THE 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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INDEPENDENCE.

Ye speak of independence—
There's no such thing on earth;
We depend upon each other
Still, for all that life is worth!
To every mind that ponders,
To every heart that feels,
There's not a day but something
This hidden truth reveals.

The seed of friendship blooms not—
No leaf can it impart,
Until it finds a welcome
In some congenial heart!
The light of love can warm not
Till found some kindred shrine,
And then it springs immortal,
And shows itself divine.

Thus—thus, throughout creation,
The links of life and birth;
Ye speak of independence—
There is no such thing on earth!
We depend upon each other
For each comfort we enjoy;
There is nought the heart can foster
That the heart may not destroy.

We depend for our existence
On His hand who gave us breath;
We depend upon affection
E'en to soothe the hour of death!
Thus—thus, throughout creation,
The links of life have birth;
Ye speak of independence—
There is no such thing on earth!

Address of Mr. Winthrop.

ON THE OCCASION OF LAYING THE CORNER-STONE OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENT TO WASHINGTON.

The National Intelligencer is filled with a description of the grand pageant on the 4th, on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the National Monument to Washington, but having already published a condensed account of the impressive ceremonies, we content ourselves with copying the conclusion of the eloquent oration of the Hon. R. C. Winthrop. After giving an interesting and brilliant sketch of the character and example of Washington, the orator continues:

It is thus that, in contemplating the character of Washington, the offices which he held, the acts which he performed, his success as a statesman, his triumphs as a soldier, almost fade from our sight. It is not the Washington of the Delaware, or the Brandywine, of Germantown, or of Monmouth; it is not Washington, the President of the Convention, or the President of the Republic, which we admire. We cast our eyes over his life, not to be dazzled by the meteoric lustre of particular passages, but to behold its whole pathway radiant, radiant every where, with the true glory of a just, conscientious, consummate man! Of him we feel it to be no exaggeration to say that

"all the ends he aimed at
Were his Country's, his God's, and Truth's."

Of him we feel it to be no exaggeration to say, that he stands upon the page of history the great modern illustration and example of that exquisite and Divine precept, which fell from the lips of the dying Monarch of Israel—

"He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God;

"And he shall be as the light in the morning when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds!"

And now, fellow citizens, it is this incomparable and transcendent character, which America, on this occasion, holds up afresh to the admiration of mankind. Believing it to be the only character which could have carried us safely through our own Revolutionary struggles, we present it, especially, this day, to the wistful gaze of convulsed and distracted Europe. May we not hope that there may be kindred spirits over the sea, upon whom the example may impress itself, till they shall be inflamed with a noble rage to follow it?—Shall we not call upon them to turn from a vain reliance upon their old idols, and to behold here, in the mingled moderation and courage, in the combined piety and patriotism, in the blended virtue, principle, wisdom, valor, self-denial, and self-devotion of our Washington, the express image of the man, the only man, for their occasion?

Daphni, quid antiquos signorum suspices ortus,
Ecce Dionæi processit Cæsaris astrum!

Let us rejoice that our call is anticipated. Washington is no new name to Europe. His star has been seen in every sky, and wise men every where have done it homage. To what other merely human being, indeed, has such homage ever before or since been rendered?

"I have a large acquaintance among the most valuable and exalted classes of men," wrote Erskine to Washington himself, "but you are the only being for whom I ever felt an awful reverence."

"Illustrious man!" said Fox of him, in the British House of Commons in 1794, "deriving honor less from the splendor of his situation than from the dignity of his mind; before whom all borrowed greatness sinks into insignificance, and all the potentates of Europe become little and contemptible."

"Washington is dead!" proclaimed Napoleon, on hearing of the event. "This great man fought against tyranny; he established the liberty of his country. His memory will be always dear to the French people, as it will be to all free men of the two worlds."

