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P 961

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Private Journal

No V

20th Sept.^r 1827 ——— 22^d Mar. 1828

7/14/58

Politics.

Washington 20th Sept 1827

At this particular conjuncture, when winter is at hand, and all the interesting scenes connected with it, are full in prospect; - When too, the ~~representative~~ ^{dignified} representatives of popular opinion are soon to assemble and organise the great political arena on which the impending contest is to rage, the imagination is awakened to an excited interest; the feelings are ready to spring in unison with the magnitude of the subject and slide in ^{the} all-absorbing controversy as judgement or partiality may dictate. - Adams or Jackson.

Rarely has it been that our Nation, yet young in the experience of political vicissitudes, has been so agitated with any single topic as ^{with} this of the next Presidency. It is indeed a question which ought to challenge the serious interest of a great people on whose suffrages alone it is to turn. Yet it is somewhat surprising that the great excess of sympathy or animosity which is evinced in almost every parlour & kitchen in the country, should be felt by men whose interests are so remotely affected by the issue that it might almost be termed a question of pure abstraction with them. But so it is.

Sept. 20th. 1837.

Politics

Farmers quit their plough or their sickle, Mechanics
throw by their tools, & Merchants neglect their books to
become politicians - and panegyrize or vilify the Presidential
Candidate who to them is as the man in the Moon.

But we must take things as they are. To enjoy the
blessings of a free Government, we must endure the ranting
dogmatism of electioneering eloquence - and rest contented in
the ~~main~~ position that "Error of Opinion may be safely
tolerated when Reason is left free to combat it." ✓

Mr. Adams is the incumbent of Office, and according
to all precedent, there should be some strong ground of
disagreement between him & the American people, on great
principles too, ere an exception be made in his case to the
rule of reelection for eight years. But Mr. Adams has
made Mr. Clay Sec. of State; - plagued with his ^{political} former
adversary ~~in politics~~ ^{of that adversary's} and reached the Presidential Chair
by the aid of ~~his~~ ^{his} party. This constitutes a mighty fact
which, however justified by circumstances, will be viewed
by the mass of the people as ~~of equivocal propriety~~ ^{by them} a
political bargain, and therefore condemned as political
corruption. Stimulated by a set of politicians

all of whom are anxious for any change in the existing
state of things, with the hope of personal advantage from
the turn of tide, the popular sentiment is excited to an
extraordinary degree; and in spite of the high qualities
of Mr Adams as a Statesman, his long experience in
National & foreign relations, - his well stored mind and
his energetic character, ~~the cause~~ ^{The Cause} ~~Soldier~~ ^{Soldier}
with only honesty & patriotism on his creatchion, promises
to wage most critical war with him and perchance
rise triumphant on his downfall.

The Opposition ranks on the floors of Congress are ripe
with talent of the first order: And in the Senate they have
lately been recruited by numbers sufficient to make their
vote the preponderant one. The contest will be therefore
most obstinate, and it would not greatly tax our
credulity to predict a final success to the Cause of
Jackson. It is a growing cause. Each day
brings forth new testimonials of this, and important
accessions of suffrage are developed at every election.
Gov. Clinton it is said, has at length taken sides &
is spoken of as Candidate for the Vice Presidency on
the Jackson ticket.

Sept: 20th 1827 (McLean) Politics.

Judge McLean, the Postmaster General, who has hitherto acknowledged only neutrally, is confidently believed to be, in feeling, friendly to the Jackson Cause, and perhaps will not much longer conceal it. Few men now enjoy more popularity, than Judge McLean. He is now unsophisticated in the political diplomacy and has therefore never committed himself in such a way as to afford ground for public censure or animadversion. With all the lights of other men's experience thrown before him, with a creed of pure & popular tenets for his charter, ^{of character} with ambition that aspires to nothing short of the highest, and with a modest simplicity of manners which makes him easily acceptable to all men, he occupies an important position in the ^{great} arena and with favourable fortune may one day find himself a principal competitor for the ultimate prize. The accession of Judge McLean to the Jackson party is therefore a circumstance of some considerable moment.

It identifies him with that great political division of the Community and at the same time gives strong countenance to the principles on which that division is formed as a party. It leads us to believe

that in spite of all the objections urged against the election of a mere military hero to civil preeminence there are still weightier reasons why the disciplined Statesman & incumbent of Office should be displaced.

Popular infatuation, we cannot suppose this to be. Grave men like Clinton & McKean cannot be influenced by the eclat of martial exploits. But in Jackson, it is evident they see the lesser evil. While they acknowledge the awful precedent which his election would create, — the portentous imitation of all former Republics whose liberties have fallen a sacrifice to popular enthusiasm in favour of successful military leaders, these politicians join with the popular voice in tolerating the alternative & encountering the hazard rather than endure that Coalition of Office which at least resembles Corruption, and as such, more seriously threatens the purity & the permanency of our institutions than would the open election of a Military Chieftain.

Friday 28th Sept 1827

The General, accompanied by St John departed ~~day~~ before yesterday for Annapolis, on a visit of amity inspecting that post. He will return to-morrow. I am in hopes he will make an excursion soon to Old Point also. It is long since I was there and I feel anxious to review those scenes with which one of the most interesting & important passages of my life was associated.

Travelling agrees with the General, although I cannot see that his health is decidedly improved from the time he left Washington in March last. If he keeps along without failing, it will be as much as can be rationally expected.

The critical state of the political atmosphere has not lost its influence on the General too. If the rumour be true that Gov Clinton has coalesced with Mr. Van Buren to defeat the prospects of Mr Adams at the next election, it will augur the most unequivocal signs as to the side that N York will take in the controversy. Already the General sees these

Painting, 1

things with some disquietude, because they not only disappoint his own speculations & prospects, but disprove the prognostications which he has so confidently made. Great results are pending! and time will ere long unburden itself of them.

I have recently taken a great fancy to ^{painting} ~~taking~~ likenesses & drawing heads. Mr Wood, of this place is quite an artist in this branch of water colouring. Knowing that a little instruction would be of great service to me, I took 2 or 3 lessons of wood some weeks since & have profited so much by them that my style is altogether improved & my knowledge of the art greatly enlarged. These exercises are very agreeable to me, but they consume so much time that I am unable to decide whether I do rightly in devoting my hours to so subordinate a branch of accomplishment. It is very pleasant however to have portraits of our friends and I feel that the possession of the skill requisite to take them is at least a valuable acquisition.

October 3^d 1827 - Wednesday
Acting adjt. General

The Genl is sick to day - His
old attack of Rheumatism; - God grant it may
prove nothing serious.

Col. Jones who has long been promising
himself the luxury of a Country excursion, took
horse to day, and left me in charge of his
Office. In this transient ^{a presumption} ~~assumption~~ of Official
dignity I feel more practically aware of the
privileges which attach to my situation, the law
authorizing Aides de Camp to serve as Acting Adjts.
Genls when so ordered by their Chiefs.

I slide into the routine of the office with a good
deal of ease and should like to discharge its
duties a long time. On avant - however - is my
motto. - My biles have not left my face yet
So - alas! to my beauty! I scarcely dare appear
before decent people my cheek is so discolored -
Sulphur & Salts - diet and exercise - Constant cramps
and no indulgence - Such is life! life!!

ORDERS.

No. 54.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, October 12th, 1827.

1....The Stations of the Artillery Regiments, will be changed. This has been determined on as a measure of equal justice to all;—as being called for, by the best interests of the service, and by the common rule of equity in Military detail. It is therefore to be regarded as the commencement of a *system*, promising to the Artillery generally, the advantages of a biennial exchange, and to the Garrisons of the sickly stations in particular, (on the Southern frontiers,) the hope of periodical relief.

2....These changes will be made without delay, between the 1st and 3d Regiments, and the 2d and 4th Regiments, mutually, according to the following arrangement.

3....The Companies at the Southern Stations, will not vacate their posts, until relieved by others from the North.

Of the Companies of the 1st Regiment.

Brooks, at Fort Preble, Me.
Mason's, at Fort Wolcott,
H. Whiting's, at Fort Independence,
F. Whiting's, at Fort Constitution,
Saunders', at Fort Trumbull,
Kirby's, at Fort Sullivan,

Will Relieve

Lomax's, at Bellona Arsenal, Va.
Childs, at Fort Washington, Md.
McClintock's at Charleston Harbour, S. C.
Ansart's, at Fort Johnston, N. C.
Thruston's, at Annapolis, Md.
Mackay's, at Charleston Harbour, S. C.

