

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

"I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man."—Thomas Jefferson.

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NEXT DOOR TO ROBISON'S STAGE OFFICE.

TERMS:

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MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCOUNTER WITH A WILD ELEPHANT.

But, Heaven save us!—what's that! shouted the Doctor, springing behind Mansfield, and seizing him by the arms, as a tremendous crash was heard amongst the bamboos, accompanied by a shrill scream like the sound of a cracked trumpet. "Huttee, Huttee!" (an elephant! an elephant!) shouted the Jagader, darting behind the shelter of a tree, and becoming the others to follow example. "Down down for your lives!" exclaimed Mansfield, in an audible whisper, at the same time crouching behind a tree, and cocking his rifle. "This must be the famed solitary elephant which has been committing such ravages of late on the edge of the forest, and if we can manage to kill him, it will be a glorious victory." The Doctor grunted aloud in agony of spirit. "Now, lads, list to me, and if you only behave steadily, the day is our own. Keep perfectly still, till he shows himself; when I whistle, he will lower his head to listen from whence the sound comes—mind you take a steady aim at the hollow in his forehead, just above the insertion of the trunk; and, when I whistle a second time, fire together; but take care that you only fire one barrel, reserve the other and dash off, two to the right and two to the left, so that if he does not fall, he may find a clear space to make the first rush. They are stupid, short-sighted animals, and if you keep quiet, we shall probably have time to re-load, before he discovers us, at all events, we have our second barrels ready. Now, mind these directions; and you, Doctor, do, like a good fellow, try to keep your wits about you; all depends upon our steadiness, and the slightest mistake may cost us our lives." "The Lord have mercy on us! This is awful work!" groaned the poor Doctor, casting a rueful glance at his favorite rifle. There was a moment of breathless silence; another fearful crash was heard, and the gigantic brute, bursting forth into the open space, brandished aloft his ponderous trunk, like a knight entering the lists to defy all comers, and screamed forth his shrill note of defiance. He was a stupendous animal, a perfect mountain of flesh, full twelve feet high, with enormous tusks, and his little twinkling red eyes glared with the fire of madness. Flourishing his trunk about, he snuffed the tainted air, and his scream of rage, as he stamped upon the ground, announced that he was aware of the close proximity of his enemies, although he had not yet decided in which direction to make his headlong charge. "Now, lads, steady, and reserve your fire till proper time," and Mansfield gave a low whistle. The elephant started, cocked his ears, and bent down his head in the attitude of listening. He was just in the right position, and Mansfield was in the act of raising his rifle, when crack went the Doctor's gun with a report like a six-pounder, and the Doctor, throwing down his weapon, took to his heels, roaring lustily that the monster was after him. The poor Doctor's nerves had got the better of him, and, by an involuntary twitch of his forefinger, he had pulled the trigger when he had least expected it.

Mansfield and Charles fired, and both balls took effect in the head of the elephant, making the blood flow copiously; but, being discharged almost at random, and not planned in the correct spot, they only acted as stimulants to his rage. Uttering a shrill scream, he dashed madly forward, his mouth wide open, his tail on end, and his trunk upraised, to crush all which opposed his career. Mansfield and Charles darted to one side, and fled for shelter behind the stem of a large teak tree; but the poor Doctor, whose senses were completely bewildered, ran blindly forward, and his red jacket being much too conspicuous an object to escape the notice of the elephant, his fate appeared inevitable. In vain did the panting wretch twist and turn, and dodge amongst the trees, like a hunted jackal. The destroyer was close at his heels, following every turn with mortal hate. His strength was failing fast, and the fearful chase appeared to be drawing to a close. The trunk of the elephant was already stretched forth to grasp him, when he made a sudden turn, and overshot his mark, and, for one moment was at fault, apparently uncertain in which direction his victim had fled. The Doctor, seeing this advantage, began, with all diligence, to climb the tree, behind which he had sheltered himself. He was already several feet from the ground, and his arm was outstretched to grasp a branch which would have raised him to a place of safety, when the elephant, catching a hasty glimpse of him, dashed at him with redoubled fury, and twisting his trunk round his legs, hurled him to the ground, rushed upon him, as he lay, stunned and bleeding, and kneeling down, drove at him furiously, with his enormous tusks, burying them up to the very root. At this moment Mansfield and Charles followed the chase, dodging cautiously from tree to tree, in hopes that some lucky turn might give him a steady shot at the elephant's head, came in sight of the bloody scene. "The Lord have mercy on his soul, for he is beyond the aid of man!" exclaimed he, dropping the butt-end of his rifle to the ground, and leaning against a tree, sick and giddy, at the ghastly sight. The elephant rose from his knees, picked up the body of the unfortunate Doctor in his trunk, tossed it to a short distance, and stood gazing on his victim, with flaming eyes, as if gathering fresh breath, before he rushed at him again, to finish the work of death, by trampling him with his feet. "By heavens, you shall not complete your bloody work!" muttered Mansfield, grinding his teeth, and raising his rifle with a steadiness of hand which never forsook him, in the most desperate situations. The deadly bullet sped true to the mark, entering the eye, and burying itself in the brain of the elephant. The gigantic brute uttered one shrill scream of mingled rage and pain, and sinking slowly to the ground, rolled over like a falling tower.—*New Monthly.*

THE MALDIVA ISLANDS.

