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A Review of the Career, Character and Services of
ZACHARY TAYLOR.
(Reprinted from the North American and U. States Gazette, Philadelphia.)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.

THE POPULAR APPRECIATION OF HIS CHARACTER.

In an eloquent sketch of the life of the Father of his Country, contained in a volume entitled "Washington and the Generals of the Revolution," may be found the following remark, which will strike the reader as one full of profound interest:

"It is a truth, illustrated in daily experience, and yet rarely noticed or acted upon, that, in all that concerns the appreciation of personal character or ability, the instinctive impressions of a community are quicker in their action, more profoundly appreciative, and more reliable, than the intellectual perceptions of the ablest men in the community. Upon all those subjects that are of moral apprehension, society seems to possess an intelligence of its own, infinitely sensitive in its delicacy, and almost conclusive in the certainty of its determinations; indirect and unconscious in its operation, yet unshunnable in sagacity, and as strong and confident as nature herself. The highest and the finest qualities of human judgment seem to be in commission among the nation, or the race. It is by such a process that, whenever a true hero appears among mankind, the recognition of his character, by the general sense of humanity, is instant and certain: the belief of the chief priests and rulers of mind follows later, or comes not at all. The perceptions of a public are as subtly-sighted as its passions are blind. It sees, and feels, and knows the excellence, which it can neither understand, nor explain, nor vindicate."

This principle of the instinctive faculty of a people to detect greatness even in the germ, the writer applies with force to the case of Washington,—to his immediate acceptance by the nation-builders of '76, and the uninterrupted command over their entire confidence, which he enjoyed to the last.

"From the first moment of his appearance as a chief," says the writer, the recognition of him, from one end of the country to the other, as the man—the leader, the counsellor, the infallible, in suggestion and in conduct—was immediate and universal. From that moment to the close of the scene the national confidence in his capacity was as spontaneous, as enthusiastic, as irrevocable, as it was in his integrity. Particular persons, affected by the untoward course of events, sometimes questioned his sufficiency; but the nation never questioned it, nor would allow it to be questioned."

To our own feelings there is something repulsive, as if bordering at once on adulation and irreverence, in instituting a complimentary comparison between the Father of his Country and any living man—between him who, in the world of departed spirits, stands on that glorious pinnacle of immortal fame, above the Cæsars and Napoleons of the earth, and the best and purest creature that can walk its surface, aspiring to similar excellence and equal acceptance hereafter. We do not, therefore, mean to attempt any parallel between the character of Zachary Taylor and that of George Washington. But we may declare, and our readers will feel, that the history of the former, during the last two years, and his present position as the foremost man of this Republic, bring him within the rule which measures the greatness of Washington, and testify to those uncommon qualities of Taylor which were detected, as by instinct, in a moment, without any suggestion or instruction, by the whole American people. From the hour when the news of Palo Alto flew over the land, General Taylor was accepted by the popular feeling as a great man, fit and worthy to occupy the highest place of public trust; and from that hour to the present the popular feeling has never altered.

Perhaps the writer we have quoted finds something too wonderful or supernatural in the popular instinct alluded to; and he is still more mistaken in supposing that the faculty is one not shared in by "the ablest men in the community," the "chief priests and rulers of mind," as well by the masses of the community. The Henrys and Adamses were among the first to detect the gigantic capacities of Washington; and there were Claytons and Crittendens and others among the chief men of the United States, to rise up, like seers, and declare the true character of the new-found hero of the Rio Grande, and express to him the first salutations of the American people. Why, indeed, should not all natures act alike, in such cases? The instinct is not, properly, a mere inexplicable intuition or inspiration; it is an act—an inconceivably rapid and energetic one—but still an act, and nothing more than an act of the mind—an operation of the reason, a verdict of the judgment, in which every man's intellect, drawing direct inferences from simple facts, dwells over the same thoughts and ends in the same conclusions. The popular opinion, in this case, seldom changes, because it is seldom erroneous.

The people of the United States formed their immediate estimate of Gen. Taylor's greatness by those qualities, already so often alluded to by us in these pages, which burst upon the American world at Palo Alto, just as they actually glared out before—though then unnoticed—in the

THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

BRUNER & JAMES,
Editors & Proprietors.

"KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR RULERS."



DO THIS, AND LIBERTY IS SAFE.
Gen'l. Harrison.

NEW SERIES,
VOLUME V.—NUMBER 18.

SALISBURY, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1848.

humble siege of Fort Harrison. The Indian block-house—where a few sick soldiers and settlers defended their lives against Indians, was an inconsiderable object to a public mind just stunned by the overwhelming humiliation of Hull's defeat, only to be relieved by the glorious retaliation of the capture of the Guerriere. Palo Alto, on the contrary, was the stage of a new theatre of war, upon which the whole community was gazing with doubt and fear, lest the rising of the curtain should disclose a scene of calamity. It rose upon an exhibition of chivalry and glory, that seemed almost a phantasma of magic, it was so strange and splendid; and there, most prominent upon the scene, the observed of all observers, was the brave old enchanter who had created the picture, even as with a call of his voice, a flash of his eye, or a wave of his knightly steel. The battle of Palo Alto revealed enough of the character of General Taylor to satisfy the whole American mind, thenceforward and forever, that he was a great man—great in all those republican characteristics, those virtues, at once homely and lofty, unpretending yet impressive, natural yet heroic, which, experience teaches us, go to form the truest pattern of an American citizen, and the best model of a safe and patriotic public officer. Two years' acquaintance with him has only proved the truth and reliability of the prepossession.

Modest, unambitious,—moderate in all his views, thoughts, feelings,—of a pure life and exemplary habits,—calm and courageous, yet prudent, uniting the utmost caution with the greatest firmness and most daring resolution;—a soldier, yet in feeling and reason opposed to offensive war, and declaring "his to be the greatest glory" who can bring it to a close;—most humane, merciful, and magnanimous in his disposition; of such perfect integrity that he has never been suspected of a wrong act, of such excellent judgment and good sense that he has never been charged with a foolish one; perfectly frank, unaffected, unassuming,—disposed to think less highly of his own qualifications for administrative life than those of the eminent statesmen he has so often recommended as his choice, and rather inclined, generally, to doubt the fitness of military men for important civil employment; a man who has never changed with circumstances,—who has been the same, ever, upon slight and upon great occasions, and always equal to every emergency: there is every thing in the character of such a man to warrant the conclusions of the popular "instinct" as to his greatness, as well to encourage the belief of his more than common fitness for that high office of the Presidency which he has shown so little eagerness to attain, but which so vast a portion of the American people are now most anxious that he should fill.

But the office of the President of a free people demands, necessarily, political, as well as intellectual and moral, qualifications; and here General Taylor's party foes think they discover incompetency in that very moderation of views which has commended—and deserved to commend—him the more strongly to the confidence of the country. "I am a Whig—but not an ultra Whig," has ever been his fixed and honest declaration—a declaration perfectly well understood by all persons, of whatever party, to define a man of conservative feelings, approving, personally, of the great principles of public policy known to all as the Whig system; but—and here his second declaration on the subject of the Veto power explains all that might be supposed mysterious in regard to the meaning of the word "ultra"—not disposed, nor willing, under any circumstances, to compel that system, against their wishes, upon a majority of the people of the United States, as expressed by a majority of their Representatives in Congress. Gen. Taylor avows—and that is one of the oldest and most conservative of Whig doctrines—that a President of the United States ought not to employ the veto power to prevent or nullify the acts of Congress, except in clear cases of unconstitutional or inconsiderate legislation.

In his brief and simple declaration of political faith, General Taylor has declared himself a Whig and republican; a true Democrat, who expects—should the people elect him their Chief Magistrate—not to rule the Republic, but to execute its laws; not to domineer over Congress, the law-making power, but to carry its acts; to be the faithful servant, not the master, of the great nation; the friend, not the betrayer, of liberty; to be no mere great man of office, no haughty monarch, vain, proud, egotistic, and tyrannical, but the frank, unaffected, worthy, honest, plain citizen, who can perform his duties in the chair of President calmly, conscientiously, rightfully, in the same character and way in which he performed them at Buena Vista. There is no mystery in the Presidential duties beyond the performance and understanding of every practical honest man in the Republic.—Demagogues may refine, and abstractionists split hairs about it; but every intelligent citizen can understand every line in the Constitution of the United States, as well as every law of Congress requiring to be executed by the President. The great qualifications required for President are precisely those which General Taylor

so manifestly and so pre-eminently possesses.