Of the Companies of the 3d Regiment.

Lomax's, at Bellona Arsenal,	} Will Occupy {	Fort Wolcott, R. I.
Ansart's, at Fort Johnston, N. C.		Fort Constitution, N. H.
McIntock's, at Charleston Hbr.		Fort Preble, Me.
Mackay's, at Charleston Harbour,		Fort Independence, Mass.
Childs, at Fort Washington,		Fort Sullivan, Me.
Thruston's, at Fort Severn,		Fort Trumbull, Con.
Baird's, at Fort Moultrie,		Fort Independence, Mass.

Of the Companies of the 2d Regiment.

Fanning's, at Fort Delaware,	} Will Relieve {	Payne's, at Augusta Arsenal, Geo.
Gates, at Fort McHenry,		Pierce's, at Fort Marion, F.
Pelton's at Fort Columbus,		Erving's, at Savannah, Geo.
Zantlinger's, at Fort Columbus,		Spotts, at Fort St. Philip or Chief Mentour, Lou.
Mountfort's, at Fort Columbus,		Whiting's, at Petite Coquille, Lou.
Legate's, at West Point,		Munroe's, Savannah, Geo.

Of the Companies of the 4th Regiment.

Pierce's, at Fort Marion,	} Will Occupy {	Fort Delaware, Del.
Payne's, at Augusta,		Fort McHenry, Md.
Erving's, at Savannah,		Fort Columbus, N. Y.
Whiting's, at Petite Coquille,		West Point, N. Y.
Spotts, at Fort St. Philip,		Fort Columbus, N. Y.
Munroe's, at Savannah,		Fort Columbus, N. Y.

4....Field Officers not on special duty will make corresponding movements with their Regiments.

The Head Quarters of the 1st Regiment, will be fixed at Charleston Harbour, S. C.

The Head Quarters of the 2d Regiment, will be fixed at Savannah, Ga.

The Head Quarters of the 3d Regiment, will be fixed at Fort Independence, Ms.

The Head Quarters of the 4th Regiment, will be fixed at Fort Columbus, N. Y.

The Major of the 1st Regiment, will, for the present, be stationed at Annapolis, Maryland, and the Lieut. Colonel of the 3d, at New London Harbour, Ct.

5....As the health of the troops during these movements, must depend much on the care and attention of the Officers of the Medical Department, their attendance will be generally required on board the transports. The Surgeons or Assistant Surgeons at the Northern Stations, i. e. those of the 1st and 2d Regiments, will therefore accompany the troops of those Regiments to the South, and return with the troops of the 3d and 4th Regiments, who may be relieved from thence.

The Surgeon General will give the necessary instructions for the execution of this paragraph in detail, and for the ultimate assignment of the Surgeons to their permanent Stations.

6....The Quarter Master General's Department, will furnish the necessary transports and facilities, to carry this order into effect. To this Department is also assigned the responsibility of securing the public property, &c. at the posts temporarily vacated.

By Command of Major Gen. BROWN.



A. D. CAMP,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

Oct 18th - Tuesday. actg adjt Genl

Col Jones has not returned, so ever since the 3rd inst I have been apuduously engaged in the duties of the Adj. Genl's Dept. Within this period, a very important Genl Order has been issued changing the Stations of the Regiments. The responsible task of assigning all the companies to their new stations therefore devolved on me. - Such things are more pregnant with blame than praise because, the querulous are noisy and the satisfied, quiet. However my name has gone forth in an imposing attitude, and if distinction consists in notoriety, I shall not have laboured in vain.

The Genl's health is good again. The weather gets cool & our offices are warmed with fires. Tomorrow we set out for Old Ft. Comfort, if nothing material prevent, as I hope it may not, for thrice we have already been disappointed.

Day before yesterday I purchased 500 dolls worth of Bank Stock in the City of the Metropolis.

I suffer still with piles though they have left my face for the present.

Tuesday 23^d Oct 1827
Fort Mifflin Monroe

On Wednesday the 17th inst. the Genl
accompanied by Brown & myself embarked on
the Potomac for Old Point Comfort, from whence we
have returned to day. Our visit has been
extremely agreeable, as to weather, and all other
circumstances connected with it. We found the
Battalion in fine order and the state of the command
generally, creditable to the excellent Officer
who presides over it. The Band gave us some
most exquisite music, and the Thespian Corps entertained
us with a fine exhibition in their new theatre. On
every account, Old Point Comfort ought now to be considered
as the most desirable Station among the Artillery Regiments.
The order for Regt. exchange had reached Ft Monroe the
very day we arrived there, and we found much excite-
ment prevailing among the Officers in consequence of it.
The grumblers who denounced Old Point before, now
relented and offered every thing if they could be permitted
even to stay on that "Sandbank." So selfish are all
our opinions: so measured ought they to be
received

26th Oct.

The Col & Mrs Easton I found very much the same as formerly, and Miss Izard emphatically so. This latter is matter of regret where there was so much room for improvement.

Col. E. lives liberally, at an annual expense of perhaps 5000 dollars. He drinks Champagne every day, and sees much company. Mrs E. has always been used to luxury and every species of gratification which wealth could command, and while every ensconce is due to her character as a woman of polished education & strong understanding one is apt to lament that the results of ease & affluence on such a mind, are evident as usual, in comparative imbecility.

An ancient philosopher once observed, that "After all, the only positive & satisfactory gratifications of life are the sensual ones, - the pleasures of the table." I was surprised to hear Mrs Easton repeat the same sentiment as her own! - It struck me the more forcibly too, as I have often been willing myself to subscribe to it, though ^{conscious that} it reflected ^{no credit} on the dignity of our intellectual nature. But it is frequently felt to be true by many who are perhaps ashamed to confess it, and I suspect by those chiefly who have ^{the} highest pretensions to intellectual superiority; or at least, it is oftener found in this class than in the lower orders who derive their enjoyment more from the active & physical operations of laborious life.

Friday 26th Oct. (The pleasures of life)

Yet in my own experience I found reason to qualify the judgment of Mrs E. by taking into consideration her circumstances & present mode of living. Popped of all, that 99 hundredths of the world are seeking for, she lacks the excitement incident to pursuit of any kind, and finds her listless hours to roll heavily by, her mind stimulated by no incentive, nor gratified by any novelty. The day with another passes monotonously, ^{passage} and its adventitious events serve scarcely to furnish mental excitement enough to occupy a twentieth part of her time. The long residue is therefore all a blank, save only the periodical returns of the dinner hour. At Table indeed, (while health lasts,) the palate is cheerfully gratified; and this enjoyment unlike every other in the world, ends in ample satisfaction. Such is her argument, ~~and~~ such has often been mine, but only when I have found myself in Mrs E's circumstances, no positive pursuits, no decided occupations, no call for diligent & assiduous exertion; - The man however who conscientiously acknowledges such sentiments may be considered as in a dangerous way. His mind is retrograding - His energies are relaxing - "He lives to eat, - not eat to live."

Monday 29th Oct. 1827 (Politics)

"Ebony & Topaz."

Surely the late visit of our worthy Chief Magistrate to the East must have bewildered his political sagacity, or perhaps called back so many associations connected with his academic days that fables & allegories, mythology & nonsensicalness have assumed sway over the mental empire where worldly wisdom ought to reign undisputed. -

Seriously - The President's Baltimore Toast, and his long prolix "explanation" of it, reads but awkwardly in history, and sounds still more awkwardly in the wide mouthed herald of political novelty. It was altogether uncalled for, & entirely puerile from beginning to end; inconsistent with the character of the President of the U.S. & incompatible with the occasion which drew it forth. Besides, the expression of "driving a bullet to the heart" of an adversary General, is one which belongs to another century, - Neither the refinement nor the moral character of this, will justify so strange and so barbarous a sentiment.

In short, there are very few men who can trim their daily discourse to suit the times, but of these few our primal Functionary ought at least to be one.

Tuesday 5th Nov: 1827. Politics

My official duties, together with the expense of time I incur in my portrait drawing, encroach on the hour I formerly allotted to this little journal. Nothing of consequence has occurred worthy of particular record, since my last date, unless we except the events of the political world.

"Eloony & topaz" have become party bye words, and are bandied about by the Opposition Editors with exulting glee. Few of the friends of Mr Adams can applaud his taste, though he himself I am told is quite satisfied with it.

