L. S. Teackle

DORCHESTER AURORA.

"PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES, AND MEN BY THEIR PRINCIPLES."

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POLITICS AND POETRY.

The columns of the opposition press have been teeming so long with *political* nonsense, in praise of the Hero of Tippecanoe, that we think, by this time the brains of the *rhymsters* must be nearly exhausted. Poor Fellows! we have determined to take pity on them; and in order to aid them in keeping alive that *poetical spirit* for which they seem so peculiarly gifted, and have such an unbounded *taste*, we have prepared the following version; which will afford them a text for a "New Whig Song." They will now have an opportunity of resting awhile from their *poetical* labors, until the Harrison ditty we kindly tender to them, has taken the rounds of their respective papers. To save them any unnecessary trouble, we give our subject in both prose and poetry:

Harrison's orders to Col Croghan to destroy Fort Stevenson, & the answer of the latter.

HEAD QUARTERS, SANDUSKY PLAINS, July 29, 1813.

Col. Geo. Croghan,—Sir:

Immediately after the receipt of this letter,
Abandon the Fort—the sooner the better.
Set fire to the works, and provisions in store,
And cross to the river's opposite shore,
To head quarters repair, yourself and command,
But if up the river you can't get by land,
Take the highway to Huron:—to be brief, I expect
You to march with despatch, and be circumspect.

WM. HENRY HARRISON.

ANSWER.

FORT STEPHENSON, July 30, 1813.

Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison;—Sir:

Your letter to me, I hasten to say,
I received at 10 P. M. of this very day:
It orders me, sir, to abandon this place,
And make good my retreat, at a most rapid pace.
'Twas received too late, to answer the end;
Our lives, and our honor, we've resolved to defend;
We're determin'd, good sir, from the boy* to the man
To maintain this place, and by heavens we can!

GEO. CROGHAN.

*Col. Croghan at the time was only 19 years of age—a mere boy, but a brave one.

From the Western Globe.

CONTRAST of the Military Character and Services of Gen. WM. H. HARRISON and Col. RICHARD M. JOHNSON.

In selecting men to fill the offices of State, it is important that all which can be known of their character and talents, should be spread before the public. For places of the highest trust, the surest test of fitness is found in the ability and fidelity with which they have discharged the duties of subordinate stations. This has been the index by which the public mind has been hitherto guided in the selection to the highest elective office in the world that of the presidency of these United States. Out of a population of about sixteen millions, only one person can fill that place, and, as it is no reproach not to be chosen, so it is not disrespectful to any person who is named as a candidate, to compare his public life with that of any other citizen, though in the comparison, his glory may suffer an eclipse.

The candidate selected for the next presidency by the party calling themselves whigs, is General William Henry Harrison. The first inquiry which rises in his mind, on hearing his name mentioned, is, what are the developements of character which his public life has furnished, that should entitle him to this preference? Without reference to the present Chief Magistrate, whose acts in the office which he fills are his best credentials for future confidence, we will compare the new candidate for the first, with the present incumbent for the second place; and inquire which of the two has the highest claims to public trust, the federal candidate for the Presidency, or the democratic candidate for the Vice Presidency?

These two citizens have become prominent, both from their military and civil career. In their military character we shall first notice themt

Gen. Harrison, who is now nearly three score and ten years old, passed the morning of his life in military service; and during a period that was continually opening field after field, from which a man of his experience & opportunities, had his valor and skill been equal to the occasion, would have plucked the richest laurels; and adorning his own brow with never fading honors, he would have won for his country a tribute of glory from all the nations of the world. But this was reserved for nobler minds, whose superior chivalry more than countervailed the long experience of Harrison.

In the Indian wars, which long prevailed on our western frontier, and which were successfully terminated by the victories achieved under the gallant Gen. Wayne, Harrison bore a commission; but of his chivalry or skill, the pages of history bear no record.—He wanted not for family connections to bring him into notice; and could he have established a personal character to sustain the distinction, he might have been presented to the public under the most favorable auspices.—But we search in vain for a solitary instance of military greatness in his whole career.

