

IMPARTIAL TESTIMONY.

As the Journals in the pay of the existing administration are now engaged in the laudable business of assailing the character of Gen. HARRISON, and especially of endeavoring to rob him of the honor to which he is justly entitled, on account of his glorious victory over the British and Indians on the 5th of October, 1813, we deem it expedient, in addition to the mass of evidence already offered in this favor to submit the following. It is not the testimony of a zealous political partisan, or a warm personal friend; nor was it originally given with a view to effect the present, or any past or future contest for the presidency. The witness is a man who, has long enjoyed the esteem and respect of all parties—so old fashioned Democratic Republican—one of the very few members of that party who are friendly to, and enjoy the favor of the existing administration—in fine, an actual member of Gen. JACKSON'S cabinet—MARLON DICKERSON; long a senator in Congress from the State of New Jersey, subsequently governor of that patriotic commonwealth, and now secretary of the navy. This evidence it will be observed, was given upwards of eighteen years ago; at a time when neither the hero of New Orleans, nor the hero of the Thames, were thought of as probable candidates for the presidency. It is, therefore, strictly impartial; and as such, we recommend it to the attention of our readers, especially those who have heretofore acted with the party now in power.—O. S. Journal.

GEN. HARRISON AND GOV. SHELBY. Remarks of Mr. Dickerson in the Senate of the United States, on the 24th of March, 1818, on the resolution for a vote of thanks to General Harrison and Governor Shelby.

Mr. DICKERSON, agreeably to notice given yesterday, asked leave to introduce a resolution offering the thanks of Congress to Major General Wm. H. Harrison, and Isaac Shelby, late Governor of Kentucky, for their distinguished bravery and good conduct in capturing the British army, under the command of Major General Proctor, at the battle of the Thames, in Upper Canada, on the 4th of October, 1813.

I should not, said Mr. Dickerson, at this late day, highly as I think of the merits of those officers who, in co-operation with the hero of Lake Erie, turned the tide of war in our favor bring forward the present resolution, if no similar attempt had heretofore been made in their favor, but would leave their fame to rest upon the testimony of impartial history, which has already done ample justice to their characters.

Two years ago a resolution, like the present was reported to this house by the chairman of the committee of military affairs—by direction of that committee. This resolution was opposed on two grounds, applying solely to General Harrison, as I have been informed, (for I had not then the honor of being a member of this body)—the first, that an inquiry was, at that time, pending before the house of representatives into the official conduct of General Harrison, as commander of the north western army, upon charges, which, if well founded, were calculated essentially to injure his character; the second, that a rumor prevailed that General Harrison had discovered some reluctance in pursuing Proctor and his army, after Perry's victory on Lake Erie; and that he had been forced to the pursuit by the remonstrances of Gov. Shelby, and that this information had been derived from the declaration of Gov. Shelby. These charges, utterly unfounded as they turned out to be; were deemed a sufficient reason for postponing a decision of the committee until the result of the inquiry before the house of representatives should at least be known. The resolution, after some discussion was referred to the committee who reported, further to consider and report thereon. As the session was near to its close, no further report was made, and, indeed, no further report could with propriety have been made, until the investigation before the house of representatives should be brought to a termination. This did not happen until the 23d of January, 1817, a little more than a month before the termination of a very important session, when the public business, of the most pressing kind, required the entire attention of Congress, so that this subject could not with propriety have been renewed until the present session.

As the friends of General Harrison have in their power completely to obviate every objection heretofore made to the passage of this resolution, it is their duty to bring this subject again

before Congress, more especially as the journals of this house, if left unexplained, imply a censure upon the conduct of General Harrison, which certainly never was intended. I will confess, for one; from a perusal of the journals of this house, the military reputation of General Harrison sinks in my estimation; and I believe this confession might be made by three-fourths of the citizens of the United States who read the proceedings of Congress, and who had not an intimate knowledge of the character and conduct of General Harrison. I should reproach myself for having suffered such an impression to be made upon my mind, if the means of correcting it had also been found upon our journals. Those journals did not then afford the means of correct information upon the subject, nor do they till this day.

As to the first objection that an investigation was pending in the house of representatives, into the official conduct of General Harrison, the result of that investigation was in the highest degree honorable to his character. The committee to whom the subject was referred, were unanimously of opinion, that General Harrison stood above suspicion of being implicated in the charges exhibited against him; and that, in his whole conduct, as commander-in-chief of the north-western army, he was governed by a laudable zeal for, and devotion to the public service and interest.

