

CORNPLANTER.

From Day's History of Pennsylvania.

Few names are more distinguished in the frontier history of Pennsylvania than that of Cornplanter. His Indian name was Ganio-de-uh, or Handsome Lake. He was born at Conewagus, on the Genesee river; being a half-breed, the son of a white man named John O'Bail, a trader from the Mohawk valley. In a letter written in later years to the governor of Pennsylvania, he thus speaks of his early youth: "When I was a child I played with the butterfly, the grasshopper, and the frogs; and as I grew up I began to pay some attention and play with the Indian boys in the neighborhood; and they took notice of my skin being of a different color from theirs, and spoke about it. I inquired of my mother the cause, and she told me that my father was a resident in Albany. I still at my youthful age of a birch dish. I grew up to be a young man, and married me a wife, and I had no kettle or gun. I then knew where my father lived, and went to see him, and found he was a white man and spoke the English language. He gave me no victuals while I was at his house, but when I started to return home, he gave me no provision to eat on the way. He gave me neither kettle nor gun." Little further is known of his early life beyond the fact that he was allied with the French in the engagement against Gen. Braddock in July, 1755. He was probably at that time at least twenty years old. During the revolution he was a war chief of high rank, in the full vigor of manhood, active, sagacious and brave; and he most probably participated in the principal Indian engagements against the United States during the war. He is supposed to have been present at the cruelties of Wyoming and Cherry Valley, in which the Senecas took a prominent part. He was on the war-path with Brant during Gen. Sullivan's campaign, in 1779; and in the following year, under Brant and Sir John Johnson, he led the Senecas in sweeping through the Schuylkill Kill and the Mohawk. On this occasion he took his father a prisoner, but with such caution as to avoid an immediate recognition. After marching the old man some ten or twelve miles, he stepped before him, face about, and addressed him in the following terms: "My name is John O'Bail, commonly called Cornplanter. I am your son! You are my father! You are now my prisoner, and subject to the customs of Indian war. You need not fear. I am a warrior! Many are the scalps which I have taken! Many prisoners I have tortured to death! I am your son. I was anxious to see you, and greet you in friendship. I went to your cabin, and took you by force; but your life shall be spared. Indians love their friends and their kindred, and treat them with kindness. If now you choose to follow the fortunes of your fellow men, and to live with our people, I will cherish you old age with plenty of venison, and you shall live easy. But if it is your choice to return to your fields and live with your white children, I will send a party of my trusty young men to conduct you back in safety. I respect you, my father. You have been friendly to Indians, and they are your friends." The elder O'Bail preferred his white children and green fields to his yellow offspring and the wild woods, and chose to return. Notwithstanding his bitter hostility while the war continued, he became the fast friend of the U. S., when once the hatchet was buried. His sagacious intellect comprehended at a glance the growing power of the United States, and the abandonment with which Great Britain had required the fidelity of the Senecas. He therefore threw all his influence, at the treaties of Fort Stanwix and Fort Harmar in favor of peace; and, notwithstanding the vast concessions which he saw his people were necessitated to make, still, by his energy and prudence in the negotiation, he retained for them an ample and beautiful reservation. For the course which he took on these occasions the state of Pennsylvania granted him the fine reservation upon which he resided, on the Allegheny. The Senecas, however, were never well satisfied with his course in relation to these treaties; and Red Jacket, more artful and eloquent than his elder rival, but less frank and honest, seized upon this circumstance to promote his own popularity at the expense of Cornplanter. Having buried the hatchet, Cornplanter sought to make his talents useful to his people by conciliating the good-will of the whites, and securing from further encroachment the little remnant of his national domain. On more than one occasion, when some reckless and bloodthirsty whites on the frontier had massacred unoffending Indians in cold blood, did Cornplanter interfere to restrain the vengeance of his people. During all the Indian wars from 1791 to 1794, which terminated with Wayne's treaty, Cornplanter pledged himself that the Senecas should remain friendly to the United States. He often gave notice to the garrison at Fort Franklin of intended attacks from hostile parties, and even hazarded his life on a mediatorial mission to the Western tribes. He ever entertained a high respect and personal friendship for Gen. Washington, the great counselor of the Thirteen fires, and often visited him, during his presidency, on the business of his tribe. His speeches on these occasions exhibit both his talent in composition and his adroitness in diplomacy. Washington fully reciprocated his respect and friendship. They had fought against each other at Braddock's field. Both were then young men. More than forty years afterwards, when Washington was about retiring from

