

# THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man.—Thomas Jefferson

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THOMAS JEFFERSON.

His agency in bringing about the Revolution, and in guiding it, and in shaping our free institutions, which have so blessed our country and benefitted the world, may be learned from this brief synopsis of his views and acts. Let them speak for themselves, and let him be judged by his works.

He was 32 years old and a member of the Legislature, when in 1774 the news of the Boston Port Bill reached Virginia. In the evening, he and a few kindred spirits met in the Council chamber to consult on the proper course to be taken. Then and there it was agreed to recommend a day of fasting and prayer throughout the colony.—The Legislature approved of the proposal, and he prepared the proclamation. The day was the first of June;—then the Port Bill took effect. Soon after, he wrote the deputies to meet in Congress. The first Congress met in Philadelphia, Sept. 5th 1774. During 1775, he was a member of Congress, acting on the maxim, 'the God who gave us life, gave us liberty too.'—June 28th 1776, the youngest member of Congress, he as chairman reported the Declaration of Independence, which had been written by him at the unanimous request of the committee. The Declaration was adopted, July the 4th;—the debate was warm, and while going on, Doctor Franklin told Mr. Jefferson the famous story of 'John Thompson, the hatter.' July 4, '76 he was appointed on a committee to devise a suitable 'coat of arms' for the U. States.

The declaration of independence having gone forth, and Washington being at the head of the army, and fighting the battle manfully. Mr. Jefferson concluded to retire from Congress. Still he was re-elected; but on the 2d of September he resigned. On the last day of September, Congress appointed him one of the commissioners to negotiate a treaty with France. But he declined the appointment. He thought that the great moral revolution just begun, would be more aided by him in the legislature of Virginia, than in any other station. He was elected and took his seat in the legislature in October. He wished to have his state walk in the right path in passing from her monarchial to her republican condition; and he thought it all important to the great cause of liberty, to have a state government which should be a pattern for all the states which would compose this great confederacy.—While a member of the legislature from '76 to '79, he turned his great mind to the accomplishment of the following objects:—to reform the Judiciary system; to repeal the law of Entails: which destroyed aristocracy to abrogate the right of primogeniture: and thus prepare the way for an equal division of inheritances among all the children and other representatives in equal degrees; the assertion of the right of expatriation; the establishment of religious freedom upon the broadest foundation; the emancipation of slaves born after a certain period; the abolition of capital punishment in all cases except for treason and murder; the establishment of a systematic plan of general education reaching all classes of citizens, and adapted to every grade of capacity. Most

of these objects were accomplished, and other kindred ones of great importance.—June '79, he was elected Governor of Virginia. His first act was to ameliorate the sufferings of American prisoners, who had been taken by the British. On the right of suffrage his maxim was, to allow those to vote who pay or fight for the support of government.

In '81, he was appointed minister plenipotentiary (with others) to negotiate a peace; but he declined. In '83 was again elected to Congress. In December, Washington delivered up his commission to Congress; and Mr. J. prepared the noble reply to Gen. W.

In '84 he reported to Congress the money system—consisting of the dollar unit. This year he was appointed minister plenipotentiary to negotiate treaties of commerce with foreign nations.

In '85 he was appointed ambassador to France, and remained there four years.

In '89 he was appointed Secretary of State by President Washington. Soon after he made his famous reports on coins—weights—and measures. While he was Secretary of State, Gen. Hamilton was Secretary of the Treasury, and then it was that the questions sprung up, out of which grew the two parties—the Republican and Federal—which have substantially continued to the present day. The former party by the same name, the latter by various names—but always the same ends and aims in view.

In '94 he was chosen President of the American Philosophical Society.

In '97 he was elected Vice President of the U. States.

In 1801 he was chosen President of the United States by Congress, on the thirty sixth ballot, and on the fifth day of voting; the federalists until then voted for Aaron Burr. President Jefferson soon put the ship of state on the republican tack, by repealing the internal taxes—reducing the army and navy—discharging useless officers—allowing the sedition laws to die—purchasing Louisiana, and thus doubling our territory—treating our 'red brethren' humanely—keeping states' rights in full vigor—and by aiming at peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, and entangling alliances with none.

In 1805 he was re-elected President. In 1809 he retired to private life, 'with hands as clean as they were empty.'

Among his favorite maxims were equal and exact justice to men of all persuasions. There is an eternal connexion between liberty and knowledge. Improvement is the moral condition of man. Do right, and if approbation is denied in the beginning, it will eventually follow in the end."

In his retirement, he continued to act on the great and equitable principles which had governed him through life.

July 4th, 1826, he died. His last words were—"I have done for my country and for mankind all I could, and I resign my soul to my God, and my daughter to my country."

### His own epitaph.

"Here lies THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Author of the Declaration of Independence—of the statutes of Virginia for religious freedom, and father of the University of Virginia."