We shall hear from the election in New York in a day or two, and then learn more to warn us of the final issue of the Presidential Question than has yet appeared. If Jackson gets 10 of the Electoral votes of that State his election is almost certain; and the general opinion now is that he will even have a majority of them.

If so farewell to the Adams School, and all the Cabinet of the present Administration.

Nov. 9th

Among other symptoms of the probable success of Jackson's cause, I number one which I regard as particularly decisive, since in politics it is a cardinal maxim, to cherish hope, & proclaim fair auspices even after hope should die and auspices vanish. So with the Genl. my worthy chief. Strongly a friend to Adams, he has uniformly expressed the most unwavering confidence in his cause and ^{a full reliance on} ~~the~~ the good sense of the people of this Country, who, he said, would not change an administration without some great public cause; some fundamental difference in political principles between the ~~Government~~ ^{Government} & the governed. This crisis however, he said, had not arrived and in spite of the present effervescence in favor of Jackson, the sound & rational cause would ultimately prevail.

Lately, I have perceived some modifications of this presage, (to use the most moderate terms,) — an occasional critique on Adams eulogium on Jackson's patriotism and anon, a critique on Adams soundness of judgment. Of the latter class the late toast of the President has furnished the Genl with

them of animadversion - ^(Politics) He regrets that so great
a Statesman should have exhibited so little knowledge
of political tact; - Condemns his vindictive human-
too, that could have prompted so barbarous a sentiment
as "spearing a bullet to the heart," of a brave and
Chivalric Officer, though a Briton. Thus I
perceive the gen^l sires upon the grave character of
the toast, without adding the ridicule due to the
"Ebony & Topaz" branch of it; which convinces me that
his mind is seriously balancing on the subject and
that, should Adams fall in the impending contest,
the Balt. dinner will be freely quoted as a proximate
natural, if not a merited cause of his miscarriage.
Judge McLean seems to be in fine spirits. He has
always been the most confiding friend of the General,
and between them, politics, has of course been the
uniting theme of intellectual communion. The
Port Mr. Gen^l ~~however~~, has been long suspected of Jacksonism
though professing neutrality. He has been more
unequivocal of late, however, & few could doubt
that his feelings were Anti Administration - Hence
his cheerful confidence in the present "Signs of the
times"

Saturday Nov. 10th 1827

(politics)

To day the news of the New York City elections have reached us, and the result, though not unexpected, has saddened the brow of many a friend of the Administration.

The Jackson ticket, it is said, will prevail likewise in Albany, but in the Western Counties of the State the Administration is believed to have great ^{majorities} ~~preponderance~~ ~~support~~.

I can scarcely suppose it possible that Mr Van Buren possesses individually such influence with his party as to guide or control their votes on a question like this, but rather that by watching the current & shaping his course with it, he manages to ride along the surface of the stream, & thus at least gains the credit of a Leader. In the City, composed ~~it~~ it is, of the mercantile interest almost entirely, there must be a prevailing dissatisfaction with the interdictions of the West India trade. The Manufacturing ^{party are} policy is also adverse to the ~~prosperity~~ of their foreign trade, - Besides the existence of a large & preponderating majority of the old Bucktail party, who hold together & vote in Phalanx - So far at least they have succeeded.

Wash. Monday 12th Nov. - Morning

The approaching nuptials of Miss McLean & Capt. Taylor cause no small excitement with us, as Pamela is to be Bridesmaid and my brother one of the groomsmen. New dresses and fashions are therefore the order of the day within door, and ^{morning hours} sales of ceremony the business of the day abroad. Poor Eveline was in quite a dilemma as to her third Bridesmaid. Having lately arrived at womanhood and possessing few intimate acquaintances in the city she had no one after Pamela, on whom she could call for this service, ~~without~~ incurring those little remarks from the gossiping world which any thing singular is sure to excite. So when it was known that Sophia Ramsay was the chosen attendant, I heard it frequently asked, Is it not strange that Miss R. should have been invited as Miss McL's Bridesmaid? Why I heard they never visited more than once or twice and no intimacy or particular friendship ever subsisted between them! - All this was accompanied by the congenial sneers, which carping spirits love to exhibit and so it falls out with our pretty, frank, ingenuous & thoughtless Eveline. May she be happy, - still!

(Birth)

Thursday. 15th November 1827

Last evening a daughter was borne to our friend Brockenbrough and the mother to day is "as well as could be expected." Brock, whose disposition is sanguine and joyous, seems not so much exhilarated by this event as I believe he would have been were he father of a son instead. Such is the preference usually entertained by young husbands, - at least those whom I have known in the Army. Mrs B - now twice a grandmother is to day full of employment, and all the household are in a mood of congratulation, on account of the auspicious event.

Miss Martha Haskins arrived yesterday from Philadelphia, to prepare for ^{her} ensuing duties as Bridesmaid to Miss McLean. Pamela and the rest of us, look forward to the 20th with much interest therefore, and I trust the eventful period may not prove a disappointment to us.

Last evening Mrs Towson gave a large Music Party. We were all much pleased with her entertainment.

Tuesday Nov. 20th 1827. (Politics)

The New York Elections, being indicative of the popular feeling with regard to the Presidential question, have almost put the matter beyond doubt and secured to the Jackson cause the surest prospects of success. Indeed the Administration now have no hope but in the probability of a change in Virginia, but Virginia seldom changes suddenly, and one short year only is to elapse before the final canvass be made.

We are naturally led to ask, in reference to this extraordinary development of popular sentiment, what have been the principal causes that have operated with such decisive & unexpected results on the public mind? In what has the existing Administration offended, to superinduce ^{a change} so marked and pointed in the what has ^{been} heretofore considered the prevailing sense of the Community?

These reasons may be recapitulated, and when balanced with the objections which ~~have~~ been urged against Gen. Jackson, they will not be found not wanting in due weight.

First: Mr. Adams was elected by the House of Representatives! This would always prove an unfortunate circumstance in the political auspices of any President. The people are ever jealous of their proper prerogatives and disposed to regard with little complacency, the success of any candidate who owes his elevation to the Constitutional compromise alone, but more especially so, when this candidate like Mr. Adams, had not the greater number of electoral votes in the first instance, - gained his election by the majority of a bare unit, - and counted in this majority some of the States whose sovereignty & vote were represented by a single individual.

It is true that Mr. Jefferson was also elected by the H. of Representatives, but at that time the Constitution in regard to this subject had not received that modification which now separates the ~~two~~ ^{from that of} election of President ~~and Vice President~~, into two distinct questions. Mr. Jefferson's Cabinet was well chosen, and his political principles harmonised with the peculiarly active prejudices of the popular mind. Mr. Adams' election has been disapproved by the people and subsequent occurrences

Politics

have conspired to alarm and alienate many who might otherwise have abided what seemed a necessary evil.

2.

Mr. Adams was elected by the direct & indispensable aid of Mr. Clay this party, and Mr. Clay afterwards received the Appointment of Secy of State.

No man of sense, ^{at last} sufficiently versed in political experience can pretend to accuse either the Pres. or his first Minister of Corruption or mismanagement; Yet many are free to admit that such a coalition, under such circumstances, and by men so widely estranged from each other in political ~~judgments~~, was extremely impolitic, and well calculated to incur the most decided popular rebuke. It furnished a great fact, which none could dispute, and from this fact the natural ^{suspicious} conclusions formed by the mass of the people were unfavourable. The violent charges of bargain intrigue & corruption, so acrimoniously urged by the Opposition were heard with more complacency on this account and no reasons however widely arrayed could counteract the impressions which were so aptly and so generally received these charges of political turpitude were calculated to make.

However loud and imperative may be the warnings
of history against military chieftains, the apprehension
of milly despotism is by no means so great, among our
people as the fear of political corruption. The
one is an open and the other a secret foe. Popular
suffrage is an ^{effectual} antidote to the former, but the latter
may insidiously infuse its rankest poison, before the
same antidote can be ^{effectually} applied.

3.^d Some of Mr. Adams's appointments have been
unfortunate & unwise.

