GEN. SAUNDER'S LETTER.

SALISBURY, Sept. 17th, 1827.

Messrs. Lawrence & Lemy.

GENTLEMEN:—I have but this moment seen the note of Messrs. Gales & Son, in which they refuse to publish my reply to Governor Kent. I would most willingly decline any further notice of the matter, but that I prefer others should judge of my 'language' besides these *chaste & squeamish editors*. I must ask you to do me the justice they refuse. Very respectfully.

R. M. SAUNDERS.

Messrs. Gales & Son: I am no longer a subscriber for the National Intelligencer, and am indebted to a friend for the sight of that, and of your paper of the 27th ult. in which I find an 'extract of a letter from his excellency Joseph Kent, Governor of Maryland to a gentleman of Frankfort, Kentucky.' My absence from home and a desire to hear from gentlemen with whom I had lived in the winter of 1825, and others with whom I had corresponded freely upon the subject of the then pending election has delayed my notice of this extraordinary letter.

The same inducement, I presume, which influenced his 'excellency' to write the letter, induced its translation into the columns of the Intelligencer, and to those of the Raleigh Register. It is indeed illustrative of the 'politics of the day,' and of the political system, which seems to be the governing maxim with those who respond to the wishes of their great magician, the honorable the secretary of state—

'My *author* and *disposer*! what thou bidst. '*Unargued* I obey.'

The maxim is practised to perfection, from his 'excellency the governor of Maryland,' down to the lowest minion of the obsequious tribe of subsidized presses 'by authority.' The signal proof of daring and determined servility, evinced by this "extract," the bold and unblushing falsehood it avows as to my conduct and language shows his 'excellency' a worthy favorite of his master; and the readiness with which it is copied into certain prints, evince their greedy subserviency to his will.

I know the position in which I stand, and that of the personage whose word I have to confront. But I am not the first victim selected by the parasites of the day, to divert public reprehension from their high patron, nor is Governor Kent the first man who is indebted to his *station* for a little brief consequence. I am charged from this "high source" of having been 'decidedly in favor of Mr. Adams in preference to General Jackson, and not ten minutes before the late election by the House of Representatives, to have approached him, (Governor Kent,) 'with an anxious countenance, discovering deep concern indeed, and used these emphatic words: 'I hope to God you may be able to terminate the election on the first ballot, for fear we from North Carolina may be forced to vote for General Jackson.' His excellency must indeed have relaxed from the cares of office for the perusal of 'the Merry Wives of Windsor,' or 'the School for Scandal.' 'The Arabian Knight's Entertainment, or some other work of fiction. It is to be recollected this 'anxious countenance,' this 'deep concern,' this 'emphatic language,' occurred more than two years since on the eve of an important election, to a man occupying a different side of the house from myself, with whom I was not intimate, who had been opposed to my friends in politics, and one who I had always viewed as concealing under a plausible exterior, the secret, but deadly enmity of a viper. On an occasion, and by a man of this kind, my manner and words are professed to be remembered with accuracy, & reported with precision. The affirmative charge rests upon the *ipse dixit* of this pliant governor alone.* I meet it, therefore, as it ought to be met, *with the lie direct*.