the presidency, Cornplanter made a special visit to Philadelphia to take an affectionate leave of the great benefactor of the white man and the red. After peace was permanently established between the Indians and the United States, Cornplanter retired from public life and devoted his labors to his own people. He deplored the evils of intemperance, and exerted himself to suppress it. The benevolent efforts of missionaries among his tribe always received his encouragement, and at one time his own heart seemed to be softened by the words of truth; yet he preserved, in his latter years, many of the peculiar notions of the Indian faith. In the war of 1812-14, when the Senecas took up the hatchet in alliance with the United States, Cornplanter appears to have taken no active part; but his son, Major Henry O'Bail, and his intimate friend and neighbor Hallowell, were conspicuous in several engagements on the Niagara frontier. Rev. Timothy Aiden, then president of Allegheny College, who visited Cornplanter in 1816, thus describes the chief and his village: "Jennosedaga, Cornplanter's village, is on a handsome piece of bottom land, and comprises about a dozen buildings. It was grateful to notice the agricultural habits of the place, and numerous enclosures of buckwheat, corn and oats. We also saw a number of oxen, cows and horses; and many logs designed for the saw mill and the Pittsburg market. Last year, 1815, the Western Missionary Society established a school in the village, under Mr. Samuel Oldham. Cornplanter, as soon as apprised of our arrival, came over to see us, and took charge of our horses. Though having many around him to obey his commands, yet, in the ancient patriarchal style, he chose to serve us himself, and he actually went into the field, cut oats, and fed our horses. He appears to be about 68 years of age, and is 5 feet 10 inches in height. His countenance is strongly marked with intelligence and reflection. Contrary to the aboriginal custom, his chin is covered with beard three or four inches in length. His house is of princely dimensions compared with most Indian huts, and has a piazza in front. He is owner of 1,300 acres of excellent land, 600 of which encircle the ground-plot of his little town. He received an annual stipend from the United States of \$250. Cornplanter's brother, lately deceased, called the prophet, was known by the high sounding name *Goshokewanna Konnedee*, or *Large Beautiful Lake*. Kingjunde, the name of another chief, signified the place of many fishes;—hence probably the name of Kinjua." In 1821-22 the commissioners of Warren co. assumed the right to tax the private property of Cornplanter, and proceeded to enforce its collection. The old Chief resisted it, conceiving it not to be only unlawful, but a personal indignity. The Sheriff again appeared with a small posse of armed men. Cornplanter took the precaution to a room around which were ranged about a hundred rifles, and, with the sententious brevity of an Indian Chief, intimated that for each rifle a warrior would appear at his call. The sheriff and his men speedily withdrew, determined, however, to call out the militia. Several prudent citizens, fearing a sanguinary collision, sent for the old chief in a friendly way, to come to Warren and compromise the matter. He came, and after some persuasion, gave his note for the tax, amounting to \$43.75. He addressed, however, a remonstrance to the governor of Pennsylvania, soliciting a return of his money, and an exemption from such demands against land the state itself had presented to him. He met them at the courthouse in Warren, on which occasion he delivered the following speech, eminent by characteristic of himself and his race: "Brothers: Yesterday was appointed for us all to meet here. The talk which the governor sent us pleased us very much. I think that the Great Spirit is very much pleased so that the white people have been induced so to assist the Indians as they have done, and that he is pleased also to see the great men of this state and of the United States so friendly to us. We are much pleased with what has been done." "The Great Spirit first made the world, and next the flying animals, and all things good and prosperous. He is immortal and everlasting. After finishing the flying animals, he came down on earth and there stood. Then he made different kinds of trees, and weeds of all sorts, and people of every kind. He made the spring and other seasons, and the weather suitable for planting. These he did make. But stills to make whiskey to be given to Indians he did not make. The Great Spirit bids me tell the white people not to give Indians this kind of liquor. When the Great Spirit, it had made the earth and its animals, he went into the great lakes, where he breathed as easily as anywhere else, and then made all the different kinds of fish. The Great Spirit looked back on all that he had made. The different kinds he made to separate, and not to mix with and disturb each other. But the white people have broken his command by mixing their color with the Indians. The Indians have done better by not doing so. The Great Spirit wishes that all wars and fighting should cease." "He next told us that there were three things for our people to attend to. First, we ought to take care of our wives and children. Secondly, the white people ought to attend to their farms and cattle. Thirdly, the Great Spirit has given the bears and deer to the Indians. He is the cause of all things that exist, and it is very wicked to go against his will. The Great Spirit wishes me to inform the people that they should quit drinking intoxicating drink, as being the cause of disease and death. He told us not to sell any more of our lands, for he never sold lands to any one. Some of us now keep the seventh day; but I wish to quit it, for the Great Spirit made it for others, but not for the Indians, who ought every day to attend to their business. He has ordered me to quit drinking any intoxicating drink, and not to lust after any women but my own, and informs me that by doing so I should live the longer. He made known to me that it is very wicked to tell lies. Let no one suppose what I have said now is not true."

