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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GEN. CASS AND HIS LAND SPECULATIONS.

Some weeks ago we published a statement in regard to General Cass's land speculations whilst he was Secretary of War under Gen. Jackson. We stated that he was a member of an associaton got up for speculating in Western lands; that the association consisted of himself, the Hon. Henry Hubbard, the Hon. F O. J. Smith, and the Hon. Mr. Markoe; that Gen. Cass had the selection of the agent of the association and bound himself to be responsible for his acts; that the members of the association, after considerable time, made a fruitless effort to obtain a settlement with Cass; that Mr. Hubbard wrote to him denouncing him as a villain, and that Cass was silent under the charge. Our statement was made on the authority of the Hon. F.O J. Smith, one of the members of the association, but we must say in justice to him that he did not give it in writing. He made it verbally to one of his friends, at the same time asking that friend to repeat it to us and request us to publish it, and the friend in question wrote it out for our use. We make this explanation to relieve Mr. Smith from imputations on account of any slight error that may have grown out of his friend's misunderstanding or misrecollection.

Mr. Kercheval, the agent of the association selected by Gen. Cass, sent us a letter which our readers no doubt remember.—That letter as we stated at the time of its publication, and as we can prove, came to us in the handwriting of Gen. Cass himself. Gen. Cass, in the said letter, writing in the name of Mr. Kercheval, denied every portion of the statement published by us, except indeed the main and important fact, that, whilst a member of the Executive cabinet, he got up a powerful association for speculating in the public lands. Gen. Cass, in that letter, writing, as we before said, in Mr. Kercheval's name, denied all knowledge of Mr. Hubbard's having addressed an abusive letter to him on the subject of the business of the association. If then Hubbard did address such a letter to Cass, and if the Kercheval letter, as we can and will prove, is in Cass's hand-writing, Cass is unquestionably guilty of a downright falsehold, a falsehood recorded in black and white.

A few days ago we addressed a letter to Mr. Smith upon the subject of the statement published by us and Gen. Cass's denial of it. Mr. Smith has answered, and we subjoin his answer. He fully verifies all the material portions of the statement, giving a narrative of the facts which reads as if it might be relied on implicitly. We know that he quotes the contract of the association correctly, for we have a full copy of that contract before us, signed by all the parties, Gen. Cass included. According to Mr. Smith's exposition, Gen. Cass has refused to this day to comply with the solemn obligation into which he entered in the contract; he has refused to be responsible for the faithfulness of his agent, he has refused to reinburse his associates for their losses sustained through the agent's violation of the articles of association, and he has thus, as very many if not all candid men will think, exposed himself to the charge of dishonesty alleged to have been made against him in the letter or letters of Mr. Hubbard. To what Mr. Smith says of these letters we particularly invite public attention. Mr. S. says that the purport of the letters was stated to him by Mr. Hubbard, and that their character was described to him by Gen: Cass himself, who said they were so denunciatory and abusive that he would take no notice of them. Gen. Cass on the contrary, writing to us in Mr. Kercheval's name, protests that he has no knowledge of any such letters from Mr. Hubbard. It thus becomes important, in order to fix the falsehood where it belongs, to verify the fact that the Kercheval letter is in Cass's handwriting. With that view we have forwarded it to Detroit:—*Louisville Journal.*

To the Editors of the Louisville Journal.

FOREST HOME, near Portland, Maine, September 1, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 14th ult., which was forwarded from Boston hither, in my absence from both places. In respect to the articles published in your paper elucidating General Cass's land operations with Mr. Hubbard, myself and others, I have seen only an extract from a single article, and am unable to say what extent of error may have crept into the reports on the subject. I have seen an allusion in some paper to a letter from Mr. Kercheval, the former agent of the Cass land association, assuming to contradict some or somebody's statement, but of whose or what I am uninformed. For your guidance and the correction of any misconceptions that have arisen in any minds on the subject, I will state the facts, *such as Gen. Cass will neither contradict nor authorize any man to contradict for him.* Whatever wrong was perpetrated in the matter, apart from the double relation of Secretary of War and purchaser of the public lands, which Gen. Cass sustained, and about which each man must reason in his own way, will appear from and in these facts.

