J. Bateys

EASTON GAZETTE.

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From the Encyclopædia Americana.
Byography of ROBT. GOODLOE HARPER

ROBERT GOODLOE HARPER, was born near Fredericksburg, Virginia, of poor, but respectable parents, who, while he was very young, emigrated to Granville, in North Carolina. He displayed, in his boyhood, vivacity of spirit and versatility of talent, and before the age of 15, possessed the rudiments of a liberal education, a various fund of profitable ideas, and an expertness in the use of tools, which would have made him a successful mechanic. The ardor and gallantry of his character prompted him, at thatage to join a troop of horse, composed of the young men of the neighbourhood, to which he acted as quarter-master, and with them he participated in Greene's campaign, but his thirst for learning and intellectual culture soon induced him to withdraw from the military career, and seek some situation in which he could complete his studies. He procured admission into Princeton college. where he taught one or two of the inferior classes while he gained instruction anddistinction in the upper. About the age of 19 or 20 he accompanied a fellow student to Philadelphia, on a visit, and here formed the resolution to embark, at once, for England, and make the tour of Europe on foot. He intended to begin with giving lessons in London, and to work simultaneously at the trade of a joiner for which he was qualified by his early practice. This romantic project was frustrated by ice in the Delaware. that prevented the departure of any vessel during many weeks, in the course of which the youthful adventurer nearly exhausted his purse and had leisure to reflect upon the difficulties of the enterprise. As soon as the river became navigable, he resolved to sail for Charleston, and try his fortune there, his new scheme being to study the law. He arrived, after a short passage, at that city, and found himself on the wharf, a stranger to every one, with but a dollar or two in his pockets. As he stood ruminating on his condition, he was accosted by a man of repectable appearance, who asked him whether he had not taught a class in Princeton college,inwhich there was a youth of a certain name; and being answered affirmatively, he proceeded to say, that the youth was his son, who had rendered him familiar with the name of his tutor by the affectionate testimony often repeated in his letters. He professed a strong desire to serve his new acquaintance, mentioned that he kept a tavern, and offered him any assistance which he might require. The welcome kindness was accepted; the generous friend introduced him to a lawyer, under whom he prepared himself for the same profession; and, in less than a twelve month, he undertook causes on his own account. The hope of speedier success in his profession induced him to retire from Charleston to an interior district; & in this residence he first acquired some political consideration by a series of essays, in a newspaper, on a proposed change of the constitution of the state; and he was soon elected into the legislature. The reputation which he gained as a speaker and man of business soon placed him in Congress. It is unnecessary to follow him, in his legislative course of eight or nine years, from the commencement of the French revolution to the year 1802, when the democratic party had succeeded to the national government. In the importance of events and discussions, the excitement of parties, the talents of leaders, the difficulties of action, the period just mentioned may be termed the most remarkable in our independent annals. Such men as Marshal, Madison, Giles, Nicholas, Tracy, Ames, Griswold, Bayard, Gallatin, exerted their various powers to the utmost in congress; and among them Mr. Harper was constantly seen the equal adversary or coadjutor of the ablest. He sided with the federalists and zealously supported the policy and measures of Washington, of whom he was the personal friend, as he was also of Hamilton and others of the principal federal statesmen. Many years afterwards, he collected into an octavo volume a portion of his circulars and addresses to his constituents, and a few of his speeches, as they were printed while he was a representative. These attest the vigour of his faculties, the depth of his views, and the extent of his knowledge. No member of the national councils was better acquainted with the foreign relations of his country, and the affairs of Europe, or could discuss them in a more instructive argumentative and fluent strain. His pamphlet, published in 1797, and entitled Observations on the Dispute between the U. States and France, acquired great celebrity at home, passed rapidly through several editions in England, and was esteemed, over Europe, one of the ablest productions of the crisis. The speeches which he delivered in his capacity of manager of the impeachment against Blount, on the question whether a senator of the United States be liable to impeachment, and his argument on the constitutional powers of the president and senate relative to the appointment of foreign ministers are specimens of his capacity in the examination of constitutional points. Soon after the downfall of the federal party, he retired from Congress, and having married the daughter of the distinguished patriot Charles Carroll of Carrollton, resumed the practice of the law in Baltimore, where he soon became eminent in his profession. Judge Chase, when impeached by the house of representatives, engaged Mr. Harper for his defence, and committed to him the duty of preparing his full answer to the articles of impeachment. The victorious answer, a master-piece in all respects, was thought to be the work of the Judge himself, and excited a lively admiration of the supposed author's powers; but he furnished towards it only a few manuscript pages of loose heads, leading topics, most of which were either omitted or essentially modified. It was mainly supplied and wholly composed by his friend & counsellor, who, in concurrence with two distinguished colleagues, Luther Martin and Joseph Hopkinson, defended him before the Senate. Mr. Harper attended almost every session of the Supreme Court, from the time of its removal to Washington to that of his death and was always listened to with respect by the court. His style of speaking was animated, neat, sufficiently fluent, and uncommonly perspicuous. Juries especially felt the combined influence of his clear, natural tones, simple, easy gesture, lucid arrangement and impressive exposition of facts, and his facility in applying general principles, and deducing motives or consequences at the exact point of time. Mr. Harper did not suffer his taste for literature to languish. He was a diligent reader of belles-lettres of history, geography, travels and statistics.—He was versed in the sciences of morals and government, and was particularly well acquainted with political economy, and well knew how to use, in his public addresses, the stores with which his excellent memory readily supplied him. The federal party happening to acquire the ascendant in Maryland, Mr. Harper was immediately elected, by the legislature, a senator in congress; but this position the demands of his profession obliged him soon to relinquish. The same councils bestowed upon him the rank of major general in the militia. About the years 1819—20, he set out for Europe with a part of his family, & visited in succession. England, France and Italy. He was absent from home nearly two years. Favorable circumstances and his own reputation and merit, procured for him access to many of the most renowned personages and brilliant circles, both of Great Britain and the continent. During the few years between his return and death, he employed himself chiefly in plans of a public character such as the promotion of internal improvement and the colonization of the blacks. He delighted in topographical and geographical studies; and the particular notice which he had bestowed upon African geography served besides his philanthropic zeal, to draw him into the scheme of African colonization. In private life, General Harper had singular virtues and attractions. His relatives and friends knew well the warmth and tenderness of his heart, and the generosity of his disposition. He administered aid, praise and sympathy wherever they were due. He lived with elegant hospitality, and enjoyed the company of the young and gay. In conversation he excelled, perhaps, even more than he did in public speaking. He made a liberal estimate of the motives and qualities of his political antagonists. He never avoided social intercourse with any as such, but mixed with them in the kindest temper. For the leaders and principles of the federal party he retained a profound esteem.—Immediately after the inauguration of Mr. Jefferson, he vindicated their measures and predicted the final adoption of their whole policy in an elaborate historical survey, addressed to his constituents. His sworn narrative and explanations of the conduct of those who voted for colonel Burr, in congress in 1801, and his printed Letters in refutation of Mr. Munroe's charges, evince further the deep concern which he took in the reputation of the federalists, and the cause of truth. General Harper was above the middle size, well shaped, muscular, and robust; of erect firm gait; of regular features and expressive countenance, and of active habits. His constitution was strong and equal to fatigue, bodily or mental, until the last two years, after he had undergone a severe attack of the billious fever. This enfeebled and attenuated his frame, and entailed upon him or was followed by a dangerous affection called *engina pectoris*, which kills suddenly, and when the patient may appear, and suppose himself to be in good health. Against this formidable enemy, he employed a strict diet & regimen, and much exercise in the open air, and at length believed it to be subdued. Being engaged in a very important cause, in the second week in January, 1825, in one of the Baltimore courts, he finished his argument in the morning of the 14th. The next morning he breakfasted in good appetite and spirits, and on rising from the table, stood near the fire, with a newspaper in his hand, in a few minutes, he was perceived to be falling, by his son, who caught him in his arms, but ere medical aid could be procured he was dead. He was sixty years of age.