It is between him and General Lewis Cass that the American people are now to choose their Chief Magistrate. We do not wish to indulge in any injurious description of the latter gentleman. He has been long before the public, which is well acquainted with his life and character, and all his qualifications—or want of qualifications—for an office in which such sentiments as he has avowed, while a Senator, would soon bring upon the country the horrors of war, which the soldier of Buena Vista has proclaimed himself always anxious to avert. We leave General Cass, as we leave General Taylor, to the good sense and the good feeling of the people of the United States. As between two such competitors—and one or other of them must be President—we do not think the people will have much difficulty in making the proper selection.

A WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.

We learn of the arrival at Boston on Sunday of the Steamer Acadia, which sailed from Liverpool on the 29th ultimo. She brings seven days' later intelligence.

The news from Ireland will be read with peculiar interest. Although no actual outbreak had taken place, the spirit of insurrection had reached such a head that a collision seemed inevitable. The North American states, however, that "while appearances, at least in the south, become more and more alarming, (so alarming that the public securities of England have fallen as much as one-and-a-half per cent. in a single day.) there are not wanting persons on the spot who believe that there will be no revolution, and no tumults even, except such as the Government has made ample preparations to put down.

We have room only for a brief synopsis of the news, as follows:

IRELAND.

The English Government are adopting the most energetic means to meet the impending crisis. The Liverpool Times says that troops are pouring into Ireland by thousands. Thirty thousand troops are concentrating in and about Cork, Limerick, and Tipperary. This overwhelming force has had the effect of exasperating instead of intimidating the people to the extent anticipated.

The habeas corpus act has been suspended. The suspension appears in the form of a royal proclamation. The Queen's special messenger arrived in Dublin on the 26th of July with a copy of the proclamation. It was immediately dispatched to all parts of Ireland, and appears to have excited a deep feeling of indignation.

The Castle has the appearance of a fortress. The Attorney General and Solicitor General are constantly in attendance; and messages are momentarily leaving, apparently on business of the highest importance, judging from the celerity of their movements.

Rewards of £5000 each have been offered for the arrest of Smith O'Brien, Meagher, Dillon, and Doherty. A report has reached Dublin that the former gentleman had fled.

The London papers of the 29th ultimo state that the accounts received from the south of Ireland are of a most sanguinary character, were no longer to be regarded as events of the most improbable character.

Such was the state of feeling in the south of Ireland that Government had issued orders for a constabulary force of five thousand men to be added to the counties of Waterford, Limerick, and Tipperary.

These men are to be drilled to the use of the cutlas, pistol, and musket, as it was anticipated that the coming insurrection would partake of the character of a guerrilla war.

Smith O'Brien, Meagher, Dillon, and the other leaders of the League, although under the ban of the Government, are far from being idle. They are still organizing and drilling the clubs, the orders from the Castle to the contrary notwithstanding.

In spite of the vigilance of the Government, pikes, muskets, ball, and powder, and other munitions of war, are transported in all directions.

From the tone of some of the Dublin papers, the great struggle cannot be delayed many days longer.

The Lord Lieutenant has at length taken a bold and decisive stand. He has issued a proclamation, in which orders are given for the suppression of the clubs.

Some of the English journals, commenting on this proclamation, are quite confident that not only will the clubs be suppressed, but that the anticipated insurrection will be quelled without much difficulty or effusion of blood.

On the 28th of July the office of the Dublin Nation was seized by a large police force. All the compositors, eleven in number, were arrested, and, after a hearing before a magistrate, committed to prison.

ENGLAND.

At Liverpool serious apprehensions were entertained of an outbreak on the part of the Chartists.

Twenty thousand special constables had been sworn in, with a view of meeting any emergency.