The contemplated capital of the association was $220.000. Of this sum Gen. Cass subscribed to furnish $20,000, and was reported by the agent, Mr. Kercheval, as having advanced $15,000. The aggregate purchases were about $150,000 only, the operation having been too much embarrassed by the "specie circular" of July, 1836, to be further conducted to advantage. Besides, Gen. Cass went to France early afterwards, and the advantage of his operation in the locations was lost. Gen. Cass was a member of Gen. Jackson's cabinet at the date of the circular, and it would be a curious chapter in his history, to operate either for or against him, *in coming into this land operation*, could it be known whether he did or did not *oppose* that measure!

The articles of the association, which it is important for you to understand, required as follows:

"The agent shall be required to locate and enter public lands at the minimum price, to wit, at $1.25 per acre. He shall be at liberty to exercise his judgment in making the locations and entries, and shall only be limited in making said entries to the States of Michigan and Illinois, and to the territory of Wisconsin."

By a subsequent modification of the articles, the purchasers of the agent were "authorised to be extended into the States of Ohio and Indiana, in addition to the States and territory mentioned, &c."

The articles further provided:

"Mr. Kercheval shall be employed as the agent of the association, *for whose integrity, faithfulness, and punctuality, Mr Cass agrees to be responsible.*"

It was out of the departure of Mr Kercheval from the provisions cited, and General Cass' failure to make good the consequent damage believed to be sustained by the Hubbard portion of the purchased interest, that the correspondence of Mr. Hubbard with Gov. Cass, to which you alluded, arose. The association made a classification of the agent's purchases on the year following their completion, and, by lottery, apportioned them among the parties interested, and thus closed up the agency. But as between Gov. Cass and the original associates, Mr. Hubbard deemed Gov. Cass both legally and morally (under his agreement to be responsible for Mr. Kercheval's faithful execution of his agency,) bound to make good the losses arising on investments of the money advanced at extravagant prices, in "*fancy lots*," "*Gibraltar stock*," and like second-handed purchases, held by other speculators, instead of confining himself to the "*public lands at the minimum price, to wit, $1,25 per acre*," as the contract specifically required, and within the States specified.

To urge this measure of justice was the purport of Mr. Hubbard's letters to Governor Cass, both while the latter was in Paris, and after his return home. Of *the purpose* of his letters, I derived my information from Mr. Hubbard, being interested with him still in the result, though to a small amount compared with his own, and he having the agency at the time of my interest in common with his own. Of *the character* of these letters, I derived my information from Gov. Cass, who informed me they were so denunciatory and abusive that he refused to return answer to either of them, and never did so! The letters I never saw; and whether what Mr. Cass deemed so offensive, was, or was not so, in view of the occasion and grounds that gave rise to them, and whether they did or not make out a clear case of Gov. Cass' accomplishing through an agent what Mr. Hubbard deemed a peculation as severe as you have described it, would best be understood were either Judge Hubbard or Gov Cass *willing to furnish copies of the letters.* Neither will deny they once existed, and so offensive in their accusations that Gov. Cass refused to answer; and *never did answer them.* What is more, he never has offered, by himself or Mr. Kercheval, to make good the money which the latter, as his agent, squandered without authority, in "Gibraltar stock" and other fancy lots, when he was expressly intrusted with it only to purchase "public lands at minimum prices;" which "Gibraltar stock" and fancy lots remain mostly on Mr. Hubbard's hands at his and my expense, to the present day, worthless and inappreciable—and this in the face of Gov. Cass' obligation to be responsible for Mr. Kercheval's "faithfulness," &c.

Now such are the facts, such the sources of evidence of their existence; and, what is more, if original documents be needed to substantiate any one of them, except only the unanswered letters of Judge Hubbard to Gov. Cass, I have them. Since my name has been drawn into the matter before the public, you are at liberty to make whatever use need may be of these statements to "set history right," only asking to be excused from any voluntary position of unnecessary obtrusiveness on the public. With great regard, in haste, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS O. J. SMITH.

FURTHER HONORS TO GENERAL TAYLOR.

