THE REPUBLICAN

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Clearfield Republican.

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POETRY.

For the Republican.

THINGS THAT I ABHOR.

I greatly abhor the foul habit to chew,
To smoke, or to snuff that foul weed
That smells so offensive when near thereunto;
'Tis vulgar, though common indeed.

I greatly abhor the bad practice to swear,
Wheth'r done by the aged or the young;
It seems so degrading, so unwise, to dare
The Lord by such use of the tongue.

I greatly abhor the debasing belief
In Witchcraft and Rappings and Fays—
For these with their kindred, are some of the chief
Strong-holds of old Satan always,

I greatly abhor the bad custom to drink
Strong liquors on any pretence;
It tends to all vices, and leads down the brink
Where anguish and sorrow commence.

When drunkards come swearing and offer to treat,
And men this their offer disdain—
Oh! Shocking! that one thinks this offer so sweet
And walks up—Ah! cannot refrain.

To "drink with the drunkard," our Lord did condemn
When teaching his "coming" to men;
Then why will men venture his word to contemn
And sin thus again and again.

Some men do not think what example may do
To lead the unwary astray;
To think the Religion of Christ is untrue,
When men in the church disobey.

In short, I abhor all that tends to oppose
The spread of Chist's Kingdom below—
All sin, and bad habits indulged in are those,
That tend to this end, and to woe. R.

From the New York Evening Post.

REMINISCENCES of the American Revolution.

BY SEVENTY-SIX.

NO. 9.

Evacuation of Boston—Its Announcement in the British Parliament.

In a former number, the shameful retreat of the British army out of Boston, and the awful distress of the women and children of the tory families, from being at a moment's notice, huddled into the ships, was mentioned. John Hancock, who was in those days a princely merchant, rich by inheritance, and from his commercial enterprise before the revolution, had been elected President of the General Congress at Philadelphia. He was a man of some peculiarities, but in the broadest sense a true patriot. Before the revolution his associations were among the British governors and officers, and his manners and tastes correspond so far, that he generally rode with four horses, and after the war, when Governor of the state, on great occasings, with not less six horses. Notwithstanding this love of display, Hancock was the man for the times. As President of Congress, and as a citizen of Boston, who had more property at stake than any other man, he urged Washington to burn out the enemy.

As soon as a small supply of powder could be obtained, the whole army was routed and sent on board of their ships in such confusion, in the dead of winter, that of redch of Washington's cannon, at anchor, before they were ready to put out to sea.

The Americans had held them eleven months, and during the most of the time had been obliged to endure the insults of the British artillery, in silence, not having powder to spare to return their shot.

During the blockade of the British army in Boston, the inhabitants were not allowed to come out of the city—Gen. Howe having rigidly established martial law—wood rose to $20,00 per cord—beef 3s. sterling per pound, and other provisions in proportion, which made the distress of the people almost unendurable, at times. Gen. Howe wisely judged that the inhabitants, thus held as hostages would become available for his protection; and so it proved, in the end, as Washington's regard for the people alone prevented him from burning the town over the heads of the British army.

The escape of Gen. Howe, on board his fleet, was not the end of his trouble. This remarkable event was to be examined in Parliameet. May 3, 1776, the Ministerial Gazette, merely announced, that *the British army had concluded to leave Boston for Halifax*—and the minsistry hoped the public mind would be thus quieted. May 10th—the Duke of Manchester rose, and proposed an address to his Majesty, that the despatches of Gen. Howe, be laid before the House—this was violently opposed by the ministry—the Duke of Manchester continued—"To come now my lords, to that which has cast the deepest stain on the British arms. An army of Britains, equipped with every essential of war, a chosen army who had before never turned their backs upon an enemy—and British Generals whose names before never met with the blot of dishonor, have been forced to leave the rebels unchastised, and in the dead of winter, to quit the strongest point in America, from which they hastened, shielded by the defenceless inhabitants, to whom your army and your generals owe their safety. I am indebted for this information to private report, upon which I must rely, till the House can read the official from Gen. Howe.

