EASTON GAZETTE.

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From the National Intelligencer.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

From the "Custis Recollections and Private Memoirs of the Life and Character of Washington."

Faithful to our purpose of giving, in the course of this work, brief memoirs of the distinguished characters of the age of Washington, who were either attached to his person or stood high in his esteem, next to Nathaniel Greene and Robert Morris we introduce Alexander Hambleton.

In this illustrious individual were united the patriot, the soldier, the statesman, the jurist, the orator, and philosopher, and he was great in them all. Born in the island of Nevis, the first rudiments of his education were obtained in Santa Cruz, from which, at a very early age, he came to America, and completed his studies at Columbia College, in New York. In that city the Revolution found the West Indian engaged in the direction of an extensive mercantile concern, where the youthful aspirant for liberty soon laid aside his ledger and wielded his pen, ere he drew his sword, for the natural rights of mankind.

Among the efforts then making in behalf of the Royal cause in New York, were a series of able essays, published with a view to alarm the patriots as to a rupture with the mother country, urging that, in such an event, all supplies of clothing would be withheld, and thus the most serious privations be endured by the colonists. Young Hamilton wrote a powerful reply to these essays, in which he proved that recources abounded in the country; and then, for the first time in the world, it was left for this preceeious genius to predict: *that the cotton plant could and would be grown in the Southern Colonies, and would yield an abundance of the raw material for the supply of our wants.*

The troubles increasing, Mr. Hamilton spoke of revisiting the West Indies, with a view to recruit his finances; this the patriots of New York would not hear of for a moment; they had witnessed the powers of his pen and wished him to try the temper of his sword. "Well, my friends," said the gallant youth, "if you are determined that I shall remain among ye, and take part in your just and holy cause, you must raise for me a full company of artillery." This was done, and Captain Hamilton lost no time in enlisting the services of several veteran artillerists, and, by constant drilling, soon brought his company into a very high state of order and discipline. He remained in New York diligently engaged in his military duties, until the Asia, Admiral Pandeput, fired upon the city. Retreat becoming necessary, Hamilton here displayed that noble disinterestness and disregard of self that adorned all the subsequent actions, whether public or private, of his illustrious life. A cart, drawn by a single horse, contained the baggage of this young officer. He ordered his baggage to be abandoned, and the horse that drew it to be harnessed to the cannon.

Hamilton's military talents were apparent in very early life. Previous to the battle of Long Island, he crossed over to Brooklyn, and thence, by examining the positions of the American forces with a military eye, he became convinced that with such materials as composed the American army, a conflict with troops which consisted of *all soldiers* would be hopeless of success. Filled with these ideas, Hamilton addressed an annonymous letter to the Commander-in-Chief, detailing many and forcible arguments against risking an action, and warmly recommending a retreat to the strong grounds of the main land. The letter created no little surprise in the mind of the General, but it was mixed with respect for the talent displayed by the writer. The disastrous battle of Long Island is matter of history.

The letter of which we have made such honorable mention was forwarded to the General, by M——, afterwards celebrated for having conveyed to the American commander the most important information during the occupancy of New York by the British army. The morning after Washington made his triumphal entry into the city of New York, 25th November, 1783, he breakfasted with M——, to the wonder of the Tories and the perfect horror of the Whigs.

Hamilton's Artillery joined the American army, and took part in the memorable retreat through the Jerseys. It was, as we have before related, at the passage of the Raritan, near Brunswick, that Hamilton first attracted the notice of the Commander-in-Chief, who, while posted on the river bank, and contemplating with anxiety the passage of the troops, was charmed by the brillient courage and admirable skill displayed by a young officer of artillery, who directed a battery against the enemy's advanced columns that pressed upon the Americans in their retreat by the ford. The General ordered Lieut. Col. Fitzgerald, his aid-de-camp, to ascertain who this young officer was, and bid him repair to headquarters at the first halt of the army.

At the interview that ensued, Washington quickly discovered in the young patriot and warrior, those eminent qualities of the head and heart that shed such a renown upon the actions of his after life. From that interview Washington "marked him for his own."