Rufus King was sent to the Court of St. James when
his health was confessedly too infirm for the discharge
of congressional duties, while those of diplomacy
still more arduous & responsible were recklessly under-
taken and as wretchedly neglected. Mr. King, too
was a magnate of the old Federal party, and connected
with that party alone, - Shorn of influence and destitute
of power. This with other appts. of a similar kind
evinced a disposition on the part of Mr. Adams to build
up strength again amongst the Federalists, whose party
he had long forsaken but ^{of} whose principles, in many
respects, he was strongly suspected of being a disciple!

Politics

4th The Panama Mission, one of the principal original measures of the Administration has proved an Abortion.

In appointing ministers to the Panama Congress the President ~~has~~ exercised what he believed to be his just prerogative, but in his message, he proclaimed the subject in terms altogether repugnant to the popular & republican spirit of ~~our~~ institutions. The measure was not demanded so suddenly as to render a few months delay ^{hazardous} important to its success, and it would have been far more advisable in the Executive, ^{rather} to await the pleasure of the Legislature and execute ~~their~~ will, rather than make any assumption of prerogative, ^{on his part} which could plausibly be disputed. The effect of this as well of other similar proceedings has been to rouse ^{some} a general suspicion that Mr Adams is in ~~a~~ measure the Monarchist he is accused of being, and in fact the public has seen in him ~~more~~ more disposition to assert & exercise the full power of executive magistracy than to lean upon the legislative or popular pleasure as the guide of his actions. So far forth he has, in effect, set himself in array against the people.

In addition to these several objections raised against the present Administration, it is proper to notice the summary measures of Mr. Clay in changing the public pointing, ^{which} from the cold and ungainly manners of Mr. Adams toward all who approach him; - the aristocratic pride of the family, and their intimate connection with men celebrated in the acts of the Essex Junto & the Hartford Convention!

This Nation cannot forget the impediments ~~raised~~ ^{raised} in against the efforts of the Government during the last war, by that same Federal party, when every patriot was called on by honour & justice, to devote his whole energies to the public weal, and rescue the public dignity from insult. (Mr. Adams' family is not popular at Washington. There is much of exclusiveness in the course of Mrs. Adams with respect to ~~the~~ ^{her} social relations, and the other members of the household are not less particular in their own policy. All these together with the Ebony & Topaz toast, - the loss of the West India trade & the light houses of the Skies, render the present Chief Magistrate less acceptable to the people than his Martial Competitors.

(Wedding)

Wash. Saturday 24th Nov 1827

On Tuesday evening Capt Layfords marriage with Miss McLean was celebrated at the Judge's mansion and in the evening a large party assembled to offer the customary congratulations. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings also, the house was thrown open for the reception of company though on neither occasion was the assembly so numerous or brilliant as on the evening of the wedding.

(Yesterday (Friday))

we were also invited to dine at Judge McLean's where the bridal party were to be present. The feast was very pleasant and productive of high social enjoyment. Miss Haskins, who came from Philadelphia to attend Miss Eveline, proved to be a young lady of polished education & respectable attainments. I had formerly seen her in Washington, but it was through some of her correspondents here that I received the high & favorable impressions of her excellence & worth which I have for a long time entertained. She is not beautiful though her presence is imposing and her person attractive. She has been accustomed to good society and exhibits in all her demeanor the manners & accomplishments of a lady.

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So much for exterior. To discern & define
the more important attributes of her real disposition
- the qualities of her heart, the depth of her
understanding and the temper of her moral sensibility
is another & a more ^{difficult} ~~minute~~ task. It must

be allowed that with all the virtue which her friends
concur in attributing to her, she has not ^{through her soc. intercourse} preserved
^{with the world} the naïveté of original & unsophisticated innocence. There
is a dash of the "initiated" visible in her general conduct;
and a love of admiration evidently formed one of her
ruling passions. But these foibles are perhaps inseparable
from those very accomplishments which are so much
valued in society & for the attainment of which Nature
must ~~of~~ make many sacrifices to Art. Besides, who is
perfect? - Were we to wait until we meet with the
Beau idéal of our imaginary creation, we should
at once demonstrate our folly & our despair.

Miss Haskins is certainly a fine girl, but she acts
like one, rather "engaged" already than desirous of
being so, and exhibits much of the nonchalance, ^{the} ~~very~~
nay almost ^{the} levity, of ^{one} ~~her~~ who has nothing more to gain
or to desire.

Wedding party

One of the incidents connected with the subject of the wedding, is, the pretended attachment of the first groomsmen to the lady of whom I have just spoken.

I say pretended, because Tyler has exhibited such eager and overwrought attentions to this rich damsel that few disinterested observers can suppose them based upon real affection or a mature understanding of the lady's worth. He knows he has but a short fling for time, and would make up in industry what he lacks of time. He feels too that he is quite old

enough to be married, and has probably ^{gained as much as} got his own consent to this particular match. Still it is

exceedingly problematical whether any lady worthy of the ^{high} ^{intire} character ascribed to Miss Harkins, would receive seriously ~~these~~ ^{these} hasty and officious attentions addressed as the sincere offerings of disinterested affection. — I must

be still mistaken in her, if she does, and as I would cherish, of her, the most favourable opinion, I rest with the belief that Tyler with all his assiduity, flattery, poetry, and fine figure, will ^{not} succeed in the great pursuit he has thus undertaken.

Wash. Wednesd 28th (Nov. 1827)

Capt. Taylor, Dr. Lyle, my brother & several other officers left the City today for Old Point Comfort. The past week has been a gay one to us, as our family have taken so much interest in the wedding of Miss A. Lean, and Hammond has derived no small satisfaction from the circumstances of the occasion, so important to his & P's happiness.

I have also ~~seen~~ seen ~~them~~ Van Rensselaer this family this morning. They arrived last evening and seem to be in good health. Miss Lelsbee has also arrived & the Cromwells will be here tomorrow.

These are some of the indications of the coming gay season and bring to my mind the vivid recollections of the winter (2 years since) when Dawson & I revelled in all the fatiguing delights of parties, balls & socials.

Next Monday Congress will meet - The speaker will be elected, and the strength of parties nearly ascertained. Warrin is to be the contest. Yet to hope not violent. In all our political quarrels I trust we shall never forget our National dignity.

Monday Dec 3^d 1827 (Politics)

I have just returned from the Capitol and learned the important issue of the vote in the choice of Speaker. Mr Stevenson

was elected ~~only~~ a majority of 8 votes over W. Taylor, thus ensuring the preponderance of the Jackson party in the H. of Repres^{ts}.

There are some deductions however to be made as many individuals were doubtless influenced by other considerations that the Pres.^l election, still as this was the principal subject of party division it may be safely concluded that the Administration will no longer have a majority in the House.

Mr Stevenson delivered his address of thanks with much dignity and gave favourable earnest of his future success in the discharge of the important duties about to devolve upon him. The old incumbents were severally app^d to the offices of Clerk, Doorkeeper, &c - and on the morrow perhaps we shall

Know who are to be printers to the House.

~~Thus has Congress opened.~~ The Senate was
quickly organized, and the customary interchange
between the two Houses, was passed. Committees
to wait on the President for his Oath of Office, were
severally appointed and then each chamber adjourned.

Thus has opened the Twentieth Congress. Few
lights are more august than to see such a body
organized, - the delegation from each State
separately called up to swear fidelity to the Constitution
and kiss the holy book in testimony of their vow! To
observe the friendly recognitions of old members now
meeting after their long separation, and the occasional
introductions of new ones to their compatriots in the
great business of legislation!

As our Country
increases in power & wealth, so does our contemplation
rise in sublimity when such a Spectacle is presented
as this, - the assembled wisdom of the Nation, - the delegated
Mind, of the ~~community at large~~ American people.

Dec^r 3^d Monday (Fashion)

Several days since, arrived in our City
the rich and (as some think) beautiful Miss Silsbee.
She is the daughter of the Massachusetts Senator,
& Cousin of the Governor. I have seen her
twice, and having, some exceptionable traits of
manner, I have been thus far altogether pleased
with her. She seems to have a spice of Romance
in her composition, - loves poetry, - and has sufficient
of sentiment, - that which Miss Harkins wants! -
I lose enthusiasm when rightly tempered, and this I
think I see in the charming Silsbee. ~~If~~ she is not
too much a votary of fashion, - ~~If~~ she has that
rightly directed mind to prefer solid worth of character
to specious or factitious distinction, then I shall
record her as one of the most captivating & desirable
of her sex. She would then be the woman I could
love, - even better without her wealth, - and almost
lament that affluence had been her birthright.
But time will unfold much, - as the days roll on.

