

WASHINGTON'S BIRTH-DAY.

An Oration delivered in Williamsborough on the 22nd February, 1816, on the above occasion, by Major John J. Inge.

Gentlemen and Fellow-citizens—The object of this meeting is too well known to each of you, to require any explanatory circumlocution from me. I am well aware my abilities are insufficient to perform the task which your friendship, and not your confidence in my talents has assigned me. To pourtray the character of him whose birth-day we have met to commemorate, would require more than an ordinary share of eloquence and understanding: The task is too great for my humble capacity, it is too broad for my narrow comprehension. The most concise detail of the life and character of George Washington, the great and illustrious father of the American Republic, would be too prolix for the present occasion; and it would be too great a tax on your patience for me to attempt a reiteration of that, with which you are so well acquainted, and which is to be found both on the dignified pages of history and in the school books of our country.

Let England boast of her kings and noblemen, let her boast of her Marlborough, Nelson, and Wellington, she cannot say that either of them have contributed to the freedom and happiness of the people. Let France boast of her Napoleon and her other thunderbolts of war. Let Russia boast of her Alexander. Let Sweden pride herself on the achievements of her Charles 13th, but while these characters (the Heraldry of whose greatness has gone throughout the civilized world) seemed to ride buoyant on the pinions of fame and eclipse all around them, the humble subjects of their countries are groaning under contributions and oppression; the tinsel of their garments and the splendor of their decorations are nothing more than glittering badges of the misery and distress which fall to the lot of the honest poor.

In these dark vales where blinded faction sways, Wealth, pride and conquest claim the palm of praise, And into slaves while grov'ling millions brood, And blood-stained steps lead upwards to a throne.

But thanks to God! it is far otherwise in America. We can boast of characters of more intrinsic worth, of more substantial fame. We can boast of a Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Warren, Green and a host of others whose firmness was too great to submit to oppression, and whose swords achieved the independence of their country. Their names would honor & embellish the pages consecrated to the virtues of a Phocion & an Aristides. They have risen to eminence & immortality, not in the cause of Royalty, not in self-aggrandizement, not at the expense of the happiness of the people: No, illustrious patriots!

Father weathers thy virtuous temples' claims, Far nobler honors build thy sacred name: He thine the joys immortal, minds that grace, And thine the toils that bless a kindred race.

It is no little satisfaction, Fellow-Citizens, to take a retrospect from the commencing period of our revolution, to the present moment. In doing this, we shall become acquainted with characters of the first human magnitude. Men whose deeds stand as a monument of glory not to be effaced by time itself. To attempt an entire recapitulation of them would be as vain as unnecessary. You, my audience, have the prominent features of this never to be forgotten era treasured up in your minds. You have seen your cicatrized Sires, after suffering all the calamitous turmoils incident to the camp, sit and fight the battles of their country o'er their fire sides. When listening, often has the tear of sympathy glistened in your eyes, and you have wept because you were not participators in the glories and struggles of your venerable ancestors. Who among you can take a retrospect and glance beyond the period of '76, without being lost in a maze of wonders? Who but the political prophet Pitt could have supposed that the American people, thinly scattered over a widely extended territory, could have successfully opposed the potent engines of Britain's Majesty. We were lulled in the lap of tranquility from our colonial exist-

tence, and ignorant of the science of war: In this situation, what could we expect? Unconditional submission, loaded with all the letters of tyranny and oppression, was the only rational conclusion. But miraculously to the contrary! We behold the forests and mountains sending forth their hardy sons in defence of injured Justice. We see them rallying under the expanded wings of the Eagle on the plains of Lexington, and sending vollied lightning from Bunker's awful mount through the ranks of their enemies; and Yorktown's surrender cap't the climax of our successes; & marked the rising glory of the American nation. We see old England descending from the haughty authoritative eminence, that was wont to smile on colonial oppression. She is compelled, in a definitive treaty, to acknowledge our INDEPENDENCE. INDEPENDENCE! cheering sound! while it thrills the soul of every American with boundless ecstasy, it plants daggers in the petty Tyrant's heart.