The first action in which he is known, is that of Tippecanoe. As governor of the territory, and superintendent of Indian concerns within its bounds, he was commander of the military force there employed. It was a time of peace; but to bring about an anjustment of some difficulties which had arisen with the Indians, he thought to intimidate with his prowess; and marched into their country a large military force, under the protection of which he intended to conduct the negociation. With an army to intimidate, he thought to amuse the Indians with protestations of friendship; and to confirm them in his sincerity, he even left them to designate his encamping ground But they appear to have regarded him in the light of the ostrich, of whom it is said that 'God hath deprived her of wisdom.' It is said of that bird, that she will conceal her head in dark crevices, and suppose, because blind herself, that none can see her. So Harrison supposed, that because he had blindly encamped where the Indians had directed, and exposed his whole force to the danger of surprise, without fortification, they would be unsuspicious of hostility on his part But the Indians, perceiving that Harrison supposed his professions of amity were not doubted by them, attacked his camp in the night; and before he could rally his forces a dreadful slaughter ensued, in which many lives were sacrificed, and some of the finest talents of the country lost. Had he profitted by the instruction of Wayne, his former commander, he would never have suffered himself to be surprised. It is said of one description of persons, that they will learn in no other school than that of experience; but what shall be said of him who not profit in this? When surprised, he could not have restrained his men from defence, and the survivors gallantly maintained their position till morning—After depredating upon the growing corn of the Indians Harrison affected a counter march, and so the remainder of his force was saved. The brightest genius that he ever displayed, was the adroitness with which, in his report he converted this defeat into a victory. The public willing for their country's honor, to cover the blush of shame, permitted it to bear the name of a victory and Indians would not write a history to give it the contradiction.—The great improvement which Harrison made of this disastar, was to learn prudence; for he become prudent to such an excessive degree, that he was never afterwards known, under any circumstances whatever, to encounter danger, or to lead his men near to an enemy, when he could possibly avoid it.

After our country engaged in the war with Great Britain, a prominent command was given him—that of the northwestern army. He had now at his disposal an ample force, well supplied. with which he might at a moment have borne down all opposition, and carried the whole of the war into Canada.—But the lesson of prudence which he had learned at Tippecanoe was too strongly impressed upon his mind to admit of offensive measures against the enemy. He seemed to act upon the principle, that it is a great object of a commander to save his own army from danger; and not to harrass or harm the foe.

The tragedy of the river Raisin can never be forgotten, while there lives a person whose heart then beat for his country; nor ought the conduct of Harrison on that occasion to be forgotten. He was the commander of a force sufficient to have annihilated every individual of the enemy; he remained inactive in the rear. Instead of marching to the rescue of his bleeding countrymen, he acted upon his favorite maxim of prudence; and left them a sacrifice to the ruthless and barbarous foe, while he preserved the main body of his army, by keeping them aloof from the field of carnage. Nor did he even retain his position "*in the rear.*" Apprehending that the enemy, not satiated with the blood of the victims already abandoned to their fate, might bend their march towards head quarters, he made an inglorious retreat. Such was the conduct of Harrison on that memorable occasion.

We hear of him again in the vicinity of Lower Sandusky. Col. Croghan, with about one hundred and fifty men, was well entrenched at Fort Stephenson, when he learned that a combined force of British and Indians, amounting, as was supposed, to about fifteen hundred, was on the march to storm his fortress. Harrison was then in his own favorite position, some eight or ten miles 'in the rear,' with two thousand brave men, well supplied with provisions, and every thing requisite for efficiency, all eager for the combat. Croghan, not doubting that Harrison, by hastening to his relief, would completely defeat the enemy, gave himself no other concern than that of examining well his bastions, and seeing that every thing was ready for defence. But what was his mortification, when, instead of ample succor which might have been afforded him, he received an order from Gen. Harrison to destroy his munitions, abandon the fort to the enemy, and make a precipitate retreat! The heroic spirit of Croghan and his band could not endure the disgrace of such a course; and, in defiance of the order, they resolved to defend their post while a drop of blood remained in their veins And what was the result? Croghan, with his hundred and fifty men, totally defeated the whole force of the enemy, and with a dreadful slaughter, put them entirely to flight. But where was Harrison with his two thousand men? He was still "*in the rear,*" within the sound of Croghan's cannon, reprobating his rashness, and mourning over the anticipated massacre of his garrison; but, instead of making an effort to sustain him, he collected all his provisions into a pile, and proposed to set fire to them, and flee the moment he should learn that the enemy was advancing towards him. This was the brilliant achievement of the hero of North Bend—the military chieftain—selected by his party to preside over the destinies of our country. He is held forth as in derision of their opponents, who once elected a real military chieftain, and to win by delusion the suffrages of those who give honest eclat to successful military enterprise.