The Chartist feeling appears to be principally confined to the meridian of Liverpool, Manchester, &c., although of course they have the sympathy—active if necessary—of their brethren in the South of England.

In the manufacturing districts there appears to be the great discontent in consequence of the depressed state of trade.

Most of the contents of the Liverpool and London papers treat of Irish affairs.

FRANCE.

Paris is represented as being in a tranquil state, and the capital assuming something like its wonted appearance of life, gaiety, and bustle.

In consequence of the deplorable accounts of suffering in several of the French West India Islands, it has been proposed in the National Assembly for Government to advance three millions of francs, to be divided among those Islands.

Government is sadly puzzled how to dispose of the immense number of prisoners taken during the recent insurrection.

From the Cheraw Gazette.

Mr. Editor:—Considered in comparison with the question of slavery as it is now agitated, all the mere issues of party distinction are but trifles; and so, previous to the nomination of General Cass, the whole South considered them, if we can judge of public sentiment by the tone of the press. What matters it if we have "Free trade" "no Bank," &c., &c., if we are placed in a position of degradation, and prohibited the enjoyment of our rights and our property? But go back to the old issues, and what forcible reasons have we to induce us to support Gen. Cass.—Can it be proven that he is entitled to the support of STERLING Democrats, by any other process of reasoning than a resort to the fact he is the nominee of the Baltimore Convention, and the further fixed fact that the Democracy are compelled by a law of party, quietly to submit, yielding whatever convictions of right, of duty, and of patriotism they may have, and fall into the traces?—in a word, that Ritchie, (the acknowledged leader,) the delegates to the Convention, and the redoubtable Commander, are to think, speak, and act for them? This is certainly the strongest reason yet given; and to those accustomed to the government of Baltimore leaders it is sufficient; but to South Carolinians, who have ever opposed conventions and caucuses as corrupt systems of unwarranted dictation, it should have no weight, but should rather lead to an exercise of the strictest vigilance. Is General Cass a thorough Democrat? Is he such a Democrat as to give importance to *this time* to party questions? Some time ago he was an open Federalist, and seems to have taken pride in making his opinions known thro' a black cockade. In 1844 he was opposed to the annexation of Texas, the question which carried the Democratic party into power, or rather had more influence in bringing about that result than any other; but in the same year I acknowledge he is to be found in its favor. He has said that "our manufactures ought to be protected by reasonable duties," making him in favor of a Tariff for protection; and he has voted, and would now vote, in favor of a system of internal improvement by the general government. Mr. Polk, 'tis true, received the well merited applause of the party for interposing his veto in the last instance, but Mr. Cass received from the same party, what he values more highly, and what is certainly more durable, the nomination, when Mr. Cass's vote is in direct opposition to Mr. Polk's veto. Now, therefore, Mr. Cass is put up as the great embodiment of Democratic principles; and it is to be presumed that these principles have undergone a change; its principles have deserted the party, or the party have deserted its principles for availability, and we are in the same fix in which the whigs have found themselves. But is the Baltimore nominee safe on the great question of slavery? Mr. Calhoun and all our leading statesmen have contended always that Congress has no right to legislate on the subject; neither have the Territories the right to settle the question—but that the people of the States alone are competent to decide it. Mr. Calhoun and his coadjutors have been lauded to the skies for the mastery ability they have exhibited in support of this high constitutional ground; and whenever the proof of the constitutionality of this position has been asked for, the South as one man has pointed to their printed speeches as unanswerable arguments. The Southern press, whig and democratic, has lead us to believe that this was the ground taken never to be yielded, by all true Southerners. But, Mr. Editor, this was before the nomination—before the behests of the convention were known—and before their nominee had spoken. The change has been gradual—yet it has been sudden. General Cass, finding his previous "Wilmot Proviso" doctrine a little too ultra for the South, and fearing to make the tremendous leap all at once, carefully measures the distance, and leaps, he thinks half way—leaving the other half for another "political necessity." His doctrine (as understood from the "Nicholson Letter") now is, that the Territories have the right to decide the question. Not long before he was regretting that he had lost the opportunity of recording his vote for the "Wilmot Proviso"