The New Orleans Picayune contains a letter from Pass Christian, detailing the particulars of a "Taylor Barbacue," which came off at that place on the 16th instant. Large numbers of persons were in attendance. In reply to the remarks made by the Hon. JOHN HENDERSON, General Taylor made the following address:

GEN. TAYLOR'S ADDRESS.

It is with emotions of no ordinary embarrassments, Mr. Speaker, that I find myself called upon to respond to the cordial reception with which I have just been met by the authorities of Pass Christian and the citizens of Harrison county. I cannot, indeed, expect to do justice to the occasion, and feel especially less able to offer in adequate terms my acknowledgments for the very flattering language in which this greeting has been tendered by the talented citizen who has just addressed me.—I can only, therefore, offer you my warmest thanks, and assure you that the style of my reception here is particularly grateful to my feelings. This simple and republican manner of meeting my fellow-citizens carries me back to the pleasant scenes of my early life. I was reared from infancy to early manhood in the West—among men of the most primitive tastes and republican simplicity. We there frequently met on occasions like this, to exchange freely our opinions on National and State affairs, and to devise measures for the defence of our borders, which at that day the General Government was sometimes unable to protect. On these occasions were often collected, too, those men of lion hearts and iron nerves who had not only aided the Father of our Country in achieving our independence, and stood by his side in many of his hard-fought battles, but who afterwards filled, with honor to our country, conspicuous places in our legislative bodies, both National and State. I have been educated in the simple and republican habits so happily illustrated in this scene, and do not expect to change them in my old days. You will then understand me when I assure you again, that the manner of my reception here is more agreeable to my feelings and taste than could be all the pomp and pageantry of a reception at the most splendid Court of Europe.

The complimentary language in which you have been pleased to allude to my military services, which now embrace a period of more than forty years, and especially to the actions in which I have been engaged during that time, commencing with the defence of Fort Harrison, in 1812 and ending with the battle of Buena Vista, has awakened in me the most grateful emotions. I feel particularly gratified at the just tribute of praise which you have paid, in speaking of these services, to the gallant men whom I commanded on those occasions, and to whom I feel deeply indebted for our success. I claim nothing, save the good fortune of being the leader of such men on the occasions referred to; and to their zeal in sustaining me, and to their bold hearts and strong arms, are we indebted for our victories. The manner in which you have alluded to my being stripped of my troops on the Rio Grande, and to my being left, as it might seem, at the mercy of the enemy, just before the battle of Buena Vista, renders it proper, probably, that I should make a few remarks in relation to that matter. I received at Victoria, while on my way to Tampico—a movement which I had advised the War Department I should make, for certain reasons—an order from the General-in-Chief of the army, stripping me of the greater portion of my command, and particularly of regular troops and volunteers well instructed. This order was received by me with much surprise, and, I must confess, produced the strongest feelings of regret, mortification and disappointment, as I knew that Gen. Santa Anna was within striking distance of my line, with an army of 25,000, probably of the best appointed men ever collected in Mexico. After putting most of the troops then with me at Victoria, *en route* for Tampico—the larger portion of the commands at Monterey and Saltillo having been already withdrawn for the same ultimate destination—I was instructed to return to the former place, where it was expected I would remain on the defensive, with the small force then under my orders. A few days after reaching that point I learned that the greatest alarm prevailed among the advance at Saltillo, in consequence of the capture at Encarnacion of Majors Borland and Gaines, with their party of about eighty picked men from the Arkansas and Kentucky cavalry—followed a few days afterwards by the capture of a detachment of picked men under Capt Heady, also of the Kentucky cavalry.