From the commencement of the late Presidential contest, to its termination I harbored but one feeling and expressed but one language, a preference for William H. Crawford, and the most positive hostility to John Q. Adams. I might *Messrs. Editors* call upon you to bear testimony to the truth of this declaration. You cannot have forgotten the early expression of my opinions in hostility to Mr. Adams.† These opinions not only expressed my opposition to Mr. Adams but a preference for any other man of political honesty. I could here give the testimony of those members of Congress with whom I boarded in the winter of 1825, the letter I then wrote to my friends in this state, avowing my determination to vote for General Jackson with a majority of the delegation from the state, as our second choice, and not from any fear of consequences—all evincing but one conduct and one language, and that directly in opposition to the assertion and certificate of Governor Kent. I do not deem it necessary to rely upon testimony at this time to repel so notorious a libel. As a politician, my course has been any other than equivocal, and my language at all times free from doubt. I have not the most faint recollection of seeing Governor Kent on the day of election, and certain I am, I felt neither alarm or any great concern at the result. I was as well satisfied as Governor Kent, though *particeps criminis*, that the vote of general Van Rensselear was the pivot on which the first ballot was to turn. It was known that Scott and Cook had resolved to vote for Mr. Adams—that Col. Mitchell also, by a kind of suicidal morality (probably of Governor Kent's teaching,) and upon whom the vote of Maryland depended would first vote for Mr. Adams afterwards for Gen. Jackson. It was with General Van Rensselear to decide the vote of New York, and to elect Mr. Adams. He had asserted to a friend most positively that he would not vote for Adams.—Yet Mr. Clay had whispered some of his flattering unction into his ear, the danger and responsibility of a protracted ballot, & the sly insidious Webster appealed to his federal feelings. The appeal was not in vain. Those with whom I had the honour to act, had scarcely a hope for the success of their candidate and from the course which things had taken, felt but concern. It is possible I may have inquired from some of the known supporters of Mr. Adams, if they intended to elect him the first ballot, and save us the necessity of electing General Jackson. If so, no one could have been so obtuse as to misconceive my object, much less to have tortured it into the "emphatic" exclamation ascribed to me by this certifying governor.

I shall now take leave of this matter, as I have neither time nor inclination to engage in a controversy with even a governor of a respectable state. I have never denounced Mr. Clay for voting for Mr. Adams—That was a matter which belonged to the country and not to me. I endeavored, in my representative capacity, to bring to light some of the improper purposes to which he had sought to apply the patronage of the administration. This is the head and front of my offence. This is the lever with which he and others seek to uphold those now in authority, and he who shall dare to expose to public view the hand that administers the pabulum, may expect to meet with the vilest detraction. I have not the vanity to suppose that the secret malignity of Governor Kent seeks to destroy the character of one in my humble sphere, but to administer to the morbid appetite of his exalted friend to save those with whom he acted from the day of account and retribution. Such is the united effort of those who seek to maintain the prime minister as the main prop to the present administration and who considered dislike to him as deserving certain destruction. Wicked and unhappy men! who seek their private safety in opposing public good. Weak & silly men! who vainly imagine that they shall pass for the nation and the nation for a faction: that they shall be judged in the right and every one who opposes them in the wrong. But I leave them and him, by whom I have been thus forced before the public to the judgement of those on whom they would impose.

R. M. SAUNDERS.

Saulsbury, Aug. 20, 1827.

Messrs Gales & Seaton: I have just seen the false and scurrilous publication of R. M. Saunders; and until I read it, I did not suppose there lived an individual so devoid of truth and decency, as he has proved himself to be. Deference for public opinion induces me to ask the favor of you to publish the following reply:

In the month of May last, I wrote a letter to a private gentleman, an old Congressional friend in Frankfort; in reply to one received from him, not designed for publication, as every candid man would at once perceive, as well from its style as its subject, and he has since apologised for a portion of it finding its way into the public journals.

In this letter, in consequence of General Saunders' over-zealous part in the House of Representatives, the preceding Winter, (the lot of all new converts) I adverted to a conversation he held with me the morning of the Presidential election—every word of which I aver to be the fact; and I throw back upon General Saunders the vulgar epithet he has had the audacity to apply to me.

But a few minutes before the election, General Saunders approached the fire-place at the South end of the room, tapped me on the arm, drew me aside, and used the strong language I have ascribed to him; and, further, I saw no individual, after the election, better pleased than General S. appeared to be in consequence of being relieved, as I supposed from the dilemma in which he had considered himself placed.

Gen. S. approaching me in that manner, did surprise me & caused me to recollect the conversation (which I repeated to a friend a day or two afterwards) because, until that moment, I did not suppose he could have been forced to vote for Gen. Jackson. Our acquaintance was as limited as he states but not more so than I desired, having never made the slightest advance towards an intimacy with him, because I considered him a vain, silly, unhappy tempered man, always the tool of some aspirant, expecting, no doubt in the event of their success, the full benefit of his intemperate zeal.