I shall pass in silence the circumstances intervening the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. On the causes, the justice or injustice, the policy or impolicy of the War of 1812, I deem it unnecessary to make any comment. The voice of a free and enlightened nation has made a decision, and by that I cheerfully acquiesce.— But I cannot refrain from dwelling a few moments on our land and naval heroes, who shone so conspicuously during our late contest; and who have proved themselves to be the worthy descendants of the great father of the Republic. Who is not proud to own for his countryman the gallant and intrepid PIERCE? His life was adorned by the noblest virtues; the sun of glory beams upon his tomb, and he reposes in the lap of victory. Illustrious LAWRENCE! superior to eulogy itself!— what shall I say for thee? In him were blended all the nobler qualities. He is the hero who stood unmoved in the hour of peril. Hear his deliberate eloquence in his expiring moments, "Don't give up the ship, let the flag wave while I live." A motto which will last as long as there exists one spark of naval emulation, and one which will not fail to excite the liveliest pride and admiration as long as true valor is applauded, or liberty has a votary. Magnanimous LUDLOW, worthy to be associated with Pike and Lawrence.

Let pity's tear its balmy fragrance shed, O'er heroes, wounds and patriot warriors dead; Accept departed shades these grateful sighs, Your fond attendants to the approving skies.

What American can advert to the victory of Bridgewater without being transported beyond the limits of his sphere? Is it not among the most splendid to be found in the annals of modern heroism? Let us for a moment give fancy sway, and let her bear us over the boundless space that intervenes between us & the glorious field: There seated on some towering eminence, we will watch the coming conflict; we will weave the laurel wreath to crown the brows of the conqueror and the sacred shrouds of the fallen shall be bathed in our tears. (See 4000 of Columbia's sons just emerging from the humble duties of domestic life; men who had been reared in the forest wild, far from the dangers & turmoils of war; who had never heard of the conflict of battle, except in the Tales of transatlantic story.—Led on by two gallant youths, whose names fame had not recorded even in her humblest page. Behold in front a superior number of Britain's proud Myrmidons; men who had been trained in the school of Europe, where war and desolation had been reduced to a science; who had been taught the principles of military discipline by that star of modern chivalry, the immortal Wellington; men, the heraldry of whose fame shall be immortal in the archives of Spanish glory. See them approach with the mechanical step of veteran precision. The pride of victory is stamped upon their countenance, while the pallid cheek of the Americans seemed to announce the terror of their souls, and their disordered ranks forbode a retrograde motion. No, their thoughts are turned to Princeton, to Trenton and to Bunker's awful hill, the theatres of their fathers glory: and the kindling ire of their souls is excited by the remembrance of their country's wrongs.

"Firm, paced and slow, a horrid front they form,

"Still as the breeze, but dreadful as the storm."

The enemy are near at hand, "and all nature reigns with solemn silence." Is it possible that the Americans have forgotten the glory of their sires and the wrongs of their country? Are they going to submit to ignominious bondage? No, their silence is like that of Etna or Vesuvius ere they "roll their destructive lava on the devoted habitations of men." The gallant Scott waves his sword, and sheathed in flames of fire, their vollied thunders roll, and Britain's falling heroes proclaim their unerring aim. But the disorder of the moment is relieved by the discipline of her veteran troops. Our ranks are in confusion, and the genius of Columbia is seen lamenting the defeat of her sons. But the intrepid Brown brandishes his sword, and like the magic wand of old, every arm is nerved with double vigor. But the enemy receives a reinforcement and despair has seized on every American heart. When lo! the gates of Olympus are seen to open, and a winged messenger descending from the chancery of heaven, bearing in her left hand the fiat of fate. The enemy beheld it and fell back appalled. She bore in her right hand a beam of glory snatched from the brightest arch of heaven; to crown with immortality Columbia's favorite son. Americans saw it and cheered with joy the harbinger of their glory. Is not such a day as this, my friends, worth an age of common time? I would now willingly paint to you the feats of the American Leonidas on the plains of New-Orleans, but the attempt would be idle, it would be worse than vanity. O that some florid Gibbon, or romantic Shakespear, would arise to give it to posterity in the luminous pages of history, or the "deathless strain of song." Let me not forget the heroic Gaines & McComb, nor your Decatur, Hull, Jones, Porter, Perry, McDonough, Blakely, and a number of others, who deserve a conspicuous standing in the catalogue of heroes; they form a constellation in the western world surpassing in brilliancy the most splendid triumphs of Roman antique greatness. They have received the gratitude and applause of their admiring countrymen, which is the most satisfactory Eulogium.