Colonel JOHN EAGER HOWARD, an officer in the American revolution was born June 4, 1752, in Maryland of a respectable family. When the colonies began their resistance to the mother country, he was appointed a captain; and in December of the same year (1776,) he was promoted to a majority in one of the seven regiments organized in his native state. June 1, 1779, he was appointed lieutenant colonel; and after the battle of Hobkick's hill he succeeded to the command of the second regiment, in consequence of the death of lieutenant colonel Ford. Colonel Howard was one of the most efficient and conspicuous coadjutors of Gen. Green in the South. At the battle of the Cowpens, he especially distinguished himself, and may be said to have turned the fortune of the day by a charge with fixed bayonets, which he headed,—a mode of fighting then used for the first time during the war, and for which the Maryland line became remarkable. At one period in this battle colonel Howard is said to have had in his hands the swords of seven British officers who had surrendered to him personally. For his gallant conduct in this action, colonel Howard received the thanks of congress, and a silver medal. In the battle of Eutaw, the Maryland line were ordered by Green to attempt by repeated charges to drive the enemy from their position In this service they were so cut up, that of the whole corps, colonel Howard was left with only one commissioned officer, and 30 men. With this gallant little band, he was advancing again to the charge, when he received a severe wound, from the effects of which he never recovered entirely. He was, however, continued in his command till the army was disbanded, when he retired to his large patrimonial estate, near the city of Baltimore. He was also present at the battles of Germantown, White Plains, Monmouth, Cambden, and Hobkick's hill. In November, 1788, he was chosen governor of Maryland, which post he filled for three years. In 1796, he was elected to the Senate of the U. States, and continued a member of that body until March 1803. In 1798, when Washington was appointed to command the American army, in the expectation of a war with France, colonel Howard was selected by him for the post of brigadier general. The declaration of the late war with Great Britain found colonel Howard in complete retirement from the political world. But when the soil was invaded, he was among the foremost to repel the aggression. In the city of Baltimore, as in the other cities along the coast, it was found necessary to organize a committee of vigilance and safety, to whom was intrusted, by universal consent, such powers as became necessary in time of danger and which exceeded the limits of the usual authorities. Of this committee colonel Howard was a member. After the capture of Washington, when the enemy were advancing on Baltimore, it was suggested in this body, that it would be best to capitulate, to save the city from destruction. Indignant at the proposition, colonel Howard rose and exclaimed, "I have, I believe, as much property in the city as any one of the committee, and I have four sons in the field; but I will sooner see my property in ashes, and my sons in their graves, than consent to listen to any proposal of capitulation." After the war he retired again to his estate where he continued to reside until his death, in October 1827; in private life he was distinguished for the amenity of his manners, the soundness of his judgement, his hospitality, and his extensive and useful knowledge. As a soldier and patriot, he deserved, said general Green "a statue of gold no less than Roman and Grecian heroes."