The second objection made to the passage of the resolution, if well founded, was calculated to give to Governor Shelby the entire and exclusive merit of having urged the pursuit of Proctor and his army. But Shelby, generous as he is brave, disclaims this exclusive merit, and in a letter, which I will beg leave to read, denies, in the most positive terms, having used the language ascribed to him; and he gives to General Harrison the highest praise for his promptitude and vigilance in pursuing Proctor, for the skill with which he arranged his troops for meeting the enemy; and for his distinguished bravery during the battle. He states that the duties of Gen. Harrison, as commander-in-chief of the north-western army, were in the highest degree arduous; but, that from the zeal and fidelity with which they were performed, they could not have been committed to better hands. Of these particulars, no one could know better; no one could judge better than Governor Shelby. I have many other documents and papers to show that Governor Shelby was not mistaken in the statements which he has made, which I will read, if any doubt shall be expressed on the subject. I trust, however, that no such doubt will be entertained; and am confident that honorable gentlemen will now, upon a full knowledge of the facts, feel a pleasure in awarding to General Harrison that testimony of applause which a sense of duty induced them formerly to withhold.

I shall not pronounce any encomiums upon the gallantry of the venerable patriot, the intrepid hero, Governor Shelby. His distinguished services during the late war, as well as those of the revolution, will be remembered to the latest posterity—of him, and the brave officers and men, who, under the command of General Harrison, achieved the glorious victory at the battle of the Thames, one sentiment pervades the Union, that they merit every distinction which Congress and a grateful country can bestow.

Mr. Dickerson then offered the following resolution.—

Resolved, By the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that the THANKS OF CONGRESS be, and they are hereby PRESENTED to Major General WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON and ISAAC SHELBY, late Governor of Kentucky, and through them to the officers and men under their command, for their gallantry and good conduct in defeating the combined British and Indian forces, under Major General Proctor, on the Thames, in Upper Canada, on the 5th of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, capturing the British army, with their baggage, camp equipage, and artillery; and that the president of the United States be requested to cause TWO GOLD MEDALS to be struck, emblematical of this triumph, and PRESENTED to Gen. HARRISON and ISAAC SHELBY, late governor of Kentucky.

Which resolution was subsequently UNANIMOUSLY adopted.

The following persons were elected Directors of the Sandy and Beaver Canal Company, at an election held at New-Lisbon on the 10th inst: Benjamin Hanna, Elderkin Potter, and James Hambleton, of Columbianna co.; William Christmas and Jehu Brown, of Stark co., and Timothy Abbott and L. Nicholson, of Philadelphia. Benjamin Hanna was re-elected President.

[By request.]
LETTER OF GEN. DUNCAN,
GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 25, 1836.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of the 20th has been received, and I most cheerfully comply with your request, in giving such an account of the transactions at Sandusky as my time will enable me to do.

About the 20th of July, 1813, General Harrison, then at Lower Sandusky, hearing that the British army had crossed Lake Erie to Fort Meigs, being about five thousand strong, immediately changed his head quarters to Seneca, seven or eight miles up the Sandusky river, where he assembled his forces then on the march from the interior, leaving Major Croghan with about 150 men to defend Fort Stephenson, with an understanding, or an order as it was understood by me at the time, that the Fort, then in a weak and wretched condition, was to be abandoned, should the enemy advance with the artillery, but if not, to be defended to the last extremity.

Harrison with his force, then small, had scarcely left us, before Croghan commenced putting the Fort (which was only a stockading of small round logs and a few low storehouses) in a proper state of defence, in which he evinced great judgment and most untiring perseverance.

During the ten or twelve days that intervened between the time that General Harrison left us, and the appearance of the enemy, a ditch was dug, four feet deep and six feet wide entirely round the fort outside of the stockading, the ground for 200 yards round the Fort was cleared of timber and brush, and many other preparations made for the enemy.

About this time Gen. Harrison received information that the enemy had raised the siege of Fort Meigs, and had started in the direction of Sandusky and Camp Seneca. On receiving this intelligence, he determined to retreat from his position, and immediately sent an express to Fort Stephenson, which arrived about sunrise, ordering Major Croghan to burn the Fort with all the munition and stores, and retreat without delay to Head Quarters, giving also some precautionary instructions about the routes, &c.