But how shall the delusion be confirmed? Accident has furnished one case, which is set in bold relief for this purport. It is the battle of the Thames; which, like a distant flash of lightning, shone brilliantly upon the path of him who only heard the thunder's sound, but came not within the electrick shock, and left around him a halo of glory, which he had as little agency in creating as in directing the elements of nature. With an overwhelming force in the rear of a retreating foe, stimulated by the martial spirit of Shelby and two thousand congenial souls, he passes over into Canada. For several days, with more than double numbers, he pursued the enemy. But Col. Johnson, with his regiment of mounted volunteers, led the van; & they could not be restrained from pressing so closely upon the rear of the enemy, as to keep up a continual skirmishing. Finally, the place of attack was proposed. Harrison gave the order; which was but a permission for Johnson to fight and conquer the foe. Harrison then retired to his position '*in the rear,*' and came not within the reach of a cannon ball of the enemy, till Johnson and his regiment had achieved the victory This was Harrison's part in the battle of the Thames; and with this his military career terminated. His sole merit was that of permitting Johnson to conquer the foe.

Such has been the military life of Harrison, who devoted the prime of his days to the profession of arms, and whose chief glory consists in his martial achievements. He drew the report of the battle of the Thames in a way to reflect the glory upon himself; and while his blushing honors were yet fresh upon him, he wisely resigned his commission His pretext for so doing, was, that his country did not sufficiently appreciate his merits; but whatever may have been his real motive, it was certainly the happiest measure which he could have taken, and the only one which could have preserved upon his brow one laurel.

Let us now turn our attention to Col. Richard M. Johnson. His military career was short and splendid. He never held a commission in the regular army; nor was the profession of arms any part of his vocation.—In military science, he was his own preceptor; and would never have drawn the sword, but for the exigency of war, under circumstances which demanded the devotion of every heart, and the energy of every arm. He was a member of Congress; and in June, 1812, he voted for the declaration of war against Great Britain, as the only alternative to secure the honor and preserve the independence of his country. After the adjournment of Congress in July, he returned to his home in Kentucky. The Northwestern frontier was at that time threatened with the danger of invasion from the British and Indians.—Col. Johnson proposed to a number of his constituents, to arm themselves with all possible despatch; and for the greater celerity of movement, to furnish themselves with horses, and hasten to the seat of war, that they might contribute their personal services to the protection of their country. Within a few days, three hundred chivalrous citizens were in arms for the enterprize, and Col. Johnson among them, a private volunteer, in the ranks. He bore no commission, nor did he seek an office among them. Military glory was not the object of his pursuit. In this expedition he had no ambition but that of defending his country They organized themselves into three companies; and, at their solicitation, he accepted the command, with the rank of Major. Early in August they were on their march for the seat of war; but before their arrival, they received the tidings of the surrender of Gen. Hull, with the army under his command. After guarding the provisions necessary for the subsistence of those who escaped the surrender, and protecting the scattered inhabitants from Indian massacres, they returned to Kentucky. In this short campaign, which lasted but sixty days, he learned the true method of manœuvering mounted musketers and riflemen, and the efficiency with which they might be brought to act upon an enemy.

This was his first appearance in military life. The whole recess of Congress was less than four months, and he was at the seat of government at the opening of the ensuing session; so the time allotted to the military service must have been very limited