The American Commander-in-Chief was peculiarly happy in the selection of the officers of his military family, of his guard, &c., save in a solitary instance, and in that instance the individual served but for a very short time. The members of the military family and of the life-guard were gentlemen of the first order in intellect, patriotism, and all right soldierly qualities—they were attached to the chief and to each other. Hamilton and Laurence were kindred spirits, brothers alike in arms, in affection, and in accomplishments, and might be styled the preux chevaliers of the American army.

Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton was at the side of the Chief during the most eventful periods of the Revolutionary war. In the memorable campaigns of 1777 and 1778, the habit at the head quarters was for the General to dismiss his officers at a very late hour of the night to snatch a little repose, while he, the man of mighty labors, drawing his cloak around him, and trimming his lamp, would throw himself upon a hard couch, not to sleep, but to think. Close to his master (wrapped in a blanket, but "all accoutred" for instant service) snored the stout yet active form of *Billy*, the celebrated body servant during the whole of the Revolutionary war.

At this late lone hour silence reigned in the headquarters, broken only by the measured pacing of the sentinels, and the oft-repeated cry of "all's well;" when suddenly the sound of a horse tramp, at speed, is borne upon the night wind, then the challenging of the guard, and the passing the word of an express from the lines to the Commander-in-Chief. The despatches being opened and read; there would be heard in the calm deep tones of that voice, so well remembered by the good and the brave in the old days of our country's trial, the command of the Chief to his now watchful attendant, "*Call Colonel* Hamilton!"

The remarkable conduct of the aid-de-camp during the exciting interview of Washington and Major General Lee, on the field of Monmouth, as has been related in another part of this work, caused no little sensation in the army at that time. It was indeed, a generous burst of enthusiasm, emanating from a noble & gallant spirit, that pure in its own devotion to the cause of liberty, viewed with indignation and abhorrence even the suspicion of treachery in another. It is somewhat singular that there were several distinguished officers of the American army, who, judging from events at the close of the campaign of 1776, anticipated some defection on the part of Lee, on his return from captivity, and rejoining his former colors; yet it was left for a member of a different cloth from the military to give the first alarm to the Commander-in-Chief on this momentous subject.—The Rev. Doctor Griffith, a Welshman by birth, a warm patriot in the cause of America, and chaplain to one of the Virginia regiments, repaired to the headquarters at a late hour of the night preceeding the battle of Monmouth, and warned the chief against the employment of Major General Lee to command the advance guard on the ensuing morning—a command which that vetran officer had at first declined. Washington received the information cautiously, nay, doubtingly, when the reverend gentleman, on making his bow to retire, observed, "I am not permitted to say more at present, but your Excellency will remember my warning voice to-morrow in the battle.

From a difficulty that occurred in 1780, Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton retired from the headquarters and assumed his rank in the line, in the command of a battallion of light infantry, then the crack corps of the army. With this command he marched to the South in 1781. At the siege of Yorktown, it was determined to storm the two advanced redoubts of the enemy, and the selection of officers and men for this daring achievement was entrusted to Major General the Marquis de Lafayette. The Marquis lost no time in choosing as the officer who was to lead the assault Lieut. Col. Gimet, a gallant Frenchman, who had been attached to the Marquis's military family. Hamilton, belonging to the division of light infantry commanded by Lafayette, was about to prefer his claim, when his warmest friends and admirers dissuaded him, owing, as they said, to the vast influences in favor of the Frenchman, from the presence of a splendid French fleet and army, and the universal desire of doing every possible honor to our generous and gallant allies. Hamilton observed, "I am aware that I have mighty influences to contend with, but I feel assured that Washington is inflexibly just. I will not urge my claim on the plea of my long and faithful services, coeval with nearly the whole war; I will only plead my rank." He accordingly repaired to headquarters. The General received his former and favorite aide-camp with great cordiality and kindness, listened patiently to his representations, and finally granted his claims; and Lieut. Col. Hamilton, in presence of three armies, led the assault of the redoubt on the night of the memorable 14th October with a brilliancy of courage and success that could not be surpassed.