On receiving this order, Croghan instantly placed it in the hands of the officers, who were all present, and required them to consider it and express an opinion as to the propriety of obeying or disobeying it. The board was formed, and on putting the question, beginning as usual with the youngest officer, it was ascertained that a majority of us was for disobeying the order. Croghan returned to the room, and being informed of our intentions remarked, 'I am glad of it, I had resolved to disobey at all hazards,' and immediately dispatched an express to Gen. Harrison, giving him that information! Immediately on the arrival of this express, Gen. Harrison, despatched Lieut. Col. Ball, with his squadron of Dragoons, with orders to arrest Croghan, to bring him to head quarters; (which was done,) and sent another officer to take the command. By this time, in consequence of his not arriving agreeably to his expectation and order, the General abandoned all idea of a retreat although his munitions and stores were piled up ready to be set on fire as soon as Croghan should reach Seneca, and it is not doubted that if Croghan had arrived according to orders; Gen. Harrison would have retreated instantly, leaving the whole frontier, our fleet at Erie, and the boats and stores at Cleveland, (the destruction of which was the object of the invasion and movements down the Lake) at the mercy of the enemy.

After being detained Croghan returned to Sandusky, and was reinstated in his command, an occasion which gave indescribable joy to the officers and soldiers in the fort, and which could only be equalled in intensity of feeling, by the chagrin and mortification felt at his arrest. Especially was this event pleasing to those officers who had sustained him in disobeying the order, resolved as they were, when he was arrested, to share his fate, be it good or evil.

Soon after his return, the enemy, so long expected, made his appearance, and demanded a surrender.—Croghan, answered by directing Ensign Ship to assure General Proctor that he would be blown to hell first!

I need hardly say, after what has been related, that their appearance, relieving us from our long suspense, was hailed with seeming joy by the Major, and most if not by all, at his command.

The excitement produced by what had occurred; and his return just in time to meet the enemy, inspired his command with an enthusiasm rarely if ever surpassed, and which alone renders man invincible.

The fort was forthwith besieged; cannonaded, and bombarded, from the gun boats, and batteries on land, for

nearly four hours, without cessation; during all which time, every officer and soldier appeared to be animated by the cool and manly bearing of their commander.

I well remember his expression at the first sound of the bugle given by the enemy as a signal for the charge upon the works. We were sitting together; he sprang upon his feet, saying, 'Duncan, every man to his post; for in ten minutes they will attempt to take us by storm. Recollect, when you hear my voice crying relief, come to me with all the men that can be spared from your part of the line.' He instantly passed up the line, repeating the order to every officer; and had scarcely got the men placed, before the whole British army, divided into three columns, marched upon the fort, and made a desperate assault continuing it for near an hour, when they were repulsed, with a loss of killed and wounded, estimated at the time to be near double the number in the fort, and is stated by English writers to be about ninety.

During the engagement, I saw Croghan often, and witnessed with delight his intrepid and gallant conduct; which, I firmly believe never has been surpassed at any time, or on any occasion.

In the heat of action I frequently heard him exclaim, 'huzza my brave fellows, we are hewing them to pieces, five minutes more and we'll blow them to hell. By H——n every officer and soldier has immortalized himself,' &c. &c.—and throughout the whole affair evinced the greatest solicitude for the safety of every one but himself.

The sagacity displayed in arranging the cannon so as to upon a mask embrasure to rake the enemy in the ditch, at a point evidently selected by them for the breach; in placing logs on pines near the top of the pickets wherever the enemy attempted to make a breach with their cannon, by which means each point of attack grew stronger from the moment it was assailed, are worthy of any General of any age.

You are right, sir, in my judgment in saying that the Government had not done justice to Col. Croghan for his conduct in that affair, which is without parallel in the military annals of our country.

As to myself having acted by a subordinate part I never did nor do now set up any claims for distinction.—To know that I did my duty to my country, though not hardened into manhood, was then and is now enough for me. But of him I feel no deficiency in saying, injustice has been done to him in being overlooked by the Government—and by the erroneous statements of historians.