"It will be the duty of the historian and the sage in all ages" says Lord Brougham, "to let no occasion pass of commemorating this illustrious man; and, until time shall be no more, will a test of the progress which our race has made in wisdom and virtue be derived from the veneration paid to the immortal name of Washington."

"One thing is certain," says Guizot—"one thing is certain: that which Washington did—the founding of a free Government, by order and peace, at the close of the Revolution—no other policy than his could have accomplished."

And later, better still: "Efface henceforth the name of Machiavel," said Lamartine, within a few weeks past, in his reply to the Italian association—"efface henceforth the name of Machiavel from your titles of glory, and substitute for it the name of Washington; that is the one which should now be proclaimed; that is the name of modern liberty. It is no longer the name of a politician or a conqueror that is required; it is that of a man, the most disinterested, the most devoted to the people. This is the man required by liberty. The want of the age is a European Washington!"

And who shall supply that want but he who so vividly realizes it? Enthusiastic, eloquent, admirable Lamartine! Though the magic wires may even now be trembling with the tidings of his downfall, we will not yet quite despair of him. Go on in the high career to which you have been called! Fall in it, if it must be so; but fall not, falter not, from it. Imitate the character you have so nobly appreciated! Fulfil the pledges you have so gloriously given! Plead still against the banner of blood! Strive still against the reign of terror!—Aim still

"By winning words to conquer willing hearts,
And make persuasion do the work of fear!"

May a gallant and generous people second you, and the Power which preserved Washington sustain you, until you have secured peace, order, freedom to your country!

"Si qua, fata aspera rumpas,
Tu Marcellus eris."

But, fellow-citizens, while we thus commend the character and example of Washington to others, let us not forget to imitate it ourselves. I have spoken of the precise period which we have reached in our own history, as well as in that of the world at large, as giving something of peculiar interest to the proceedings in which we are engaged. I may not, I will not disturb the harmony of the scene before me by the slightest allusion of a party character. The circumstances of the occasion forbid it; the associations of the day forbid it; the character of him in whose honor we are assembled forbids it; my own feelings revolt from it. But I may say, I must say, and every one within the sound of my voice will sustain me in saying, that there has been no moment since Washington himself was among us, when it was more important than at this moment that the two great leading principles of his policy should be remembered and cherished.

Those principles were, first, the most complete, cordial and indissoluble Union of the States; and second, the most entire separation and disentanglement of our own country from all other countries. Perfect union among ourselves, perfect neutrality towards others, and peace, peace, domestic peace and foreign peace, as the result; this was the chosen & consummate policy of the Father of his country.

But above all and before all in the heart of Washington was the union of the States; and no opportunity was ever omitted by him, to impress upon his fellow-citizens the profound sense which he entertained of its vital importance at once to their prosperity and their liberty.

In that incomparable address in which he bade farewell to his countrymen at the close of his Presidential service, he touched upon many other topics with the earnestness of a sincere conviction. He called upon them, in solemn terms, to "cherish public credit;" to "observe good faith and justice towards all nations;" avoiding both "inveterate antipathies and passionate attachments" towards any; to mitigate and assuage the unquenchable fire of party spirit, "lest, instead of warming it should consume;" to abstain from "characterizing parties by geographical distinctions;" "to promote institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge;" to respect and uphold "religion and morality; those great pillars of human happiness, those firmest props of the duties of men and of citizens."

But what can exceed, what can equal the accumulated intensity of thought and of expression with which he calls upon them to cling to the union of the States. "It is of infinite moment," say he, in language we ought never to be weary of hearing or of repeating, "that you should properly estimate the immense value of your National Union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial support, habitual, immoveable attachment to it, accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can, *in any event* be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts."

The Union, *the Union in any event*, was thus the sentiment of Washington.—The Union, *the Union in any event*, let it be our sentiment this day!