*Sliding Scale of the Press.*—Dr. H. called at the Times office, to inquire the price of inserting the death of a relative.—'Ten shillings,' said a surly clerk. Dr. H. remonstrated, and said he had only paid seven for the last. 'Oh,' said the clerk 'that was a common death, but this is sincerely regretted.' 'Well, my friend' said the Doctor, laying down the ten shillings, 'your executors will never be put to that that expense.'—*London Paper.*

Boston, the celebrated racer, has been withdrawn from the turf. The reason is said to be because he did not keep up with the Fashion.

## RIGHT AND WRONG POSITION.

BY MISS SEDGWICK.

Gray, in the most familiar of his exquisite Stanzas in a country Churchyard, ('Full many a gem,' &c.) has expressed most poetically the waste of a false position in life. The fond partiality of every village generation finds in its own burying ground some 'village Hampden,' some 'mute, inglorious Milton,' or

'Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood.'

It is a signal good fortune, when an individual has a right position in life. The office of President of the United States is one of the highest among men, and he who worthily fills it is the peer of kings and autocrats. Washington, the elected head of the American people, was truly king of kings. But if the nation put in that high place a man only fitted to be a clever ward politician, or a skillful overseer of a plantation, he is a mark in the pillory, not the light set on a hill.

We see every day men in a false position; no places of ill-fitting as a garment a world too wide, or perchance too narrow. Men are raised to offices of trust and honor, that are worthy neither of the one nor the other; and stout frames, which nature has built of muscle and sinew able to subdue the wildest of our wild land, are in places behind counters, that woman of right and grace should fill. Do we not all know ladies in drawing rooms, cumberers of that ground, who would have figured as first rate milliners? And mistresses of our city palaces, who would have been inestimable market women? And yellow, languid fide ladies, who, in their right vocation of chamber maids, would have been brisk and blooming? And do we not know those in

their right position would bring with them the graces so much wanted to give a zest to high life? There are men born to the inheritance and ministration of a princely fortune, who are only fit to keep a livery stable, or drive four in hand; and there are spiritual teachers, whose whole lives should be passed in the humblest class of learners. Bachelors there are, who would have been pattern husbands and idolized fathers; and husbands and fathers, who should have been roaming and growing alone through life. It is this prevailing disorder and unfitness, that makes it so peculiarly delightful to see a friend in the right position—that gives to fitness the effect of harmony.

## ECCENTRICITIES OF A MADMAN.

Mr. —, a lawyer in Vermont, doing a good business, at once became insane, and took it into his head to abandon the practice of law, and engage in baskets making. He was at first an awkward hand at his employment, but, by dint of perseverance, he soon became very skilful, and could weave a basket as well as he had formerly woven an argument at the bar. He followed this business about six months, when, taking a new notion into his head, he abandoned it for that of chair bottoming.

The materials used in this occupation was bark, which he stripped from the trees in summer, when it peels most easily. Having come home one day covered from head to foot with mud, he was asked where he had been, that he had got so thoroughly bedaubed. He answered; that he had been in a neighboring swamp after elm bark, of which he exhibited a strip about forty feet long.

'Do you remark this?' said he triumphantly.

'Yes, but how does this account for your being so muddy? It isn't usual to find mud on the top of a tree.'

'No, but you may, sometimes find it at the bottom, though, I'll tell you how I found it. I cut the bark near the root of the tree, & then stripped it upwards, expecting it would come to an end and break off, and rank itself out after a while. But it hung on like a suit in chancery—and I stripped, until it run up forty feet, and strong as ever. Think I to myself, there's no use in pursuing the thing any farther, and so I'll

enter a nolle prosequi. But not to lose the benefit of what I had done—that was the point to be decided. I wished at least to save costs—but pshaw! I forgot—I'm not a lawyer now. Well, as I was saying, I looked at the subject to see how I could secure the bark. It was too strong for me to break off. At any rate, thought I, there's more than one way to skin a cat, as a butcher would say. If I cannot break off this bark, I can climb up by it. No sooner said than done. I seized hold of the strip, and placing my feet against the trunk of the tree, ran up hand over hand. By this method of climbing, you will perceive my back must have been downward; and and nearly in a horizontal position my feet being braced against the tree, and my head standing from it an angle of nearly ninety degrees. Having arrived at the proper height, I was then in a quandary, how to get my knife out of my pocket, and how to get it open when it was out. If I let go with one hand, I was fearful the other would not hold me. However, says I, its neck or nothing. I'll try the experiment at any rate—so I gripped powerfully with my left hand, and opening it with my teeth whipped off the bark as clean as the law would dock an entail. And what do you think was the result?

'Why, you came flat on your back of course!'

'Right, gentleman of the jury—a very correct verdict indeed. No man came down flatter on his back than I—& never was one so completely bedaubed with filth and mud. But thanks to the yielding nature of the soil, I saved my bones, and only brought away the mischief on my coat. I gained my cause too—which is more than I can say of all my clients.'

The company laughed heartily at the lawyer's account of his exploit—while the latter hanging his coat up in the sun, said, that the mud, like the old woman's grease, would rub off when it was dry.