or Webster Thunder,' whichever is right. But what does the South think of his present doctrine? Why, his Southern friends tell us, 'it is all right'—it is the true southern ground—his letter is an unanswerable argument.' What has become of Calhoun's unanswerable speeches? Oh! they were all 'abstractions!' Is not this a more dangerous doctrine than all others on this subject? So thinks Calhoun, so thought the South, previous to the nomination. Perhaps there was some political cunning practiced in its conception. Cass was a friend to the Proviso when a Senator; but now, the candidate of a party for the Presidency, that does not exactly suit. So he attempts to compromise with his conscience;—he knows that if left to the Territories, New Mexico and California will be closed against slaveholders—slavery will be prohibited there—and thus his own, and the wishes of his Proviso friends, be accomplished; while, at the same time, any apparent change in his views might secure Southern votes, especially when the magic word party is added, and when that change is accompanied with seeming opposition to the Proviso. So he falls upon that idea of the Territories settling the disputed point.—Now leave it to the Territories, of whom are they composed? what is their verdict? (for it is already written.) It is plain it is against us, and we have contended in vain. A poor tribute to the gallantry of our Palmetto Regiment this, to aid in elevating one, who is to say the least doubtful, to the Presidency, and thus doing as much as we can to deprive them of the right to enjoy territory acquired by their sufferings and blood. A poor eulogy upon the lamented dead—they fought to be degraded. How is it with General Taylor? I confess, Mr. Editor, I would vastly prefer a good Southern Democrat. Still, I believe Taylor safer than Cass. His interests are with us, and his enemies acknowledge that he is honest. I am one of those who believe that if an honest northerner even, comes among us, and becomes acquainted with our people and institutions, as they are, he will discard his former views and become one of us. Taylor is an honest southerner, and as he has not expressed an opinion on the slavery question, it is reasonable to consider him sound. He does not seek the Presidential chair, and therefore it is that he does not give us more information as to his opinions. It has been acknowledged by Senators, stump-speakers, and public prints, on the part of our foes, that the agitation of this question is designed to advance a struggle for power. Taylor is no politician, and cannot be dragged into this abominable game. We must judge men, as it respects their opinions, by their past lives—and all the 'Lamb's' or goats in creation should not be able to convince us that Taylor does not like our institutions, when the fact stares us in the face that he has lived under them all his life, from choice, not from compulsion—and when he assists, by his occupation as an extensive planter, in upholding them. Cass says, for himself—not another for him—"I deprecate the existence of slavery; and pray for its abolition. If any one can prove Gen. Taylor to be dishonest and a madman—he will prove him to be a bad citizen, utterly destitute of principle; and, in fact, a villain of the deepest dye. But I do not fear the test. He is known by his companions,' is the maxim held up to us by his enemies. And who, pray, are Cass's companions? Allen, Benton, Atherton, Fitzgerald, Dodge, Walker, &c. &c.

I have said, Mr. Editor, as much as I intended upon this subject for the present. I am no politician, and as long as I continue compos mentis, I shall never seek to be one; but this matter is of interest to all, and should be considered by all who are entitled, either directly or indirectly, to a vote. There are other objections to General Cass, such as his ultra war ideas, and so forth—but the question which agitates our country now, and threatens seriously to disturb the harmony of the Union, is the only one which has determined the mind of

JASPER.

THE END OF THE SESSION.

The two Houses of Congress yesterday terminated their very long and tedious, and rather unprofitable session, at noon, according to the joint resolution fixing upon that time for the adjournment.

A great deal of business—more even than usual—has been left in an unfinished state. Yet all the Annual Bills, and the Oregon Government Bill, have, with other important bills, become laws, and the machine of Government will continue to work on as usual, until the Senate and House of Representatives come together again on the first Monday in December next.—National Intelligencer 15th inst.

The Rhode Island farmers are clipping off their potato vines to arrest the rot.

It is only through woe that we are taught to reflect, and we gather the honey of worldly wisdom not from flowers but thorns.

The hope of happiness is a bridge woven out of sunbeams and the colors of the rainbow, which carries us over the frightful chasm of death.

