

# AMERICAN PATRIOT.

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## REMARKABLE PHENOMENON.

From the Vermont Republican.

The following extract, from a communication of Joel Manning, jun. Esq. of Andover, Vermont, a gentleman of undoubted veracity, to the editor of this paper, we think not unworthy the attention of the curious. It has since been ascertained that similar appearances were noticed the same night, by some people passing over a high ground in Reading, a place eighteen or twenty miles north of Andover:

The circumstances of which I speak took place at Andover, Vt. It will be recollected by all in this vicinity, that on the evening of the 18th of January last, there was a very heavy fall of snow, accompanied with lightning and thunder. Happening to be from home that evening, I came out of a neighbor's house in company with a young man, my brother, between the hours of 10 and 11. We noticed that the snow fell very fast, but our attention was particularly attracted by the frequent flashes of lightning. After passing a few rods, we observed, on the top of a stake in the fence, a light resembling a blaze of fire, about 2 or 3 inches in length though not so red and brilliant. We soon observed that on every stake was a light, and also on the highest of bushes by the side of the fence. This excited so much wonder and curiosity that we called to the people in the house, and also to some who were at the same time passing the street, to see the same phenomenon. We soon observed it on our hats, hair and mittens, when held up, not in the form of a blaze, but of bright white sparks of various sizes, from those which were but just discernible to those of the size of a large buck shot.

We found by examination that upon any thing that was tolerable smooth, and without limbs, there was no light except at the top. We viewed these blazes at the distance of about a foot and a half; there form was precisely that of an inverted cone, seemingly standing on the smallest possible point, whose height was to its greatest diameter as three to one.

On one stake there were three of those blazes. On two or three stakes, upon which they appeared the most vivid, they emitted a sound resembling the hissing of water in a tea-kettle, just before it boils. This sound could be distinctly heard at the distance of ten or twelve feet. Those blazes would disappear at the approach of a stick, viz. a whip staff, (as that was the instrument made use of in the experiment) within a little less than two feet; but I since recollect, that in all cases when this experiment was tried, the top of the staff was considerably higher than the stake; which accounts, in part, for its remaining, though with a less degree of brilliancy, when our hands or heads were much nearer, but not so high.

After viewing it for some time, we proceeded homeward; as we passed over a piece of rising ground, our hats and shoulders were almost covered with this light; and when we spit, the small particles of spittle at the distance of six or eight inches from the mouth, assumed a shining appearance. These lights were to be seen for three quarters of a mile except when by the side or in a piece of standing timber. We returned again about twelve o'clock, when there appeared full as much or more light on our clothes, but no appearance of those conical figures, and consequently no hissing.

According to what observations and experiments we made, I feel justified in mak-

ing the following remarks:—That this was only visible on high land at some distance from the place where we were standing. Respecting the forest trees, I can only say that we saw no light on them. Lights might be there and we not see them through the falling snow. To be sure, our experiments were all of them near the ground; but as far as we know, the higher in the air, the greater the quantity of light, and, as far as we are acquainted, it increased very fast. From the height of my head to that of my hand, with my arm extended at full length, it appeared almost doubled.

It appears that the wind increased this night, by this experiment: stand your back to the wind, place your hand and fingers up, mitten on, about eight inches from your breast, so high that a spark would be seen on the highest point of the mitten, turn facing the wind, with your hands in the same situation, and there would be more sparks, and those larger. Even in that state of the air the concurrence of many circumstances seemed necessary to produce the appearance of a conical blaze or hissing; that upon which it must be higher than any thing near, as there were many stakes in the fence, but upon only two or three of the highest were these appearances. It must be without ramification: for upon briars of equal height with those stakes there were none. It must also be capped with snow: for after brushing the snow from those which before had this appearance, a light remained, but it lost its conical form, and the sound was also extinct.

All the circumstances I have stated can be attested by two or three witnesses, and most of them by five or six.

I have since heard, to the distance of two or three miles in different directions, of lights of the same kind being seen not in such a quantity, but generally one individual light.

[It is understood that this phenomenon was also noticed at Dover, and other towns in that vicinity, on the same evening.]

**Internal Taxes.**—It may not occur to some of our readers, that the *Direct Tax*, expiring by its own limitation with the present session of congress, was not one of those taxes which Congress has refused to repeal. The *Direct Tax*, it ought to be generally understood, exist no longer—it having been deemed unnecessary or inexpedient to provide by law for its renewal.

Nat. Intelligencer.

FROM THE HARRISBURG REPUBLICAN.

## A FEW QUOTATIONS FROM

A LETTER to George Washington, president of the United States, containing STRICTURES on his address of the 17th of September 1796, notifying his relinquishment of the presidential office.—By Jasper Dwight of Vermont [alias William Duane] printed at Philadelphia for the author, and sold by the booksellers.—Dec. 1796.—dated November 12th 1796.

"Had the French revolution commenced ten years later, or you retired to the shades of Mount Vernon four years ago, the friends of public virtue would still proudly boast of one great man free from the breath of public dispraise, and your fondly partial country, forbearing to enquire whether or not you were chargeable with private aberrations, would vaunt in you the possession of the Phoenix.—But it is to be feared that the temper of your mind has been mistaken by all but those who, by uniting evil with ambitious dispositions, prevailed over your judgment to the prejudice of your reputation." Page 4

"Your address in my mind is fraught with incalculable evils to your country! It afforded a most serious lesson indeed to the people of America, and to every other nation who may yet have to adopt a model in realizing their liberties" Page 6.

"I venture from retirement, and without the sanction of a name, to question your measures, and to display with bold but candid freedom what I see or think I see therein of an alarming and pernicious tendency; to examine and display sentiments of yours, which I deem inconsistent with yourself, incompatible with the professed sincerity of your character, and repugnant to the purest maxims of liberality, wisdom and morals" Page 7.