Fellow-citizens, we are the only free people on the habitable globe.— While the Eastern World is entrammelled in the bonds and shackles of slavery; while they are groping thro' the midnight darkness of tyranny and submitting to the yoke of their oppressors, we remain the free and undisturbed sovereigns of a Republican Land. But though we feel grateful & rejoice at our prosperous situation, nevertheless a principle of philanthropy will draw down pity's commiserating tear for the sufferings of other countries. Who can read the history of unfortunate Ireland without bursting into all those paroxysms of anger peculiar to exasperated humanity?— Who can read the fate of hapless Emmet without bedewing with a tear the page which contains the bloody tragedy? Oh my countrymen! I hope this soil, the last retreat and sanctuary of Liberty, will remain ever unpolluted by such wicked crimes, and I long to see the period arrive when the hackned doctrine that there is no permanency in a Republican Government, shall be thoroughly exploded to the satisfaction of the world; that the virtue of our government and the wisdom of our councils may produce this political Millenium, is my sincere prayer.

The company then retired to the Eagle Hotel, William Hawkins, Esq. was chosen President, and John Hare, Esq. Vice-President, and after an elegant dinner, the following Toasts were drank.

- 1st. The day we celebrate.—It gave birth to the Father of American Independence, as we prize that Independence, let us cherish his principles.
2. The Sages and Heroes of the American Revolution, while we drink the cup of Liberty and eat the bread of Independence, the memory of their glorious achievements will furnish the most grateful part of the repast.
3. The Constitution of the U. S. the charter of our Liberties, the bond of our Union.
4. The Union of the States on the principles of our Constitution, the rock of our political safety—perish the wretch who would destroy it.
5. James Madison, President of the U. S. the undeviating friend of his country.

6. The heads of Departments, firm, virtuous and enlightened.

7. The Congress of the United States, 8. The Judiciary of the U. S.—May they ever be mindful that the people's liberty in a great measure depends on an impartial administration of Justice.

9. Thomas Jefferson.—The Sage and Patriot of Monticello.

10. The Government of North-Carolina.

11. Weldon N. Edwards, Esq. our Representative in Congress, may he emulate the virtues of his worthy predecessor.

12. Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures, the main pillars of national wealth and prosperity.

13. The Navy of the U. S.—Her gallant heroes have broken the magic spell and proved the absurdity of British naval invincibility.

14. To the memory of those who have fallen in the late war—May impartial History record their deeds.

15. The heroes who have distinguished themselves during the late war, let them ever remember that a nation is grateful when a soldier is brave.

16. Virtue, Religion and Independence—May this motto triumph.

17. The American Republic—"May it continue fresh as the verdure of the Spring, immortal as the current of human life."

18. The American Fair.—In war their sensibility nerves the soldier's arm, and in peace sweetens the cares of domestic life.

The President, Vice-President, and Orator of the day, then withdrew, to each of whom the thanks of the company were given in toasts.

Wm. Hawkins, Esq.—Gen. Jackson among the first military characters of the world. Maj. Eaton.—Justice and Liberty to all Nations.

Andrew Rhea.—The University of N. Carolina, and other seminaries of learning in the State.

Doct. J. Hawkins—"Don't give up the Ship."

Capt. T. Allen—"We have met the enemy and they are ours"

J. Lewis.—Gaines, Scott, Brown and Macomb, may they never be forgotten.

John J. Inge.—The distinguished Capt. Blakely, may he ever hold a grateful seat in the hearts of his countrymen.

J. Owen.—The Militia of North-Carolina have done honor to themselves and country.

S. Hillman.—The brave Decatur, conqueror of the Tirpolitans.

F. Sidner.—May nations learn to be virtuous as well as Wise.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

An Act to provide for designating, surveying and granting the military bounty lands.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorized, to cause to be surveyed a quantity of the public lands of the United States, fit for cultivation, not otherwise appropriated, and to which the Indian title is extinguished, not exceeding in the whole six millions of acres, two millions to be surveyed in the territory of Michigan, two millions in the Illinois territory, north of the Illinois river, and two millions in the territory of Louisiana, between the river St. Francis, and the river Arkansas; the said lands to be divided into townships, and sub-divided into sections and quarter sections, (each quarter section to contain, as near as possible, one hundred and sixty acres) in the manner prescribed by law for surveying and sub-dividing the other public lands of the United States; the same price to be allowed for surveying as is fixed for surveying the other public lands in the same territory. And the lands thus surveyed, with the exception of the salt springs and lead mines therein, and of the quantities of land adjacent thereto, as may be reserved for the use of the same, by the President of the United States, and the section No. 16, in every township, to be granted to the inhabitants of such township for the use of public schools, shall be set apart and reserved for the purpose of satisfying the bounties of one hundred and sixty acres, promised to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the United States, their heirs and legal representatives, by the act, entitled "an act for completing the existing military establishment," approved the twenty-fourth day of December eighteen hundred and eleven, and by the act, entitled "an act to raise an additional military force," approved the eleventh day of January eighteen hundred and twelve.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary for the Department of War, for the time being, shall, from time to time issue warrants for the military land bounties to the persons entitled thereto, by the two last mentioned acts, or either of them; Provided always, that such warrants shall be issued only in the names of the persons thus entitled, and by them or their representatives applied for within five years after the said persons shall have become entitled thereto; & the said warrants shall not be assignable or transferable in any manner whatever. Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That every person in whose favor such warrant

