

# Democratic Banner.

BY MOORE & HEMPHILL.

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## TELEGRAMS

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### From Neal's Saturday Gazette. General Butler.

William O. Butler, one of the heroes of Monterey, was born of a family memorable for its military renown. His grandfather was a native of Ireland, but emigrated to America about the middle of the last century, and settled in Pennsylvania. When the war of independence broke out, the whole male portion of his descendants, five stalwart sons, entered the army. The patriotism of the sire and his children became so celebrated that Washington once gave, as a toast—"The Butlers and their five sons." La Fayette was accustomed to say of them—"When I wanted a thing well done, I ordered a Butler to do it."

The subject of this biography was the second son of Percival Butler, the fourth in order of these five revolutionary brothers. William O. Butler had just finished his collegiate course, and was preparing to study law, when the war of 1812 broke out. The surrender of Detroit aroused the patriotism of every American, especially of the sons of Kentucky; and a large force immediately volunteered to march on Canada and chastise the enemy. Among those who enlisted was young Butler; he entered as a private in Captain Hart's company of infantry; but, before the army marched, he was elected a corporal. Soon after he was made an ensign in the 17th infantry. This wing of the army, under Gen. Winchester, advanced on the river Raisin, which they reached after a toilsome march in the dead of winter. No historian has as yet done justice to the privations endured by these brave Kentuckians. Butler was present at both the actions on the Raisin, and on each occasion displayed great intrepidity. In the first battle, which was fought on the 18th of January 1814, the Americans were victorious. In the second and more memorable one, which occurred four days later, they were defeated.

In this latter conflict Butler received a dangerous wound. The manner in which he received it illustrates his bravery, so forcibly, and is so well told by Kendall, in his biography, that we quote the paragraph entire. "After the route and massacre of the right wing, belonging to Wells' command, the whole force of the British and Indians was concentrated against the small body of troops under Major Madison, that maintained their ground within the picketed gardens. A double barn, commanding the plot of ground on which the Kentuckians stood, was approached on one side by the Indians, under the cover of an orchard and fence; the British, on the other side, being so posted as to command the space between it and the pickets. A party in the rear of the barn were discovered advancing to take possession of it. All saw the fatal consequences of the secure lodgment of the enemy in a place which would present every man within the pickets at close rifle-shot to the aim of their marksmen. Major Madison inquired if there was no one who would volunteer to run the gauntlet of the fire of the British and Indian lines, and put a torch to the combustibles within the barn, to save the remnant of the little army from sacrifice. Butler, without a moment's delay, took some blazing sticks from a fire at hand, leaped the pickets, & running at his utmost speed, thrust the fire into the straw within the barn. One who was an anxious spectator of the event we narrate, says, 'although volley upon volley was fired at him, Butler, after making some steps on his way back, turned to see if the fire had taken, and not being satisfied, returned to the barn and set it in a blaze. As the conflagration grew, the enemy was seen retreating from the rear of the building, which they had entered at one end as the flame ascended in the other. Soon after reaching the pickets in safety, amid the shouts of his friends, he was struck by a ball in his breast. Believing from the pain he felt that it had penetrated his chest, turning to Adjutant (now Gen.) McCalla, one of his Lexington comrades, and pressing his hand to the spot, he said, 'I fear this shot is mortal, but while I am able to move, I will do my duty.' To the anxious inquiries of his friend, who met him soon afterward, he opened his vest, with a smile, and showed him that the ball had spent itself on the thick wadding of his coat & on his breast bone. He suffered, however, for many weeks."

Butler was one of the few wounded who escaped the massacre, by which Proctor violated his word and earned for himself an immortality of shame. The young officer was marched through Canada to Fort Niagara, suffering with pain, hunger, fatigue and the inclemency of the weather. His natural buoyancy of spirit did not, however, give way; even under these discouraging circumstances; and he whiled away his leisure by cultivating poetry, for which he had some talent. In 1814 he was exchanged, and joined Gen. Jackson in the south, with the rank of captain.

He arrived at head quarters just in time to join in the attack on Pensacola, being the only officer, at the head of the new Tennessee levies, who was thus prompt. Following Gen. Jackson to New Orleans, he participated in the action of the 23d of December, 1814, which was preliminary to the great battle of the 8th, and exercised a powerful influence on the fortunes of that day. During the conflict, the commander of the regiment got lost in the darkness, when Butler as senior officer placed himself at the head of the men, & led them to repeated charges. He also fought at the more decisive battle of the 8th. For his meritorious conduct in this campaign he was made a major by brevet. Soon after, Gen. Jackson appointed him his aid-de-camp, in which situation he continued until he abandoned the army.

In 1817, with the rank of colonel, Butler retired to private life. He now resumed the study of the law, married, and settled on his paternal possessions at the confluence of the Ohio and Kentucky rivers. Here, for twenty-five years, he resided in comparative retirement, a mode of life admirably suited to his refined tastes and fondness for domestic life. Without a particle of what is usually called ambition, he had no desire for popular office, except so far as he believed he could by holding public trusts, be conducive to the common weal. At last, in a political crisis, he was induced by his friends to become a candidate for Congress. Twice he was elected, and would have been a third time, perhaps, had he not absolutely declined. In 1844 he became the candidate of his party for Governor of Kentucky, when he assisted, by his general popularity, considerably to diminish the usual majority of the Whig party; and this, notwithstanding his opponent was an estimable man. Butler belongs to the democratic side in politics. He has never, however, been considered a violent partizan.