SPEECH OF R. S. DONNELL, OF

ON THE
Bill Offered by Mr. Clayton in the House of Representatives, as a Compromise of the Question of the Territories.—Delivered in the House of Representatives of the July 29, 1848.
(Concluded.)

Let us now see what is the condition of the territory of the United States as to the absence of all legislation by Congress on the subject. I shall direct my remarks to Mexico and California. Oregon is important to the South as a part of a compromise. Nobody believes that, under any circumstances, slavery can ever be introduced to hunting bear and setting traps. If our territorial acquisitions had been to Oregon, extended even to 54° 40', it would not be deliberating how the territory to be saved. New Mexico and California are the apples of discord. We are bringing the bitter fruit of national cupidity and voice prevail, they should never be part of our country. We might yet be the worthless acquisition. As a result, however, I must look at things as they will exist, not as I would have them.

Without some action by Congress, they very exist in those territories? No authority is of any weight it cannot, thus writes upon the subject:

"It hath been held that if an territory be discovered and planted on subjects, all the English laws then which are the birthright of every immediately there in force."
"But in conquered or ceded countries have already laws of their own, the indeed, alter or change those laws, does actually change them, the ancient country remain, except such as the laws of God, as in inland countries."

Chief Justice Marshall, in his opinion case of the American Insurance Co. v. 300 Three hundred and fifty-six bales of Peters Reports, 542, adopts this as the rule of our courts:

"The usage of the world is, if a not entirely subdued, to consider the conquered territory as a mere modification, until its fate shall be determined by treaty of peace. If it be ceded by acquisition is confirmed, and the ceded becomes a part of the nation to which nexted, either on the terms stipulated in treaty, or on such as its new master propose. On such transfer of property, it has been held that the relations of the tenants undergo any change. Their with their former sovereign are dissolved, and new relations are created between the Government which has acquired the territory. The same act which transfers country transfers the allegiance of the remain in it; and the law which nominated political is necessarily changed, though that which regulates the individual general conduct of individuals remains unaltered by the newly-created State."

"It has already been stated that which were in force in Florida, while of Spain, those excepted which were in their character, which concerned relations between the people and their remained in force until altered by the ment of the United States."

Slavery is a municipal regulation, trine is to be found in the case of Peltz Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1840, 16th volume of Peters' United States page 611.

"By the general law of nations, no bound to recognise the state of slavery foreign slaves found within its limits, is in opposition to its own policy, &c."

"If it does, it is as a matter of course not a matter of international right, of slavery is deemed to be a mere regulation founded upon and limited to of the Territorial laws."

The Constitution, it is true, extends territory which the Government acquires it carry slavery there? I have never alleged that the Constitution established the argument is that it recognises it, not strictly true; it recognises the laws and regulations of the States as they are, as far as they have any operative effect, is within the territorial limits of the goes no further, except in one particular provided for expressly in the second of the fourth article: If a slave "delivered up on claim," his owner him back to States where the institution He cannot hold him in slavery in the in which he is taken, any longer the circumstances, is necessary to back. If the Constitution recognises property, wherever they may be limits, where was the necessity for vision? Again, the clause of the Constitution which tolerated the slave trade until Congress, by implication, power subject outside of the limits of the States, the existence of the institution to themselves. By it Congress is prohibited the importation of such persons such States, then in existence, as proper to admit it." The relation of States, as to their municipal law, is in the case of bills of exchange, a citizen of one State upon a citizen of State, we apply the law-merchant to upon foreign bills. The records of proceeding of the courts of one State would be regarded by the courts of State as the records and judicial of a foreign court, were it not for the provision on the subject in the Constitution. The Constitution thus recognises, by as well as the one in relation to have escaped into free States, the relation of the States to one another, municipal laws, by providing against in particular cases. It is difficult the relation of the States to the more intimate than that of the States another.

By the laws of Mexico, as they territories of New Mexico and California the time of the acquisition, African prohibited. Peon slavery is a thing. As far as I can understand

*The same doctrine is affirmed in Jones v. McLean's R. 601, and in many of the Southern States. Lumford vs. Coghill, 50 R. Rankin vs. Lydia, 2 March R. 470. Reports of the decisions in the courts of the last of Kentucky.