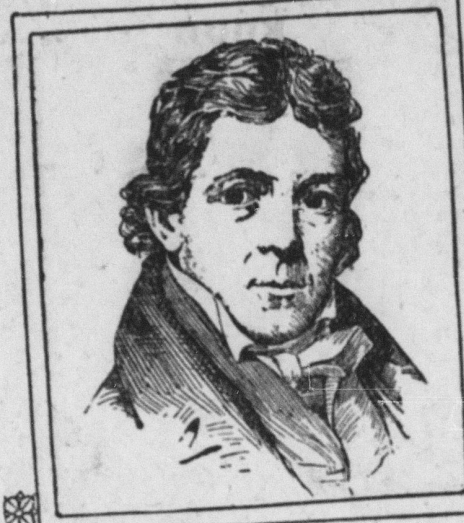


The Strangest American



John Randolph

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

ONE hundred and four years ago this month there took place on the Virginia side of the Potomac river one of the strangest duels in the history of the American code duello. It was between a member of the United States senate,

John Randolph of Virginia, and Henry Clay of Kentucky, secretary of state. Back of the duel lay the conflict between two political theories, those of President John Quincy Adams, supported by Clay, and those of a future President, Andrew Jackson, supported by Randolph. But the immediate cause of the duel was a speech which Randolph had made in the senate.

The debate which produced this speech was of minor importance. It had to do with a resolution calling for the production of certain documents. But Randolph made it the occasion for such a vitriolic speech as only he could make. He assailed the administration, paying particular attention to the "close association in it of the austere, correct and pious Adams with the frequently drunken, incessantly gambling Clay," and ending up with these famous words: "I was defeated horse, foot and dragons—cut up and clean broke down by the coalition of Bluff (Adams) and Black George (Clay)—by the combination, unheard of till then, of the Puritan with the blackleg."

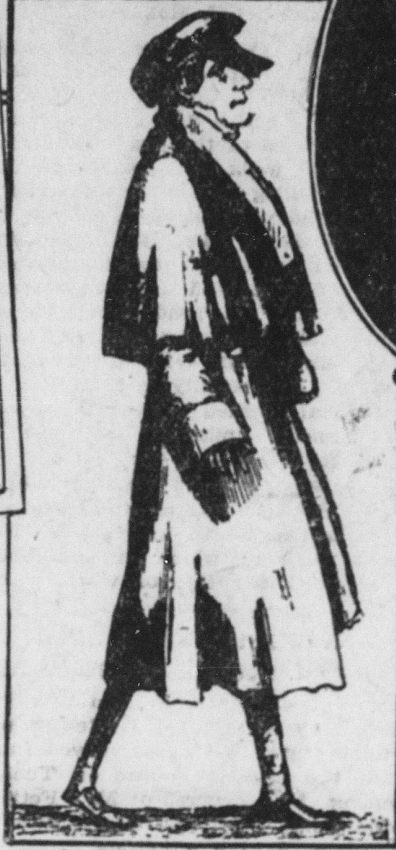
Heretofore Clay had ignored the whispering campaign against him, based on his drinking and his gambling. But this was a denunciation which he could not disregard. He challenged Randolph to a duel and as word of the affair got out the excitement in Washington was tremendous. Thomas Hart Benton, senator of Missouri, by permission of the principals, was allowed to attend the duel which was held on the afternoon of April 8, 1820.

Noted for his eccentricity and running true to form, even on the dueling field, Randolph appeared for the encounter with a white flannel wrapper over his coat. Despite the fact that his seconds had "haired" the trigger of his pistol, he insisted upon keeping on a pair of thick buckskin gloves even though these would destroy his delicacy of touch and perhaps cause him to fire before the word was given. And that is exactly what happened. As he stood holding his pistol, muzzle downward, it was discharged. Clay's seconds immediately protested but Clay silenced them and demanded that his opponent be given another pistol.