During the session which followed, he proposed to the Secretary of War the plan of the ensuing campaign, which was adopted by the department, with the exception, that Johnson had proposed a winter campaign, but the executive preferred the summer. He might then have received a command in the regular army, but he declined, believing he could serve his country more efficiently in Congress; at the same time, he pledged himself to do all he could in any humbler station than that of commander, to give energy to the arms of his country; and authorized the President to command him in any way in which he might deem his service beneficial. At the close of the session, which was the beginning of March, 1813, he received authority from the war department, to raise a regiment of mounted militia volunteers, to act in concert with the northwestern army, and to place themselves under the command of Gen. Harrison, who had succeeded General Hull. With this authority he hastened to Kentucky, and offered himself to be the companion in arms of those who would volunteer their service, and to act in any capacity which they should desire. A regiment of a thousand men was soon in arms, and they appointed Johnson their commander, and his elder brother, James Johnson, their Lieut. Colonel. Hearing at this time of the defeat of Col. Dudley, near Ft. Meigs, he solicited and obtained from the Government of Kentucky, an order to rendevouz his regiment, and march to the relief of that frontier. In ten days from the date of that order, the whole regiment was in arms, every man well mounted and equipped, and on their march to meet the foe. In their progress towards Detroit, an express was received from Gen Clay, commaning at Fort Meigs, stating that a large body of the enemy was advancing upon him, and he expected the Fort to be surrounded before succors could arrive. Had Johnson acted the part which Harrison had done in the case of Croghan, another dreadful massacre might have been added to the number of those which our country was called to deplore. But instead of this, he immediately set out with his regiment to their relief. The distance was fifty miles; and by forced marches, they gained it in one day.—As he approached the Fort, not doubting that the enemy had arrived and stationed themselves opposite the post, Col Richard M. Johnson addressed his men, telling them that the only ground upon which they could encamp that night was probably in possession of the enemy, and in superior numbers to their own; and they must now come to the determination of breaking through their lines, though with an inferior number; that no thought of retreat must be indulged; and that if there was an individual among them who was not fully resolved on victory or death, he must immediately quit the regiment.—"The tide of war (said he) must now be turned upon the enemy; and Kentucky must no more mourn the fate of her sons, but in the arms of victory." The regiment unanimously responded to the sentiment. They arrived at the spot and found that the enemy had not yet reached it. Nor did they deem it prudent to advance, after the arrival of Johnson with his regiment; but relinquished their intention, and left the post in quiet possession of the Americans. How different this, from the conduct of Harrison with Croghan. The cases were similar; but which of the two best sustained the military character of his country, let the world decide.

Having affected his object at Fort Meigs, he pursued his march towards Detroit. Harrison had crossed over into Canada at Portage with the main body of the army; while Johnson with his regiment pursued his march on the American side, to guard the country against savage depredations—During this march, he was continually liable to have been attacked by Indians in greater numbers, and with no greater caution than Harrison had observed at Tippecanoe, he would probably have been attacked by surprise, and suffered great loss, if not total defeat. But he so managed and fortified his camp every night that it was impossible for him to be surprised. In this order he reached Detroit, when he received orders from Harrison to cross over into Canada, and lead the pursuit against Proctor, the retreating foe. It was on the first of October that he crossed; and on the third, he came up the rear of the enemy. He pressed so closely upon the enemy, as to keep up a constant skirmishing till the fifth, when they were compelled to make a stand. He ascertained their position. Gen. Proctor, with about eight hundred British regulars, was stationed with his left upon the river Thames, and his right a deep swamp parallel to the river, and about a hundred yards from it. At the right of this swamp, which was but narrow, were about fifteen hundred Indians, with Tecumseh at their head. Col Johnson at once conceived the practicability of a simultaneous and successful charge upon both the regulars and the Indians—Gen. Harrison gave the order, when he retired to the rear, where the main army was. Johnson divided his regiment, and with one half, led by his brother, the Lt. Colonel, charged the regulars, and made them all prisoners, except those who fell in the charge, with the loss of but one man of the charging party. At the same time, Col. Johnson, with the other battalion of five hundred men, led the charge against fifteen hundred Indians; and with a dreadful slaughter, put them all to flight—It was in this charge that Col. Johnson came into personal combat with Tecumseh. Col. Johnson, already covered with wounds, was armed with a pistol and a sword; his antagonist was armed with a rifle and a tomahawk.—Johnson was the assailant. He saw that Tecumseh was himself a host; a rallying point for the Indians, and the main obstacle to immediate victory. He therefore fearlessly advanced upon him, and received from Tecumseh's rifle, the worst wound which he suffered. He continued his advance till within a short distance, Tecumseh was lifting his tomahawk to strike him; when, in that instant, he levelled his pistol and laid the Indian chieftain dead at his feet. The Indians struck with consternation, raised their yell of dismay, and immediately began their retreat Johnson was so disabled with his many wounds that he was unable to pursue, and he is, to this day, crippled in one hand, and injured in one leg, from their effect.

This victory closed the war in that region, and with it the military career of Col. Johnson. He did not sufficiently recover of his wounds to return to the service before the close of the war.

Such is the outline of the history of that brief part of Col. Johnson's life which was devoted to arms. With half the opportunities which offered themselves to Harrison, and less than half the experience, he would probably have been one of the most celebrated captains of his day. Let the two be compared, and the world will be astonished at the thought that Harrison should be thought worthy of the first place in the nation to the exclusion of Johnson from the second.

We shall now notice them in their civil, or political character, and see which has the strongest claims to confidence.

