EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown—RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all."

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MASONIC.

[To the Editor of the Gazette.]

My Dear Sir.

In behalf of the Masonic fraternity, I send to the Easton Gazette, a copy of the excellent address on Sunday the 21st of April 1844, by Mr. Browne, W. M. of Cambridge Lodge: over the remains of our late brother, the Hon John Leeds Kerr, at the family Burial-place in Oxford Neck.

This has been kindly furnished at the request of many of us here; who cherish a lively rememberance of a gentlemen, so long known throughout our community, and so highly appreciated in private and public life.

I am with sentiments of regard,

Very truly yours,

JAMES BENNY.

To A. GRAHAM, Esq
Easton May 21st 1844.

Dear Sir & Brother:

At your request and also by desire of the brethren of your county I send you a copy of the address delivered on occasion of the masonic funeral of our deceased and much esteemed brother, John Leeds Kerr, which is very much at your service.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

WM. BROWNE

JAMES BENNY, Esq.

ADDRESS.

Delivered at the Masonic funeral of the Hon. John L. Kerr, late U. S. Senator, on 21st April 1844, by Wm Browne, W. M. of Cambridge Lodge.

BRETHREN.—

Once more we are called upon to assemble around the grave of a deceased friend and brother. How often has it been the lot of many of us who are now here, to perform the like sad offices of respect and affection, over those who have but recently sat with us in our lodge, whose hearts have been moved with one common feeling of brotherly love, and united in the same indissoluble band of friendship. The fleeting hours still pass on, and death claims his victims. Whilst the young are rising around us, to take our places in society, one by one, we must drop into the silent grave. The earth will at last cover us, and all that remains of this busy, bustling, mortal life, shall be shrouded from every human eye. No more shall we awake to our daily toil: no more shall we struggle with the mischances, the trials, and afflictions of life: no more shall the familiar faces of friends and relatives greet us, nor, the merry voices of our children be heard. Our schemes of ambition or of pleasure, our impetuous desires, our appetites and passions, our loves and our hatreds, all the varied emotions which vibrate in the human heart, shall cease,—for that heart shall cease to beat. We lie down alike, rich and poor, wise and ignorant, in that common receptacle of mankind, the earth, from which the creating finger of the Almighty first brought us forth.

The dead outnumber the living. Every country that can count its millions of living inhabitants, can with equal certainty, point to its tens of millions of the departed. A generation lasts but a short time: it soon disappears, and nothing is left of it but a few scattered fragments, bowed down and decrepid with age, who are anxiously seeking that final resting place whither all the associates of their youth & manhood have gone before them.

It becomes us, my breathren, on solemn occasions like the present, to reflect with seriousness and attention, on the uncertain tennre by which life is held, and on its transitory nature, at the best, even should it be prolonged to a ripe old age. The depositories of the dead are useful as lessons to the living. From them we learn the uncertainty of life, and that soon or late we must all fulfil the destiny of our being, that destiny which shall carry us to sleep with our father, and moulder, silently and imperceptibly, into the dust from whence we sprung. Our bodies will be resolved into the original elements of which they are composed, and no trace of us remain through a long succession of ages; until, by the fiat of Omnipotence the embers of extinct life shall be endowed with renewed consciousness, and we shall rise to a new life,—the life everlasting.

That human life is uncertain, in every stage of it, every one endowed with perceptions above the brute, must know from his own experience. Who is there that has not seen infancy, childhood, youth, manhood, and old age, carried indiscriminately to the mansions of the dead?—Death claims his prescriptive right, which he has held from the beginning of time, to select his victims. His hand is relentless; and in vain we plead youth, or manhood, or virtue, or happiness. He tells us in a voice not to be misunderstood, to be always prepared, for the day and the hour when he cometh no man knows. Permit me to call your attention my brethren, to one of the emblems of our profession, the Scythe which cuts the brittle thread of life, and launches us into eternity. Not one of all who stand around me, knows how near it may be to him, or how soon the all-devowering grave may be opened to receive him.—Off the three steps of life, we know not in which we may be taken hence, in youth, in manhood, or in age; but we feel assured that we are all travelling upon the level of time, to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns.

As life is uncertain in every stage of it, so also does it soon pass away. 'The years of man are three score and ten, and if by reason of strength they be forescore years yet is their strength but labour and sorrow' In youth when entering upon the career of life, filled with new desires and hopes, and impelled forward by the strength of our passions, the world not only apperrs new to us, but a boundless field for enterprise and ambition. The future seems an interminable vista; we are unable to comprehend so vast a space or to calculate the various and important actions which we intend to perform; but as we advance on the journey of life, and look back upon the years that are past, how swifily do they appear to have flown! even 'as the eagle that hasteth to his prey.' It is only after having passed through the greater part of our life that we are convinced of its brevity We then begin to reflect upon the value of time, and to perceive how short a space is allotted to us on earth.