Reflections on Society.

Miss Harkins I should judge to be about 22 or 23 years of age, and Miss Silsbee is but 18. — Five years work an essential change in the manners as in the mind of a young lady, and this disparity ^{of ages} is evident in the whole deportment of the two young ladies who now bear the bells in our City. Miss Harkins wants the soft naivete and engaging enthusiasm of Miss Silsbee, and the latter cannot ^{yet} boast the well disciplined and shrewd mind of our Philadelphia damsel. But must we purchase social refinement, elegant accomplishments only at the expense of natural graces? — Must all Belles whose advantages in society have been so valuable, prove affected & sophisticated?

A heavy price to pay for educated refinement! Yet it is not to be supposed that the influences of wealth, luxury, the universal gratification of desire, the flattery of surrounding admirers and all the affections of splendid life, can fail to operate upon the young mind and turn its current of thought into channels not the most favourable for the creation

Yet the life of a mil^y Man is chequered. He has often to appear in the courtly throng of elegant Society, as well as in the ~~rudely~~ scenes of the Camp or Garrison, and ^{he} would desire to see the partner of his choice ^{alike} as well the accomplished ^{lady} to grace the festive hall, as the sensible matron to participate in the homely avocations of his military quarters.

It would seem therefore, that an Officer's wife should be the best & most sensible of women - uniting all the elegancies of ^{a refined} aristocratic education to the pure virtues of unsophisticated Nature. But as such perfection is not to be found ^{in this world}, it only remains for the votary of Hymen to seek such a medium as will unite as many of the excellences of either character as he can find, always bearing in mind, ^{a matrimonial} that the alliance is one of Compromise, & forbearance - And whenever defects or faults are seen, that they ought to be either concealed ^{at once} or compensated ^{qualified by a comparison} with those substantial advantages which are conferred by the virtues ^{with} of which they are accompanied.

Monday 10th December. 1827 (God's health)

For three weeks the General has been suffering from the effects of a fresh attack of his old Complaint Ablesia which was applied to his forehead, caused a matter which flowed down into his eyes and produced for the time much inflammation in them. Since that time the Genl has recovered gradually his health in every particular. But this, and now he feels more apprehension of a partial loss of sight, than of any other immediate effect likely to arise. He is still unable to read a book or common writing, hence he is shut out of more than half his usual resources and thrown back upon himself & Emmie. It is impossible for his friends to read all the time to him, nor would he desire it, ^{hence} ~~but~~ many of his hours are insufferably tedious and even the pleasures that remain to him are all alloyed by the ever besieging reflection that this is but another warning; not of dissolution, for that he does not dread, but of living ^{plunging} into imbecility and dotage.

The most aggravating idea however, which afflicts the Genl, in his present condition, is the fear of becoming unfit to discharge the official duties of his station as becomes his own character & former fame. He would shrink from any course however demanded by ^{his} domestic necessities, which would compromise his reputation as a disinterested patriot or impair ^{the dignity of} that name, which is the proud & only inheritance he has to confer on his posterity.

Loss of sight so far as to be unable to read & examine papers, would be to him therefore a sufficient reason for relinquishing the high responsibilities incumbent on him as commander of the Army, although he is surrounded by a gallant Staff, and might call ^{to his service} any measure of external aid. In this conjuncture his mind is not occupied by the most agreeable thoughts nor his feelings tuned to the most happy chord. Whatever happens, of sinister import therefore, however slight, operates upon his nervous system, & produces temporary uneasiness to his own comfort or the happiness of his friends.

Tuesday 11th Decr 1827

(Writing)

I mentioned to the General today, what I have for some time contemplated, my intention to write the memoirs of his own life, when leisure & materials served. Although this is ground which has been already several times trodden I feel confident nevertheless that something new may be said and several errors of former publications corrected, and if no other result arise from my undertaking I shall at least derive the benefit of so much literary exercise, and the praise of my friend for a laudable attempt.

Mr. Tylor is negotiating for a furlough to visit France and especially the Artillery School at Metz for the purpose of translating the new work on artillery lately published by a Commission attached to that establishment. It is not improbable that Tylor will succeed, & if so, he will have entered on a career which promises to him much reputation and perhaps recompense. He is active, intelligent & enterprising, and is animated by a spirit of ambition which knows no bounds.

Friday. 14th Decr. 1827. (Health)

The General's fears for the loss of sight, have depressed his spirits so much for the last fortnight that every hour has been to him, heavy and distressful.

He conjectures that his family & Staff who are round him do not read aloud to him with willing hearts and therefore he hears them with mingled pleasure. This suspicion may be possibly well founded in some degree, because it is really irksome to be bound down ^{every day} to some tedious document in which the reader has no interest, however conscious he may be that it gives entertainment to the invalid. Yet the Genl. is apt to magnify these suspicions & thus creates for himself accumulated causes of discontent & querulosity. As to me I have not sufficient strength of lungs to read aloud more than 15 or 20 minutes, yet I am by no means exempt, on this account, from those keen animadversions which often escape the Genl. when he imagines we are not as devoted and Confiding as he w^d. wish us to be.

While on this subject it may be well here to remark that on all these points, the Genl. & myself stand towards each other in relations considerably different

(Domestic affairs)

from those which characterised our former intercourse. Then the fault lies (if fault there be, and such undoubtedly he attributes to me) ought to be decided by one less partial than either of us can be on the subject. Both of us have altered perhaps, and both must experience a corresponding change of feeling.

As an invalid the Genl is forced to think a great deal of himself and his own case, - a case as melancholy almost, as can be imagined, but irremediable & inevitable. Others cannot be supposed to be thinking of him & his suffering all the time, however they may sympathize with & compassionately them: hence he frequently feels as if we were indifferent to his happiness & regardless of his comfort because we are not always unoccupied with the thousand out-of-door topics which interest us, and devoted ~~exclusively~~ ^{principally} to his entertainment. However, I confess myself too exclusively perhaps. He is not entirely unreasonable though he expects more from his aids than he ~~can expect~~ ^{ought to look} for, in young men, whom he has not bound by the graces of a winning & attractive manner, in a warm & devoted affection. He has praised & honored me, and I am grateful & outpuls, but he has not the talents to secure that feeling

of ventral confidence and devotion which belongs to friendship
subsisting between equals. This deportment is grave
& rigid, - his manner is Magisterial & arbitrary, and
it is impossible for one, however warmly invited to his
Confidence ~~and~~, to forget his superiority, his claim to
Reference.

Under these circumstances it is easy
to conceive the nature of that attachment which subsists
between the Genl & his aids. Kirby & Dix gave good
satisfaction and have always been bound to the Genl
doubtless by the most amicable ties. But the former
was influenced by his relationship & the latter by a keen
forecast to his own interests, which added to motives of real
gratitude & regard toward the Genl. constituted a very firm
bond of union, which time will not probably sever.

But all who ^{are} acquainted with human Nature, must admit
that, equality, is the surest basis of real friendship:

^{of the one party}
preeminence, in intellectual endowments, is not so prejudicial
^{to the maintenance of friendship} ^{wealth or} to its existence, as the Superiority of official station. But
when this latter case occurs in military associations, and there
among persons actually living together, under the same roof
and around the same fire side, the mutual attrition which ensues
always ^{will be found to} bear hardest against the weaker party.

Thursday 20th Decr 1834

(Drawing Room)

Last evening was Mrs Adams's first Drawing Room. Many of our most brilliant & fashionable, were absent partly because Mrs Taylor gives a large ball this evening, & partly because it is considered by some as unfashionable to attend the first levee.

The Miss Brownshields who have been here some 8 or 10 days, were among the number of absentees, as also their Cousin Miss Silsbee. Miss Harkins however gave us the sight of her fair countenance & Miss Van Rensselaer appeared, - to gain say the frivolous pretension that the fashionables w^d not be seen at the first Drawing room.

Thus has our gay season commenced. Mrs Clay gives parties on every alternate Wednesday evening and Mrs Barlow, when recovered from her present indisposition will probably be company on Saturdays.

The Miss Chees' - Van Ness' - & others are all prepared to light up the gay circle of the Beau Monde and give eclat to the much mooted "Winter in Washington".

Friday 2nd Decr

(Fashion.)