The Earl of Suffolk defended the ministry by saying, in substance, that there was nothing extraordinary in the evacuation.

The Marquis of Rockingham replied, that from accounts through a private channel, it appeared certain that a bargain had been made between their General and the American Commander, in substance, that, if Washington would allow the British army to depart in safety, the latter would not burn the city as they were escaping into the fleet!

Lord Shelburn and other lords, friendly to the American cause, sustained the Marquis of Rockingham, whose information was correct—as by a record of March 8, 1776, signed by four of the selectmen of Boston, it is by them stated, that General Howe will not burn the town provided he is not molested in his embarcation. This paper was sent to Washington by Colonel Larned who received the flag—on the day of the evacuation—but the former replied he could not notice it in a shape so informal—at the same time it was understood, there was a tacit understanding between the two armies, on the one hand, not to burn the town, and on the other, not to distress the British while embarking. All this hurried departure is confirmed by the fact, that the British left in Boston over forty thousand pound sterling in stores and provisions, many pieces of cannon, mortars and shells, with an immense number of baggage waggons and artillery carts, which they had been several months preparing. "*In short*," to use Washington's own languguae from his letter to his brother, the day before he left for New York, "*Dunbar's destruction of stores, after Braddock's defeat, which made so much noise, affords but a faint idea of what was to be seen here.*"

On entering the city, Washington sent an officer to look after the house of President Hancock, which was splendidly furnished, and lined with elegant paintings. This had been occupied by the British officers, and was left in tolerable order.

All the inhabitants who had espoused the British cause preferred crowding themselves into the ships and relying upon the mercy of the winds and waves, in the dead of winter, rather than be left by the British army to face their offended countrymen.

On the other hand, those who were true to the cause and were to be left in the city, were unmercifully plundered by the British troops at their departure. But the poor Tories—as described by an eye witness of the scene—"so sudden did this embarcation come upon them, that no electric shock—no sudden explosion of thunder—in a word, not the last trumpet, could have struck them with greater consternation." Who, at this distant day, can imagine the joy of the Americans at being relieved from this military oppression? During this siege, the most respectable females were reduced often times almost to starvation. Horses, dogs and cats were in demand at high prices, even when found dead. Our cruisers captured many of the store ships loaded with provisions, which distressed the British very much, and the inhabit[illegible]

The British fleet proceeded down the harbor a short distance, and then anchored and remained nine days, taking in water and collecting themselves into a shape to be ready for sea.

Washington being obliged to rely upon forced marches, to prevent the enemy from again landing, at once ordered six regiments to march for New York, under General Sullivan—and in two or three days as many more—and so on, till he was satisfied New York was their place of destination, when in person, he followed with the main body. Meantime, Gen. Lee, his second in command, had gone on to oppose their landing, with all the troops, to be collected in and around New York. Gen. Lee's great military abilities, no one could doubt—but his peculiarities weakened his influence. A specimen of the man is thus illustrated: Congress passed a law, that the Commander-in-Chief should administer the oath to all the Major Generals. After Lee was commissioned, he with Green, Sullivan and Sterling were ordered to attend, to be sworn into office. Washington stood up with the Bible in his hand, extended with great solemnity of mannor. All the generals advanced, and placed their hand upon the Book. As Washington was about commencing the oath, Lee drew back his hand. Washington, in silence, waited, and Lee directly replaced his hand on the book. Just as Washington was again ready to commence, Lee again withdrew—at this, Washington changed color, and demanded his meaning. Lee coolly replied: "Why, as to old George the Third, I am willing to reverence HIM, but have some scruples about the Prince of Wales." Lee took the oath, but after his arrest at Monmouth, this was considered to have had a deeper meaning then first appeared on its face!

NO. 10.

Washington's Character for Industry, &c.