"I have now to thank the Governor for what he has done. I have informed him that the Great Spirit has ordered me to cease from, and I wish the governor to inform others of what I have communicated. This is all I have at present to say." The old chief appears after this again to have fallen into entire seclusion, taking no part even in the politics of his people. He died at his residence on the 7th of March 1836, at the age of 100 years and upwards, whether at the time of his death he expected to go to the fair hunting-grounds of his own people or to the heaven of the Christian, is not known.

"Notwithstanding his profession of Christianity, Cornplanter was very superstitious. Not long since, says Mr. Foote, of Chautauque co., he said the Good Spirit had told him not to have anything to do with the white people, or even to preserve any mementoes or relics that had been given to him, from time to time, by the pale-faces; whereupon, among other things, he burnt up his belt, and broke his elegant sword."

HAS THE DEBT BEEN DIMINISHED?

The State of New-Hampshire elects her Governor and Legislature on the 1st of February in March; and the Sham Democracy of that State are as intent on discrediting the reputation of the National Debt as they were six years ago on distrustful reports of Union victories. In view of these efforts, the Hon. A. H. Cragin recently addressed a letter of inquiry to the Secretary of the Treasury, who responded as follows: TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Feb. 7, 1870. Sir: I reply briefly to your letter of the 4th inst., in reference to the amount of public debt on the 1st of March, 1869, as compared with the amount on the 1st of February, 1870. The net amount of the public debt on the 1st of March 1869, including interest accrued and not paid, and excluding Pacific Railroad bonds, was \$2,525,403,260 01. The principal of the bonds then issued to the Pacific Railroad Companies was \$53,937,000, or an aggregate liability and indebtedness of \$2,579,340,260 01. On the 1st of February, 1870, the amount of the debt, excluding bonds issued to the Pacific Railroad Companies, and including interest accrued and not paid, was \$2,441,812,288 92. The bonds issued to the Pacific Railroad Companies at the latter date amounted to \$94,457,320, or an aggregate liability and indebtedness of \$2,536,276,608 92. It thus appears that the liability of the United States on account of the Pacific Railroads has been increased during the eleven months, under acts of Congress previously passed, to the amount of \$10,529,329.

During the same period of eleven months, the direct debt of the United States has been diminished \$89,649,971 09; and, if the increased liability of the United States on account of the Pacific Railroads be added, there still remains an actual diminution of the total public debt of the United States, direct and contingent, during these eleven months, of \$70,129,651 09. These statements are based upon the books of the Treasury Department, and cannot in any way be impeached. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, GEORGE S. BOWEN, Secretary. The Hon. A. H. CRAGIN, United States Senate, Washington D. C.

—We beg our friends who are anxious to stop paying off the National Debt to judge whether it would be better for the Republican cause that we had paid nothing during the year now closing. It seems to us that the Debt will be felt as a heavier load from the hour that we stop reducing it.—N. Y. Tribune.

THE BARRICADES

Paris has again, after nineteen years' pause, rushed to the barricades. On Tuesday, upon the arrest of M. Rochefort a multitude of his friends raised the cry of revolt on a signal from M. Gustave Flourens, who declared that insurrection had begun. Fortwith, Paris with its old fury began to tear up its streets and turned over its omnibuses, and to make at least several quarters of the city a scene of war. Belleville and La Villette, and the neighborhood of the Montmartre, were chosen for its demonstration. Upon this part of the city the lavish genius of Baron Haussmann for spending the money of Frenchmen in order to make it a greater architectural possibility to shoot them down, has not been fully exercised. The world is not surprised to hear that the Parisians have attempted insurrection, nor will it be astonished to hear that the attempt has been suppressed. The one hundred thousand soldiers which Napoleon knows how to turn in upon Paris at a moment's notice ought to be competent to make him master of the situation. Curiously, their number is just the same as that wherewith a usurper one bloody December overthrew the liberties of France. It is the fatal number of the coup d'état. Looking back upon the day when France reared its throne upon massacre no man can predict that Napoleon will be more merciful now than then, if only his bayonets are

