

SOUTHERN PATRIOT.

MARTIN & KENDRICK,

"BE SURE YOU'RE RIGHT, THEN GO A-HEAD."—Crockett.

Proprietors.

VOL. 4.

HOUSTON CHICKASAW COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AUGUST 15, 1849.

NO. 9

SELECTED POETRY

The Dying Girl.

I ask not to linger here on earth,
Where's all in cold and drear;
Where every flower conceals a thorn,
And every smile a tear.

In you bright land to which I go,
There's naught but joy and bliss,
Then why should I longer seek to live,
In such a world as this?

Bright spirits wait to lead me there,
And guide my long delay—
The spotless robes prepared for me
And Jesus bids me haste away.

You golden harp is tuned for me,
Oh! playing sweet its tone,
I'll raise my voice and touch its chords,
And join the heavenly song.

I've heard these speak of fairy lands,
And moonlight isles in ocean's blue—
I've heard these speak of Eden shades,
Where all was lovely to the view.

But fancy ne'er can paint so fair;
No pure a elme as this,
And earthly minds may not conceive
Nor feel the raptured bliss.

Oh! mother, shall I meet you there?
And sisters, will you come?
And brother shall I lack for thee,
Among the blood-washed throng?

I'll fly and open the pearly gates,
To welcome loved ones home—
I'll touch my harp with higher power,
And sweeter strain my song.

POLITICAL

Gen. Taylor and the Cabinet Regency.

If there was a set of politicians in this country who had been ostracised from office and power by the people, on account of the odious character of their political principles and conduct and were desirous of again returning to power & seizing upon the legislation of the country, what is the course they would pursue? In order to conceal the repulsiveness of their own political characters, would they not endeavor to put forth a candidate for the Presidency to represent them who had acquired, by some real or adventitious circumstances, a high reputation that would commend him to the people, notwithstanding the odious character of those who put him forward and supported his pretensions? If it were probable that a candidate, on account of the defects of his education, his habits and occupations of life, his want of knowledge of statesmanship, and his lack of acquaintance with political affairs, would prove to be equal to the duties of the high office to which they proposed to elevate him, would not those designing schemes, in order to conceal the defects of their candidate and to avoid the exposure which would be likely to result from his elevation, persuade him to delegate the duties and functions of his office to those by whom he was surrounded as advisers? In order to relieve him from the duty of recommending measures to Congress and of vetoing bills which Congress ought not pass, and in order to enable them more effectually to avail themselves of the legislative power, would they not persuade him that he must have nothing to do with the action of Congress, not even to exercise the veto power, with which the constitution has armed him to enable him to defend the rights of the States and the People? And, in order that they might control all the appointments and relieve him from the censures and complaints of the disappointed, would they not also persuade him that he should refer all those matters to the Cabinet? And, in order to relieve him entirely from the danger of exposure, and to place him entirely within the control of these corrupt schemes, would they not persuade him that all matters of administration should be submitted to the cabinet to be controlled by a majority—himself having but one vote with the seven Secretaries? And after such a scheme had been accomplished, would not the agents and organs of this cabal go to work and endeavor to persuade the people that it was all right and proper? And if it were exposed to the public, would they not hastily deny it? And if the scheme throughout were successful, would it make any difference whether the President of the United States

were General Zachary Taylor, or General Tom Thumb? Would not the presidential office thus have been virtually abrogated, and the power of the presidency vested in an irresponsible cabinet? And would not the consummation of such an infamous and wicked scheme amount to a substantial and essential revolution of our government?

If such means have been resorted to, and such results accomplished, then has our constitution been abrogated in one of its most important features, and a silent but real and thorough revolution has been effected in our government. We believe that such has been the case. We believe the facts implied in the questions we have stated are true; and a large portion of the people of the United States also believe it. Of course, the conviction of such a state of things existing here at the capital, flashing upon the minds of the people, must produce such a revulsion in public sentiment, as to end in the overthrow of the plotters and intriguers who have been its authors. Alarmed at the probability that such a conviction is rapidly growing in the minds of the people, the organs of the administration (the National Intelligencer and the Republic) have come out with a formal contradiction of the fact the President is controlled by the cabinet, and that he votes in that conclave on an equality with its members. They boldly assert that all the statements which have appeared in the public papers to the effect that Gen. Taylor has repudiated virtually the functions and duties of President, and delegated them to his cabinet, are the mere falsehoods of and unscrupulous opposition.