(From Parbury's Oriental Herald.)

The inhabitants of the Maldiva Islands have in general a pleasant cast of countenance, and in colour they much resemble the Mussulmans of India. Their general height is about five feet two inches. The higher orders are fairer in complexion than the common people probably attributable to their descent from Persian stock. The skin of the natives almost universally is marked with stains on many parts of their bodies, or blotches of a lighter colour than the natural skin. The ordinary dress of the men consists of short drawers with a cloth wrapped round the waist, and another about the head, the waistcloth being twisted into a knot in the front, which is supported by a string encircling the loins. The head people wear in addition an embroidered sash of silk or cotton about their waist, and on Fridays, when attending the grand mosque, a kind of shirt (white), reaching to their ankles with a turban of the same colour. The men shave their heads, but are free to allow as much of the hair of the face to grow as they like. The women's habiliments consist merely of a cloth wrapped round the waist,

descending to the knees, which is secured by a string, and a long shirt; also a cloth tied round the head. In contradistinction to the men they allow their hair to grow long and fasten it up behind. They are fond of ornaments, and hang light trinkets all around the edges of their ears. The men wear none. The houses are ill-built and dark, having at most only one small window, and frequently none at all; generally, about twenty-eight feet long, twelve feet broad, and fifteen feet high, with a peaked roof. They are made of substantial frame work of wood, thatched with cocoa-nut leaves; the floor is plastered, and the sides sometimes boarded; a partition near the middle divides the house into two rooms, one of which is private, the other open to all visitors. In this public room there are two ranges of seats; one, on the right side on entering, is considered the most honourable; the other on the left, and carried across the house, is appropriated to the common people. The degree of respect intended to be shown to any individual is marked by the seat to which is invited.—Inferiors always receive the king's relations, and other head men, standing, and remain so, unless invited by them to be seated. Though it would be improper to enter the private or women's apartments, females are not kept from the view of strangers, as in most Mahomedan societies.—Marriage is not very early engaged in; a plurality of wives is allowed; but few however, are able to support more than one. Children of both sexes are required to read the Koran through, under the tuition of priest of the inferior order; their tuition commences at the early age of three years. When once through the Koran the children receive no further instruction, they are left to acquire it themselves in the best way they can; hence arises the great difficulty experienced in determining the sound of letters, or the orthography of words. Most of the boys, however, from a prevailing passion for music, soon gain a knowledge of the character, as all songs are written in it from the Persian or Hindostanee, there being very few in their own language.—The young children are covered with ornaments of different metals, according to the wealth of the parents, to distinguish them from those whose parents are poorer. All go unclothed until about five or six years of age, and cleanliness is much attended to.

THE HOLLOW HORN.

A Fair Offer.—Within a few days we have heard several farmers from the surrounding country complain that "their cattle have the hollow horn." We have had little experience in the management of cattle, and know something about this "hollow-horn," and we are satisfied that it is nothing more nor less than an attendant, a sort of hunger on, of that worst of all diseases among cattle, the hollow belly. We know men, who have cattle that during the whole winter, have been exposed to the "pitiless peltings" of the storms, with a snowdrift or an ice-cake for a bed, and with nothing but a scanty pittance of prairie hay, or musty straw for food, and who now wonder that "their cattle have the hollow horn!" The wonder should be that they have any cattle living.

We will make the following proposals to all those owning cattle. Keep them under shelter during the storms and cold weather of next winter. A hovel, built of logs and covered with coarse hay or straw, standing in a dry place, is sufficient for this. Salt them twice a week regularly; give them a sufficiency of wholesome provender, and water at all times, and each of them a mess of potatoes or turnips at least two or three times a week. Keep your working cattle shod, and if you work them hard, feed and nurse them accordingly. Do not beat them; never let them stand in the cold longer than is absolutely necessary; particularly when you drive them to town with a load of grain or wood or for any other purpose, do not let them stand in the street, hungry and

shivering, hour after hour, while you are in a grocery drinking and carousing. Follow these directions fairly, according to their true intent and meaning, and in the spring we will engage to pay for all the damage you have sustained by the "hollow horn."

Fort Wayne Sentinel.

POLITICAL.

LETTER FROM DAVID R. PORTER.

The Committee of Arrangements of the Pittsburg Democratic Convention invited David R. Porter to attend the deliberations of that body. We annex Gen. Porter's reply declining the invitation.

The reasons given by Gen. P. for not attending the convention in compliance with the entreaties of the committee, are such as might have been expected by those acquainted with his sound republican principles. No candidate has ever been brought forward in this State who has interfered less in his own election than David R. Porter. Although the prize is a high one, he has preferred to leave its bestowal to the free and unbiassed decision of his fellow citizens, without the use of extraneous influences on his part, or any attempt at personal electioneering. In this particular, his course presents an admirable, and to his friends a gratifying, contrast to that of his competitor. Since the nominations for Governor in March last, Joseph Ritner has performed several electioneering tours, and he may be frequently seen taking similar trips to districts supposed to be "infected" with a desire to desert his standard. If we have not been misinformed, he made an ineffectual effort to get up a splendid pageant at a point distant from the seat of Government, which, out of respect to the Democracy of the State seen even in this contrast between David R. Porter and Joseph Ritner an additional reason to be proud of their candidate.