shall have been issued, shall on delivery of the same, at the office of the Secretary of the Treasury, or of such other officer as may at the same time have, by law, the superintendance of the General land office of the United States, at the seat of government, be entitled to draw by lot in such manner, as the officer, at the head of the land office, under the direction of the President of the United States, may prescribe, one of the quarter sections surveyed by virtue of the first section of this act, in either of the said territories which the person in whose favor such warrant has issued, may designate. And a patent shall thereupon be granted to such person, for such quarter section, without requiring any fee therefor.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That no claim for the military land bounties aforesaid, shall be assignable or transferable, in any manner whatever, until after a patent shall have been granted in the manner aforesaid. All sales, mortgages, contracts, or agreements, of any nature whatever, made prior thereto, for the purpose, or with intent of alienating, pledging or mortgaging any such claim, are hereby declared and shall be held null and void; nor shall any tract of land, granted as aforesaid, be liable to be taken in execution or sold on account of any such sales, mortgage, contract, or agreement, or on account of any debt contracted prior to the date of the patent, either by the person originally entitled to the land, or by his heirs or legal representatives, or by virtue of any process, or suit at law, or judgment of court against a person entitled to receive his patent as aforesaid; H. CLAY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives, W. H. CRAWFORD, President of the Senate, pro tempore May 6, 1812.—Approved, JAMES MADISON.

From the provisions of the foregoing Act, it is manifest that no Patent can issue until the Warrant is presented to the Commissioner of the Land Office. It is therefore the interest of the Persons entitled to Military Lands, that their Warrants should, immediately after they are issued, be deposited in the Office from whence their Patents are to be obtained. This course will preserve them from the various accidents to which they may be subjected in the hands of the Owners or Agents who may have been authorized to obtain them. It is also manifest that all Contracts for the Sale of, or incumbrance upon these Lands, prior to the issuing of the Patents, are illegal and void. As it is impossible that Persons possessed of Powers of Attorney for obtaining Military Land Warrants, can have any legitimate interest distinct from their Principals, Warrants hereafter issued will be deposited in the General Land Office; and a Certificate of that act will be given to such Attorneys if required. A copy of this proceeding will be forwarded to every person in whose name a Warrant shall issue, not only to counteract any misrepresentations of the object of this Regulation, but to place the Soldiers of the late army upon their guard against the devices which have already been, or may hereafter be, practised by unprincipled and designing men to deprive them of the Reward which is so justly due to their meritorious services.

Land Warrants will continue to be issued at the War Department upon the presentation of the ORIGINAL "HONORABLE DISCHARGE," which will remain there upon File, as heretofore; but no other document will be required to accompany it, excepting the address of the original claimant, in order that he may be duly notified of the number and date of the Land-Warrant that will issue in his name.

In cases where the Original Claimants are dead, "THE LEGITIMATE HEIRS AT LAW" must substantiate their claims conformably to the Regulations now in use. February 15, 1816.

EAGLE HOTEL, FOR SALE.

THE long continued bad health of our acting partner in this Establishment, renders it impracticable for him to give the necessary attention required to the increasing Custom of the House. We have therefore determined to dispose of the Hotel, with all its Appurtenances, covering two acres of ground, and give immediate possession. Any person desirous to purchase, can have reference to our Books since we kept the House, which we suppose the best evidence we can offer to show the value of the Establishment.— There can be no doubt but it is the most profitable, and of course the most desirable Property in the Southern States. S. C. BRAME & CO. Feb. 22, 1816. 57

ENTERTAINMENT.

BY FIRE AND SLAUGHTER. THE subscribers respectfully inform the Public that they have lately opened a HOUSE OF ENTERTAINMENT, in the town of Salisbury (in the House formerly occupied by R. TORRANCE.) They deem it sufficient to say, that expenses have not been spared to render this Establishment commodious and agreeable; and to place it on the most extensive and liberal foundation. R. TORRANCE, W. H. SLAUGHTER, Salisbury, N. C. Jan. 17th 1816. 58