How few of all the millions that have been brought into existence, have lived to distinguish themselves, and to transmit their names to posterity. Many a promising son, many a talented and useful man has been cut off in the midst of bright promises of the future, and sunk to rise no more on earth for ever. The march of human improvement, proceeds from age to age with a slow but constantly accelerating pace. The labours of one man are but as an atom in the mass; and show conclusively how little can be done in one short life, even if that life be devoted to the most intense study and profound investigation.—When we consider also that the powers both of body and mind, begin to decay long before the slender cord which binds them together is snapped assunder, we shall still further perceive the short period allotted to human labour.

As then, my brethren, we are fully convinced of the uncertainty of life, and know not how soon we may be called before the supreme judge to give an account of our labours, let us work diligently and faithfully while we are here. Let us *redeem* the time, and carry such work with us as will bear inspection, when we are called before the tribunal of eternal and unerring justice. We need not flatter ourselves that day will be added to day and year to year, and look in vast perspective to the future, into which we may put off all our good intentions and crowd our worthy actions. The time passes and every hour must be redeemed for every hour is a period in the history of our lives. He who now stands most firmly on earth, and treads with elastic step, full of health and manly vigor, may according to the known and acknowledged order of Providence, be swept in an hour into the great labyss of those who *have* existed. As we see that the period of human life is short, let us redouble our exertions, that we may prepare our soul's as living stones for that spiritual building not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Although the longest life can accomplish but little, yet the amount of good which any one man can do to his fellow creatures on earth depends principally upon the energy and good will which he uses in the performance of its duties.—Diligence, industry, and a proper application of the powers which God has granted us, are necessary to acquit ourselves as good Masons, and to render sure our reception into the Grand Lodge on high, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

But what, my brethren, are the duties which occasions like the present enforce upon us? To what conclusions do our reflections on the shortness and uncertainty of life lead us? Whilst we are standing around the grave of our deceased brother, where no unkind thought can intrude itself, and where the memory of his virtues alone remains, shall we not say that like him we will be true and faithful, and like him, we will live and die in love., When the departed spirit takes rest in the bosom of its God, does it not speak in a voice of authority, that we are all brothers of one common origin, heirs of the same desires and hopes, and destined to the same end? How forcibly does it instruct us in the law of love and kindness of charity and benevolence, of condescension and amenity, of all the social and moral virtues which smooth our passage to the grave, and add to the pleasurable feelings of our transient life! It teaches us to avoid discord and strife, to forbear and pardon rather than to pursue vengence, to live in harmony, and to cultivate peace and good will towards all men. In all our differencies, disputes & animosities it holds out to us the sublime and beautiful language of the poet;

'Whilst yet we live but one short hour perhaps,
"Between us two, let there be peace.

With what peculiar force and beauty do these reflections apply to us as masons. We are knit together by the firm bonds of brotherhood. Even here on the brink of the grave, under that All-seeing Eye from which nothing is hid, we renew and mutually pledge our sacred vows of brotherly love, relief and truth. We are a part of that ancient institution which time has hallowed, and the great and good have approved. We are associated for the purpose of relieving the evils of life, of mitigating the sorrows of man. It is our duty to assist the weak, to support the falling, to aid the destitute, to sympathize with the unfortunate, to offer the open hand of benevolence, to wipe away the tear of the widdow & the orphan, to culuvate the charities of life, and to encourage universal peace and good will towards all men. By such means the miseries of life are softened, and its misfortunes redressed: our passions are kept within due bounds, and the social pleasures of life are exalted by feelings of courtesy and kindness. These are lessons which our precarious condition strongly inculcates. These are duties which, as masons, we are charged never to neglect. Remember how you are to divide your time, and to employ it: by what means you are to devest your minds and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life: how you are to act, how you are to meet and to part; continually spreading that cement which unites you into one sacred band or society of friends and brothers. Be careful how you draw your designs on the trestle board, so that they may meet the approval of the G. M. above, and you may pass through the bright portals of that temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens'