The allusion of Gen. Porter to the assaults upon his reputation is expressed with good taste, and with a feeling which would smite the consciences of his base calumniators, if Providence, in its wisdom, had not denied to these wretches in the shape of human beings that benign attribute of civilized man.—*Reporter.*

GEN. PORTER'S REPLY.

Huntingdon, 5th Sept. 1838

GENTLEMEN:

Your letter of the 28th ult. inviting me to be present at the young men's convention in Pittsburg on the 10th inst., came duly to hand.

It would be to me an occasion of much gratification to meet so many of my friends on that day on which was achieved so glorious a triumph of American over British arms, in our second war of Independence. But in the attitude in which I now stand before the people of Pennsylvania, I cannot reconcile it with my own views of propriety and delicacy to incur the imputation of travelling the state to influence the coming election. However such a course may be practised in other states, and sanctioned by the habits and usages of their citizens, it has found no example in our commonwealth which I am willing to follow. I therefore feel impelled by a sense of duty and propriety to decline the invitation to meet the enthusiastic and patriotic youth of western Pennsylvania, assembled, as they believe, to do their part towards perpetuating the blessings of our free institutions.

I feel thankful for the kind expression of your personal regard, and am gratified to find that the cheering intelligence communicated by you, corresponds with the information received from every part of the commonwealth. It is true, I have had a fiery ordeal to pass, and if, as you say, it has been passed unscathed, and the slanders published against me have recoiled under satisfactory refutations, I owe it to the integrity of the transactions which my associates have attempted to distort and misrepresent.

A sense of conscious rectitude has sus-

tained me through a life of great vicissitudes and trials, in which I have had the confidence and affection of those who have known me best; and that sense has not failed me, nor that confidence and affection been wanting in the present conflict, ruthless as have been the assaults upon me.—Much as we must regret, in a moral point of view, the destitution of principle evinced in the falsehoods constantly put forth against candidates for public office in our country, and calculated as such a course must necessarily be to prejudice our republican institutions, I cannot be too thankful that it has been permitted me by an all-wise Providence to have and produce satisfactory refutations of all such uttered against myself, when refutations have been thought necessary. Unpleasant as it is personally to be the object of them, I could have little hope of entire exemption from the same course of vituperation and abuse heaped with so heavy a hand upon a Jefferson, a Snyder, a Madison, and a Jackson.

In great contests for principle; when the rights of the people are at stake, when the integrity and harmony of the Union are put in jeopardy, individuals sink into comparative insignificance. The contest becomes one of principle. As such I look upon the present one, and shall so treat it; and let the issue be what it may, let us prepare manfully for the conflict. Our principles are those for which our fathers in the days of the Revolution fought and suffered. They nerved their arm for the contest then. Let the same now be done, and the same results will crown our exertions which blessed the efforts of the men of 1776.

Very Respectfully,

D. LYON, and others, Committee.

TESTAMONY OF HONORABLE MEN IN FAVOR OF D. R. PORTER.

We give below a letter from Judge Burnside in reply to a communication from the democratic committee of correspondence for Montgomery county, in which he bears testimony to the high moral worth and unimpeachable integrity of David R. Porter, the democratic candidate for Governor. To those who know Judge Burnside it is unnecessary to say a word in favor of the implicit reliance which may be placed in his declarations. His standing and unsullied reputation, give to the expression of his opinions irresistible weight, and to his statements a force which would not be increased by the solemnities of an oath. Besides Judge B. is a Whig—an ardent supporter of Mr. Clay for the Presidency—and in this view, his letter must go far to disabuse the minds of the honest of that party, of the vile slanders issued in the form of affidavits purchased from such creatures as Peggy Reaty, Sam Sturgeon and the Stonebrakers.—*Reporter.*

Bellfonte, Sept. 1, 1838.

Gentlemen:

I had the honor to receive your letter of the 27th ultimo, requesting me to state my knowledge of the public and private character of David R. Porter from his early youth to the present time.

I would be wanting in justice to myself, if I did not bear testimony to the private worth and integrity of Gen. Porter. We were boys together—raised in your neighborhood—school fellows and intimate acquaintance. He left your county in 1808, when his excellent father was appointed Surveyor General of Pennsylvania under the administration of Gen. Snyder.

In 1812 he left Lancaster and removed to Barre Forge, in Huntingdon county. I was then a member of the Senate, intimate in his father's family, and often consulted by him about his removal to Huntingdon. Previous to this period, and from that time to the present, with the exception of two years residence in Wilkesbarre, (from 1816 to 1818) I was a constant attendant on the Courts in Huntingdon county.

In 1814, Mr. Porter formed a partnership with Edward B. Patton, in the Iron