As the Americans mounted the works, the cry of the soldiers was, "Remember New London!" alluding to the cruel massacre of the American troops at Fort Griswold the year before. When the redoubt was carried, the vanquished Britons fell on their knees, momently expecting the exterminating bayonet; not a man was injured, when no longer resisting. For Hamilton, who commanded, and Lieut. Col. Laurens, who participated as a volunteer on this brilliant occasion, courage and mercy have entwined a wreath of laurels that time or circumstance can never fade.

Shortly after the surrender of Yorktown, Col. Hamilton retired from the army, preserving his rank, but *declining all pay or emolument.* He commenced the study of the law, and was elected to the New York Legislature, and afterwards to the old Congress. While a member of the latter body he wrote a series of essays of great ability, showing the defects of the old system of Government, and recommending a Convention with a view to an entirely new Constitution, Government and laws. He was elected a member of the Convention of 1787, and was one of the brightest stars in that constellation of patriots and statesmen that formed the present happy Constitution of the United States.

Hamilton's labors by no means ended with the convention of 1787; it required all his zeal and eloquence to stem the torrent of opposition from Governor Clinton and others up to the time of the final adoption of the Constitution by the State of New York.

In 1789, when the First President was on his way to the seat of the new Government, he stopped in Philadelphia at the house of Robert Morris, and while consulting with that eminent patriot & benefactor of America as to the members of the *first Cabinet*, Washington observed, "The Treasury, Morris, will of course be your birth. After your invaluable services as financier of the Revolution; no one can pretend to contest the office of Secretary of the Treasury with you." Robert Morris respectfully but firmly declined the appointment, on the ground of his private affairs when he replied, "But, my dear General, you will be no looser by my declining the Secretaryship of the Treasury, for I can recommend to you a far cleverer fellow than I am for your minister of Finance, in the person of your former aid-de-camp, Colonel Hamilton." The President was amazed, and continued, "I always knew Colonel Hamilton to be a man of superior talents, but never supposed that he had any knowledge of finance;" to which Morris replied, "He knows every thing, sir, to a mind like his nothing comes amiss." Robert Morris, indeed, had had ample proofs of Hamilton's talents in financial matters, the financier having received from the soldier many and important suggestions, plans and estimates touching the organition and establishment of the Bank of North America in 1780.

Thus did Alexander Hamilton from amid the stirring duties of a camp, devote the vast and varied powers of his mind to the organization of a system of finance, as connected with banking operations, that proved of inestimable service to the cause of the Revolution.

Washington hesitated not a moment in making the appointment of Secretary of the Treasury agreeably to the recommendation of Morris; for assured there was none, no, not one of the many worthies of the Revolution who stood higher in the esteem or approached nearer to the heart of the Chief than Robert Morris, the noble and generous benefactor of America in the darkest hours of her destiny.

On the very day of the interesting event we have just related, Mr. Dallas met Hamilton in the street and addressed him with "Well, Colonel, can you tell me who will be the members of the Cabinet?" "Really, my dear sir," replied the Colonel, "I cannot tell you who will, but I can very readily tell you of one who will not be of the number, and that one is your humble servant." He had not at this moment the remotest idea that Washington had again in peace, as in war, "marked him for his own."

The very best eulogium that can be pronounced upon the Fiscal Department of the United States, as organised by Alexander Hamilton, is in the remarks of the Hon. Albert Gallatin, a political rival, and the most distinguished financier of the successors of the first secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Gallatin has magnanimously declared that all Secretaries of the Treasury of the United States, since the first, enjoyed a sinecure, the genius and labors of Hamilton having created and arranged every thing that was requisite and necessary for the successful operation of the Department.

In January, 1795, Hamilton resigned his seat in the cabinet and retired to private life. It was our good fortune to be almost domesticated in the family of this great man, and to see and know much of him in the olden time. Among the many and imposing recollections of the great age of the Republic that are graven upon our memory, and mellowed by time, cheer by their venerable & benign influences our evening of life, we call up with peculiar pleasure a reminiscence of the days of the first Presidency embracing the resignation of Alexander Hamilton.