Associated with us was, as a member of our Lodge, and of our universal institution, was the friend and brother over whose mortal remains we have now met to pay the last sad tribute of respect to his memory He is gone! He lies beneath our feet! He still lives in our hearts!—We trust his soul is in heaven! We trust that during the career of a life which is now closed, he remembered and practised [illegible] the fraternity of ancient Masons have ever charged upon its members, of whatever rank or station in life Our deceased brother was called to occupy no ordinary station in society. The sphere of his active duties was a large one. He held a high position in public estimation. The cares of public life, the responsibilities of high office were felt by him. But the weight of his character amply sustained him. A native of the state in which his life was passed, possessing the public confidence in no ordinary degree, and high in the esteem of all who knew him, he held one of the most important trusts in dignity and honor in the gift of the people. He sat among those who are especially deemed the sages of the land, and who are chosen from the most highly gifted and honorable of the nation. But few possess the capacity for great employments fewer still, the stern integrity & moral rectitude which places them above the reach of dishonor. Yet we are now assembled over the mortal remains of one who possessed both in an eminent degree. He was among his equals when in the highest legislative body of the nation, and there had an opportunity of using the weight of his influence among her most celebrated statesmen.

If, in public life he arose to high honor, in a private station as a gentleman, he commanded no less respect and esteem. A warm and faithful friend to all to whom he extended his intimacy, of engaging and polished manners his intercourse in society could not fail of gaining the esteem and friendship of all who knew him. As a father and a husband fond, affectionate and indulgent. All the domestic affections which endear to us our hearths and our homes overflowed from his heart, guided only by an anxious desire to render all around him happy.—The charities of private life, the unincumbered acts of kindness of daily occurrence, the affectionate interest in the welfare of all around us, although they make not the show and glare of more splendid actions, constitute by far the greater part of our happiness; they soften the asperities of life, and contain within themselves the principal charm of our existence.

I have one more reflection, my brethren, to offer to you which the present occasion suggests. Each of you has a sprig of evergreen which you will deposite in the grave, reminding you of that better and immortal part which survives the grave. Cold indeed, and cheerless would be the tomb, were man without hope of another and a better world. Although we lie down for a while in the arms of silence, yet the victory is given us over death and the grave. Although death is allowed to exercise dominion over us, yet he cannot destroy. We came from the hands of the Creator immortal beings. Whatever vicissitudes we may undergo, we are by the Divine will indestructible, and destined to an existence beyond the grave that fadeth not away. He who now lies powerless, and apparently extinct, will receive renewed life and vigour, and enter upon another stage of existence. We have parted from him for a time, but we shall meet again; again to renew our attachments, and to cultivate to greater perfection the virtues which have distinguished us on earth.—His eyes, tho' now the film of death is over them, will again open upon the friends and relatives he has loved on earth upon all the great and good of passed ages, and upon that magnificent though unknown land of eternal light and life, where congregate the spirits of the departed.

"So mote it be," is the heartfelt prayer of every brother.

From the Madisonian.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

The correspondence between the Secretary of State and the British Ministry, in to day's paper, will arrest general attention.

It will be seen how easily Mr. Calhoun brushes away the cobwebs of diplomacy, and astounds John Bull's Envoy by confronting him with the true meaning of his words.

The most amusing thing about the correspondence, if not in the annals of diplomacy, is the fact that subsequent to writing his letter to Mr Calhoun, Mr. Packenham has found it necessary to write home to ascertain what construction should be put on the letter—and whether or not his own letter contains a denial of the charges made by our Government.

The clear eyed Eagle is watching the Lion.

MR. PACKENHAM TO MR. CALHOUN.

WASHINGTON, April 19, 1844.

The undersigned, her Britanic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, has had the honor to receive the note which the honorable Mr. Calhoun, Secretary of State of the United States, was pleased yesterday to address to him, containing observations on a despatch from her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the undersigned, of which the undersigned had the honor, at the request of the late Secretary of State, Mr. Upshur to furnish a copy, for the more complete information of the Government of the United [illegible]

Mr. Calhoun at the same time announces to the undersigned by the direction of the President, that a treaty has been concluded between United States and Texas, for the annexation of Texas to this country as a part of its territory which treaty will be submitted without delay to the Senate for its approval.

Mr. Calhoun further takes occasion to enter into explanation as to the motives which have induced the Government of the United States to adopt their present policy with regard to Texas; and he concludes by presenting certain remarks, founded on statistical information, in defence of the institution of slavery as now established in a portion of this Republic and in proof of the necessity of taking measures for its preservation.