Gen. S. only wanted to know whether "Mr. Adams could be elected on the first ballot, to save him the necessity of electing Gen Jackson!" His attachments to Gen. J. must have been as strong as his inclination to oblige his constituents, when both united could not render him willing to encounter the trouble of a second ballot.

How much Gen. S. regards his veracity you may judge, when he calls the redeeming a pledge made by Col. Mitchell to his constituents, "a suicidal morality of my teaching." Unfortunately for him, I had but little, if any, conversation with Col. M. about the Presidential election, whilst it was pending—so little that I did not know, until I had counted the ballots in the House of Representatives, how the Colonel had intended to vote.

Gen. S's sensibility, on the present occasion, is somewhat surprising, as he was charged with the same remarks I have attributed to him, by Mr. F. Johnson in the House of Representatives, as will be seen by the following extract from his speech delivered in February last:—"The Secretary of State did vote for Mr. Adams, and I might ask many who are now arrayed against the Administration if they would not have done so? I might ask the gentleman from N Carolina (Mr. Saunders) if he does not know some, who made earnest and solemn appeals to members who were uncommitted, saying, save the nation, save the nation, by the election of Mr. Adams, and who are now to be found arrayed among the foremost of the opposition."

The language Mr. Johnson attributes to General S. is stronger than what I have used, and is said to have been addressed to the uncommitted portion of the House; and Gen. S. is again mistaken in supposing that he (Mr. Johnson) derived his information from me: for, unhappily for him, not one word, either orally or in writing, ever passed from me to Mr. Johnson on the subject.

JOS: KENT.

Rose Mount, Oct. 6, 1827.

Messrs Gales & Seaton: I have just seen the false and scurrilous publication of R. M. Saunders; and until I read it, I did not suppose there lived an individual so devoid of truth and decency, as he has proved himself to be. Deference for public opinion induces me to ask the favor of you to publish the following reply:

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JOS: KENT.

Rose Mount, Oct. 6, 1827.

ANOTHER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOTS!

JOHN F. HOWARD, departed this life on Friday evening last at his late residence in Baltimore.—His funeral took place the 15th inst. attended by every demonstration of respect, which a grateful people could bestow upon the most worthy. The President of the U. States—the Military of the City—Public Officers—Private Citizens & Strangers, all joined in paying funeral honours to his remains.

The following hasty sketch of his life,—is extracted from the Baltimore American of the 15th inst—of which the youth was dedicated to the service of his country in arms, and the later days were spent amidst the respect of his neighbours, and in the confidence of the most venerable names that distinguish our history,—may not be wholly uninteresting at the moment when we are about to consign him to the tomb.

JOHN EAGER HOWARD was born on the 4th of June, 1752, in Baltimore County, in this state. His grandfather Joshua Howard, an Englishmen by birth, having, while yet very young, left his father's house in the vicinity of Manchester, to join the army of the Duke of York, subsequently James II. during Monmouth's insurrection was afterwards afraid to encounter his parents displeasure, and came to seek his fortune in America. This was in the year 1685-86. He obtained a grant of the land in Baltimore county, on which Col. Howard was born, and which is still in the family and married Miss Joanna O'Carroll whose father had lately emigrated from Ireland. Cornelius, one of his sons by this lady and father of the subject of this sketch married Miss Ruth Eager, the grand-daughter of George Eager whose estate adjoined & now makes a considerable part of this city. The Eagers came from England, probably soon after the Charter to Lord Baltimore; but the records afford little information prior to 1668, when the estate near Baltimore was purchased.