When the word was given both men fired but neither shot took effect, although Randolph's bullet nearly struck Clay in the leg and Clay's bullet passed close to Randolph's waist. Benton immediately rushed in and tried to stop the fight, but Randolph angrily refused. He had determined to make a grand gesture and was willing to imperil his life to make it. So the pistols were reloaded and again the men fired. The secretary of state put his bullet through the senator's coat, but the latter purposely fired high in the air over Clay's head. At this, Clay rushed forward with outstretched hand. "I trust in God, my dear sir, you are untouched. After what has occurred, I would not have harmed you for a thousand worlds!" he exclaimed. "You owe me a coat, Mr. Clay," replied Randolph with a smile.

The whole affair is characteristic of John Randolph of Roanoke, for surely he was the strangest American of his time and perhaps of all time. Gerald W. Johnson in a recent biography of him, published by Minton, Balch and Company, calls him "A Political Fantastic" and perhaps "fantastic" is a more apt word than either "eccentric" or "strange" when applied to his life, both private and political.

Declaring that "he has come down in history with one of the most terrible reputations ever attached to an American politician who never was convicted of murder, or treason or theft," the biographer points out that he was in public life for a third of a century, during which he served as a congressman and Jefferson's floor-leader in the house of representatives, as a senator from Virginia, as ambassador to Russia, as a member of the constitutional convention of Virginia and on many commissions and special missions. But, he declares, he is not remembered for these services.



JOHN RANDOLPH—A CONTEMPORARY BRITISH CARTOON

Rather Randolph's reputation lives because he carried "the wickedest tongue that ever hung in the head of an American congressman, or at any rate, in the head of one who had both the courage and the wit to use it."

Many Americans can remember the day when invective, with all its synonyms of abuse, reproach, railing, censure, sarcasm, satire and vituperation were an indispensable part of the equipment of the politician. But of all who ever used them, Randolph was the acknowledged master, intimates Johnson, when he says:

No man since his day, when attacked in debate by half a dozen honorable members, has had the superb insolence to rise and quote, as he leisurely surveyed the United States House of Representatives:

"The little dogs and all, Tray, Blanch and Sweetheart, See, they bark at me!"

Not have we since had invective as startling as the metaphor which he is frequently said to have used against Henry Clay, but which he really applied to Edward Livingston: "Fellow-citizen, he is a man of splendid abilities, but utterly corrupt. Like rotten mackerel by moonlight, he shines and stinks." His characterization of John Quincy Adams and Clay as "Bluff and Black George—the Puritan and the blackleg," hardly needed the duel which followed to stamp it upon the memory of the country, for, although there was no duel as a result, the country had remembered the description of Thomas Jefferson as "St. Thomas of Cantingbury," because, as in the other case, there was just enough truth in it to make it stick and sting.

Although John Randolph himself once complained that "All the bastard wit of the country has been fathered on me," Johnson cites some of his brilliant sallies.

He once spoke of "the glorious privilege of finding fault—one very dear to the depraved condition of human nature." Of Robert Wright and John Rea (Ray) he said that the house of representatives had two anomalies: "A Wright always wrong and a Rea without a light." Once a new member, elected to fill a vacancy in the house caused by a death, attacked Randolph, who ignored it at the time. Later, however, while discussing a bill in which the dead congressman had been much interested Randolph remarked that this bill has lost much in the death of his dear friend, Mr. "whose seat remains vacant."

When Richard Rush was appointed secretary of the treasury, the gentleman from Virginia declared that "Never were abilities so much below mediocrity so well rewarded; no, not when Caligula's horse was made Consul." Of a certain pedantic individual he said that his mind was like a parcel of land which he knew—poor to begin with and made more barren by too intensive cultivation. "Denouncing me!" he demanded when a friend told him that a certain person had attacked him. "That is strange. I never did him a favor." One day he met an enemy on the narrow sidewalks of Washington. The man halted in the middle of the walk and belligerently declared "I never step out of my way for puppies." "I always do," replied Randolph, stepping aside. "Pass on!"

But Randolph's place in history is more significant than that of a mere coiner of epigrams, according to his biographer, who declares that he was "the most powerful single influence in transforming the South from the nourishing mother of the republic into the frantic opponent of the republic" and while "it would be far too much to say that John Randolph of Roanoke diverted the spirit of southern statescraft from the philosophy of Thomas Jefferson to that of Jefferson Davis; it is incontestably true that he witnessed that transition and that he assisted it." It seems strange perhaps that the man who was "admittedly the first orator in a congress that included Webster, Clay and Calhoun," should be remembered mainly because of his violence of action and vituperation of speech. For, says Johnson:

John Randolph of Roanoke was a strong man and he contended might-



THE YOUTHFUL RANDOLPH—PAINTING BY GILBERT STUART



ly. His human opponents were impressive enough, for he dared the wrath successfully of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Marshall, John C. Calhoun, John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and Andrew Jackson. . . . He asked no quarter of the best of them, and no weak man could have stood a moment against the least of these.