From the New Jersey Adv.

Much has been said about the strong popular vote of Gen. Jackson—by what an overwhelming vote he was elected—equalled by no presidential candidate since Washington, and all that—and the delusion has been complete as regards his benighted followers. They really believe that almost the whole of the American people voted for him. They suppose his strength so great, his power so firmly fixed, that nothing can remove him. They count upon the opposition of such men as Calhoun, and Branch, and Ingham, and Duff Green, and hundreds of others, as nothing, and profess to be morally certain of his re-election

These deluded followers of the General are not aware that single counties in the United States give votes more than sufficient to counterbalance his majorities in several states, to say nothing of his thirty-six electoral votes for the black population of the south. That a change of less than seventeen thousand in some certain states, would have given Mr. Adams a large majority in 1828. Let a few plain figures put this matter fairly and fully before the people.

The electoral votes for General Jackson in 1828, were		178
For Mr. Adams,		83
Majority for Gen. Jackson		95
Total votes for Jackson in N. York	140,763	*Majority*
For Mr. Adams	135,413	5,350
Total votes for Jackson in Kentucky	39,071	
For Mr. Adams	31,167	7,094
Total votes for Jackson in Ohio	66,597	
For Mr. Adams	63,396	4,201
Total votes for Jackson in Indiana	22,337	
For Mr. Adams	17,052	5,181
Total votes for Jackson in Illinois	9,560	
For Mr Adams	4,659	4,901
Total votes for Jackson in Louisiana	4,608	
For Mr. Adams	4·076	527
Total votes for Jackson in Missouri	8,272	
For Mr. Adams	3,400	4,872
Total majorities for Gen. Jackson in seven states		32,940

A change of a very few more than half of these votes in each of the above named states—say a change of 17,000 votes would have given to Mr. Adams their electors,—counting thus—

For New York	20
For Kentucky	14
For Ohio	16
For Indiana	5
For Illinois	3
For Louisiana	5
For Missouri	3
	66

Take 66 from 178, the number of electoral votes for General Jackson, and it leaves him only 112—add the 66 to Mr. Adams' 83, and it gives him 149.

And in Maryland; although Gen. Jackson got 5 out of the 11 electoral votes, yet the votes of the people were near a thousand majority for Mr. Adams.

The whole number of the votes in the United States was upwards of a million, nearly a million two hundred thousand.

If the lean majority of 30,000 votes in 1,200,000, is a subject of boasting and exultation with Jackson men, let it be so. The friends of a better order of things look forward with confidence to the election of 1832.

The following anecdote, related last winter by a Western member of congress as expressive of his feelings in reference to the controversy between general Jackson and Mr. Calhoun, may be applied with more propriety I think, to the war now raging between their retainers, the *official* and *ex-official* organs of our beautiful administration. X.