Yes, to-day, fellow-citizens, at the very moment when the extension of our boundaries and the multiplication of our territories are producing, directly and indirectly, among the different members of our political system, so many marked and mourned centrifugal tendencies, let us seize this occasion to renew to each other our vows of allegiance and devotion to the American Union, and let us recognise in our common title to the name and the fame of Washington, and in our common veneration for his example and his advice, the all sufficient centripetal power, which shall hold the thick clustering stars of our confederacy in one glorious constellation forever! Let the column which we are about to construct be at once a pledge and an emblem of perpetual union! Let the foundations be laid, let the superstructure be built up and cemented, let each stone be raised and rivetted, in a spirit of national brotherhood! And may the earliest ray of the rising sun—till that sun shall set to rise no more—draw forth from it daily, as from the fabled statue of antiquity, a strain of national harmony, which shall strike a responsive chord in every heart throughout the Republic!

Proceed, then, fellow-citizens, with the work for which you have assembled!—Lay the corner-stone of a monument which shall adequately bespeak the gratitude of the whole American People to the illustrious Father of his Country! Build it to the skies; you cannot outreach the loftiness of his principles! Found it upon the massive and eternal rock; you cannot make it more enduring than his fame! Construct it of the peerless Parian marble; you cannot make it purer than his life! Exhaust upon upon it the rules and principles of ancient and of modern art, you cannot make it more proportionate than his character!

But let not your homage to his memory end here. Think not to transfer to a tablet or a column the tribute which is due from yourselves. Just honor to Washington can only be rendered by observing his precepts and imitating his example. *Similitudine decoremus.* He has built his own monument. We and those who come after us in successive generations are its appointed, its privileged guardians. This wide spread Republic is the true monument to Washington. Maintain its Independence. Uphold its Constitution. Preserve its Union. Defend its Liberty. Let it stand before the world in all its original strength and beauty, securing peace, order, equality, and hope and joy upon the pathway of human liberty throughout the world; and Washington needs no other monument. Other structures may fitly testify our veneration for him; this, this alone can adequately illustrate his services to mankind.

Nor does he need even this. The Republic may perish; the wide arch of our ranged Union may fall; star by star its glories may expire; stone by stone its columns and its capitals may moulder and crumble; all other names which adorn its annals may be forgotten; but as long as human hearts shall any where pant or human tongues shall anywhere plead, for a true, rational, constitutional liberty, those hearts shall enshrine the memory, and those tongues prolong the fame of GEORGE WASHINGTON!

A *fellow* out West walks into the affections of his "dead head" subscribers in the following genteel style:

"O, you tarnal sap-head, you green tailed lizards, why don't you come along up and pay for your paper? Don't you suspect that I am such consummate blockhead, such a short-sighted, white-livered numbskull, such an infernal fool, as to stay here to print, right in the midst of a swamp country, where the air is so dense with ague, that you have to cut your way through it with a broad-axe—where it shakes the hair off the back, and the teeth out of the mouth, of the very wild dog itself—unless you pay for it? If you do, you're sucked, that's all."

The New York Tioga Freeman is severe upon John Van Buren for his extra charges as attorney general in the anti-rent trials.—

"*A man that is guilty of official overreaching is not faithful to his friends.*"

So we find it in the Boston Post. But what does the Tioga Freeman say of Gen. Cass' "extras!" Is he faithful to his friends!

A PREDICTION of GEN. JACKSON.—Hon. B. F. Butler publishes in the N. Y. Globe, a letter addressed to him by Gen. Jackson, in 1844, in which the election of Martin Van Buren to the Presidency in 1848, is predicted, "as the consummation of an act of justice due alike to him and to the honor and fame of the country."—This prediction is so far verified, that Mr. Van Buren is a candidate for the Presidency; but of his election, there is *some little doubt.*

POLITICAL.

LETTER FROM THE HON. JOHN DAVIS IN REPLY TO AN INVITATION TO THE LATE RATIFICATION CONVENTION, AT WORCESTER.

The following letter from the Hon. John Davis, of Massachusetts, expresses the views of that distinguished statesman in relation to the Presidency. It will be seen that he takes strong ground in favor of sustaining Gen. Taylor.