In 1776, Washington, had been in command of the army about one year, and was then forty-four years old. In April of that year, he applied to Congress, to increase the rank and pay of the gentlemen composing his military family. He remarked that his aids do camp must be men of the highest abilities, who could execute his orders with the utmost promptitude and despatch. He adds—"I give in to no kind of amusement myself, and consequently no one about me can have any. They can have no hours for recreation; on the other hand there is business enough to keep the minds of all upon the stretch. It is due to the gentlemen to say, that I am indebted to their zeal for the cause for undergoing the severe labor and confinement imposed upon them, since they entered my family."

It is remarkable to look back and see what constant trouble Washington had to induce men to accept office under him—more men refused to take office under Washington, five times told, than have ever refused under all the Presidents from the elder Adams to the present day—while in the army, he had the greatest difficulty in getting men for Brigadiers, and Major Generals—while President, he was often obliged to offer a vacancy in his cabinet to some four or five before any one would accept. He would select only from among the choicest men in the land—many of whom could command their own position in their own state—and others would not venture to hazard their reputations, fearing that should they displease Washington, their own standing might irretrievably suffer. No man probably ever had such extraordinary method—during all his trials in the revolution—every week his overseers upon his plantations wrote him long letters, generally several pages, giving him an account of the weather, the work in the fields, the crops, &c., in such details that he could determine almost as well how his work went on as if he had been present. These letters were all in detail answered, with enquiries, suggestions, &c., &c.

During the latter part of the war, Washington had become so reserved in his intercourse, even with those with whom he was upon the most familiar terms, that many of his friends took exceptions, and particularly members of Congress. This feeling increased, that at last it was mentioned by several members in debate in Congress, with an air of complaint, that Washington had ceased to communicate. Col. Hamilton, who had left the army for a short period, and had been elected from New York rose, and said, in substance, "That Gentlemen must remember, that during Washington's command he had been so situated that he must keep his own secrets, and that the success of the cause might in a great degree be attributed to this very reserve. That long habit of necessity could not be changed—his own confidential officers had felt and could readily excuse it: He instanced the surprising manner in which Washington had concealed his deficiency in powder—and the dissolution of the army, and recruiting another, in presence of a superior enemy, when holding the British in Boston. Even his confidential officers did not know the [illegible] explanation appeared to satisfy the public mind, that Washinaton intended no disrespect—and his popularity remained undisturbed till he was called upon to decide in relation to Jay's treaty. This shook the government to the very foundation.

When Mr. Jay returned from London he landed at Coffee-House Slip, in this city. The French party who objected to the treaty, ranged on one side of Wall st., and the English party to the other. As Mr. Jay walked up, approbation were freely expressed, till the excitement became very serious. Col. Hamilton undertook to address the people, but could not quiet them, and he was obliged to retreat from the crowd. No public measure was ever more generally and severely denounced, before its ratification, than this Jay's treaty, and none, even in its practical results, ever gave more universal satisfaction—unless it may be the Sub-Treasury, which, in our day, has passed through an ordeal equal to it, and with practical results equally satisfactory.

No event more severely tried the feelings of Washington, than during the period after he was elected Lieutenant General about two years before his death. As soon as war with France appeared inevitable, and just as Congress was about adjourning the elder Adams, without any consultation with Washington, nominated him as the Commander-in-Chief of all the forces to be raised, &c. The Secretary of War was sent off to Mount Vernon with the commission, unanimously confirmed by the Senate, to ask his acceptance of it.

Washington again consented to take command of the army, but conditioned that he should be consulted in the appointment of his general officers, which were as follows: First Major General, Hamilton; Second, Pinckney; Third Knox. Mr. Adams, without consulting Washington, changed the order of these three Major Generals, and went so far as to appoint the Inspector General. Upon this, Washington took decided ground with the President, and resolved that the public should decide the issue between them, unless Mr. Adams would yield, which he at length concluded to do.