It is not the purpose of the undersigned in the present communication to enter into discussion with Mr. Calhoun respecting the project thus formally announced on the part of the Government of the United States, to annex Texas to the American Union—that duty will, if thought necessary, be fulfilled by higher authority—still less is the undersigned disposed to trespass on Mr. Calhoun's attention by offering any remarks upon the subject of slavery, as expounded in Mr. Calhoun's note. That note will be transmitted to her Majesty's Government by the earliest opportunity; and with this intimation the undersigned would for the present content himself, were it not for the painful impression created on his mind by observing that the Government of the U. S. so far from appreciating at their just value the explanations furnished by her Majesty's Government in a spirit of frankness and good faith well calculated to allay whatever anxiety this Government might have previously felt on the particular points to which those explanations have reference, appear to have found arguments in that communication in favor of the contemplated annexation of Texas—thus, as it were, assigning to the British Government some share in the responsibility of a transaction which can hardly fail to be viewed in many quarters with the most serious objection.

All such reponsibility the undersigned begs leave, in the name of her Majesty's Government, at once & most positively to disclaim. Whatever may be the consequence of that transaction the British Government, will look forward without anxiety to the judgment which will thereon be passed by the civilzed world, in as far as shall apply to any provocation furnished by England for the adoption of such a measure.

With the political independence of Texas not only has Great Britian disavowed all intention to interfere, but it is a well known fact that her most zealous exertions have been directed towards the completion of that independence, by obtaining its acknowledgement at the hands of the only power by which it was seriously disputed.

Great Britain has also formally disclaimed the desire to establish in Texas any dominant influence; and with respect to slavery, she is not conscious of having acted in a sense to cause just alarm to the United States.

From the avowed desire of Great Britain to see slavery abolished in Texas it is inferred by the Government of the United States that England is endeavoring through her diplomacy to make the abolition of slavery a condition to the acknowledgment of the independence of Texas by Mexico. If Mr. Calhoun will have the goodness to refer once more to the copy of Lord Aberdeen's despatch, which lies before him, he will find the following exposition of the intentions of Great Britain on this point, which the undersigned flattered himself would have been sufficient to forbid any such inference. 'With regard to Texas, we avow that we wish to see slavery abolished there, as elsewhere; and we should rejoice if the recognition of that country by the Mexican Government should be accompanied by an engagement, on the part of Texas, to abolish slavery eventually & under proper conditions throughout the Republic. But, althongh we earnestly desire & feel it to be our duty to promote such a consummation, we shall not interfere unduly, or with an improper assumption of authority, with either party' (either Mexico or Texas) 'in order to insure the adoption of such a course.—We shall counsel, but we shall not seek to compel or unduly control either party. So far as Great Britian is concerned provided other States act with equal forbearance, those Governments will be fully at liberty to make their own unfettered arrangements with each other, both in regard to the abolition of slavery and to all other points.'

The undersigned takes advantage of this opportunity to renew to the Hon. Mr. Calhoun the assurance of his high consideration.

R. PACKENHAM.

Hon JOHN C. CALHOUN.

Mr. Calhoun to Mr. Packenham.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 27, 1844.

The undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the answer which the Right Hon. Mr. Packenham, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of her Britanic Majesty was pleased to make to his note, relating to the despatch of Lord Aberdeen, of which a copy was left with the late Secretary of State, Mr. Upshur, by his request.

He regrets that Mr. Packenham has fallen into an error in supposing that the undersigned intended, by introducing the statistical facts in reference to the comparative condition of the African race in the States of this Union where slavery has been abolished and where it is still retained, with the accompanying remarks, was 'to expound the subject of slavery,' and to 'defend it as it exists in the United States.'

If Mr. Packenham will have the goodness to recur to the note of the undersigned, he will find on a re-perusal, that his intention in introducing the details, instead of being that which he attributes to him, was to correct what the undersigned believed to be a misconception on the part of Her Majesty's Government, as set forth in Lord Aberdeen's despatch.—His Lordship seems to be of the impression that the objection of the U .S. was not to the policy of Great Britain in reference to abolition, as avowed by him, but to the means which might be resorted to for its accomplishment; and that if slavery should be abolished in the United States, by the influence and exertions of G. Britain, without using what he is pleased to call 'secret' or 'undue means,' it would be an act of humanity to the African race, and its consequences would neither disturb the internal tranquility of the States' where it exists, nor affect the prosperity of the Union.' The object of the undersigned in introducing the statistical information referred to, was to correct this erroneous impression, by showing from facts drawn from unquestionable sources, that the condition of the African race in the States which had abolished slavery, was far worse than in those which had not; and that of course Great Britain cou'd not consummate in the United States what she avows to be the object of her policy and constant exertions to effect throughout the world, without rendering the condition of the African race in the slaveholding States much worse than it is, & disturbing their internal tranquility & the prosperity of the Union.