Last evening we attended the soiree of Mrs. Layloe, - which, as it was the first ball that has been given, was brilliantly distinguished by a full galaxy of our belles. But such a crowd! - such queering and jamming, - such destruction to lace & gros de Naples, & thus to pretend to dance! - Many were the disappointed aspirants to a place on the floor, though the space allotted to the cotillon was scarcely large enough to "balance" in. It was a burlesque upon dancing, and but for the conspicuousness of the position I should imagine that a sensible woman would prefer to be in any other part of the room. Distinction however is what we all aim at, and it is perhaps excusable, even in the best, to wish for the place of honor & eclat.

The crowd however was excessive - all complained of this and many had reason to complain. Some were "wall-flowers" who hoped to be "belles" and others, ambitious at least of some attention, were perhaps entirely neglected. I never saw ^{a greater number of} ~~more~~ disappointed faces. Too much was expected, - in the first instance, and too high a value is set upon such things generally, for true wisdom or happiness.

Friday.

28th Dec 1827

Christmas holidays.

Congreg have been quite idle during the last week as they generally are during the holidays. We may not expect to see much business transacted by them until after New Years. Meanwhile, the City has been gay, in spite of a months continuous rain, which to day seems to have ceased, - and the Sun - our greatest stranger, at length appears again.

Mr May held his first soiree on Wednesday night. The party was brilliantly attended; - Three large & elegant rooms were thrown open to the company, and before nine they were all crowded. It seemed as if the Halls of Legislation had fanned out all their tenants, and Fashion had sent forth her richest representatives. In short it was a full, & brilliant assemblage of our choicest belles & beaux; - Washington never seemed more delightful. We have to day & tomorrow, the Orphan's fair, - where the ladies of the City attend with all their contributions, to sell to such gentlemen as will buy, for the benefit of the Orphan Asylum. More hereafter of this.

Friday. 4th Jan 1828
(New Year's day)

On new Year's day, the President's house was, as usual on these occasions thronged with all the beauty & fashion of the metropolis, - the foreign Diplomatic functionaries in full costume, and many members of Congress. The day was very fine. The sun, who had been our greatest stranger for the previous 3 weeks, shone forth on the new Year's day with a lustre, more brilliant from the very privations which we had so long been suffering. All the world seemed clad in smiles. Mutual greetings passed cordially from one to another, and life itself seemed relieved of all its cares & disquietudes. Among the strangers whom I had not before seen ^{here}, was Mrs & Miss Mitchell from S. Carolina, the same who were our fellow-passengers from Charleston to Savannah last Spring, and with whom the Genl & I were so much pleased.

After the service, some of us adjourned by appt. to Mr Ramsay's where we had egg & omelette & cake. The

New Year's

same good fare I had at Mrs Blake's too
and in the evening I attended a small party
at Mrs Pleasanton's. I scarcely remember
I have ever passed a more happy day than the
1st of Jan'y. The lovely Miss Haskins was
forth in all her charms, and I her proud gallant.

Last evening Madame Suggens gave her
first Soirée. Miss Livingston was there and
formed as usual the center of attraction. All eyes
followed her through the mazes of the dance, which
she threaded with so much grace, and all agreed that
she was indeed a most extraordinary young lady.
I have attended no party where the ladies appeared
better dressed. It was not crowded, - the rooms
were well lighted (which is every thing in these cases)
and every body looked elegant & fashionable.

Mrs Brown's party was on Monday, which
I had almost forgot to mention, - Tomorrow
is to be the first of Mrs Barbour's. So the season
has opened, and, as yet, Fashion has taken the lead of Politics.

Monday. 7th. January 1828

Courtship

On Saturday, (the memorable 5th Jan'y,) I found myself in that trying crisis, which all men experience perhaps once in their lives, — and surely in all the occurrences & emergencies incident to social intercourse none can be more important & interesting — I had an interview with her, whose person & character had attracted my admiration & fixed my attachment. It was during a walk, which I managed to prolong until we reached the terrace of the Capitol, where I unfolded the state of my feelings and received the qualified but satisfactory answer which so nearly consummates my happiness now.

I was romantic in ~~and~~ deferring my declaration until we came to the Capitol, but when has imagination & poetry so much to do with our actions as in moods like this of mine? I would have preferred the Dome, which we intended to ascend but the day was foggy and the prospect of course shut out — So at the foot of that Magnificent Edifice, the Acropolis of American Legislation, I.R.V. ~~at~~ received the happy annunciation that his hopes were fairly based and his feelings reciprocated.

When shall I forget the day.

Wash. Thursday - 10th Jan'y 1820

Miss H. - left the city to day for Philadelphia
in company with her uncle Mr. Augustus Richards
For whose arrival from the West, she had been for some
time waiting. Thus after a ^{sojourn} ~~stay~~ of two months
at the Post Master General's, has this excellent girl
terminated a visit, - which has been the means of fixing
perhaps my destiny for life, by presenting to my eyes
that loveliness and worth which I have ^{has always} ~~never before~~ more
comprehended my bean ideal in a woman. My acquaintance
with her has been short, but every act & word of hers has been
so uniformly correct, so ladylike, so lovely, - that I
cannot well be deceived in the high estimation I have formed
of her, nor crossed trusts, in the halcyon hopes which I
have indulged. To crown the whole, the Genl & Mrs B
are both well pleased with my election and friendly to my
purposes. They have ever been true friends to me &
their counsel has ever weighed heavy at my heart. I sh^d
not have been happy, had my choice been disapproved
by them, for, however infatuated I might be, my ^{own} ~~better~~
judgment would always have been unsatisfied as long as
it conflicted with theirs; which I never have had reason to doubt.

Courtship

Last evening I enjoyed (at the McLeans) one of the happiest hours of my life. With that soul-felt emotion which kindred spirits feel, when they commune together, and repose in mutual confidence the sentiments of the heart.

The excessive delicacy of Miss R. has caused me a too little progress, which gave me some uneasiness, but at each éclaircissement, my admiration of her increased and my devotion became more fixed. Her situation has been awkward & embarrassing in this city, and my attentions though well received have been rewarded so charily that for a long time before declaration & yet some periods afterwards, I have almost doubted of my success.

But in every conjuncture she has departed herself with the most admirable propriety. She has felt that she ought to make no commitments while absent from her Mother, yet being constrained by the emergency to indicate her feelings, she has done so ^{in terms} ~~with~~ delicately and so qualified, in reference to her Mother's will that, even the stinted favours of hers have been more highly prized by me than the utmost profusion I should have been

I felt proud on being informed that she had no fortune for the imputation of mercenary motives I ^{studiously} avoid - My dignity was elevated & ennobled by the very disclosure.

Friday 11th Jan 1828

Twenty six years of age! - Will I ought
certainly to begin to think seriously of matrimony -
And so I do. - Having found at last, one
whom I know how to appreciate and who knows how to
appreciate me, whose taste seems to be congenial with
mine, whose talents and education render her a finished
lady, whose family is one of the most respectable in
Philadelphia, and who without fortune, possesses those
very attributes of disposition and character which perhaps
fortune would have impaired, such a lady I have now
found, and such do I most devotedly love.

Every step of my courtship has been marked by some
peculiarity of incident, which was calculated to heighten
the romance of the subject & give keen zest to the imagination.

One evening in her society, with all the M.L. family
present I had ^{unwittingly} tied her handkerchief in knots while engaged
in conversation & during my delirium of good feeling, I
threw it from me towards Miss H., whose head it struck - she
looked serious & reproved me, but I, with that wantonness
which could only be excused, on the ground of exuberant
spirits & boyish feelings, took up the knotted handkerchief

again, and again threw it on his head. The next
morning I was rec'd rather coldly by her, and on inquiring
from her friend Miss Stubbs, I found that my disrespectful
conduct had given serious offence and for twenty four
hours thus never was a more miserable man. My
Reportments and my feelings, which had previously bordered
too much on Non Chalance, now became respectful &
guarded. I was remorseful and ~~useless~~ condemned. My
esteem & deference for Miss H. increased the more I reflected
on her just rebuke and dignified frown, and my ambition
was alive to regain her favour and merit her approbation.
After two or three interviews, an apology & explanation on my
part, restored me to her good will, and this gloomy cloud
which for the time overcast my soul, was the cause of
that increased admiration of her character & person which soon
compelled me to unburthen my feelings and yield up my heart.
I could sleep but very little during the night, so while
rolling on my pillow before the break of day, we yet
a gleam had entered my easement to enable me to write
I had composed the following lines, illustrative of this
event and the feelings it engendered - The effusion
I called retrospection, as well to generalise the subject in

order to defeat the curiosity of strangers, as to
convince her for whom it was intended, how sensibly
these reminiscences had become impressed on my heart.