"I at first proposed to convey my remarks to you in a private manner; but considering the foundation of the evil effects which I apprehended from your address, as already said, I have judged it more proper to lay them before the people, who are alone essentially concerned." Page 8.

"I am aware that under the fatal form of state secrecy, privilege of office or powers assumed to belong to the presidential character, which in fact are neither more nor less than the worst engravements from Machiavellian policy, and the actual essence of monarchical prerogative, this conduct is effected to be justified: but by such frail disguises and foul advisers you have been betrayed to withhold the correspondence on the British treaty—to treat your country as an enemy whom you wished to overcome by stratagem, and like a skillful general in the career of success dictated conditions which degraded the subjugated by leaving them the show of deliberation without the means to deliberate, when the conditions of surrender were already irrevocable! But from that fatal moment when you listened to the seduction of your deadliest enemies in opposition to the voice of freedom which hates disguise, the brightness of your countenance is said to have faded, the glory that shone round you dissolved in mist, and like our first parents, you have borne about you the visible evidences of internal regret, and the perturbations of virtue struggling between pride & conscious error. From that unhappy hour the enemies of liberty and your country called you their own, and the name of WASHINGTON sunk from the elevated rank of the SOLONS and LYCURGUSES, of the insignificance of a Venetian Doge or a Dutch Stathholder!" Page 10 & 11.

"The sacred sentiment of duty obliges me to point out wherein you have violated your own principles, by making your address the vehicle of personal resentment; the indirect defence of weak and unjustifiable measures; where you have urged dogmas repugnant to free government, subversive of the right of private judgment, and calculated to impede the progress of morals and the happiness of mankind.—Serious and afflicting are these truths, verified by numerous passages in your address, upon which I shall remark as I proceed" Page 16.

President Washington in his address observes:

"But the constitution which at any time exists, till exchanged by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power & the right of the people to establish government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government."

Upon this, among other things, the letter writer says:

"Strange, but affecting truth that power long possessed perverts the judgment, else we should not have received so many admonitions against the people and so little on the dangers to be apprehended from that source from whence tyranny has crept in all ages!—But it is evident that in this part of your address you are governed by feelings very separate from those of dispassionate and benevolent patriotism; this regard for the constitution, although I doubt not of your attachment to it, appears awkward when engaged in stimulating one side and depressing the other, and still condemning the party. In this mixture of jealousy, resentment and mistaken pride, you forget that it is

to association, secret meetings, to the secrecy of great and just opinions, the United States owe this day the blessings of Independence."

[Is it so, Mr. Duane? then it seems secret meetings, which you have since branded with the epithet of caucuses, have done great things. In 1796 they were great favorites of yours.—They then suited your designs, but in 1817 you anathematise them because you cannot lead them. Those of them which you can lead, are still in favor.]

I shall at some leisure hour send you some more extracts from this initiatory production, which will show to the Federalists the esteem which their new leader had for them and general Washington in days of yore. Q.

## ABORIGINAL ORATOR.

One of the most extraordinary men of the present age, has passed from the stage of life without teaching the world how to appreciate his character. We mean the Indian orator and hero Tecumseh. The grandeur of his plans; the ardent, patient, bold, yet prudent inflexibility with which he pursued them, all indicate a mind of the highest order. The great body of mankind must always be imposed on by circumstances, and therefore will be little inclined to allow, that Tecumseh was not an accomplished military commander, but also a great natural statesman and orator. Of the many strange, and some strongly characteristic events of his life, we are going to give only a little one which we lately heard related; which affords an admirable specimen of his proud, ambitious, dangerous spirit, and of the sublimity which sometimes distinguished his eloquence. It was in 1811, at the council which general Harrison held with the Indians at Vincennes. The chiefs of some tribes had come to complain of a purchase of lands which had been made from the Kickapoos. It is generally known that this council effected nothing, and broke up in confusion in consequence of Tecumseh having called governor Harrison a liar. It was in the progress of the long talk that took place in the conference, that Tecumseh, having finished one of his speeches, looked round, and seeing every one seated, while no seat was prepared for him; a momentary frown passed over his countenance. Instantly general Harrison ordered that a chair should be given him. Some person presented one, and bowing, said to him, "Warrior, your father, general Harrison, offers you a seat." Tecumseh's dark eye flashed. "My father!" he exclaimed, indignantly, extending his arms towards the heavens, "The sun is my father; and the earth is my mother. She gives me nourishment and I repose upon her bosom." As he ended he sat down suddenly, cross legged, upon the ground. Nat. Register.

## PROGRESS OF RELIGION.

It appears by a communication addressed to Governor Tompkins of New York, which has been published in the newspapers, that a part of the Oneida nation of Indians, which was heretofore known by the "PAGAN PARTY," have renounced their paganism, and taken the "Christian's God, to be their God, and their only hope and salvation."—This information is truly gratifying, and holds out strong encouragement to missionary labor.

## LATEST FROM IRELAND.

NEW YORK, MARCH 12.

By the ship Columbus, Smith, arrived last evening from Cork, we have received Dublin papers of the 13th of January.

On the 13th there was a general meeting of the inhabitants of Dublin, for the purpose of petitioning for a reform in Parliament. The meeting was very numerous, consisting of forty or fifty thousand. A string of resolutions, and a petition to the House of Commons, were read, and unanimously carried.

Price of meat in Dublin market, on the 11th of January, beef from 7 to 10 cents; pork 6 to 9; mutton 10 to 12; veal 11 to 14; wheat and flour, average price for the week ending 19th January, 150s. per sack.

## CONDITION OF IRELAND.

At the interesting meeting at Harold's Cross, Dublin on the 15th Jan. to take into consideration the present dreadful state