The first that is known of Harrison in civil life, is that of his being a delegate from the Northwestern territory before Ohio was a State. He was then distinguished for nothing but his blind devotion to the federal doctrines of that day. The lawless strides of federal power, the unconstitutional anti-republican principles of the alien and sedition laws, received his unqualified approbation and support; but of any *great* measure proposed by him, we are utterly ignorant. He was afterwards appointed Governor of the Indiana territory, but was too unpopular to receive the election to that office by the people when it became a State. After the war he was a representative in Congress, and subsequently a Senator from Ohio, in neither of which places was he ever distinguished for legislative talents. We hear of no luminous reports emanating from him, no prominent part which he ever acted.

On the other hand, look at the political life of Johnson, which exhibits one regular, consistent, republican career of usefulness. For thirty successive years he was a member of one or the other houses of Congress, and always at the head of some important committee. To him the country is much indebted for the provisions made for the widows and orphans of the soldiers who perished in the war; and also of the surviving soldiers of the revolutionary war. On his reports were the laws predicated which make these provisions. The effort to abolish imprisonment for debt was first made by him; and his report on that subject is among the most luminous state papers on record. It is owing to his efforts that this relic of barbarism has been brought to notice, and already eventuated in the abolition of the practice in several of the States.—When from every part of the country petitions were pouring in upon Congress to interpose its authority in favor of the religious institutions of the Sabbath, indicating a great want of light on the true principles of religious rights, and scarcely any had the boldness to avow them: he drew the celebrated report on Sunday mails; a report which more perfectly defines the limit of civil power; and draws with more accuracy the line which separates between the legitimate authority of the legislature, and the sole authority of the Creator, than any other state paper in the archives of this, or any nation on earth.

Such is the brief outline of Col. Johnson's political career. It is without a blot or a blank. In no single instance has he departed from the principles of genuine republicanism. As he began his course, so has he continued; and whatever may be his future lot, we have a sure guaranty in the whole of his past history, that his principles will descend with him to the tomb. He is profoundly wise without ostentation. He pursues his object without wavering till he gains it. He claims no reward for his services, and is never dissatisfied with whatever his fellow citizens allot. He has never sought office, but distinction has always followed him. The second office in the Union has been given him, not because he aspired to it, but because he merited it.

What establishes a claim to confidence?—A long life of faithful, successful efforts in public service, and such are the undisputed claims of Col. Johnson. His mutilated body, covered with scars of honor, are the standing credentials of his self-devotion. In his body, his clothes, and his horse, no less than twenty five balls were shot; and in that one battle, he captured the whole British regular force, (except their commander, who escaped by the fleetness of his steed) slew the great Tecumseh, defeated and put to flight fifteen hundred savages, terminated the war in that section, and put an end to the Indian massacres which had so dreadfully raged in all the northwestern frontier. And of neglect he never complained. In Congress, he originated many of the most important measures; & his reports have shed a light upon the immutable principles of human rights, which is to benefit the world in future ages. Were he a candidate for the first, instead of the second office in the republic, we cannot believe it possible that one intelligent citizen, holding the democratic doctrines on which our government is founded, and acquainted with the past history of both, would give to Harrison a vote in opposition to Johnson. But to the first place he makes no pretension. He is a candidate only for the second; and it remains to be seen whether his fellow-citizens will forego the future services of one so richly endowed with principle, and so highly entitled to confidence, merely because his ambition is not aspiring, to gratify the wishes of those whose claims to confidence cannot compare with his.

There is a town in the interior of Arkansas containing but seven inhabitants, viz: a cripple negro, a jackass, a quack doctor, a buzzard, a polecat, an alligator and a Van Buren man.—Federal Paper.

The above must be one of the strong federal holds in Arkansas—showing *six federalists* to one democrat. Harrison is sure of a majority in that town.—Haverhill N. H. Republican.

Six Whig Reasons why Harrison should be elected President.—1. Because when he was three years old his father signed the Declaration of Independence.

2. Because though a Military Chieftain he is too old to harm any body.

3. Because he is said to live in a log house.

4. Because he drinks hard cider.

5. Because, although he is an "office holder," he does not degrade himself by attending to it.

6. Because he was lately seen threshing some wheat.—*Phil. Times.*

BAD EXAMPLES.—At a Harrison celebration at Indianapolis, State of Indiana, several ladies were in procession in a large canoe. This singular exhibition caused remarks of ill blood, ill blood fights & fight worse. Ladies are better mending their stockings, or making puddings, than becoming politicians. We love, adore, idolize woman—but she must wear petticoats—not breeches—she must sing "hush a bye" not huzza for political rascals.—N. Y. Herald, a Whig paper.