With regard to this matter, so intimately affecting integrity of our institutions, and so seriously damaging our national character, we are anxious only that the truth should be known. It is due to the American people that it should be known; and standing here as a sentinel of the press & so far a guardian of public liberty, we feel in duty bound to proclaim to the American people that our conviction of the state of things existing here at the capital is the very reverse of that which has been stated by the organs of the administration to exist. We solemnly believe that Gen. Taylor has virtually repudiated the functions of his high office, and delegated them to the cabinet; that he has voted in the cabinet on terms of equality with the other members of that body; and that the cabinet have made most, if not all, of the appointments bearing the President's commission, in some instances voting down Gen. Taylor himself. These facts we believe to be true, and we will now proceed to give the reasons why we believe them to be true.

In the first place, admitting that Gen. Taylor was fully competent as a Military commander, had he the requisite knowledge and experience in the duties of a statesman to qualify him for the office of President of the United States, the most difficult and intricate of all offices under this government? What are the prominent facts of his history? He entered the army forty years ago, when he was but a young man. His education was very limited. He has been during a good share of his service in the army stationed on the frontier, and engaged in savage warfare, where he had no opportunity to acquaint himself with books, much less than acquire a knowledge of laws and ethics necessary to qualify him for the high duties of statesmanship. He never voted for forty years, as he says he never filled a civil office. He was never a justice of the peace, a state representative, a representative in congress, nor a judge. He never distinguished himself in arms until he went to Mexico. These facts all go to show that he could have no experience in statesmanship, nor any acquaintance with political measures and men. To make a good statesman as well as a good general, requires talents of a high order, and the training of long and laborious years of active experience. General Taylor has none of these. He has not, in truth, had time to read the laws and treaties of the United States since he was first nominated. And from these facts the rational inference is, that

he had not the knowledge nor experience to fit him for the high duties of the Presidency, and that he must, from necessity, rely upon others for their execution.

In confirmation of this conclusion, we have the testimony of positive facts. We first cite the rule by which applicants for all kinds of offices were refused a hearing by the President, and referred in all cases to the Secretaries. This is an undeniable fact, and can be proven by thousands of witnesses. The President has uniformly refused to receive applications not only for subordinate offices, but for those exclusively within his own gift, and referred the applicants to the Secretaries. They have been compelled to dance in attendance upon Secretaries. We understand it also to be a fact, that the Secretaries have selected and designated the persons who were subsequently appointed. It was proclaimed in the whig newspapers, and whig letter-writers, that the whole matter of appointments was referred to the Secretaries, and that they nominated, and the cabinet confirmed, the appointments. Such, also, has been the common talk in this city among whigs and democrats.

But we have corroborative proof of this fact, from the declarations of Gen. Taylor himself, which first made their appearance in the whig newspapers. In the case of Peter Sken Smith, it was publicly stated that Gen. Taylor excused himself for not appointing Mr. Smith, on the ground that he was voted down in the cabinet. The vote in the cabinet in this case was also published, and never yet has been categorically contradicted, although we put questions to a late organ of the cabinet with a view to draw out the truth in relation to that very case. Also in the case of the appointment of Lathrop to the office of navy agent in this District, Gen. Taylor told the friends of Mr. Lathrop—as stated in the correspondence of the Baltimore Clipper, a Taylor paper—that he had appointed him, when the fact was that the commission was then ordered to issue to Lathrop. Many other facts of this kind could be adduced, all showing that the cabinet, and not Gen. Taylor, make the appointments.

Besides, it stated in the whig papers that the cabinet to satisfy General Taylor, had adopted a rule that no persons should be removed except for a specific cause alleged against them. That rule was afterwards rescinded on account of its inconvenience; and, as authority for its rescission, we cited a paragraph from the Boston Atlas quoted from the New York Express. That article in substance stated that the cabinet were going to rescind the rule. If the whole power of appointment had not been vested in the cabinet, why should that conclave adopt and rescind rules concerning them?

But we have other facts going to corroborate the conclusion that General Taylor had delegated the duties of his office to the cabinet. In the first place, we believe, when he came to this city, it was his honest determination honorably to redeem his pledges, and to be the President not of a party, but of the people. Unfortunately, he was persuaded to surround himself with ultra, artful, and unscrupulous whig politicians. They, we have no doubt, forced upon him the policy of removals. And that he for a time resisted, we have no doubt, from the facts that the rule was adopted that no democrat should be removed except for cause. That rule was for a short period nominally regarded in the action of the cabinet, but was in fact virtually and daily violated. Then came the just and natural denunciations of the democratic press for the dishonesty and perfidy involved in such acts. These denunciations were artfully made use of as pretexts to incense Gen. Taylor into more extensive proscription, until it has exceeded that of all former administrations put together. It has been remorseless and indiscriminating. It has extended to the soldiers not only of the late war, but to the very men who fought and bled by his side in Mexico, and even to helpless and innocent women holding post offices for the support of dependent families of chil-

dren. We cannot believe that Gen. Taylor knew of and countenance such shameful and base acts of proscription, without at the same time believing that he is one of the most unprincipled and depraved of men. No; these are not the acts of General Taylor, but of the unscrupulous and reckless men to whom he has delegated his power; and we regard them as another proof of the fact that he has so delegated it.