Gen. Knox became much offended that Hamilton should have been placed over him, and finally refused to serve on that account. Gen. Pinckney, on the other hand, volunteered to serve under Knox, or in any way he could be useful.

Washington had now reached the age of sixty-seven, and felt that all the earthly honors had ceased to have the least charm for him. He was ready and willing to die. He had found, like other men, that the world is full of trials, and that if rest and happiness were to be found, it must be found on the other side of the grave.—At Mount Vernon, a short time since, as I gazed upon the piazza where he was accustomed to walk for hours in the evening, for exercise, I wanted the power of imagination to realize how rich must have been his reflections. His country saved! No ambition ungratified! The world venerating his name! His example to be the model of ages to come! His worldly affairs all posted up, and he able to exclaim to his medical friends, "I am dying, gentlemen, but thank God, I don't fear death."

The eyes of Washington were closed under a political cloud, as war with France appeared certain and imminent. He had been, under a unanimous call induced to accept the commission of Lieut. General, and at the time of his death was again in readiness to take the field. His death was announced throughout the land, "Washington is dead." His name alone appeared to strike every title dead.

No address ever presented to Washington, so deeply affected him, as that from the citizens of Alexandria, on his leaving Mount Vernon to assume the Presidency. It is known that his whole journey was made amid the ringing of bells, and the blaze of cannon, all of which produced upon him severe depression, as in his diary he records his distrust of himself to meet the high expectations of his country.

After leaving his own house, his neighbors from Alexandria met him on the road and delivered an address, of which the following is extracted. In this procession, Washington could discover the friends of his early youth, including those on whom he had conferred command, on account of their known merit when his school-fellows, and others who had seen him forty years before, leaving his home to join Braddock as an aid-de-camp—said the address:—"Your country again commands your care; not to extol your glory as a soldier, nor to pour forth our gratitude for past services; not to acknowledge the justice of the unexampled honor which three million of people have gratefully bestowed upon you in your election to the Presidency,—not to admire your patriotism, do your friends and neighbors now address you. Themes less splendid, but more endearing, impress our minds. The first and best of citizens must leave us; our aged must lose their ornament; our youth their model; our agriculture its improver; our commerce its friend; our infant academy its protector; our poor their benefactor.—Farewell; go and make happy a grateful people, who will be doubly grateful when they contemplate this last great sacrifice for their good.

There is much in and around Alexandria to remind one of Washington. There is the church he regularly attended. The Washington pew, in which he was to be seen as a warden, vestryman, &c. In a private museum in that city is to be seen the cambric shirt, enclosed in glass, in which, when an infant he was baptised—and a rude pack-saddle used by him in Braddock's army—and the identical flag, made of the thickest double crimson and scarlet silk, under which the Hessians surrendered. This flag is probably 70 by 45 inches, and splendid in all its finish. Enclosed in a glass case, is the original letter from Washington, after which his retirement from the army, to a committee of the managers of the dancing assemblies held in Alexandria during the winter, in reply to their invitation for Mrs. Washington and himself to attend. He declines, as their dancing days are over, but refers to an early period of his life when those umusements gave him pleasure. There are many other small matters, cherished with great care, giving evidence that everything relating to him, is sacredly preserved by his neighbors.

WINCHELL tells a story of a stranger meeting an Irishman leaning against a post, watching a funeral procession coming out of a brick house by his side, when the following dialogue ensued.

Stranger.—Is that a funeral?
Irishman.—Yes, sir, I'm thinking it is.
Stranger.—Any body of distinction?
Irishman.—I reckon it is.
Stranger.—Who is it that died?
Irishman.—The gentleman in the coffin

Dutchman.

Ephraim being asked how rogues managed to pick so many locks, answered with a grave shake of the head, that he did not know, as such deeds were always done PAX-vately.

Why is a dog, lame of one leg, like a boy cyphering?

Because he sets down three (legs) and carry's one.