"It is known to all who are acquainted with the early history of Kentucky, that the first emigrants settled in small squads like the first settlements in all other frontier countries, for mutual defence. The order was, whenever an alarm was given, all were to run to that place. Early one morning the shouts and cries of a female were heard—all ran to the spot. When they arrived they saw a bear and a man engaged in combat. They had it hip and thigh, up and down, over and under, and the man's wife standing by, and hallowing "fair play! fair play!" The company ran up and insisted on parting them. The woman said—"no—no—let them fight! for it is the first fight I ever saw, that I did not care which whipped."

Nat. Intel.

The following anecdote is told of Gov. Ray, of Indiana, when he crossed the river to meet Gen. Lafayette at Louisville:

His Excellency was ushered into a splendid room fitted up for the occasion. He had been as little accustomed to a carpet as the man who walked around it on the floor; but treated it with less respect. His Excellency was an inordinate chewer of Tobacco, & had a most juicy mouth, which he emptied with but little ceremony on the rich Turkey carpet, whose splendours were unfolded to the Nation's Guest. The servants looked upon the disgrace to which the carpet was subjected, with silent sorrow, but with many a significant gesture, which none but a tobacco chewer could fail to understand. The Governor did not take their hints, and the receptacle (vulgarly called a *spit-box*) was pushed round and round for his notice, until he could avoid it no longer without turning his back on the honoured object of his country's gratitude. His temper became a little excited by the acting of a pantomine before him which he did not understand. He only chewed the harder, and poured forth the odoriferous saliva in increased quantities. At last, with much impatience, he exclaimed to the servant, "*If you don't take that there thing away, I'll spit in it.*"—*Wheeling Compiler.*

From the Ontario Repository.

BLACK CHERRY TREE.—A Medical correspondent of the Cooperstown Watchtower, says that the Bark of this tree is poisonous. He relates the case of a young lady to whom he was lately called, and who, in consequence of drinking about half a pint of cider, taken from a closely stopped bottle filled the evening previous with cherry bark fresh from the tree, was seized with vertigo, stupor and syncope, followed by great difficulty of respiration and vomiting. Similar effects were produced in a slighter degree upon another person, who took from the same bottle a smaller draught of cider. He says that the French chemists have recently ascertained that the deleterious principle of the cherry, laurel and the kernel of the peach, is very analagous to to *prussic acid*. This acid in its concentrated state, if a feather be dipped into it and drawn across the eye of an animal, produces instant death. Two drops, says the writer, have been known to kill a vigorous dog in a very few minutes.

WONDERFUL ESCAPE.

In passing through the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal a few days ago, my attention was called by the captain of the Barge to the track of a horse and gig, which descended from the top of the bank on the north side of the canal to the path. I understood that a short time before, some traveller who was benighted had strayed from the main road near the summit bridge, and it is presumed the first evidence of error was finding himself, horse and gig, descending at uncommon speed, to what he might have supposed, if he had time to think, the bottomless pit. Where he passed over was the deepest point of the Canal, and could not be less than one hundred feet nearly perpendicular, and all would suppose who would look at the place, that it would be totally impossible for him and horse to escape destruction; but strange to relate neither man nor horse were materially injured, nor carriage. It appeared by the track of the gig, that after reaching the tow path the carriage had gone west and turned again and went east under the bridge, one wheel at times over the edge of the tow path, and passed off at what is called the store wharf, at the eastern end of the deep cut—to those who have passed through the Canal and wondered at its stupendous banks, this escape will appear as it did to me most miraculous—but there are the tracks still visible; the driver appears to have thrown himself from the gig and held on to the reins as his tracks are yet to be seen on the banks. A TRAVELLER.

Chronicle.

A horse and cart lost.—A farmer from Long Island, while engaged the other morning in making sale of his butter and vegetables at the Fulton market, found, on looking round, that his horse and cart were missing. He immediately stepped into an adjoining store and bought a sheet of paper, on which he wrote in glaring capitals, "*Lost my horse and cart* and pinned one half on his breast and the other on his back. With this attractive advertisement he marched off in search of the horse and cart, followed by a regiment of boys, who seemed highly amused at the novelty of the expedient. He had not traversed many squares, before he was accosted by a man who informed him, that he saw a horse and cart moving leisurely towards the Bowery, and that by turning his steps thither he would probably find them. The information proved to be correct and the farmer returned to the market with his horse and cart, every thing being as safe as it was when he lost it.

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