Washington, June 23, 1848.

Gentlemen:—Your favor came to me yesterday, but my duties in the Senate were such that I could not reply until to-day.—I should be gratified to comply with your request to be present at the Ratification Meeting of to-morrow, but it is out of the question. You will pardon me, nevertheless, in expressing my great satisfaction to observe that the people of Worcester, that good old Whig town, are not inattentive to passing events. The crisis is undeniably eventful, the dangers besetting our path imminent, the prayers of the virtuous and the entreaties of the suffering are raised from all quarters, urging every patriot to make a serious, an earnest effort to rescue the liberties of the people from the perils which threaten them. Let us look at our posture and see what is demanded of us.

In 1845, when the present administration entered upon its duties, the republic was in a state of peace with all the world, and the people enjoying a degree of prosperity and happiness almost unparalleled. What a change has come over us in this brief space of time—brought on either wholly or chiefly by the overshadowing influence of the one man power. It is a sad but fearful illustration of the great afflictions which may be brought upon the country by the abuse of that power, even in feeble hands. The President has, by his own will, and against the express provisions of the Constitution, plunged the Union into a war with a neighboring republic, by which multitudes of our citizens have perished, our revenues needed for domestic purposes have been wasted, and a great public debt has been created to absorb our future resources.

While the Constitution has been thus wrested for abuse of power, and the revenues have been squandered to acquire territory by conquest, laws made for the benefit of the people by large majorities of Congress, have been defeated by a perverse use of the veto, and the people have been denied the right to spend a dollar of their own money to repair their highways for trade and commerce.

Under the revenue laws of 1842, (the black tariff, as the enemies of American industry are pleased to call it,) our finances became prosperous—our sunken credit was restored—our business revived, the hammer and the shuttle were again heard in unison with the cheerful songs of the laborer—and light hearts with strong arms gave unexampled prosperity to our industrial pursuits.

In the judgment of the present administration, a policy which produced these beneficial results was inexpedient, and war for the conquest of territory—and laws which would encourage foreign labor, while they bankrupted our own, were more desirable and better suited to the taste of the democracy. The law of 1842 was therefore repealed—and war, sub-treasury, and free trade were substituted. Thus the laborer as been left to struggle against, not only foreign competition, but a tide of opposition from his own government.

In this state of things the Presidential Election returns to us; and shall we now, by a great and united rally, rescue the country from its perils and restore the days of prosperity?

The Democrats have placed before the people Mr. Cass, who is the avowed exponent, and who has been the chief advocate of the present system. His opinions prove but too clearly that if elected, we have nothing to anticipate but an aggravated state of the present policy.

The Whig Convention, after a fair contest among the friends of the several candidates, nominated by a large majority, Gen. Taylor, as their candidate. But with the result some discontents are said to exist, which are supposed however, to arise chiefly from sectional feelings. I trust, however, that in the indulgence of such sentiments no one will lose sight of the condition of the country, of the perils which beset us, in a contest upon a question whether our candidate shall come from this or that side of a geographical line. The Constitution spreads over the whole country—our interests extend over the whole, and our duties are co-extensive with both. The wise, the virtuous—those whose efforts to live are made fruitless by vicious legislation—and those who are denied all right to their own money—all look to the approaching election, and ernestly hope for the redemption of the country.

The action demands a united, harmonious exertion of all the strength of the Whigs to place success beyound doubt; and I trust that calm consideration and a dispassionate review of our condition as it is, and as it will be if we fail, will allay discontent, and avert the pernicious consequences arising from distracting our friends and imparing our strength. I sincerely hope that patriotism may prevail over and assuage disappointment, and that we may not under any circumstances be left to deplore a defeat, which cannot fail to be a barren victory to those who cause it, if it shall be brought about by Whigs who abandon their standard.