VETO MHSSAGE

To the Senate of Pennsylvania:

SENATORS.—After a very deliberate consideration of Bill No. 78, on the files of the Senate, entitled "An act to incorporate the Odd Fellows hall association of Selinsgrove, in the county of Union, and to authorize the Town Council of Lewisburg to sell real estate," I have arrived at the conclusion, that a portion of its provisions is not within the range of the power of the Legislature, and therefore, agreeably to the Constitution, I herewith return it to the Senate in which it originated without my approval.

My objections are to the seventh section which provides "That the Town Council of the borough of Lewisburg, Union county, be and are hereby authorized and empowered to sell and convey, in fee simple, to Peter Beaver, of said borough, for such prices as they may deem just, a lot of ground five feet in breadth, extending along the whole of the front of lot number four, (4) fronting on market street in said borough, deed to be signed by the town council or a majority of them, or by the chief burgess: *Provided*, That in case the said council shall determine to sell, and they and the said Peter Beaver cannot agree as to the price, then each party is to appoint a man to fix a price, and if the men so appointed cannot agree the said two men shall appoint a third man and the decision of a majority of them shall be final.

It seems that the town of Lewisburg was originally laid out by the then proprietor of a tract of land on which the town has since been built, and that at the crossing of Market and Lewis streets, the four corner lots fronting on Market street, did not extend to within five feet of the front line of the other lots, in the four several blocks of lots to which said corner lots respectively belonged, leaving a larger area or street way in this portion of the town, and intended thereby to combine beauty with the enlarged public easement or highway. Subsequently a very large number of lots have been sold and re-sold until held by the present owners, and upon which are erected many valuable buildings.

This bill proposes to authorize the borough to convey "in fee simple to Peter Beaver" that portion of the public street or sidewalk, five feet in width in front of this lot No. 4, (one of these corner lots,) which by the original plan, lies between the front line of the adjoining lot, parallel with the front line of Mr. Beaver's lot. In other words it proposes to have conveyed to Mr. Beaver, for his private use, this portion of the public street, dedicated by the original proprietor to public use, in which all other lot owners within the original plot have private rights; in which the original proprietor, or his heirs or devisees, or others, own the fee in the land, and in which the corporate authoritise have no right whatever, except as the guardians of the public right of way over the same.

In order to determine whether the provisions of this section are in derogation of the private rights of others, it is only necessary to advert to what rights exist in a public street, in a town laid out by the original proprietor and dedicated to public use.

When a proprietor of land thus lays out a town plot, he thereby covenants with the public that all the public streets and squares shall remain for the use of the public when opened, and of the several owners of lots in common with the public at large.

There are then three distinct interests in the streets. First: That of the public, limietd to the mere easement or use of them as high-ways.

Second: That of the lot owners as easements and means of access and egress to and from their respective lots.

Third: That of the original proprietor, or those claiming under him, to the fee in the soil, subject to the easements of the public and of individual lot owners.

Over the first of these interests—that of the public for a highway—the Legislature as the representatives of the public, has some control. It cannot, from its very nature, be conveyed away for mere private use, but its object may be promoted under the care of the corporate authorities of the borough, or otherwise, as the Legislature may direct. It may also be abandoned, or so far as regards the public at large, the street be declared vacated. Still however, the right of way or easement of private property holders continues.

A release, by a portion of the lot-holders, even of those adjoining and most interested, and embracing a large majority of the whole, will not affect the rights of the others. Each and every lot-holder, within the original town plot, has a right, as appurtenant to his own property, to insist upon maintaining, as ways, each and every street in the original plot, and this right is a vested right, which the Legislature has no power to divest unless taken for public use, under the conditions prescribed by the Constitution.

An obstruction of this easement the public may abate—or prosecute those who created or maintain it, by indictment.

In addition to this, each individual lot-holder, affected, has his remedy by civil process at law.