firm and his well-trained soldiers are provoked. It is impossible to forget at this time that Napoleon perpetrated one of the cruelest, most sweeping slaughters of a people and its liberties on record. He did it, it is true, in the name of the people, as Danton, Robespierre, and other less sagacious students of French nature had done before him. All that we need remember just now is that he did a dishonest act in a murderous spirit. It was not his fate to be upright, to love life more than its sacrifice, and his country more than himself, but to serve the baser part of the country which he debased. Like all men of exceeding ambition, his selfish genius helped to create the necessity which he made his excuse for perjury and slaughter. How much he has expiated the crime of December by holding France with the permission of providence, under his able sway, it is for Frenchmen to judge. There will be a variety of contemptuous comments on the latest phase of opposition to Bonapartism; yet we imagine that Rochefort and his partisans have advanced a step in the respect of those who are disposed to esteem a thousand sans culottes with arms in their hands more than a lonely man eating prison fare or the bread of exile. The Mamelukes of the French press, and the funkneys of the English and American press, had a chance to show their instincts when a citizen of Paris was murdered by a Prince for challenging a Bonaparte. Now Paris in desperation challenges another Bonaparte. Will he, too, murder his fellow-citizens if they excite him?—and then, what will the funkneys say? This latest demonstration is likely enough to be quieted till the next day of crisis, till the next day of weakening disintegration. For the present it will serve to bring back to the mind of France a bloodier event than this can possibly be—the terrible deed of December, 1851. On that occasion one regiment alone slew 2,400 men, and the fatal one hundred thousand committed, according to the historian of the period, nine different species of slaughter, including that of the massacre of non-combatants in cold blood. The Empire cannot now surpass its masterpiece. A people who have had Robespierre and Marat, and get along without Louis Napoleon and M. Rochefort; but let us above all remember the French people. Barricades mean now as even that life in France is cheap, more or less, and that government is dear.

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SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of a writ of *Venditioni Expositio*, issued out of Elk County, and to me directed, I will expose to sale by public vendue or outcry, at the Court House, in Ridgway, on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, 1870, At 1 o'clock P. M., All that certain tract of land situate in the township of Benecette, Elk county, Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows: On the north by warrant No. 5481 and the Cameron county line, on the south by warrant No. 5388, and on the west by No. 5342, containing eleven hundred acres, more or less, and warranted in the name of George Meade, and known as No. 3890, unimproved.

ALSO, one other tract of land situate in the township of Horton, and county of Elk, warranted in the name of John Barron, Jr., known as No. 4282 bounded and described as follows: On the north by warrant No. 4283, on the east by No. 4469, on the south by No. 4281, on the west by No. 5794, containing ten hundred and seventy-one acres and twelve perches, more or less, unimproved.

ALSO, one other tract of land situate in Horton township, county of Elk, warranted in the name of John Barron, Jr., and No. 4281, bounded and described as follows: On the north by warrant No. 4282, on the east by No. 4453, on the south by No. 4280, on the west by Nos. 5794 and 5800, containing ten hundred and sixty acres and sixty six perches, more or less, unimproved.

Seized and taken in execution as the property of William Reed, at the suit of George B. Newton, and to be sold by JACOB M'CAULEY, Sheriff. Sheriff's Office, Ridgway, Jan. 25, 1870.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of a writ of *Fieri Facias*, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Elk County, and to me directed, I will expose to sale by public vendue or outcry, at the Court House, in Ridgway, on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, 1870, At 1 o'clock P. M., All that certain town lot, or piece of ground, known as lot No. 4 on the plan of the lots fronting the Philadelphia & Erie Railroad Depot Road, in the Borough of St. Mary's, Elk County, Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a post on the south line of the road leading to the Philadelphia and Erie Rail Road Depot, said post being the north-east corner of lot No. 3, fronting on the north-east road, and being the north-west corner of lot No. 4, now being conveyed by these presents, thence south fifty five degrees (S. 55° E.) east along the line of lot No. 3, one hundred and twenty six feet (126) to a post, thence north fifty two degrees (N. 52° 40') and forty minutes east to a post, thence north fifty five degrees west (N. 55° W.) one hundred and twenty six feet (126 ft) to a post on the south side of the Philadelphia and Erie Rail Road Depot road, thence along said south side of said road, south fifty-two degrees and forty-nine minutes west, (52° 49' W.) sixty feet to the place of beginning, containing seven thousand one hundred and ninety square feet (7190 sq. ft.) and has erected thereon a two-story dwelling house 20 x 30 feet.

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