I am, gentleman, one of those who cooperate with the Whig party, and have through all its trials been anxious to preserve it entire, under the belief, that through the blessing of Divine Providence, its strength in numbers and moral power, will be sufficient to protect the country against the mad schemes of ambition which assail us.

I desire also to see an honest, sound, capable Whig, and none other, in the chair of state—a magistrate who will be content with the power confided to him by the constiution—one who will not seek to dismember foreign territory by conquest or to annex it to the United States—one who will follow the prudent example of the earlier Presidents in a sparing use of the veto—one who will not cherish a preference for foreign labor and capital over our own—in a word one whose heart is devoted to the country, not to selfish ambition.

Such in my belief, is Zachary Taylor.—It has not been my privilege to know or hold intercourse with him, but still I do not feel that he is a stranger or that his merits and qualifications are unknown.

The word Whig employed in its common signification implies all that we require of a candidate, for he who wears it honorably is in principle an exponent of the fundamental views of the party. General Taylor says, in his letter of the 22d of April last, to Mr. Allison, "I am a Whig." He makes also as strong a declaration, in a previous letter to Mr. Ingersoll, dated August 3, 1847. I believe I may safely add to this that no man here, friend or foe, and there are many who know the General well, questions the fact of his being a Whig. I deem, therefore, the evidence on this point to be entirely satisfactory. It is equally clear that he is a brave, fearless soldier, not only respected but beloved for his manly benevolent character by all who have served under him.

He is not less distinguished for his firmness, his humanity, his justice, his moderation, and his good sense.

Of his firmness he has given too many signal proofs, to leave it questionable, and notwithstanding he has been in the army nearly forty years, and the latter part of that time in Florida and in Mexico, as Commander-in-chief, under circumstances demanding the most severe police—yet I have never seen or heard of any complaint against his humanity, or his administration of justice. If any one has been opposed or wronged, or has felt so much aggrieved as to make complaint, it has escaped my observation.

While he expects and requires of every man the performance of his duty in circumstances of peril, yet he condemns and rebukes anything like an unnecessary exposure of life, and hence it is, that officers and men put the greatest confidence in his prudence and wisdom.

Those who best know him not only bear willing testimony to these traits of character, but they accord to him a sound, calm discriminating intellect—a mind distinguished for its straight forward common sense.

No man can be fully known until tested by a fair trial of his merits; but these high moral qualities constitute a good foundation for faith and give good assurance that he who possesses them will not fail.

I might advert to other avowals contained in his correspondence and especially in his letters to Mr. Allison, but it would carry this letter into too great length. It is evident from that letter, that if elected, his purpose is to leave Congress to settle questions of domestic policy, and to circumscribe the executive power to the limits assigned it by the constitution, believing as he declares he does that it has of late been greatly & unlawfully extended—"Upon the subject of the tariff, the currency the improvement of highways, rivers, lakes, and harbors (he declares) the will of the people as expressed through their representatives in Congress ought to be respected and carried out by the executive." He also says again, "the principles of our Government, as well as its true policy, is opposed to the subjugation of other nations and the dismemberment of other countries by conquest." These are principles which I believe the great Whig party will most cordially approve. But the whole letter is before you and will speak for itself.

It has been objected that he is a military chieftain, and it is true that few men in any age or nation have achieved a more brilliant and enduring fame than his. With some five thousand men, chiefly volunteers and new recruits, he routed the regular Mexican army of 20,000 men, commanded by their most distinguished general and best tactician. This victory, won against such fearful odds, and by new undisciplined troops, is honor enough. It proves too how great, how abiding and implicit, was the confidence of the troops in their gallant commander. Nevertheless, I would as an example prefer the selection of a candidate from civil life. But experience proves that the profession or employment of a candidate has little connexion with his fitness. Washington was a soldier, Polk a lawyer. The names in juxtaposition suggest the whole argument. One loved peace, the other war—one adhered to the constitution, the other violated one of its most important and wisest provisions—one said, "why should we quit our own to stand on foreign ground," the other sought new territory by conquest.