John Eager Howard, not educated for any particular profession, was determined to that of arms by the circumstances of his country. One of the first measures of defence adopted by the colonies against the mother country, was the assemblage of bodies of the militia, termed flying camps.—One of these was formed in Maryland in 1776, and Mr. Howard was appointed to a Captaincy in the regiment of Col. J. Carvil Hall. His commission, signed by Matthew Tilghman, the President of the Convention of Maryland, is dated the 25th of June, 1776, a few days after he had completed his twenty fourth year. This corps was dismissed, however in the December of the same year, Congress having required of each of the states to furnish a certain portion of regular troops as a more effective system of defence. On the organization of the seven regiments which were to be furnished by Maryland, Captain Howard who had been retained by the wish of the Commissioners empowered to appoint officers rather than his own, was promoted to a Majority in one of them, the Fourth under his former commander Colonel Hall. His commission is dated the 10th of April 1777. On the 1st of June, 1779, he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Fifth and in the following spring he was transferred to the Sixth; and finally, after the battle of Hobkirk's Hill, he succeeded to the command of the Second in consequence of the death of Lieutenant Colonel Ford, who never recovered of a wound received in that battle.

Of the services of Colonel Howard during these years, and throughout the war, we have not limits nor is it necessary to speak. In the chivalrous and hazardous operations of Greene in the South, he was one of his most efficient and conspicuous coadjutors. That gallant General, an exact discriminator of merit pronounced him as good an officer as the world afforded; to have the best disposition, and correspondent ability to promote the service; and to have conferred great obligations on himself, and greater on the public. 'He deserves,' said Greene, 'a statue of gold no less than Roman and Grecian heroes.' 'At the battle of Cowpens,' says Lee 'he seized the critical moment, and turned the fortune of the day: He was alike conspicuous though not alike successful; at Guilford and the Eutaws; and at all times and on all occasions, eminently useful.' Besides the battles just mentioned, he was in the engagements of White Plains of Germantown, of Monmouth. Camden, Hobkirk's Hill and others which may be known to our readers. Having been trained to the infantry service he was always employed in that line and was distinguished for pushing into close battle and with fixed bayonet; an honourable evidence of his intrepidity, as it is well known how seldom bayonets are actually crossed in battle, even with the most veteran troops. It was at Cowpens that this mode of fighting was resorted to for the first time in the war; and the Maryland line was so frequently afterwards put to this service, as almost to annihilate that gallant corps. In this battle Colonel Howard, at one time, had in his hands the swords of seven officers who had surrendered to him personally. During the engagement, having ordered some movement of one of the flank companions it was mistaken by the men for an order to retreat. While the line was in the act of falling back, Morgan rode up to him exclaiming 'that the day was lost.' 'Look at that line,' replied Colonel Howard 'men who can retreat in such order, are not beaten.' Morgan then pointed out a position which he ordered him to take and make a stand; but halting his men and facing them about, he poured in a sudden fire on the enemy, and then, on his own responsibility dashed on them with the bayonet. It was on this occasion that he saved the life of the British general O'Hara whom he found clinging to his stirrup, and claiming quarter. O'Hara afterwards addressed to him several letters, thanking him for his life.

Colonel Howard continued in his command till the army was disbanded, when he retired to his patrimonial estate near this city. He soon after married Margaret Chew, the daughter of Benjamin Chew of Philadelphia; a lady whose courteous manners and elegant hospitality will long be remembered by the society of this place of which, as well as of the best company throughout the country, her house was the gay and easy resort. In November, 1788, Colonel Howard was chosen the Governor of Maryland, which post he filled for three years; and having in the autumn of 1796, been elected to the Senate of the United States to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Potts, he was, the same session chosen for the full term of service which expired on the 4th of March, 1803.