About the same time I received a communication from Gen. Wool, then commanding at Saltillo, urging me to join him with all the troops at my disposal, stating that Gen. Santa Anna was at least preparing, if he was not already *en route*, to strike a blow at Saltillo! I immediately joined Gen'l Wool with 700 or 800 men, and a few days afterwards concentrated all the troops which were generally encamped by regiments, and took my position at Agua Nueva, in order that all the officers might become better acquainted with each other and their duty, and that generally a more thorough system of discipline and instruction could be adopted to prepare all hands for service. While here, I was advised by the War Department and the General-in-Chief to occupy Monterey. This advice I believed then, as I do now, was given at hazard, and in ignorance of my situation, that of the enemy, and of the country. I declined to adopt it, and determined to fight the Mexican General immediately after he crossed the desert country which lay just in my front, and before he could have time to refresh and reorganize his army, which I knew would be much worn out and disordered by a march of 150 miles across this desert without sufficient provisions and supplies, and with a great scarcity of water. In this determination, so far as I know, I was most cordially sustained by the officers of my command. About two weeks after taking my position at Agua Neuva, it was ascertained by my advanced parties that Santa Anna was at hand with his army. We then fell back to Buena Vista, a ranch some six miles in front of Saltillo, where we took up a strong position, and where we could easily communicate with our depot in the latter place. Upon this ground I determined to give battle. The enemy arrived in our front on the morning of the 22d, and summoned me to surrender at discretion about 1 o'clock of the same day. The summons was declined, and about 4 o'clock on that day the battle of Buena Vista commenced. The result of that affair is known to you all, and I shall not, therefore, trouble you with its details. All tried to discharge their duty to their country on that occasion, and some even did more than their duty. It would then perhaps be invidious to draw comparisons, but I must be permitted to say that, led on by their distinguished commander, the gallant Mississippi Volunteers, of whom you have just spoken so highly and so justly, performed well their part. They were the only volunteers with me who had met the enemy before—having acted as would become veteran troops in the conflicts about Monterey. I therefore calculated much upon their assistance on that eventful day, and I am happy here to say that my expectations were fully realized. Their ranks thinned by the enemy's bullets are much more conclusive as to their good conduct than anything I could now say.

The battle of Buena Vista, under the circumstances under which it was fought, was one of the most trying occasions in which a soldier can be placed. I may say indeed that I fought that battle with a halter about my neck. I had been advised to fall back and occupy Monterey, which, as before stated, I declined, and had I been unsuccessful, this advice would have been brought up in judgment against me. I declined that advice because I believed the result would have been as disastrous as a defeat. Had I fallen back to Monterey, the whole country about me, upon which I was greatly dependent for forage, would have flown to arms. Once confined in Monterey, the volunteers, to say nothing of the effects of the retreat upon them, would have become sickly and dispirited, and deprived of all means of obtaining supplies, and particularly forage. I should soon have not had a dragoon or artillery horse in my command, and would therefore have been compelled ultimately to surrender, unless the seige could have been raised by the return of Gen. Scott from Vera Cruz with the troops under his command.

The battle of Buena Vista was fought on our side by about 450 regular troops and something upwards of 4000 volunteers, while they were opposed by at least 20,000 of the enemy; and had we lost the day, I feel that the whole responsibility of the misfortune would have fallen upon my shoulders. Yet I do not wish here to censure those who placed us in that critical situation; whether they deserve blame or not I leave for others to determine.—Those who had control of my fate in this transaction may have friends here present in whose good opinion I would not harm them. For my own part, I am satisfied to hope and believe that it was all the result of accident rather than of design on their part.

In conclusion, I beg to return to you, to my fellow-citizens of Harrison county, and particularly to my fair country women here assembled, my heartfelt thanks for the cordial reception which they have this day extended to me.

THE SOUTHERN ASPECT.

While a few nervous spirits in our Northern region have endeavored to find cause of exception in Gen. Taylor's position, Southern Locofocos of the most extreme Free Trade and slavery-extension school, have based their hostility to his election upon that very position, so ably and so clearly signified in both the Allison letters.

The Hon. FRANCIS W. PICKENS, somewhat celebrated as the gentleman who, upon the floor of the House of Representatives, declared himself "born insensible to fear,"—in a recent letter addressed to a meeting in Charleston, urges the following objections against Gen. Taylor:

"His (Gen. Taylor's) political principles take their complexion from his constant and devoted admiration of the "Whig Embodiment;" and while he proclaims himself a Whig he prefers the political views of Henry Clay to those of all the Democratic exponents of the constitution, since the time of Jefferson. Opposed to the exercise of the veto power, on the subject of the tariff, the Currency, and Internal Improvements, he would also withhold it from all interference with the action of Congress on domestic policy.

"These are the political sentiments avowed by Gen. Taylor—they have been recognized by his supporters all over the Union, and are the assurances upon which the Whig Convention, with closed doors, were willing to take him without further pledges, as the true exponent of their party.