Certain of the elements of greatness John Randolph of Roanoke possessed beyond the shadow of a doubt. In intellectual keenness and alertness, he rivalled the great Virginians; in courage no man among them surpassed him and not all were his equals; in depth of learning he was superior to most of them perhaps to all in personal integrity not Washington himself was further beyond reproach. In addition Randolph possessed a quality which none of the stars in Virginia's political firmament shared in anything like the first degree. This quality was his sheer, his coruscation, his sheer, blinding brilliance.

But for all this, he was a man attended by fatality, the heir of the House of Usher. Born to the purple, wealthy, a handsome youth, charming in his personal relations and equipped with a magnificent mind, it seemed upon his entrance into public life that all the beneficent powers had combined to insure his happiness and his glory. But his fair prospects were all illusory. Instead of primrose, his path was strewn with stones and thorns. . . . Instead of becoming even the stepfather of his country, "I mean the Commonwealth of Virginia," he urged her along a road strikingly similar to the one he trod, and which led not to glory everlasting, but to defeat, madness and death.

For a physical affliction which Randolph sustained at the age of nineteen, following an attack of scarlet fever, changed the whole course of his life and made him an embittered, frustrated man. To the end of his days he retained a curiously boyish appearance, beardless, with a shrill, high-pitched voice. This fact, coupled with the statement that he was "the first orator" of his time and his own statement of "I am an aristocrat. I love justice and hate equality," only accentuates the grotesque character of the picture of the man who was John Randolph of Roanoke. "When he was over forty a spectator in the house gallery was dumfounded at learning that the skinny youth he saw on the floor, and whom he had believed to be about sixteen, was the great Mr. Randolph of Virginia."

The result of this affliction was inevitable. "Here was an intensely proud member of a proud race, a man who cherished his lineage above all his material possessions, a man to whom the family was not merely a sacred, but a downright awe-inspiring institution, deprived of the privilege of continuing his family," writes Johnson. "Here was a scornful man doomed forever to be the target of the shafts of the scornful. Here was a romantic man ridiculously debarred from amorous romance. Here was a man whose finest quality, perhaps, was his capacity for unflinching devotion to the domestic interests of his kin, denied the possibility of setting up a domestic establishment of his own. It is inconceivable that this frustration, this profound humiliation should have failed to work out in bitterness of spirit."

So John Randolph of Roanoke, who had in him the elements of greatness, just missed greatness. If he had not been such a strong man, his story would be a pathetic one. His "own people have remembered him with a curious mixture of terror, pride and wild delight. For, dark as is his story, on occasion it glitters and sparkles as does that of no other American of any generation. It is the story of a fighting man of the breed of Roland, and no one who is stirred by a tale of a warrior who lays about him with a right good will can fail to be stirred by Randolph. But it is above all else a fantastic tale, frequently verging upon the grotesque. The incredibly long, incredibly lean figure was Don Quixote to the life; but John Randolph's own were the glittering eyes, and the almost fabulous forefinger with which he seemed to transfix a shivering opponent"—this, the strangest American.

Poultry Disease Easy to Control

Of Much Importance to Prevent Coccidiosis at Start of Season.

Coccidiosis, which is caused by a protozoan parasite which infests the intestinal walls, can be controlled, in a measure, by raising chicks on clean grounds. The organism can live in the soil for some time unless this soil is tilled and kept free from poultry in alternating years, at least, and for this reason chicks should be raised on ground that has not been frequented by chicks or older birds the year previous. Since treatment for this disease is rather difficult, it is far more important to prevent it at the start of the chick brooding season, than to attempt to cure it later in the summer or early fall.