I've seen the pelting, pitiless storm
Assault the tender Rose, — whose form —
Shrinking with its fears, —
Bent low before the raging blast
While every leaf was shedding fast
The melancholy tears. —

But the dark cloud soon passed away
The Sun beamed forth in brighter day
And gladdened all the scene; —
The Rose, with renovated glow
Shed sweeter, lovelier colours now,
Than if no storm had been. —

2

I've seen the lightning's vivid flash, —
Have heard the breaking Thunder crash,
And felt the panic dread: —
The mighty Oak was scathed and riven,
And from the frowning face of Heaven
Even Hope awhile seemed fled. —

But when the Tempest-cloud had passed
When Thunder's roar and lightning's blast
No more their terrors showered,

The Sandscapes smile, - the Daphys balm,
Were sweeter in that hour of calm
Than if no clouds had lowered.

3.

To with the fond, confiding heart, -
When disappointments' withering smart
Has rankled at its core;
Should eyes it doats on, - once more smile, -
They chase each care, - each pain beguile,
And sorrows vex no more.

This piece, with another, I put in her album where perhaps I shall often recur to it as the type of those deeply excited feelings which possessed me when it was written.

Another incident happened only three evenings since which gave me much trouble. On taking my leave for the day I offered her my hand which she refused to take in hers. However gastronomic her delicacy might be, I thought ^{to decline} a friendly salutation like ^{this} was in her, most cruelly rigid, and after deliberating much over night, I concluded next day to remonstrate in writing, (as I did not see her alone) against so severe a repulse of my friendly approaches. This was the first note I ever addressed to her and I embraced the opportunity to embody one or two other topics connected with the general subject. This too was productive of a most happy effect - caused a new

Fashion - Reflections &c
Flow of feeling & confidence and ripened our
attachment to that maturity which renders a
visit by me to Philadelphia as the next step
to be taken in this delightful drama of love.

What an odd compound is the human heart! How
spontaneous, involuntary and uncontrollable are some
of its feelings! My mind never had left to do
with my impulses than in these conjunctures; never ^{has it} so
shrunk from its sovereignty.

Well - it was rumoured at the last Drawing Room
that I was at last "disposed of" - "mortgaged" - &c though
how any thing could have transpired on my subject so
soon I scarcely know. But this is to be expected and
my next study is how to arm myself against the
raillery of my fashionable friends abroad. Our own households
are prudent - & merciful!!

Love stole a march however
and the battle has been fought ere the neighbours have
known of the movement.

I went to the Haygen's
soiree last evening & danced as usual in right
good spirits, but as for interest, it was all gone.

My thoughts were wandering toward Philadelphia,
though my outward attentions to my old female friends
were directed as formerly, in general & polite regards.

Washⁿ Friday Feb 1st 1820.

Theatricals.

I was one among the crowded audience at the theatre last evening who had the good fortune to witness the extraordinary performance of Miss Clara Fisher and after the most gaudious criticisms I am free to acknowledge my opinion that she is the most talented & engaging votary of the histrionic art that has ever visited our boards. Without being altogether beautiful she has a countenance of touching sweetness and features that are readily modified to all the changeable expressions which are required in dramatic representation. She is still a juvenile of sixteen & has not of course attained to that full stature which may be requisite in the personification of the higher characters but her judgement is as accurate, her taste as exquisite and her expression as intellectual as if she could boast a full maturity of years & experience. These qualities united to such perfect grace of movement and a voice so witchingly mellifluous in song, render her indeed the prodigy which for want of a peer she would have long since acknowledged her to be.

In the first scene of the Belle's Stratagem Miss Fisher appeared so plain in costume and so simple in action that

Theatricals - Miss Clara Fisher

It is doubtful whether a large portion of the audience were not disappointed in her. But no part could have been performed better because none could have been acted more naturally.

Any excess in apparel or in declamation would have violated the decorum which belonged to the character and the scene.

In the succeeding exhibition of broad face she played the hoyden girl to admiration and in the masquerade scene

nothing could have been more delightful & captivating than her performance. The song "I have fruit, I have flowers"

was introduced with fine effect and sung with that peculiar taste and sweetness which belong only to the most rarely gifted of the sex.

It is a subject of serious regret that so much of the pleasure which Miss Fisher's performance is always calculated to produce should ever be alloyed by the exhibition of such vulgar ribaldry as disgraces the Comedy of the "Bellevue's Stratagem". The taste of the present age & certainly of this community is decidedly averse from such obscenity however garnished by wit or disguised by equivocation. In the present instance feelings that had been called forth by tenderness and raised to ecstasy by that magic power of purity & loveliness which seemed to beam from the soul of our Enchantress were once often rudely dashed by some of those low & offensive passages which distinguish this Comedy. Such passages

will always revolt the ear of delicacy and call forth the deepest condemnation where else might have been heard unequalled applause. Whether this censure is due to the managers or to the cheap performer I know not, but no display of talents however brilliant can be altogether agreeable to a refined audience, when passed through the obscene medium of a play like this.

In the "spoiled child" Miss Fisher again equalled the high expectations that had been formed of her. The song "Since then I'm doomed" was warbled with immitable pathos, and so admirably accompanied with the appropriate expression & gesture that Nature seemed to have claimed Music for her peculiar spell of utterance. The audience were wrapt in silence & sympathy, and such was the fascination of the moment that no one dared to exclaim "Encore" though all would have given the whole evening's entertainment to have heard that song again.

On the whole Miss Clara Fisher must be considered as one of the brightest ornaments of the stage in any County. She exhibits an instance of precocity of intellect & genius which places her in a sphere far beyond the ordinary range of human capacity, and ^{is fairly} entitled her to the high reputation which has uniformly marked her course and crowned her efforts.

Tuesday 5th Feb 1828
Theatricals.

Last evening we went again to see Miss Clara Fisher at the Theatre. She came out in Shylock, but without success. My former high opinion of her powers, was not raised by this exhibition though little could be expected in a girl so young, personifying a character so much the antithesis of her own. Her soft young visage could not be wrought into the wrinkled rigid front of an ascetic old Jew, nor was her size sufficient in any degree for the character. But I found other objections. Her conceptions were not always accurate and here she is directly vulnerable to criticisms. In short she should confine herself to a different & more circumscribed sphere, and her powers exerted within this pale exclusively would always produce a commanding effect & perhaps exalt her celebrity.

To day Mrs Wink & family with Mrs Brown, & Maria with myself in attendance, called on Miss Clara and found her with her Mother & Sister at the City Hotel. She appeared lovely & fascinating as ever. She comes highly recommended from Baltimore, and seems entitled to the respect of the best Society.

Saturday 9th Feby 1828. Health.

To day the Genl. has encountered (or rather yielded under) another attack of his old Disease, which affects his head directly, - by paralyzing his intellectual faculties, his memory & speech, and rendering him utterly unable to accomplish any business or attend to any duty. In such cases it has been always the Doctors prescription to apply medicine, bleeding, and all manner of depleting remedies, but it is difficult to say how long the Good General's Constitution is to withstand such incessant racking. He certainly is becoming more exposed every day to a return of these affections, and consequently his life is held by a still more precarious tenure. I have become somewhat accustomed to this state of things now, and ^{have} so often expected the worst that the apprehension has become familiar to me, and I shall doubtless feel resigned to any dispensation that may occur. The family seem all to be so too, yet the Genl's death would be an awful ^{event} ~~thing~~. Portentous of important consequences in public as well as in private concerns.

Washⁿ Thursday 14th Feby 1828

Health

The General still continues the tenant of his Sick Chamber, though as we all think, he is now decidedly Convalescent. Strong hopes are entertained that

he may rise from this attack more effectually improved in his mental faculties than if he had not been visited with it.

The ^{partial} loss of his eye sight, by which he was prevented reading manuscript or fine print, was an exceedingly grievous affliction to him, and unless he regains it after this, he will be strongly induced to resign the command of the Army.

Such at least is the issue of many of his reflections and it is hard to doubt that he would be induced to take this momentous step rather than "trifle with his fame" by remaining an inefficient incumbent of the Office of General in Chief.