The fortunate situation of Colonel Howard's estate, in the immediate vicinity of Baltimore, not only placed him above the want which has pursued the old age of too many of our veterans, but was the foundation of subsequent opulence. The inconsiderable town which, at the close of the war, numbered less than ten thousand souls, has since, under the influences of that liberty which he aided in asserting, expanded to a city of seventy-two thousand, embracing by degrees within its growing streets the venerable shades which sheltered the retired soldier. Instead of the deep forest, the precipitous hills, and the unwholesome marshes, in which commerce tempted our ancestors to plant themselves, his mansion now overlooks a large busy mart of men, of which every rising dome and tower is in some sort a monument of his own successful patriotism. An old age warmed and enlivened by such topics of grateful reflection, is the most enviable of the conditions of human life, as well as an object of the utmost veneration and regard. Towards the soldier of the Cowpens this regard was felt, not only by his immediate neighbours, and by his former companions in arms, but by the most eminent worthies of his day. The "Father of his Country," in more than one letter, expressed to him his confidence and esteem. In one, he regrets Colonel Howard's declining to accept a post, as a loss both to himself and the public, and requests in another, the interposition of a gentleman in Philadelphia, to induce the Colonel's acceptance. 'Had your inclination,' says Washington, in his letter to Colonel Howard, 'and private pursuits permitted you to take the office that was offered to you, it would have been a very pleasing circumstance to me, and I am persuaded, as I observed to you on a former occasion, a very acceptable one to the public. But the reasons which you have assigned for not doing so, carry conviction along with them, and *must, however, reluctantly, be submitted to.*'

At his death, Colonel Howard was, we believe, the highest officer in rank in the Continental Service, except General Lafayette. He himself did not know of any other,—General Sumter, who is still living, having been an officer of militia, and without any Continental commission.

The character of Col. Howard partook of the strength of the school in which it was trained. His first lessons, received in the thoughtful infancy of our country, had imbued his mind with the nervous and unadorned wisdom of the time. His manhood, hardened in the stormy season of the revolution, was taught patience by privation, & virtue by common example. By his worth he had won the painful station of a champion who was not to be spared from the field of action, and his sense of duty was too peremptory to permit him to refuse the constant requisitions of this perilous honour. In the camp, therefore, amidst the accidents of war, his moral constitution acquired the hardihood, and his arm the prowess, of ancient chivalry. He reached in safety the close of that anxious struggle, with a mind braced by calamity, and familiarized to great achievements. It threw him on the world in the vigour of his days, gifted with the qualities of a provident, brave, temperate and indefatigable patriot. The characteristics thus acquired, never faded in subsequent life. Pursued by an unusual share of honour and regard as a founder of the liberties of his country, he was never beguiled by the homage it attracted. A fortune that might be deemed princely, was never used to increase the lustre of his station, or the weight of his authority, but was profusely dispensed in public benefactions, and acts of munificence.—With the allurements of power continually soliciting his ambition, he never threw himself into the public service but when the emergencies of the state left him no privilege of refusal. Under such conditions only, he administered the grave duties of office, with an integrity, wisdom and justice, that gave to his opinions an authentic and absolute sway.

Amidst the frantic agitations of party, which for a series of years convulsed the nation, he almost alone in his generation, won the universal confidence. The most inveterate popular prejudices seemed to yield to the affectionate conviction of his impregnable honesty, his unblenching love of country, and that personal independence which neither party-zeal could warp from its course, nor passion subvert, nor faction alarm; and in their bitterest exacerbations, his fellow citizens of all ranks turned towards him as to a fountain, of undefiled patriotism. In private life he was distinguished for the amenity of his manners, his hospitality, and his extensive useful knowledge. He possessed a memory painfully minute; and a love of information that never sank under the labour of acquisition.—these faculties rendered him, perhaps, the most accurate repositary of the history of his own time, in this or any other country. His habits of life were contemplative, cautious, scrupulously just, and regulated by the strictest method.

Few men have enjoyed a more enviable lot; his youth distinguished in the field, his age in the council, and every period solaced by the attachment of friends. Affluent in fortune, as rich in public regard, and blessed in his domestic and personal associations, he has glided away from the small band of his compatriots, as full of honours as of years. The example of such a citizen is a legacy to his country, of more worth than the precepts of an age.

SHOCKING DISASTER.

The brig *Gautemala Packet*, Captain CHASTEAU, 9 days from Havana, in ballast of and bound to Baltimore, anchored in Hampton Roads, on Wednesday afternoon. From Captain Chasteau, who was brought up to Norfolk by the East River Pcket, Captain Turner, we learn the following distressing particulars of his being run foul of, in a heavy gale of wind, by a Spanish brig, which there is every reason to believe *went down with all hands on board*, amounting to upwards of *fifty* souls!

