; the last vote given by him in Congress was on 29th of October, after which he was wholly confined to his chamber until the 10th of November, when he expired, in the fiftieth year of his age.

On the day of his death, Congress being informed of the event, and of the intention of his friends to inter his remains on the following day, resolved that they would attend the funeral with a crape round the left arm, and continue in mourning for the space of one month, that a committee should be appointed to superintend the ceremony, the Rev. Mr. White, their chaplain, should officiate on the occasion, and that invitations should be sent to the general assembly, and the president and supreme executive council of Pennsylvania, the minister plenipotentiary of France, and other persons of distinction.

The funeral ceremonies were accordingly conducted with all the pomp and display which the simple manners and sobriety of temper then prevalent in Philadelphia would admit. A large concourse of people, including all the distinguished personages, civil and military, witnessed the interment of his remains in the burial ground of Christ Church, and the outward show of respect to his memory was not in this instance forced or insincere.

Mr. Hewes possessed a prepossessing figure and countenance, with great amenity of manners, and an unblemished reputation for probity and honor. He left a considerable fortune, but no children to inherit it.

His death may be called untimely, when we reflect on the brighter prospects that soon after opened off the country to whose happiness he devoted himself with so much zeal, prospects in which he would have found a cause of infinite gratitude and joy; but in other respects his end was more seasonable than that of some of his compatriots who lived to endure old age, infirmity and want; he was taken in the meridian of his usefulness, and not before he had performed enough of service to this nation to entitle him to her enduring and grateful recollection.

**Emigrants to Oregon.**—The St. Louis New Era says that two companies were to leave Independence or the Oregon on the 20th of this month. They numbered one thousand. Another point on the river, there were 35 wagons ready to start, and at St. Joseph's 220 wagons. Lieut. Eremont was about to start on another exploring expedition beyond the mountains, and one hundred and fifty young men were at Independence engaged to go with him. They were furnished with mules and equipped for their journey. The Era says that the rush of emigrants beyond the Rocky Mountains will be very great, those who expect to join the company should repair to the frontier immediately. The companies are very particular to preserve the character of the expedition. No person is permitted to join an emigrating until he has undergone an examination, and if he be a criminal, a refugee from justice, or a man of infamous character, he is excluded.

A company of Oregon emigrants left Sangamon Co., Ill., on the 1st of April.—They numbered forty-seven persons, old and young—had sixteen wagons with ox teams, and quite a number of young cattle, and were said to be substantial farmers.

**Bible burning in this City.**—About two weeks ago an apprentice in the family of a German Catholic basket maker, in Delancy street, a few doors from Ludlow str. was deprived of three Bibles, one after another, which were cast into the fire.—The last one was rescued from destruction by a stranger who happened to witness the sacrifice. This is a fact. Americans, are you prepared to give up your Bibles to the flames!—perchance your mothers' Bibles?—Shall these things be tamely tolerated for the interest of politicians?  
*New York Paper.*

When a man despises and detests his fellow creatures, he necessarily assumes that he is much better than the rest of the world.

(From the New York Express.)  
**THE NAVY OF THE U. STATES & ENGLAND.**

England is turning her attention to her marine and other improvement of her vessels by all the appliances of skill and science, and to the promotion and encouragement of her sailors, by recounting and adorning all the glories of her naval triumphs. The Lords of the Admiralty are making experiments in the construction and management of vessels, and for the improvement of the docks and arsenals. In short, England with a jealousy of every powerful nation, and an especial jealousy of the United States and France,—but not so much against the United States on account of the number of our vessels, as their beautiful models—is turning her attention thoroughly to the improvement of her marine.