"A candidate so objectionable, the Democracy of Charleston will never support. It matters not where born, whether South or North, East or West."

These objections, in our estimation, contain the most cogent and conclusive reasons for supporting Gen. Taylor. They embody the principles upon which the canvass is now conducted, and we thank Mr. Pickens for presenting them in this distinct form; inasmuch as they furnish the most direct answer to the attacks of his own party in this section of the country.—Democracy has a complexion for every latitude, and this may be regarded as the Southern shade.—*Philadelphia American.*

From the Rutland Herald.

GEN. TAYLOR, TEN YEARS AGO.

We were a few days since carelessly looking over an old file of a somewhat noted literary paper—the New York Mirror—when we accidentally stumbled upon an article which we think may prove of interest to many at this time. This is a letter from a correspondent of the Mirror, written in 1838, at the close of the Florida war, giving the talk of Gen. (then Col) TAYLOR, while in council with the celebrated Chief ALIGATOR, and which shows plainly the existence then of one of the marked traits of Gen. TAYLOR'S character. No better evidence of the nobleness and natural kindness of Gen. TAYLOR can be given than what is here shown. The following is Col. TAYLOR'S talk:

"Red Brothers! I am glad to meet you here, because the Great Spirit is pleased with those who make peace! Your great father, the President of the United States, will also be pleased. Although a soldier, I do not wish to shed the blood of my red brothers; and I had rather save the life of one child than kill one hundred of your warriors? There are none so blind as those who will not see; none so deaf as those who will not hear! Your ears are open; your chiefs know what I want and they know I have never deceived them. Whatever I have promised has been performed. If any of your people come to my camp with a white flag they will be as safe as though they were a thousand miles distant from me. You know what I have said; if you like my talk we are friends; if not, go back to your camp, and the war will continue."

Aligator said, in reply:

"Father! Your talk is true; what you say is good. I understand you, and you shall understand me. I speak with a straight tongue; my heart is clean, my hands are white, and you must believe what I say. My people have suffered a great deal. This has been the longest war I ever knew or heard of; but my people have desired peace a long time. If your messengers had carried good words, this thing would have been closed long ago? We will do as our great father wishes! The hatchet is buried—not under the pine tree, in the sand, for the wind will blow up the pine tree and uncover it again; not in the ocean for the waves will wash it on shore; but I have digged a deep hole in hard ground and I have put a big stone on the hatchet, so that it will never again be seen! May the Great Spirit keep it safe! I have done!"

In the conclusion of the letter referred to the writer says:

"Apiaka, or Samuel Jones the fisherman, and his Micasukies, are the only Indians now concealed in the thickets. Col. TAYLOR has done more towards this consummation, during the short time he has been in the country, than all the commanders since the war began."

HON. THOMAS CORWIN.

As an act of justice to Mr. Corwin, we transfer to our columns the following extract from a speech delivered by him at Cleveland on the the 14th ult. It effectually crushes a calumny which has been widely circulated by the Locofoco press, and under circumstances which leave no other conclusion than that it was premeditated and deliberate:

"Fellow citizens—A placard was placed in my hands this morning, containing a garbled extract from a speech which I had the honor to address to the American Senate, and calculated to mislead you in reference to myself. When the President of the United States had, without the authority of Congress, plunged the nation into the recent atrocious war with Mexico, it became my duty, as a member of the Senate, to investigate the facts connected therewith. After thorough examination, and mature reflection, I believed that the war was uncalled for, unnecessary, and therefore an unjust war; and while I stood ready at all times to vote all necessary supplies for those gallant and patriotic young countrymen of ours who so nobly flew to the standard of their country, yet was I in favor of an immediate order to the General in Chief of the army, for its prompt withdrawal from the territory of Mexico. And in my speech to the Senate, to which I have already alluded, in showing the Mexicans' powerful inducements for a protracted struggle, I stated that ours was an invading army, and that the citizens of a weak and distracted sister Republic were called upon to defend all they held most sacred—the grounds tendered consecrate by the blood of their sires, the graves of their fathers—their mothers, sisters, offspring, and their firesides; and I stated that were I a Mexican I would meet this army with bloody hands, and welcome it to hospitable graves. And who of you, fellow citizens, were a foreign army to invade our own soil, no matter what the cause might be, would not thus meet and thus welcome them? The man who cannot respond to such a sentiment is a traitor, and unworthy a place among men. And for uttering this sentiment, to which no true patriot would take exception, I am represented as wishing my brave countrymen to be slaughtered in a foreign country, in this execrable war!