That such was the intention of the undersigned he hopes will be evident to Mr. Packenham on a re-perusal of his note; and not as he supposes, to expound the subject of slavery,' or to defend it 'as it exists in the United States.' He is the more solicitous to correct the error into which Mr. Packenham has fallen in this particular, because the intention which he attributes to the undersigned would be imcompatible with the principle which regulates the United States in their intercourse with the rest of the world; that is to leave all other countries, without interference on their part, to regulate their own internal relations and concerns as to each other may seem best, without permitting any to interfere with theirs.—He could not consistently with this well established principle of their policy, permit any question belonging exclusively to the internal relations or concerns of any of the States of the Union, to be brought into controversy between this and any foreign Government whatever.

The undersigned regrets that Mr. Packenham should entertain the impression that the Government of the United States did not appreciate at their full value the explanations of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of its policy in reference to Texas. He would repeat what he supposed had been explicitly stated in his note to Mr. Packenham, the assurance that this Government fully appreciates the spirit of frankness and good faith in which the explanations were furnished. If they have failed to allay the anxiety which it had previously felt on the subject to which they referred, it was because they were accompanied by an avowal on the part of Her Majesty's Government, in reference to the abolition of slavery generally, and to Texas in particular, calculated to defeat the object which the explanations were intended to effect, It was not possible for the President to hear with indifference the avowal of a policy so hostile in its character and dangerous in its tendency to the domestic institutions of so many States of this Union, and to the safety and prosperity of the whole. Nor could he abstain from declaring his regret at the avowal, consistently with that frankness and sincerity which have ever characterized the conduct of this Government in its intercourse with other countries.

The United States, in concluding the treaty of annexation with Texas, are not disposed to shun any responsibility which may fairly attach to them on account of the transaction. The measure was adopted with the mutual consent and for the mutual and permanent welfare of the two countries interrested. It was made necessary in order to preserve domestic institutions placed under the guaranty of their respective Constitutions and deemed essential to their safety and prosperity.

Whether Great Britain has the right, according to the principles of international law, to interfere with the domestic institutions of either country, be her motives or means what they may: or whether the avowal of such a policy, and the exertions she has made to consummate it in Texas, do not justify both countries in adopting the most effective measures the United States willingly leave to the decision of the civilised world. They confidently rest the appeal on the solid foundation that every country is the rightful and exclusive judge as to what should be the relations, social, civil and political, between those who compose its population; and that no other country under the plea of humanity or other motive, has any right whatever to interfere with its decision. On this foundation rests the peace and the harmony of the world.

The undersigned has again referred, in conformity with the request of Mr. Packenham, to the portion of Lord Aberdeen's despatch to which he has pointed his attention, with the view of rebutting the inference of the President that Great Britain has endeavored, through her diplomacy, to effect the abolition of slavery in Texas, by making it one of the conditions on which Mexico should acknowledge her independence. He is constrained to say, on a careful re-perusal, that he can discover nothing in it calculated in any degree to weaken the inference of the President. His lordship avows that Great Britain wishes to see slavery abolished in Texas; that she would rejoice if the recognition of that country by the Mexican Government should be accompanied by an engagement on the part of Texas to do so, and that she feels it to be her duty to promote such a consummation. If to these emphatic declarations the fact be added that Great Britain at the very time they were made, was engaged in negotiating with the Mexican Government, in order to obtain from it a recognition of the independence of Texas and that she declined to unite with France and the United States in a joint effort for that purpose, it is surely not a forced or unfair inference to conclude, without calling in the aid of other evidence, that she used, in conducting it, all the legitimate means of diplomacy, backed by her great influence, to effect an object in the accomplishment of which she acknowledges she took so deep an interest, and to which she obviously attached so much importance. Nor does the undersigned regard the declarations of Lord Aberdeen, that Great Britain would not interfere unduly, or with any improper assumption of authority, that she will counsel, but not seek to compel or unduly control either party as in any degree weakening the inference of the President nor does he consider the remarks of Mr. Packenham as a denial of its truth.

The undersigned avails himself of the occasion to renew to Mr. Packenham the assurances of his distinguished consideration.

J. C. CALHOUN.

WASHINGTON, April 30, 1844.

The undersigned, Her Britanic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, has had the honor to receive the note which the honorable John C. Calhoun, Secretary of State of the

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