It was at the Presidential mansion that the ex-Secretary of the Treasury came into the room where Mr. Lear, Major Jackson, and the other gentlemen of the President's family, were sitting. With the usual smile upon his countenance he observed: "Congratulate me, my good friends, for I am no longer a public man; the President has at length consented to accept my resignation, and I am once more a private citizen."—The gentlemen replied that they could perceive no cause for rejoicing in an event that would deprive the Government and the country of the late Secretary's valuable services. Hamilton continued: "I am not worth exceeding five hundred dollars in the world; my slender fortune and the best years of my life have been devoted to the service of my adopted country; a rising family hath its claims. Glancing his eye upon a small book that lay on the table, he took it up and observed: "Ah, this is the Constitution. Now, mark my words: "So long as we are a young and virtuous people, this instrument will bind us together in mutual interest, mutual welfare, and mutual happiness; but when we become old and corrupt it will bind us no longer."

Such were the prophetic words of Alexander Hamilton, uttered half a century ago, and in the very dawn of our existence as a nation. Let the Americans write them in their books, and treasure them in their hearts. Another half century, and they will be regarded as truths.

What a spectacle does this touching reminiscence present to the American and their posterity! A great man of the revolution a native of a foreign isle, who had employed his pen & drawn his sword in the cause of liberty before a beard had grown upon his chin; renowned alike in Senates and in the field, in the halls of legislation and the "ranks of death," proudly acknowledging his honorable poverty, the result of his many and glorious services, and resigning one of the highest and most dignified offices in the Government, to retire as a private citizen to labor for the support of a rising family.

Of a truth, upon the Roman model, ay, and that of the purest and palmiest days of the mistress of the ancient world, were formed the patriots, statesmen, and warriors of the American revolution. Worthy indeed, are they to be ranked with the purest and noblest models of ancient virtue and heroism, whom generations yet unborn will hail as the fathers of liberty and founders of a free empire.

With these reminiscences, endeared to us by many venerable associations of our other days, and which we offer as an humble tribute to the fame and memory of him who was a master spirit among the great and renowned that adorned the age of Washington, we close our brief memoir.

SYDNEY RIGDON, one of the Mormon "Elders," who has separated from "the Saints," and commenced the publication of a magazine at Pittsburg, makes some terrible disclosures in the January number of his periodical. The brotherhood of fanatics have, according to his accounts of the matter, been even more steeped in guilt of the most loathsome character than they have heretofore been charged with. The "Elder" says their domestic arrangements were upon a scale of almost unbounded licentiousness. Polygamy of more than Turkish liberality has obtained, not only among the denizens of the holy city itself, but the "spiritual wife" system has extended to all the branches of the brotherhood. The Saints in this city, Philadelphia, Boston, &c. have all been called upon to practice its rules to immense extent, and whenever any reluctance has manifested itself—any scruples or remonstrances urged against the foul and revolting system—they have seen silenced by the thunders of authority, and the disgusting practices enforced without mercy! "Every one," says Elder Rigdon, "who was known to be opposed to this system, if he or she could not be won over, or made to succumb by threats, was excluded, and their characters assailed in a most outrageous manner, in order to destroy their influence, that their testimony might not be believed." Such disclosures as this will have no effect, we suppose, in breaking up these nests of pollution; but they will go on, people will still run after these creatures, and it will still be considered "persecution" to speak of them as they deserve; nay, altogether inconsistent with the "spirit of the nineteenth century" to punish them for their abominations; though we think, as it seems to us, every high-minded man and woman in the community will think, that these atrocious sinners should at once be made to answer before the legal tribunals for their transgressions. If this Sydney Rigdon *knows* what he charges upon the Mormons, he ought to be made at once to give evidence against them, and the delinquents be promptly made to suffer for their crimes. —*N. Y. Courier & Enquirer.*

We hear a good anecdote of Mr. Polk, the President elect. As soon as a visiter is introduced, he commences the conversation forthwith, by informing the astonished stranger, that he has been delighted to find that since his arrival in Washington that not one of his Democratic friends has had the indelicacy to annoy him with an application for office, and that he is quite sure the information must be as gratifying to the gentleman listening to to the narration, as it is acceptable to his own views and feelings. The visiter listens in profound silence——hesitates a moment—makes his bow—*and slopes.*—*Alexander Gazette.*

From the Balt. Patriot.