He continued a while longer to follow his occupation of chair bottoming, when suddenly becoming sane again, he resumed the practice of the law, and has, ever since, preferred laying his opponents on their backs in a legal way, to being laid on his own in so ludicrous a manner as that above related.—*N. F. Transcript.*

## HOOSIER ELOQUENCE.

The following is a speech, verbatim, as delivered in the legislature of one of the western states. The question was, the chartering of a bank. In the debate, the speaker had been wrapped over the neck by a very small man pretty severely. But here's the speech:

Mr. President, I had no idea that I should be compelled to say another word upon this here question. But since the mountain's torrents have been let loose upon my devoted head—since the sluiceways of calumny have been opened, and the slanderers tongue have lacerated my fair fame, I must 'cast back the billows mountain high,' as the poet says. Sir if a man do not 'stand up to the rack,' in his own defence, sir, I should like to know sir, who in the devil would do it? Sir, I'd rather fight my weight in allegators than be caught back biting any man—I'm in favor of gouging, and am willing to give a fellow a chance at my nose and ears, and he who can get the first bite sir, let him take out a whole mouthful sir. But the back biter sir, is like a thief in ancient history, he seekes you in the dark sir—he comes when you look not, he creepes in the grass like an Ingen sir, and before you know anything sir, he has all under bolt, and ten to one if you ain't a gone coon sir.

But sir, let me say, sir that I was brought up on the broad plat-form of civil and religious principles—principles as wide and enduring as the prairies of our own land—and sir, is it expected that I will be driven from this platform by a little would-be jackleg lawyer?—a thing a posson could lash around this terrestrial world with his tail! Sir I ply poor human nature, and am willing to take the man to my bosom and

feed him upon milk of human kindness!—Let him sir, come to my arms, and I will protect and guard him as the hen her brood from the snares of the hawk or the owl.—Sir, come to me, and when the whirlwind of the angry world is dealing destruction all around—when nature is convulsed with unspeakable strife and turmoil—when the vengeful volcano of an outraged and humbugged people are dealing death and annihilation to their enemies, and those of their country. Yes sir; when all this comes, I say fly to my arms and you shall be saved from the 'wreck of matter, and the crash of worlds.' Sir, I'm no prophet, but I sincerely hope the bill will pass. I have sir, always been opposed to that old gentleman called monopoly, and I hope Dutch Dick will give him hell, if he dont completely annihilate him as soon as he enters this house; and if I don't I'll be—! and your hide mister speaker, won't hold shucks!—So sir, look out, you'll git my mortal all-fired spirit up, and then whoop yo'll catch h—! I'll tell you? Sir, the lamb laid down with the lion, but you need not think that I can be caught in such company—human nater forbids it—a due regard for my standing in the world—a sense of my own importance—and, above all, a due regard for the honor of my constituents, forbid I should lend my almighty power and influences in riveting upon them a curse. Forbid it! ye Gods! Sir, when I look around and see all nature smiling approval—the genial sun imparting, with lavishness, his resplendent effulgence in glorifying assent—a mighty people shouting in chorus, 'go on faithful defender of our civil and religious rights,' is it, sir, a time for me to stand back and speak not!

fall! Sir, General Jackson is a great man; he strangled the great monster of Philadelphia; he whipped the British at Orleans, and I 'follow his foot-steps,' and I will throttle the young hyena you are attempting to raise within the borders of our land—if I don't I'll be d—! Sir; 'cow's the day,' and if you don't vote down this bill, hurry it in the tomb of oblivion, you'll catch the d—st flogging you ever did! This is a free country sir, and the man that would betray her, is 'fit for stratagen and broils'!

Cease, then, sir, trying to subvert the dearly bought liberties of our happy home.' We cannot, sir, too dearly prize the boon. Will men sir, stand by with indifference, arms folded, and not make a struggle to avert the threatened avalanche? Sir, I call upon you to step forward with the sword, and battle axe, and with hearts resolved, and hands prepared, the blessing we enjoy, to guard! On then to the rescue, sir, and let future generations glory in our wonderful deeds! Where, sir, is the man so lost to a love of country, so craven to his duty, so ignoble, so pitiful and puppyish, as to flee this land when danger approach? Sir, show me the man, and I'll make him bite the earth! Sir, this vast fabric, this almighty world, created by God; will totter and crumble to atoms, sooner than the undying halo of frame which encircles your brows! Then sir by all that you hold dear, by all that is in heaven, and by your hope of glorious immortality, I conjure you to vote down this bill. But, sir, if you won't take my advice, but are determined to rush on to destruction, I will have the consolation to know, that like the great Alexander, who conquered the world and sighed because there was no more to subjugate, I'll shed tears! Sir I'm done. And in conclusion I'd advice you all—to sing 'O take your time, Miss Lucy Long.'

A young lawyer who was pleading the cause of an infant plaintiff, took the child up in his arms, and presented it to the jury suffused in tears. This had a great effect, until the opposite lawyer asked what made it cry. 'He pinched me,' answered the little innocent. The whole court was convulsed with laughter.

About right. The weather.