There are no bills passed with so much reluctance in an American Congress as those which make provision for the defence of the country. Just the reverse is true in England, France, and every in Europe. It is not in the spirit of our institutions to keep up showy establishments upon ocean or land, but we ought to remember, or at least they who are more belligerent than we are, that war is not to be carried on without the necessary means to prosecute it. Money may be sinews of war, but with appropriating it to the means of defence, it is of but little value. We say this with particular reference to the Congress not long since adjourned. We saw there a body of men, the majority of whom, from the tenor of their high sounding speeches, one might suppose to be descended from Mars or Jove, or some other great deity. Not Caesar, Alexander, Hannibal, Buonaparte, or all the great gods of war since the world began, were so full of war as the dominant party in Congress, and yet these blusterers failed to make even the usual appropriations for the defence of the country. Loco Focoism is equally brave now—brave enough, indeed, to breakfast upon Brazil, dine upon John Bull, sup upon Mexico, and sleep upon victory. And what are the means left by the Loco Foco wisdom of Congress to accomplish these agreeable pastimes? Two years since, Congress, we believe by a solemn enactment, authorised the sale of the rubbish in our Navy Yards, to aid in the equipment of some of our public vessels. Since then, as before then, in no one instance have the recommendations of the head of the Navy Department been acquiesced in by Congress. Great Britain has fifty-four steam vessels in commission, and the United States have four, and but one or two of these are in good condition. Great Britain has forty-six vessels building and in ordinary, and we have about one-fourth as many. Thirty thousand horse power is the steam force of Great Britain, and ours combined is not much above that of the tea-kettles in the kitchens of N. York. The naval force of Great Britain has gone up, since 1835—36, from 26,500 to 36,000 men, and 4,000 in addition have just been asked and granted by Parliament. Our Secretary of the Navy, (Mr. Mason,) entreated Congress for nine millions and nearly a half, and got six millions three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, while the organ of the naval service in the House of Commons asks that 36,000 may be made 40,000, and his request is granted in a single session. Now, then, compare the navy list of Great Britain with our own. We have, all told, about seventy vessels, and some of them as worthless as a bottomless tub. England has 20 three deck ships, 58 of two decks, of from 74 to 90 guns, 14 frigates, 8 corvettes, 65 sloops, 48 brigs, 74 surveying vessels and three yachts.

This is the actual force, but in addition most of the merchant steamers employed in Great Britain, are so constructed that they could easily be made available to the Government for harbor or other defence, in case of actual invasion. The wages of seamen in England is less than is paid in the United States, and yet for wages alone more is expended than upon every part and parcel of our Navy. An equal amount, too, (more than a million and a quarter sterling,) has just been appropriated for the construction for, and repair of the ships of the British Navy. In seven years Great Britain has expended forty-five millions of pounds upon the Navy, and since the peace, two hundred millions! The appropriations for the British Navy, the present year, will be £6,900,000! more sovereigns upon the English than dollars upon our own.

If we should make a comparison with France, though not so unfavorable, it would be altogether against us. There are about one hundred steam vessels, which may at any moment be armed. There are four frigates and one sloop of 20 guns, twenty-five smaller steam vessels of 6 guns each, and more than this number of from 4 to 6 guns. Of seventeen trans-Atlantic steamships, thirteen may be used as corvettes.

While we take no pleasure in making these comparisons, we do not regret that the facts are as we state them. We should be very sorry to see an American Navy of forty thousand men put on board of two hundred and fifty sail of vessels, and all equipped at an annual expense of from thirty to forty millions of dollars. We have no ambition for any such folly, no more than we have to go to war, or to prate about war, or to use threatening language where mild words and pacific negotiations will accomplish a great deal more. But if there is a war party in power, determined to do, as well as to say, it becomes them to bluster less and act more. Those who are determined upon the last resort, should count the loss of life and of property, and remember that with two great nations it is the same in war as in peace. You may negotiate before going to war, for the settlement of any principle at issue between nations, and you must do it afterwards. No principle is settled by war alone.

**A GLANCE AT OUR "HOME" DEPARTMENT.**

If we consider the individual wise and prudent who every where now and then pauses in his career to examine his social, worldly, and moral condition, and to use a mercantile phrase, take a "stock account" of his business capital, his social propensities, and his moral habits, it must be equally proper in a nation to take occasional views of its position, in order that it may improve hitherto neglected advantages, remedy errors and deficiencies, eradicate the wrong which may unnoticed have crept into its policy, and lend a helping hand to the spontaneous good which may be struggling into existence. A few words, then, as to our national position in these respects.