Every day of my life is more or less clouded by reflections like these, urged upon me not only by the incessant current of the General's conversation but by every association formed in his presence. Hope is therefore veiled; and

Future seems pregnant only with impending tribulation, ~~and~~ Even the most sanguine Temperament will become dejected, with no other anticipations to dwell on than those of adversity

a leaf torn out here.

to the office here no more, for I found his end
nigh, and that night I continued to watch by
the sick bed until 6 in the morning when I
retired for a little repose. At 8 I was
awakened by new tidings of alarm - The General
was dying - His weeping family were apprised of
his approaching dissolution, and after a last visit
to his bed side, they retired never to see him more.
At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12. yesterday, the 24th of Feb. he
breathed his last. He wore a tranquil placid
countenance at the latest moment, and such is the
expression of it in death. He departed by all
appearance in perfect confidence of mercy from his
Maker, to whom during the 2 last days he seemed
to address all his soul.

His family, bear the terrible bereavement
with becoming fortitude but who can measure
the extent of their affliction? O. May God
protect and preserve ^{them!} It is ~~their~~ Heavenly Father
now ^{to whom} ~~that~~ they are to look for comfort, for with the
good General, departed all their means of support & subsistence

Washington Friday 29th Feby 1828

On Wednesday the funeral of the late General-in-Chief took place at noon, from the dwelling of his family, and the Corpse was borne in military procession, to the public cemetery near the Eastern Branch, and ^{then} deposited in its narrow bed.

All that martial and civic pageantry could do, to honor the last requies of the dead, was displayed on this great occasion. Public sentiment was highly excited in favour of the memory of the deceased; the procession was upwards of a mile in length: Most of the members of Congress attended, the houses being adjourned for the purpose, and in spite of rainy weather the streets were filled with people to witness the sad & imposing ceremony.

Seldom or never, in Washington have we had so large a funeral. Honor to the hero even in his grave, ^{ever} is the willing tribute of a generous people - Such is ours, and I trust their spirit will be not unprofitably

represented in the halls of Legislation.

A Motion ^{has been} ~~is~~ already made by Genl Harrison in the Senate for a Pension for Mrs Brown, but from some cause or other it was withdrawn and another substituted in its stead, granting to the widow the pay of Major Genl for the residue of the year. This though rather a pitiful allowance, would be far better than nothing, though if the Bill should express a full year's pay instead of the residue for the current year, it would amount to more than 5000 Dollars.

Motions have also been made for reducing the office of Major General. This is not a new subject. It has been always supposed that the office as fixed by the Law of 1821, was retained only through gratitude to Genl Brown, and now on his decease ~~few~~ ^{few} expectations are entertained that a successor will be appointed. In this posture of affairs

I find my own interests much in jeopardy and am indistinctly to seek out some eligible plan by which I can be retained near the seat of Government.

Washn. Friday. 7th March 1828

Yesterday a special order was issued assigning me to duty in the Adj. Genl's Dept. Col. Jones is a man whom I hold in the highest esteem and as matters stand, I feel pleased to be employed under his auspices. My allowance as yet are only for fuel & Quarters though if any other plan for the government of the territory is adopted, than assigning one of the Brigadiers to the Supreme command, I shall doubtless find my situation more eligible in this respect.

Speculation is still busy as to the great question of the Succession. An officer of high rank & sound judgment has said that the claims of Scott & Gaines are so nearly balanced that as an impartial friend to each, he could not decide between them. This is a singular state of things in Civil Affairs, and even the President with all his prudence & all his sagacity is at a loss to decide between the rival candidates. No decision will therefore, for the present be made

Two
Sons
Mar

Wash. Saturday 15th Mar. 1828

Nothing yet has been done as to the Major Generalcy. Much talk of ~~making~~^{elevating} Genl Garrison to that office, and considering the actual posture of affairs I scarcely can say that it would not be the best policy. But Mr Adams cannot be brought I apprehend to fill another Civil office with a citizen. He has repented appointing Col Bingham ever since he saw how angry the Army were at that flagrant attack on their rights. The cases are not analogous however and it is still difficult to say what will be done in the case.

Hubb arrived a few days since from Braille and will soon complete the necessary arrangements for the sale of furniture and the removal of the family from Washington. Such is the melancholy ^{mark} of every drama in life. Such often is the termination of a man's career, who lives to float on the sea of popularity & renown, & dies leaving his family, inheritors indeed of his fair game, but ^{also} of indigence & distress. Hubb however will do his best to sustain the destitute flock, and God their Creator, I trust will be their preserver ~~thence~~ in every vicissitude

Washn 22^d March 1828. Saty

On the 18th I rec^d a letter from Mr. which
put the seal upon our further intercourse
It was what I expected, though it has been but very
late, that I have been convinced how desperate
were my prospects for matrimonial happiness
God's will be done! I have yet a clear conscience
though there may be some who think me unworthy to
Censure. Straitened circumstances, - a dependent
family, - an itinerant profession, and a horror of
parents all deter me from undertaking any enterprise
in which every step is irrevocable and every advance
replete with peril. My late essay, will be
always remembered by me as a most important & critical
event of my life; - ^{it was} pregnant with consequences, whether
accomplished or disappointed. I have been disappointed
and the experience gained will be deeply impressed on
my memory. - Hereafter, I shall never step but with
circumspection, nor judge, without light. I may not
yet be aware of the danger which our troubled ^{is so} ~~which~~ ^{may}
issue from the present case. Yet again I say my
Conscience is clear, and my ~~conscience~~ ^{mind} is undaunted.

End of No. 5.

food on the edge of the
s added to his eagerness.
something struck him so
was almost knocked from
t the same time he felt
pains that made him cry
he fully understood what
d he was struck from the
and great claws tore his
atched deep gashes in his
ing, spitting, Yowler tried
ck with one claw-tipped
e clung to the trunk of the
e other. The best he could
rake out a few feathers.
pounded him and great
his coat. He was too high
o and jump. He began to
as fast as he could. Half
ld stand it no more and
ed. He had lost his appe-
ad learned a lesson, a pain-
never would forget.
(Copyright, 1931)

story: "The Return of Red-

MATERNITY

showing their identity in an envelope, which is sealed in their presence. This precaution is for the event of a fatal accident. The envelope, still sealed, is returned to each patient when she leaves the hospital.

WHAT DO YOU WANT
AN OIL BURNER
FOR? DON'T
I TAKE CARE OF
THE FURNACE?



MORNING AND NIGHT,
YES! BUT DO
YOU THINK IT
RUNS IN BETWEEN
TIMES ON
THOUGHT
WAVES?

What Every Wife Knows!

Every husband thinks he is less, and odorless. It will
ability to heat when
the

PAGE FOURTEEN

THE BOSTON HERALD

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1931

Published every day in the year at 171 Tremont Street, Boston, by Boston Herald-Traveler Corporation.

Entered at the Boston, Mass., Postoffice as second class matter. Address all communications to The Boston Herald, Boston, Mass. Make all checks payable to Boston Herald-Traveler Corporation.

Subscription by Mail, Postpaid			
	One Year	Six Months	One Month
DAILY	\$5.00	\$2.50	\$.50
SUNDAY	5.00	2.50	.50
IN BOSTON POSTAL DISTRICT			
DAILY	\$9.00	\$4.50	\$.75
SUNDAY	5.75	2.90	.55
FOREIGN RATES			
DAILY	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$1.00
SUNDAY	12.00	6.00	1.00

Domestic rates include postage in the United States (excepting Boston postal district), Porto Rico, Philippines, Cuba, Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, Canal Zone, Republic of Honduras, United States of Colombia, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Peru. Also include Canada for the daily paper, or daily and Sunday combined. Canada for Sunday paper alone, 5 cents per copy additional.

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the court, including Taney, agreed, as stated by Charles Warren in his work on the supreme court, that "on a proper construction of the language of the state constitution statutory legislation was contemplated and necessary before it could take effect, and that hence, as no such legislation had been enacted, the decision of the circuit court in favor of the validity of the notes in question was correct." Thus it became unnecessary for the court to pass on the question of the repugnance of the one constitution to the other.

One judge, however, McLean of Ohio, did read an opinion going into the slavery issue, said to be the "boldest and plainest words yet spoken on the question by a supreme court justice." There were two dissenting opinions, one by Story. One justice was ill and one heard the arguments but died before the decision was handed down. Thus it was a 4 to 3 decision.

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