THE TEXAS QUESTION IN MARYLAND.—The House of Delegates yesterday, by a vote of nearly two to one passed resolutions in opposition to the annexation of Texas. These resolutions will doubtless receive, to-day, the sanction of the Senate by an equally emphatic majority. They express the voice of the people of Maryland, and this expression of it, we regret to find, has become necessary by the extraordinary course of one of our Senators in Congress. We will not undertake to question the reasons which have influenced Mr. Merrick to wheel round from a decided opponent of the Texas project, as he was last session when he voted against the Tyler treaty, and to become one of its most earnest supporters, as he has recently declared himself. We doubt not the honesty of his motives, nor question that he is really convinced of the error of his former opinions. We much regret, however, for his sake, that they were not earlier made known—for that public man who suddenly changes his ground is exposed & not unjustly, to suspicions; suspicions which nothing but an abiding confidence in his integrity, can keep even from the minds of friends.

We regret, for Mr. Merrick's sake that he has exposed himself to suspicion by his recent speech on the Texas question, which must be as fatal to his future career, as his worst enemy could wish. His declaration of favor for Texas,—so sudden a thought with himself, and so fatal to the hopes, as it seemed of those opposed to that project—came upon the people of Maryland, like a clap of thunder in a clear sky. No man was prepared for it, for no man of any party deemed it possible.—It was equally a surprise upon the Legislature, and hence the necessity of introducing and the prompt passage of, resolutions condemning the annexation scheme, and requesting our Senators in Congress to oppose it. We have no hope that the emphatic request will be responded to by Mr. Merrick. He has gone too far now to retract; but it was due to him, no less than to the Legislature of Maryland, from whom he received his authority to vote in the Senate, that he should be made aware of the full responsibility which he had assumed and how emphatically his intended course was condemned by the Legislature of his State.

Mr. Merrick in his speech in the Senate announcing his intention to vote for the Texas resolutions anticipated, as well he might that he should bring down upon his head the wrath of an offended—we will not say a betrayed—and confiding people. He asked that in reviewing his conduct all would remember and observe the request of the Scotch poet:

"Gently to scan
His fellow man."

He shall not ask this at our hands in vain. No public man that we can remember of, has so exposed himself to the maledictions of his former friends, as he has. The Whig press, as the exponents of the feelings of the people, should perhaps give vent to the indignation of the people. But as it is impossible to dwell upon his sudden change, without indulging in severest censure of it, we shall as he seems to desire, spare further remarks—than to express a sincere regret that he should in the last days of his Senatorial life, have adopted a course which will give to his political enemies so signal a triumph over his friends, and enable the former to claim, as they do, that the suspicions they have indulged for the last three years, are more than confirmed by what they do not hesitate to pronounce the proof of premeditated treachery.

From the Philadelphia Enq. 27th ult.

NEW PROCESS OF COPYING ENGRAVINGS.

Calling in at Mr. J. W. Moore's book store, No. 138 Chesnut street, below Fifth yesterday, we beheld a specimen engraving copied by the new and wonderful process of copying engravings. This specimen is contained in the last number of "The Art Union," an English monthly publication just received by the Hibernia The engraving is upon a quarto page, and is the head of the Saviour, from the burin of Mr. Blanchard, from the painting of the Celebrated French artist Delaroche. The process by which it is done is yet involved in mystery—but by it any engraving, note check, printed or written document can be forged with so much ease and certainty as to defy detection, and render it impossible for any one to distinguish between the original and copy. The inventor is an Englishmen and an engraver by profession. From the account which accompanies the specimen in the "Art Union," We extract the following:

"The new process by which engravings may be multiplied, *ad infinitum*, we have have now to consider. All we know of it may be briefly told. Some months ago we stated that a discovery had been made by which in a few days, a large and elaborate line engraving might be so accurately copied, that there should be no perceptible difference between the original and the copy; that an engraving upon steel or copper might be produced from the impression of the print—the original plate never having been seen by the copyist; and that such plate should be warranted to yield from 10,000 to 20,000 impressions. We stated also that it was stated to us, that the producer would undertake to supply a Bank of England note so exactly copied, that the person who signed and issued it, should not be able to swear which was the original and which the copy."