One peculiar advantage in our position as a nation is the vast extent of our hitherto uncultivated soil, and the generous return which a very large portion of our land, when cultivated, makes to the industry and the skill of the cultivator. With respect to *Bread Stuffs*, it is evident that the amount of their produce will be bounded by the demand for home consumption and for such additional quantity as can be disposed of advantageously to other countries. We, on an average, raise at least an adequate amount for these purposes. No more land, therefore, is wanted for their growth at present. Of *Cotton, Rice, and Tobacco* we probably raise as much as we need for home consumption and can dispose of abroad. The same may be said of land cultivated for *Hay* and other winter food for cattle, of pasture land for cattle, and of land for gardens, orchards and nurseries.

The demand both at home and abroad for our *Sugar* is increasing, and probably will increase; but the land adapted to the growth of the Sugar cane is found only within a limited portion of the Union. We have imported annually of *Hemp*, upon an average of five years, 3,400 tons, at a cost of \$485,000; and we have, during the same period, imported an annual amount of \$1,350,000 of articles manufactured from hemp, much of which we might produce at home, and thus bring into profitable cultivation considerable tracts of uncultivated land by the growth of the raw material. The same, to a considerable extent, may be said of *Flax*, and *Silk*, and *Wool*, attention the manufacture of which would increase the demand for the raw materials and cause the employment of more land in the production of them.

There are a great number of valuable products which we have hitherto not attended to, for which we pay large amounts annually, which we might raise from our own soil, not only for home consumption but for exportation, and thus encourage domestic industry and skill, and develop the resources of our country.

*Dyer's Madder* is one of these articles.—Our printed documents give us no information respecting the amount of madder which is imported. Mr. ELLSWORTH estimates the amount "at 5,000 tons, which, at the low price of ten cents per pound, makes the sum of one million of dollars paid annually to foreign countries for an article that can be produced as good and cheap at home." (See page 311 of the last Patent Office Report.) An acre of land will produce from 2,000 to 3,000 pounds weight of madder; this employment might be given for four thousand acres of our uncultivated territory and for a large amount of our labor and capital, even to supply our home consumption.

*Indigo* is another article which might be advantageously cultivated. Our annual importations are about 530 tons, costing nearly \$1,000,000. Mr. ELLSWORTH says, "indigo was formerly an article of export from the U. States," and adds, that "it is a crop to which the attention of portions of the Southern country may yet be profitably directed, as it formerly was from the over-production of cotton." There is no doubt that *Wood, Sumach*, and other plants used as mordants and dyes, might be successfully and profitably cultivated in various parts of the United States. We have seen it stated that the "ripe seed of the *Okra* plant burnt and used as *Coffee* cannot be distinguished therefrom, and that many persons of the most fastidious tastes have not been able to distinguish it from the best Java." Now, if there be even any approximation to this assertion, we have an abundant source of employment for much of our uncultivated land, for our annual importation of coffee is more than one hundred and ten millions of pounds weight, costing us from eight millions to ten millions of dollars. The *Okra* plant is very easily cultivated, and is adapted to the soil and climate of a great portion of the Union.

We will mention only one other subject in connexion with this branch of our inquiry, and that is the introduction of the *Alpaca* or *Peruvian Sheep* into the mountains and highlands of Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. This subject has been already discussed in the *American Farmer* and alluded to in Mr. ELLSWORTH'S report, and appears to be very deserving of our attention. The wool of the Alpaca enters largely into British manufactures;

and we should be very sorry to see an American Navy of forty thousand men put on board of two hundred and fifty sail of vessels, and all equipped at an annual expense of from thirty to forty millions of dollars. We have no ambition for any such folly, no more than we have to go to war, or to prate about war, or to use threatening language where mild words and pacific negotiations will accomplish a great deal more. But if there is a war party in power, determined to do, as well as to say, it becomes them to bluster less and act more. Those who are determined upon the last resort, should count the loss of life and of property, and remember that with two great nations it is the same in war as in peace. You may negotiate before going to war, for the settlement of any principle at issue between nations, and you must do it afterwards. No principle is settled by war alone.

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