This proves, what all of us know, that professions are nothing, while sound principles and honest purposes are everything I care not from what walks of life a man comes if he brings with him an honest heart and a capable head. There is security in that, but none in the intrigues of haknied politicians.

But, gentlemen, I fear I have carried this communication to an unreasonable length and will, therefore, close by observing that I have been long of opinion, that Gen. Taylor could be elected by a united exertion of the Whig party. I have thought it probable that he would be the nominee, and have therefore sought information concerning him, and I am happy to be able to assure you that all who best know him speak of him in terms that would do honor to any man. I therefore, entertain a decided opinion, that if elected he will administer the government in a manner creditable to himself, and satisfactory to the country. I have the further pleasure of assuring you that the nomination gives very great satisfaction in almost all the places from which intelligence has been received, and there is the best reason to believe that the doings of the Convention will be ratified by a majority of the votes in the United States.

I am, with great respect and regard,
Your obedient servant,
J. DAVIS.

A. H. Bulloch, T. Kinnicutt, G. T. Rice, Esqrs. Committee.

A TRUE STORY WITH A MORAL FOR YOUNG MEN.

"Poor old man," said my companion, "he has seen better days!"

This remark was made in reference to an old man, whose tattered garments, tottering frame, and miserable appearance indicated an object of charity of the most appealing class.

"You know something of his history, then?" I inquired.

"Oh yes, I have known him a long time. He built that splendid mansion just opposite us, and was for years its opulent possessor. Retired from business, he supposed himself comfortably situated with a competence for life; but the intemperance and extravagance of a son, too much indulged and pampered, together with his own indiscretion, have brought him to his present condition. He lives now upon charity among the very men who once looked up to him with admiration almost bordering upon envy.

"And his son—what has become of him?"

"I will tell you. For years he was the most elegantly dressed young man in this neighborhood. Many a time have I seen him leasurely sauntering these streets, or driving over them, a very coxcomb of the first water. He cross'd the Atlantic, made the tour of the Continent, and returned a greater fop and a more lavish spendthrift than before he travelled. Times grew worse, however, with the old man, misfortunes unexpected, befell him; his means became limited, while the demands of the young man increased. I happened to be in the counting-room of a friend one day, where the old gentleman was settling some business, when the son entered about half intoxicated, and demanded of the father *two hundred* dollars!"

"I am not able to let you have it," said the old man. "Times are changed with me, and my means are passing out of my hands."

"Upon this the son began to swear furiously. He gnash'd his teeth in the face of his father, called him an old fool, and other hard names, and swore the money should be given him. As the old man turned aside and wiped the tears from his face, I caught hold of the young man's arm—for I was moved with indignation—and said to him. "Sam, listen to me. You have been pampered, spoiled, ruined, and in turn you have ruined your father. You now *curse* him! Remember what I tell you. I shall live yet to hear that you have died in the poor house. As sure as God lives, no son who curses his father will be permitted to prosper. Your infamy is already doing its work upon you; take care a few years do not miserably wind up your career of folly."

"I can scarcely tell you why I uttered that prediction of the alms house, but it came upon me with an irresistible force, and the young man staggered for a time beneath the resoluteness and sternness of my gaze. A moment after, he left the counting-room in moody silence.

"I felt a particular and painful interest in watching the history of that young man, as from one degree to another in infamy, he plunged deeper and deeper, until he had become a common market-house loafer, and would gamble for pennies, with negroes, upon the unwashed stalls. Presently disease came, and poor Sam was taken up sure enough to the alms-house. He died there after a somewhat protracted illness. The body was offered to *that old man* for interment, but he was too poor to have it removed.

"I suppose then it was consigned to the Potters' field," said I.

"No,' replied my friend; "he had no burial. *His skeleton at this moment hangs upon wires in the Medical room—an anatomical preparation!*"—*Methodist Protestant.*

Three hundred dollars was paid the other day to a native poet for a political song.

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