Finally, in support of our conclusion that he has abnegated the functions and duties of his office, and vested them in the cabinet, we refer to the well known simplicity of General Taylor; his artless and simple conversation, showing that he has but little knowledge of, or experience in, the nature and duties of his office. Although he endeavors, with praise worthy assiduity, to make his appearance correspond with the exalted position which he occupies, in the estimation of all intelligent and candid men who approach him, he fails to produce the impression that his intellectual capacities are equal to his great office. A few minutes of conversation with him satisfies every candid man that he is deficient even in general information, and that he hardly knows anything of the vast and intricate machinery of government; of its complex system of domestic policy, and its expanded and intricate relations with foreign powers, to manage which requires the highest qualities and capacities of statesman-ship.

We, therefore, in view of all the facts that have come to our knowledge, very many of which we have derived through whig courses, feel bound to express a different opinion from that which has been recently put forth by the organs of the administration. We solemnly believe that the duties of the presidential office have been delegated to the cabinet; that appointments have been decided by the notes of that body; and that Gen. T. has had but an equal vote with the other members of the cabinet conclave. And if the form of proceeding in the cabinet has been changed, we have no doubt it has been done recently, in consequence of the exposures which have been made by the public press, of the shameful state of things heretofore existing in that body. The change is *pro forma* merely, in order to conceal the incompetency of Gen. Taylor from the public view.

We know that such a state of things is humiliating and mortifying in the extreme to every American citizen who possesses a particle of national pride, but that is no excuse for concealing it. The framers of the constitution never intended that the high office of the presidency should be filled by one not equal to its great duties and functions, and the only way, in our estimation, to put an end to the disgraceful and mortifying state of things now existing at the capital, and to restore the services of competent statesmen, is to expose these matters fully to the people.—Union.

Col. Weller.

The administration seemed determined to leave no means untried to degrade Col. Weller. His gallantry at Monterey appears to be considered as among the unpardonable sins. The late order for his recall from the mission in which he is now engaged, although done at the hazard of great injury to the country, could be overlooked; perhaps—but the administration has capped the climax of its petty vindictiveness by changing the name of Weller Post Office, in Montgomery county, to that of Corwin, in honor of Corwin, the traitor! Could partizan malice go farther? Could Gen. Taylor be guilty of an act of more degrading self-abasement than thus to lick the hand that smote him?

"Is Mr. — a man of means?" asked a gentleman of old Mrs. Frizetop, referring to one of her neighbors. "Wall, I reckon he ought to be," drawled out the ancient bel-dam, "for he's the meanest man in town."

Learn to govern your self when young.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mount Sinai.

This is the holy mountain, and among all the stupendous works of nature, not a place can be selected more fit for the exhibition of Almighty power. I have stood upon the summit of the giant Etna, and looked over the clouds floating beneath it, upon the bold scenery of Sicily, and the giant mountains of Calabria; upon the top of Vesuvius, and looked down upon the waves of lava, and the ruined and half-recovered cities at its foot; but they are nothing compared with the territorial solitudes, and bleak majesty of Sinai. An observing traveller has well called it a perfect "sea of desolation. Not a tree, or shrub, or blade of grass, is to be seen upon the bare and rugged sides of innumerable mountains heaving their naked summits to the skies; while the crumbling masses of granite all around, and the distant view of the Syrian desert, with its boundless waste of sands from the wildest and most dreary, the most terrific and desolate picture that imagination can conceive.

The level surface of the very top or pinnacle is about sixty feet square. At one end is a single rock about twenty feet high, on which, as said the monk, the spirit of God descended, while beneath his favored servant received the tables of the law. There, on the spot where they were given, I opened the sacred book in which those laws are recorded, and read them with a feeling of deeper devotion, as if I were standing nearer and received them more directly from the Deity himself.

Chamber.

History of Cotton.

The following brief items of the history of cotton from 1730 to 1836 are taken from a South Carolina paper.

