

A. Hay G

The Democratic Watchman

VOL. 7.

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NO. 50.

Select Poetry.

THE BEAUTIFUL. BY P. S. H. The flowers that skirt the mountain's brow...

Miscellaneous.

Read! Read!

The Lessons of History!

NUMBER ONE. THE REIGN OF TERROR IN 1793.

While there are many things done now which are unheard of in America, there is much, though few remember it, which is but a repetition of what happened just sixty-four years ago...

NUMBER TWO.

The war spirit burst out anew in Congress. The President had been already authorized to considerably increase the navy...

posts. Jefferson wrote to Madison, April 26, 1798: "Giles, Clopton, Campbell and Nicholas have gone, and Clay goes to-morrow. Packer has completely gone over to the war party..."

Addressed rained upon the President from military, civic and unorganized popular bodies, tendering their support to his measures. But the masses were still, it appears divided, at least in some places.

On the 6th of July, 1798, an act was passed that in case of war, or an invasion, or predatory incursion made or threatened, all natives or subjects of the hostile power...

NUMBER THREE. THE SEDITION LAWS.

These were the infamous "Alien Laws" of John Adams' administration. But it required the "Sedition Law" to reach native born Democrats and thus to secure the administration from all opposition...

On the 14th of July, 1798, it was enacted that if any person unlawfully conspired to oppose "any measure" of the United States to prevent any public officer from executing his trust...

States; or to excite any unlawful combinations therein, for opposing or resisting any law of the United States, or any act of the President of the United States...

THE ALIEN LAWS.

This was not all. Legislation against internal foes, was made to keep pace with the warlike preparations against France. On the 18th of June, the term of residence required to naturalize was extended to fourteen years...

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NUMBER FOUR.

The Sedition Law proved something besides a scarecrow. We will bring together a few instances of its trial under it during Mr. Adams' Administration. Matthew Lyon a member of Congress, was selected as the first victim. He was an Irishman by birth...

A rough energetic man who did not mind phrases, and an extreme Democrat. He was indicted for declaring in a letter published in a Vermont paper, that with a Federal Executive every consideration of the public welfare was swallowed up in a continual grasp for power...

Should the evil proceed no further than the execution of the present law, what a fearful picture will our country present? The system of espionage being thus established, the spy will swarm with informers, spies, relays, and all that odious reptile tribe...

Charles Holt, another victim, publisher of the Bee, printed at New London, Connecticut, was found guilty of defaming the President and discharging statements in the press...

James T. Callender was tried for a libel on the President. His counsel raised the question of the constitutionality of the law, but Judge Chase refused to hear them...

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Another of the victims, Wm. Duane, editor of the famous democratic paper, the Aurora, published at Philadelphia, attracted the especial vengeance of John Adams. In a letter to Pickens, his secretary of state, dated July 24th, 1776 Mr. Adams wrote...

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A CAPITAL SPEECH.

After the manner of one Abraham Lincoln, through the folly of the people now President of the United States of America, but formerly of Illinois, rail-splitter and village jester...

"Fellow Citizens: I assure you I did not expect to be present here this evening, but since my presence is present, I will avail myself of the present opportunity to say a few words to my fellow-citizens present. I suppose you know that the last few eventful days have been full of events. And I suppose you know further that there has been a great deal of discussion relative to these events..."

"I am not going to make the slightest statement regarding this individual gentleman, but perhaps it would not be a violation of state secrets to remark that the press and the court seem to be down on him. I saw down on him, because I judge they are so from certain epithets which they use respecting him, such as 'imbecile,' 'coward,' etc. If I were to say General P. is an individual you would have an idea that I was telling the truth, but as it did not come here to that idea. Now, I hope you will not have that idea. There is a great deal that might be said with regard to Gen. Pope, as I suppose you are aware, but you should remember that any one of you, acting as he did, would in all probability have just as precisely similar results. In fact, so powerful does this last argument seem to me, I am almost willing to assume the responsibility, and would do so, were it not that, to become responsible for another person's responsibility, is a good deal like becoming responsible..."

"But again, there has been a great deal said about a certain address made by Gen. Pope and he has been blamed for it. Now, I think that he ought not to be blamed for making it, for if he had not made it, it would not have been made; which, as I suppose you all know, is an entirely different question. Furthermore, this is not all. I think I can say, gentlemen, that Gen. Pope has followed out completely every important idea in that address. For instance, he says, his 'headquarters are in the saddle'—now if they have not been in the saddle, where have they been? Again he says, 'let us leave our lines of retreat to the care of ourselves.' I put it to you, gentlemen, if Gen. Pope has not done so, and with what result? Why, as he did not take care of his lines of retreat, the rebels took care of them, and he took care of the rebels, that is, to get out of their way as fast as possible, which was certainly kind of him, and both together they manifested an interest in each other, the one taking care of the lines and the other getting out of the way, which ought to, and I believe will, give gentlemen, raise both of them in your opinion, and in my opinion and in everybody's opinion."

"But furthermore, the address goes on to say, 'let us look before us and not behind; success and glory are in the advance; disaster and shame lie in the rear.' Which looks very much like a veiled and ready fall as well, which is another point in Gen. Pope's favor. But with regard to the sentiment conveyed by these lines, has he not been true to them? Did he not look before and keep looking that way until he found the rebels looking behind for him? And were not 'success and glory' in the advance, and did not 'disaster and shame' lie in the rear? Certainly they did, and they have been lurking there ever since, and if any gentlemen will put his nose outside of Arlington Heights, he will find it so. No, gentlemen, permit me to say you are wrong when you find fault with the General's address. There is as much truth as poetry in it, and more to, and with regard to himself, he only needed access to have been successful. In fact, gentlemen, as I reflect upon it, I feel that having taken the responsibility before, I shall do so in this case, especially when I remember that my fellow-republicans do not hold me responsible for anything, and that, as for the Democrats, they do not dare to. Hoping that I have not said anything to anybody, and availing myself of the privilege of an American citizen to say nothing when he wants to, I now proceed to put that privilege into effect."

"Mr. Kees, late editor of the Circleville (O.) Watchman, and who was one of the best victims of the Administration, has become a raving maniac, and is now in the Lunatic Asylum at Columbus."

"An Irish lover said: 'It is a great pleasure to be alone, especially when your sweet heart is wild yet.'"