Thorough scrubbing of the brooding equipment and brooder house, along with the other steps in the fresh ground method of brooding chicks, will also prove valuable aids in controlling the spread of bacillary white diarrhea among the chicks. Keeping the chicks in a darkened box the first three days of their lives and feeding all of the sour milk or buttermilk that they care to drink, are two other steps that go hand in hand with fresh ground methods in preventing an epidemic of this disease in the chick flock.

Other Diseases Succumb. Fowl cholera and fowl typhoid are two other diseases that succumb quickly in the face of a fresh ground brooding program. The former disease usually causes rather sudden death and is practically incurable, as is the latter. As in the case of other diseases, prevention is to be recommended in preference to cure. Clean grounds for the chicks will prevent them from coming in contact with older birds and with infected houses and yards where they would undoubtedly be able to pick up the cholera or typhoid germs in their feed and drinking water.

Tuberculosis is another disease that can be controlled very effectively by raising all chicks on fresh ground. Baby chicks cannot inherit this disease, contrary to the opinion of a number of poultry breeders who feel that the disease is transmitted from parents to offspring. Since this is true, birds under a year of age seldom die of tuberculosis or show any serious effects of the disease. Because of this the fresh ground program fits into the production scheme very nicely, and at the same time enables the flock owner to get rid of the tuberculosis losses in his flock.

Thorough Cleaning. In starting a fresh ground chick raising program this spring, plans should be made to extend the program over a long period of time, as suggested. Another step that is essential to success with the plan is the thorough cleaning of the brooder house and all brooding equipment. Scrubbing with a boiling, concentrated solution of high-test lye water is a very good method of destroying worm eggs and disease germs. Boiling water is practically the only agent that will destroy the worms after they are hatched. The lye in the solution aids in removing the eggs and dirt.

This scrubbing solution should be applied not only to the brooder house, but also to the drinking fountains, feeders, hovers and all other equipment. A thorough scrubbing of part of the brooder equipment will be of little value if another part is left contaminated with worm eggs and disease germs to inhabit the chicks from the time they are placed in the brooder through their entire growing period. Thoroughness is essential to success with the plan.

Jack Rabbit Skins Give Profit to Many Farmers

War against the jack rabbit last year in the West netted more than 8,000,000 skins and a profit to farmers and stockmen, from the sale of the pelts, of about \$2,000,000. Control operations against injurious rabbits are conducted by the bureau of biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. Jack rabbits are particularly destructive to alfalfa, range grasses and fruit trees, says the bureau. They also destroy cotton plants in the Southwest, and in the Northwest ruin large quantities of stacked hay during the winter.

Agricultural Notes

- A new harness ordinarily does not need oiling before being put into service.
- Soy beans have the same beneficial effects on soil as that produced by other legumes.
- Hogs glean a maximum of profit from soy bean pasture when it supplements a corn ration.
- Harness and leather experts generally agree that only animal or vegetable oils should be used on harness.
- The fertilizing value of soy beans compares favorably with that of other legumes usually grown for green manure.
- Feeding plenty of yellow corn to the pullets helps to develop firm, meaty bodies and store up the energy which is helpful in producing fall and winter eggs without a moult.

Size of Containers Regulated by Law

Federal Act Prescribes Dimensions of Baskets.

Baskets, hampers, and other containers in which fruit, vegetables and produce are marketed, must this season conform to the standard container act passed by the national congress in 1928, or pretty well everybody concerned will suffer. Because the law which fixes the sizes of the containers was passed by the national congress and based upon a clause of the Constitution—the weights and measures clause—no other body, state, county, city or village, can pass laws or ordinances which will make illegal the use of the baskets established by the national law, or legal the use of packages which are not in accordance with the national law.

The standard container act required eight years to get through congress, where it was introduced early in 1920. It was drawn at the instance of manufacturers of baskets and equipment, and interests engaged in commerce in vegetables and produce, and its result has been to decrease by 67 per cent the number of different sizes of hampers and by 50 per cent the number of sizes of splint baskets, used in the marketing of these commodities. The resultant standardization has resulted in great savings to the manufacturers and users, as well as making things simpler for the purchaser. The law is sufficiently full of teeth that prosecutions may be brought against nearly all parties concerned in the use of a container which does not fulfill the requirements of the law, and the containers themselves may be confiscated and destroyed.