McAfee, the historian of the late war, and Dawson the biographer of General Harrison, have studiously kept out of view that the object of the invasion was the destruction of our ships under Commodore Perry at Presque Isle, and boats and stores at Cleveland—these were looked upon with great solicitude by the British; were reconnoitered; and on one or two occasions, were attempted to be destroyed by landing the small force on board their fleet. They have also failed to account for the movement of the whole British forces down the lake in the direction of Cleveland and Erie, before their defeat at Sandusky, which was attacked to gratify their Indian Allies who demanded the scalps and plunder of the place. They have kept out of view, the fact that Gen. Harrison had determined to retreat to the interior after burning all the supplies which he had collected, that he ordered Major Croghan to abandon and burn Fort Stephenson; that his refusal to obey and failure to arrive at Head Quarters, preventing this retreat and consequent destruction of our fleet, millions of public stores, and exposure of five hundred miles of frontier to the combined enemy.

Both have stated that General Harrison never doubted that Major Croghan would be able to repulse an enemy of nearly two thousand, and which they say he understood to be five thousand, with one hundred and thirty men, his effective force on the day of the battle, one six pounder with ammunition for only seven shots, and about 40 rounds for 40 small arms, when the fact was notorious that General Harrison was heard to say, during the siege, that the firing could be heard in his camp speaking of Croghan, 'the blood be upon his own head, I wash my hands of it,' not doubting for a moment, nor did any one with him, but that the garrison would be cut off.

With great respect,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES DUNCAN.
Col. PREYTON, Mil. Com. Senate.

THE PRODUCTIVE POWER OF LAND!!

Few farmers of this country, are aware of the immense productive power of land perfectly cultivated.

The notion that large farms are indispensable to large agricultural operations always prevails in new countries where lands are cheap and cultivations imperfect, but as a country progresses in age, and lands advance in price, it is discovered that the product and profit of the farm depends more upon its cultivation than the number of acres it contains. At the first settlement of this country by civilized men, it was a wilderness, and lands were purchased of the natives, for articles of clothing and ornaments of trifling value. This induced our ancestors to make themselves proprietors of large tracts of wild land without reference to their ability to cultivate them. The consequences was a low standard of husbandry. But as these extensive tracts were afterwards divided and subdivided, as the increase of population and the exigencies of families required, it began to raise and has been slowly progressing until it has arrived to its present state, but which is very far from what it was in the old world long before the christian era.

It is supposed that agriculture has never been in a more flourishing condition and cultivation carried on near or perfection than it was in ancient Rome five hundred years before Christ. The principal assignable reason for the agricultural prosperity of Rome was the size of farms which were circumscribed within very narrow limits. The farm of Maltus Curius Dentatus, one of the greatest Roman farmers, consisted of but four and a half English acres, he was three times chosen consul, the highest ordinary office in the state, and for a time commander in chief of the Roman army and yet he derived all his chief substances from his farm. For his splendid victory over Pyrrhus he was offered more land by the government, but he declined it; assigning as a reason, that should he even aspire to more wealth and possession than he already had he should become ambitious and consequently a dangerous man to the liberties of his countrymen. That celebrated Roman farmer Cincinnatus about whom so much is said of his being called from the plough to the command of the Roman army, had only two and a quarter acres of land. His original farm contained seven jugers about four and a half acres, one half of which he had been compelled to dispose of to raise money to pay the debts of an improvident son.

But nothing will better illustrate the importance of perfect cultivation, and the astonishing productive power of land under it, than the story of Paridus the Roman vine dresser. He had a vineyard and two daughters. At the marriage of the eldest he allotted her one third of the vineyard as her portion, and astonishing as it may seem, succeeded in making the same crop of two thirds, which he had formerly made from the whole. At the marriage of the other daughter, he apportioned to her the one half of the remainder, and yet his crop was undiminished.

We are not among the number who believe it necessary for our young agriculturists, to penetrate the western wilderness for the purpose of obtaining a subsistence or accumulating wealth we are not of the opinion of the farmer who removed one hundred miles from all his neighbors to avoid being annoyed by them, and when one of them located himself within fifty miles of him considered it an insult, and said he did not thank him for sticking down right under his nose. Neither do we believe that war, pestilence, famine and crime, are necessary, as checks upon the population, and preventives of redundancy which the products of the earth would not sustain.