On her arrival off the Capes, the G. P. was compelled to wait nearly 24 hours for a pilot when she took one (a Mr. Howard,) from the pilot boat Constellation, at 4 P. M. on Tuesday, at which time it was blowing a gale from S. S. E. About 9 P. M. whilst under a heavy press of sail, off Smith's Island, in 4 fathoms water, orders were given to put the brig about, and not withstanding the sea was running very high, she stayd; when she had payed off and was about to fill away the pilot took the helm. The Spanish Brig *Amigos*, formerly the *Highflyer* of New Orleans, had been passed by the Gautemala Packet, about half an hour previous to her heaving in stays and was then seen under her lee. The Pilot thinking he could pass her to windward, luffed the G. P. and she was taken aback, when the Spanish brig was hailed and desired to keep away, having then more than sufficient room for that purpose; instead of doing so, she luffed up and struck the G. P. stem, on the larboard beam, which careened her so much as to throw all hands to leeward, crushing every thing before her.

In this dreadful situation both vessels remained thumping with shocking violence. The crew of the G. P. expecting her to sink, every moment, jumped on board the Amigos, but Capt. Chasteau hearing the cries of the crew of the Spanish vessel that her bow was stove in and that she was sinking, called out to his men to return on board their own vessel; the order was immediately obeyed, and himself, the mate and crew succeeded in getting once more on board the G. P. They then began to cut away the rigging in order to clear themselves from the Amigos, and filling away the top-sail and fore-top-mast stay-sail, she payed off and got clear of the A. The G. P. then hauled up to the Eastward, with such sails as were not torn to pieces, having, it is supposed, left on board the Amigos, *Mr. Howard* the pilot; a Spanish gentleman, a passenger, and one of her crew. Captain Chasteau remained all night at sea with the injured side of his vessel to leeward in order to hall off.

A tremendous sea running and the anchors of the Amigos having dropped from her bows with the chain cables bent, she was thus brought to anchor, and lights were seen on her deck until one o'clock, A. M. when she disappeared, and it is supposed must have *sunk*, as the G. P. passed the spot after day light (having taken another pilot from the Constellation) without seeing any thing of her.

Capt. Chusteau states, that he heard the heart rendering cries of the Spanish crew, for more than an hour, without any ability to render them even the smallest assistance and that, whilst he remained on board the Amigos, they seemed so entirely paralysed by the danger of their situation as to be scarcely capable of making an effort for the preservation of their lives and vessel.

Captain Chasteau states that the *Spanish squadron*, Commodore Laborde, was all lying in port at Havana, in fine order for sea and looked very formidable. He heard nothing of either the U. S. squadron or that of Com. Porter. The British frigate *Valorous*, Captain Lord Huntingdon, sailed from Havana, 27th ult. for New York.

Capt. C. informs that the brig Moro of Baltimore, from New Orleans, arrived at Honduras 17th September.

Footnotes:

*He refers to a statement made by his friend Mr. F. Johnson to the House of Representatives. There was so much of the *bagatelle* in Mr. Johnson's speech, and delivered so disjointed, that there was no collecting a fact from what he did say—If he made the statement, I did not hear it; but I have no doubt, if made, it was on the authority of governor Kent.

†Early in the presidential canvass, the editors of the 'Register' refused to insert the famous 'political horse race,' as reflecting upon Mr. Adams for his supposed countenance of the alien and sedition laws, I then published several numbers over the signature of *Burke*, in which it was my object to prove there was stronger grounds to support this supposition than the editors imagined, That Mr. Adams was elected by the same legislature of Massachusetts who passed upon Mr. Madison's report of 90—condemning that report, and approving of those obnoxious laws. That from the session of 1803, when he first took his seat in the Senate of the United States, up to the session of 1807, he uniformly voted with the federal party thereby evincing his fidelity to the principles of those by whom he had been elected. That his report of the bill for suspending the writ of habeas corpus, and his celebrated report in Mr. Senator Smith's case were the first acts of his convertion, by which he became, a *whitewashed* republican.