Practical Advice Given on Back Yard Poultry

"Poultry Keeping in Back Yards," a popular bulletin in the series of poultry publications by the United States Department of Agriculture, has been out of print, but is again available in a revised edition for free distribution. As the title suggests, the bulletin is concerned primarily with breeding, feeding, and management of the small flock of poultry which is kept either as a hobby or for convenient and economical meat and egg production by utilizing kitchen wastes and table scrapings.

The authors, M. A. Jull and A. R. Lee, of the bureau of animal industry, refer frequently to other departmental publications that treat more fully certain phases of poultry keeping. The bulletin offers simple, practical, and concise suggestions for choosing the breed, starting the flock, breeding, incubating, brooding, feeding, housing, and managing a few birds on the relatively restricted areas usually obtainable in small cities and suburban communities. They devote some attention to the bantam breeds and their management either as a hobby or for profitable production.

Those interested may obtain Farmers' Bulletin 1508-F, "Poultry Keeping in Back Yards," by writing to the office of information, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Pasture Management to Increase Its Capacity

A system of pasture management which has increased the carrying capacity of grass land is being used by the Nebraska School of Agriculture at Curtis. The pasture was divided into two equal parts. The cattle are kept in one half until the grass begins to get short. Then they are turned into the other half, until the grass there gets short. The grass in the vacant field thus has an opportunity to recuperate before the cows are turned into it again.

Before the practice of rotating the pasture was started, it was overrun with weeds and the stand of grass was thin. Now, although the cattle herd has been increased in size, the pasture has become better. The weeds are practically gone and the growth of the grass is much more luxuriant.

Apply Fertilizer With Drill for Best Results

Increased returns from commercial fertilizer are practically sure when the material is applied in drill rows, or deposited in hills with corn.

When fertilizer is placed in hills the distributing machine is an attachment on the ordinary corn planter. A significant point which a Wisconsin test revealed is that there are two positions in which it is advisable to place the material. These are at both sides of the hill, or in an arc or oval over the seed. This is important because the commercial product should not come in direct contact with the corn kernels.

Dwarf Essex Rape Most Excellent Hog Pasture

There is nothing that can be sown in the spring that will make hog pasture earlier than dwarf essex rape. It is good policy, in sowing rape for pasture, to put with it some of the coarse grains and one of the clovers. A mixture of oats and barley in equal proportions, sown at the rate of two bushels per acre with three or four pounds of dwarf essex rape and a couple of pounds of medium red clover, should give you a very excellent hog pasture. The addition of the red clover will make it last longer than if it is omitted.

that sluggish feeling

Put yourself right with nature by chewing Feen-a-mint. Works mildly but effectively in small doses. Modern—safe—scientific. For the family.



SAVE YOUR BABY FROM WORMS

The most dangerous ill of childhood is—worms! You may not know your child has them. Disordered stomach, gritting the teeth, picking the nostrils are signs of worms. Take no chances. Give your child Frey's Vermifuge today. It is the safe, vegetable worm medicine which has been used for 75 years. Buy Frey's Vermifuge at your druggist's.

Frey's Vermifuge Expels Worms

One can be so practical as to do the wrong thing.



When Food Sours

Lots of folks who think they have "indigestion" have only an acid condition which could be corrected in five or ten minutes. An effective anti-acid like Phillips Milk of Magnesia soon restores digestion to normal.

Phillips does away with all that sourness and gas right after meals. It prevents the distress so apt to occur two hours after eating. What a pleasant preparation to take! And how good it is for the system! Unlike a burning dose of soda—which is but temporary relief at best—Phillips Milk of Magnesia neutralizes many times its volume in acid. Next time a hearty meal, or too rich a diet has brought on the least discomfort, try—

PHILLIPS Milk of Magnesia

Peppery people get scolded only behind their backs.



Wants All the World to Know

"About ten years ago I got so weak and rundown that I felt miserable all over. One day my husband said, 'Why don't you take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound?' When I had taken two bottles I felt better so I kept on. My little daughter was born when I had been married twelve years. Even my doctor said, 'It's wonderful stuff!' You may publish this letter for I want all the world to know how this medicine has helped me."—Mrs. Horten Jones, 208 42nd Street, Union City, N. J.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound
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