But we do even believe that in the present state of the arts, rural economy may be carried to such an extent, that even New England might sustain, in comparative comfort and affluence more than fifty times its present population.

That we have not overrated the productive power of land, perfectly cultivated, is evident from the fact that large provinces in India, with a population of from four to six hundred inhabitants to the square mile, are supported by agriculture.

There is also an island on the eastern coast of China, containing one thousand square miles, and a population of four hundred thousand. Agriculture, and horticulture are the exclusive pursuits of the inhabitants, and their crops are limited to rice, cotton, millet and culinary vegetables.

The late sale of lots on the island opposite to Wheeling, was greater than could have been anticipated, under the circumstances, produced by a postponement, bad weather, and a pressure in the money market. Notwithstanding all these drawbacks to a spirited action, we learn that lots were disposed of to the amount of \$24,000 at an average of about \$300 for a lot of 50 feet front and 120 deep. Another sale is to be held in September.

Our columns, this week, are almost entirely devoted to correspondents, whose communications, original and selected, will be read with interest. We are always thankful to our friends for their favours, in this way, but we hope, they will recollect, in making selections for this paper, that some regard must be had to the limits of our columns. Selected articles should be brief.

A meeting of the Carroll county Temperance Society, will be held in the Courthouse, tomorrow, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

We have not yet received full returns from the elections which have taken place in the Western States, during the present month. It is almost certain, however, that Judge Clark has been elected Governor, and C. A. Wickliffe, Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky.

TRIAL OF WINTRINGER & LONG.—We have before us a pamphlet, which purports to be, an account of the Trial of Wintringer & Long, for the murder of Chrisman. We are induced to copy, for the gratification of those who delight in reading the confessions of criminals, the following paragraph; which, according to the pamphlet, contains Long's confession of the crime. For a detail of the circumstances connected with the execution of Wintringer, we refer to an article on our first page.

"My first acquaintance with Wintringer commenced at Louisville, Ky., I came with him to this place and stopped at Teaters with him to board, Washington Venom came along. Wintringer and myself followed Gambling for a livelihood, we had some idea to go to Vicksburg but gave up the notion, I was sitting at Knox and McKee's warehouse, Wheeling, when Wintringer passed me, in company with Chrisman, and went to the United States Hotel to drink, this was about 11 o'clock A. M. When they returned where I was sitting, it was agreed that we all should go to Teaters boarding house; Wintringer said to me that money could be got out of old Chrisman, I asked him this question, does he gamble? No, says Wintringer, he does not gamble, but we will take him to the theatre and then show him the girls. Wintringer liquored with Chrisman, I only drank a glass of eggnog. Laquor was not the cause of our crime, the murdered man was drunk, but we were not. We did meet a man with a lantern and asked the hour. Wintringer picked up a brick bat and struck him (Chrisman) first, though I cannot well say who struck first. We jumped on him and dragged the dead body to the creek where we left it.

Wintringer took the money from the corpse and handed it to me. He then broke the chain of the watch and threw it into the river. I will tell why I told at first wrong things about this affair, I did not like to look Wintringer in the face, and threw at first the blame on myself.

Wintringer halloed through the window in prison and said if I would lie it would save him and would save me also. When we returned to Teaters after the murder we counted the money and were disappointed in the amount."

We are requested to announce Thomas Latta, of Brown township, as a candidate for county Commissioner, at the next election.

DECLINATIONS.

Mr. CHRISTY: Through the medium of your paper, permit me to inform the people of Carroll, that I am not a candidate for Representative in the State Legislature at the next Election. I aspire to no office at this time, higher than (Surveyor) the one I now hold.

VAN BROWN.
August 26, 1836.

Mr. CHRISTY: In your paper of the 19th inst, my name is announced as a candidate for the office of county Recorder. This nomination was made without my knowledge or consent; and while I am thankful to my friends for their avowed willingness to support me, I beg leave, for the present, to decline the nomination.

JOHN C. HUSTON.
August 26, 1836.

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Carroll Free Press.

Mr. Christy: In your paper of the 19th inst, I perceive the publication of the proceedings of a Van Buren meeting, which they say was "very large and respectable," and held on the 15th inst, in Carrollton. With their meeting or their arrangements I have nothing to do; but with their resolutions when made public, I or any other man have a right to interfere; so far as to approve or disapprove. Their let