The right of the original proprietor, or those claiming under him, to the fee, in the soil, becomes a perfect title to the whole, upon relinquishment of the public right of way, by the public, and of the private easement thereon by the holders of it. This may pass to the holders of the adjoining lots, or not, according to the conditions of the grant of the lots. But to it, the public has no right, and the Legislature cannot authorize its conveyance for private purposes.

The purposes to convey this fee, including the right of the lot-holders, to the easement, therefore, clearly contravenes the provision in the 9th section of the 9th article of the Constitution of this State, that no one shall "be deprived of his life liberty or property, unless by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land." I cannot, therefore, give this bill my sanction.

The section proposes to authorize the conveyance of this ground to Peter Beaver the owner of the adjoining lot. If the Legislature can authorize its sale to Mr. Beaver, it can do so to the highest bidder on the same principle. Suppose the bill had directed the latter course, and a third person should purchase this ground? Mr. Beaver would likely invoke more than any other the aid of the constitutional provision. I have adverted to which guarantees his rights, as well as those of his co-lot-holders. If the Legislature may authorize the corporate authorities of the borough to sell this lot for private purposes on the same principle it could authorize the sale of any and all the public streets and squares of the borough, and thereby almost entirely destroy the value of its improvements.

I beg leave here to suggest, that all legislature affecting private right cannot be too cautiously exercised. The parties interested oftentimes have not the opportunity of being heard. The facts are presented frequently in a partial and imperfect manner, and those affected by such legislation in many instances are forced to submit to a deprivation of their just rights, or be involved in vexatious and costly litigation. The legislature can in no case change the rights of parties in private property, or divest them, unless when taken for public use, upon compensation being made as provided for in the Constitution. I am aware that the Legislature has heretofore gone to a considerable extent in the enactment of laws affecting private property, under what would appear to be the purpose of settling and determining the private rights of parties, and this has probably been encouraged by the former recognition of the doctrine by our Supreme Court, that the Legislature possessed power, partly legislative and partly judicial.

This I have always regarded as a dangerous doctrine, and am gratified that the Supreme Court in two recent decisions, Greenough vs. Greenough, 11th State reports, and De Chasrelbud vs. Fairchild, 15th State report, have denied its correctness, and maintain that the Legislature possesses only legislative power and none judicial. This strict constitutional powers of the legislature, avoids some of the dangers of latitudinarian heresies, makes the powers to be exercised more plain and easily understood while the people are the better guarantied the enjoyment of those reserved rights, not necessary to be surrendered for any purposes of good government.

WM. BIGLER.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, March 10th, 1852.

TO EXTINGUISH.—An Irishman, being on a visit to some relatives a little more polished than himself, was requested, on going to bed, to be carefull to *extinguish* the candle; he was obliged to ask the meaning of the word, when he was told it was put it out. He treasured up the term, and one day when he was sitting at home in his cabin with his wife, enjoying his praties and butter-milk, on the pig uncermoniously walking in, he said (proud of his bit of learning) "Judy, dear, will you extinguish the pig?' "Arrah, then, Pat, honey, what do you mane?" inquired Judy. "Musha, then you ignorant creature," replied Pat; "it manes put him out to be sure."—*Dutchman.*

☞ VERY TRUE—When we hear men and woman speak lightly of the industrious part of the community, we feel just like tracing back their genealogy. We have done so in several instances, and you will be surprised at what we learned. The most aristocratic man of our acquaintance is the grandson of a fiddler; the proudest woman, the daughter of a washerwoman. It betrays a lack of good sense to condemn, or look with contempt on any virtuous person, however poor he or she may be. The wise and good respect and love goodness wherever it is found in all its beauty and effulgence.

☞ Mrs. Swisshelm declares that "the coil of an anaconda would make a better girdle for a young woman's waist, then the arm of a drunken husband."

Mrs. S. has said a good many good things in her time, but we doubt if she ever originated anything more lamentably true than this.