- 1730—Mr. Wyatt spun the first cotton yarn in England by machinery.
- 1742—First mill for spinning cotton erected at Birmingham, moved by mules or horses; but not successful in its operation.
- 1749—The fly shuttle generally used in England.
- 1763—A bill passed to prevent the export of machinery used in cotton factories.
- 1769—Mule spinning invented by Hargrave.
- 1783—Watt took out his patent for the steam engine.
- 1785—Power-looms invented by Dr. Cartwright—steam engines used in Cotton factories.
- 1786—Bleaching first performed by the agency of oxymuriatic acid.
- 1787—First machinery to spin cotton put in operation in France.
- 1789—Sea Island Cotton first planted in the United States; and upland cotton first cultivated for use and exportation about this time.
- 1790—Slater, an Englishman, builds the first American cotton factory, at Pawtucket, Rhode Island.
- 1792—Eli Whitney, an American invents the cotton gin which he patents.
- 1803—First Cotton factory, built in New Hampshire.
- 1814—The power loom introduced into the United States; first at Waltham.
- 1818—Average prices of cotton 34 cents—higher than since 1810—New method of preparing sewing cotton by Mr. Holt.
- 1819—Extraordinary price for Alabama cotton lands.
- 1822—The first cotton factory in Lowell erected.
- 1825—New Orleans cotton at from 23 to 25 cents per pound.
- 1826—Self acting mules spinner patented in England by Roberts.
- 1827—American cotton manufactures first exported to any considerable extent.
- 1834—Cotton at 17 cents.
- 1835—Extensive purchase of cotton lands by the speculators and others.
- 1836—Cotton from 18 to 20 cents.

Gen. Shields is a candidate for reelection, for U. S. Senator of Ill.

Mississippi University.

JACKSON, JULY 16th, 1849.

Messrs. Fall & Marshall—On last Monday, the first annual examination of the students of the University, of Mississippi at Oxford, commenced, and was conducted in the presence of the Board of Trustees, and a large assemblage of citizens; a synopsis of the proceedings might not be uninteresting to you and to your readers.

On the first day (Monday) the Freshman class was examined in the Latin and Greek languages, by Professor Waddle, and in the Mathematical department, by Professor Bledsoe. On Tuesday the Sophomore class was examined by Professor Waddle in the Languages, by Professor Bledsoe in the Mathematical department, and by Professor Millington in Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.

This being the first session, there was no Junior or Senior class. On Wednesday, original addresses were delivered by the students, and, on Thursday, an address by the Hon. A. M. Clayton, and a commencement address by Professor Bledsoe.

The examination was well attended by the citizens, throughout the whole of the exercises, not only from Lafayette county, but from Yalobusha, Pontotoc, Lowndes, Monroe, Marshall, Desoto, and perhaps other counties, nor was the presence of the ladies wanting to enliven the scene, and grace the occasion; all classes manifesting a lively interest in the success of the University. We had hoped the editors of the Mississippian would have been present, and that the citizens of the southern counties generally would have favored us with their presence of the occasion.

At the close of the exercises, the Board of Trustees, then in session, resolved that.

Whereas, The examination of the students of the University, just had in our presence, and the whole exercises of the occasion have given us great satisfaction, and convinced us that the professors have faithfully discharged their duty, and that the students exhibited very gratifying evidences of their proficiency; we do therefore direct this expression of our opinion to be placed upon the records of our board, which was unanimously agreed to.

The official connexion of Geo. Frederick Holmes, as President of the University, was terminated, and the Rev. T. Longstreet elected as his successor.

The report of the Faculty, made to the Board, shows that eighty students matriculated during the session, of whom five were expelled and eight suspended.

The report of the Treasurer shows a balance in his hands of \$435 58 cents.

The University buildings, although large and commodious, were erected for college purposes proper and contain no room large enough for public occasions. We need another building for a chapel, or general assembly room for commencement occasions, which the limited state of our finances will not permit the board to erect.

The University of Mississippi presents as flattering a prospect at this time as any institution in the south but, as yet, our library is small, amounting in value to only \$500, we have no apparatus belonging to the institution. Dr. Millington has kindly given us the use of his, which is equal to any in the United States, but it is unsafe to rely upon loans for the support of a permanent institution. Will the legislature permit the fair prospect of our University to be blasted, or its usefulness delayed for want of a small appropriation for the objects. Respectfully,
THOS. H. WILLIAMS, Sec'y.

Why is a woman in love like a man of profound knowledge?

Because she understands the "arts" and "signs"—ences.

Why was Eve, before the fall, like a good old fashioned Orthodox clergyman? Because she was Eve-angelic.

Why is a lawyer like a tattler? Because he is always telling.