"The print which accompanies this notice has been so produced. Mr. Darton the respected publisher of Holborn-hill, undertook to procure for us the plate—a copy from any print we might select, *no matter what the size*—within a fortnight. We consequently procured a proof of an engraving—the head of the Saviour, from the burin of M. Blanchard from the painting of Delaroche—of which at the end of seven days he presented to us "a proof in progress," which he delivered finished at the end fourteen days. From that plate we have taken between 4,000 and 5,000 impressions and have no doubt whatever that it is capable of yielding twice that number."

One of these impressions can be seen in the January number of the Art Union, at the book store of Mr. Moore, where can also be found a large collection of rich and valuable works, European and American, in every Department of literature and science.

We consider this invention to be one of the most wonderful and useful that the world has ever known. In connection with this is the "*anastetic printing,*" the process of which the editor of the Art Union promises to furnish an account in his next number, by which, not only may the finest & rarest engravings be reprinted *ad infinitum*, but books also may be reprinted from books, as from sterotypes, in unlimited quantity. The thoughtful and curious will be gratified by an inspection of the specimen print we have noticed, which Mr. Moore, no doubt, will take pleasure in exhibiting. It is a line engraving, in our judgment, of rare excellence, and copied line for line, and touch for touch, so accurately as to be, if we may be allowed the bull, as much an original as the original itself.

THE RATES OF POSTAGE.—*Abstract of the New Law.* We give below an abstract of the new law passed by Congress reducing the rates of postage:

After the 1st July, next, in lieu of the rates of postage now established by law, there shall be charged the following rates, viz: For every single letter, in manuscript or paper of any kind by or upon which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks and signs, conveyed in the mail not over three hundred miles, five cents; over three hundred miles ten cents; and for a double letter there shall be charged double this rate; and for a treble letter treble this rate; and for a quadruple letter quadruple this rate; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter, & every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight less than half an ounce, shall be charged with additional single postage. And all drop letters, or letters placed in any post office not for transmission by mail, but for delivery only, shall be charged with postage at the rate of two cents each. And all letters which shall hereafter be advertised as remaining over in any post office shall, when delivered out, be charged with the costs of advertising the same, in addition to the regular postage, both to be accounted for as other postages now are.

Newspapers, of no greater size than nineteen hundred square inches, may be transmitted through the mail to within 30 miles of where they are published, free of postage; if sent over thirty miles the same postage charged as at present.

Private circular letters, unsealed, are subject to a postage of two cents.

The franking privilege, as it now exists, is utterly abrogated and repealed; and officers of the Government of the United States, heretofore having the franking privilege, are required to keep an account of the business-letters which they receive, the postage on which is to be paid by the department to which they are attached. The assistant postmasters general are allowed to frank, but must endorse their letters or package "official business, and if they should not be on official business, they are liable to a penalty of three hundred dollars for each offence. Deputy postmasters are to have all the postage they pay on business letters refunded, and if their commissions do not amount to twenty-five dollars per annum, then the Postmaster General is allowed to increase them.

Governors of States are allowed to transmit through mail, free of postage, certain books and documents; and members of Congress, the Secretary of State and Clerk of the House of Representatives, can frank all public printed documents, and leaves the franking privilege of the Senators and Representatives, on all letters and packages not exceeding two ounces in weight the same as it now is; and they are also allowed to receive letters and packages during the session, as well as for thirty days before and after the same. The Postmaster General is to keep an account of the charge on all matter that goes through the mail free, which is to be refunded from the contingent fund or from the Treasury.

Newspapers, pamphlets, books and periodicals, can be sent out of the mail, over the mail routes, by publishers, agents, or others, without hindrance from the department.

Private expresses, to perform regular trips on mail routes, and transport mailable matter, are expressly prohibited under

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