CASS A "BOLTER!"—The power of "regular nominations" has been a potent spell in the hands of locofoism, and many persons who despise CASS, have been brought to his support simply because he is the regular Baltimore nominee. But it seems that the Hon. JOHN M. NILES, of Connecticut, in a recent speech at Hartford, disclosed a fact which throws a new light on the peculiar character of the "great Michigander," and shows that he was willing four years ago, to bolt the Baltimore nomination and accept one in opposition to it.—Senator Niles thus tells the story:—

"Previous to the Baltimore Convention of 1844, when so many States had declared for Van Buren that his nomination was deemed certain, Gen. Duff Green conceived the project of calling a convention to meet on the Fourth of July, to nominate an independent candidate. He addressed a letter to Gen. Cass, inquiring whether he would permit his name to go before such a Convention as a candidate. Now, though Gen. Cass would probably consider resistance to "regular nominations" an offence little short of treason, no matter how irregularly they might be made, he had no such reverence for them at that time. He professed but little acquaintance with the state of public sentiment, as he had recently returned from France—thought politicians governed the people too much—was modest in his thoughts of the Presidency—but concluded by acquiescing in the use of his name before such a Convention. It so happened that Gen. Green had not steam enough to get up a Convention, and the project fell through."

There is much plain and practical wisdom in the following anecdote, and compressed within so small a space, that every body may read it with pleasure, and most of the Free Soilers, with profit. In its way it is a political *malium in parvo:*

A WISE ANSWER.—The Palmyra Courier tells a good anecdote illustrating the view which is taken of Mr. Van Buren's course, and the course of those who support him. The story runs thus: A venerable clergyman in an adjoining county, was holding a familiar talk with his Van Buren son-in-law lately, on politics. The young man was urging an entire forgetfulness of Mr. Van Buren's past misdeeds, and reference only to his present apparent position. "Suppose a man, after living a life of wickedness, shall repent, and ask to be received into your church, wouldn't you admit him?" he required. "Certainly," was the reply of the clear-headed old man; "certainly, if his repentence was sincere; but until we tried his faith, *we wouldn't make a bishop of him!*" That's it.

SHOOTING AN EAGLE.—Col. Haskell, of Tennessee in one of his fine speeches, speaking of the impotent assaults on the character of Gen. Taylor, said, they reminded him of an attempt he once made to kill an eagle. "The noble bird was perched on the sumit of a lofty mountain, secure from smoothbores and small shot. I shot at him twice. The first fire was a clear miss. The second shot, I *hit* him precisely where I *missed* him the first time." Just so with the assailants of Gen. Taylor, if they hit him at all, it is precisely in the spot where they missed him before. Like the bird of Jove, he sits on an eminence beyond the reach of that kind of small shot that the office-holders and demagogues of the day are incessantly firing at him.

"LAST CARDS."—Pica type and "glaring capitals" are coming into use now among the Locos, as the election approaches. They are finding out something "astounding" every day, and we are amused every morning, by the changing colors and fluttering of the dying dolphins. These "last cards" have been played with some skill in former times; but Benjamin F. Butler, who was the great shuffler, cutter and dealer, has shuffled himself off, cut from the party, and is giving it a deal of trouble. We know not who succeeds to the vacant office, but are certain that the great "crust divider" of 1840 has not left his peer, in dexterity and sleight, among the party he has so cruelly slighted.

There is not a single book-store in the whole state of Arkansas. So a gentleman from that region informs the Boston Traveller.—*Exchange paper.*

This in part explains the large Locofoco majority of that *enlightened* Commonwealth. As like causes produce like effects it would be an interesting source of inquiry to ascertain how many "book-stores" and newspapers flourish in the various counties of Accomac, Shenandoah and Rockenham, Va., where Locofocos are as "plenty as blackberries."

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