When the war with Mexico broke out, he was created a Major General. He marched with the Kentucky and other volunteers to the aid of Gen. Taylor, and was with that hero at Monterey. In this terrible siege, Butler was second in command. He, like Gen. Taylor, saw the importance of seizing the Saltillo road, & fully favored the movement of General Worth to turn the enemy's left. From the narrative of Major Thomas, one of the General's companions in arms, we quote the following detailed account of his heroism on that day:

"Worth marched on Sunday, September 20th, thus leaving Twiggs' and Butler's divisions with Gen. Taylor. Gen. Butler was in favor of throwing his division across the St. John's river, and approaching the town from the east, which was at first determined upon. This was changed, as it would leave but one, and perhaps the smallest division, to guard the camp, and attack in front. The 20th the general also reconnoitered the enemy's position. Early in the morning of the 21st the force was ordered to create a diversion in favor of Worth, that he might gain his position; and before our division came within long range of the enemy's principal battery, the foot of Twiggs' division had been ordered down to the northeast side of the town, to make an armed reconnoissance of the advanced battery, and to take it if it could be done without great loss. The volunteer division was scarcely formed in rear of our howitzer & mortar battery, established the night previous under cover of a rise of ground, before the infantry sent down to the northeast side of the town became closely and hotly engaged. The batteries of that division were sent down, and we were then ordered to support the attack. Leaving the Kentucky regiment to support the mortar and howitzer battery, the general rapidly put in march, by a flank movement, the other three regiments, moving for some one and a half or two miles under a heavy fire of round shot. As further ordered, the Ohio regiment was detached from Quitman's brigade, and led by the general (at this time accompanied by Gen. Taylor) into the town. Quitman carried his brigade directly on the battery first attacked, and gallantly carried it. Before this, however, as we entered the suburbs, the chief engineer came up and advised us to withdraw, as the object of the attack had failed, and if we moved on we must meet with great loss. The general was loath to fall back without consulting with Gen. Taylor, which he did do—the general being but a short distance off. As we were withdrawing, news came that Quitman had carried the battery, and Gen. Butler led the Ohio regiment back to the town at a different point. In the street we became exposed to a line of batteries on the opposite side of a small stream, and also from a *levee de pont* (bridge-head) which enfiladed us. Our men fell rapidly as we moved up the street to get a position to charge the battery across the stream. Coming to a cross-street, the general reconnoitered the position, and determining to charge from that point, sent me back a short distance to stop the firing, and advance the regiment with the bayonet. I had just left him, when he was struck in the leg, being on foot, and was obliged to leave the field.

On entering the town, the general and his troops became at once hotly engaged at short musket range. He had to make his reconnoissance under a heavy fire.—This he did unflinchingly, and by exposing his person—on one occasion passing through a large gateway into a yard which was entirely open to the enemy. When he was wounded, at the intersection of the two streets, he was exposed to a cross-fire of musketry and grape."

Gen. Butler continued with the army for several months after the storming of Monterey, and was in supreme command at Saltillo and other places. At last his wound, which had never healed, becoming excessively painful, and Santa Anna's advance being, it was believed, no longer to be dreaded, he solicited & obtained leave of absence and returned to the U. States, where he has since remained. We understand that, in consequence of his wound, he will be lame for life. Kendall, who has lately written the general's biography, closes it with the following description of his personal appearance, and this glowing eulogy on his character:

"In person Gen. Butler is tall, straight, and handsomely formed, exceedingly active and alert—his mien is inviting—his manners graceful—his gait and air military—his countenance frank and pleasing—the outline of his features of the aquiline cast, thin and pointed in expression—the general contour of his head is Roman."

"The character of Gen. Butler in private life is in fine keeping with that exhibited in his public career. In the domestic circle, care, kindness, assiduous activity in anticipating the wants of all around him—readiness to forego his own gratification to gratify others, have become habits growing out of his affections. His love makes perpetual sunshine at his home."

"Among his neighbors, liberality, affability, and active sympathy mark his social intercourse, and unbending integrity and justice all his dealings. It is too much the habit in Kentucky, with stern & fierce men, to carry their personal and political ends with a high hand. Gen. Butler, with all the masculine strength, courage, and reputation to give success to attempts of this sort, never evinced the slightest disposition to indulge the power, whilst his well known firmness always forbade such attempts on him. His life has been one of peace with all men, except the enemies of his country."

## The Inauguration.

The ceremony of inaugurating FRANCIS R. SHUNK, Governor elect, took place at Harrisburg, on Tuesday the 18th instant. The procession, composed of the Heads of Department, military, citizens and strangers, formed at the residence of the Governor about 11 o'clock, and repaired to the hall of the House of Representatives, where the members of the Senate and House were assembled in convention, when the oath of office was administered to his Excellency by the Speaker of the Senate. The Governor then addressed the assembled multitude as follows:

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS.—In appearing before you to renew the solemn obligation of fidelity to the Constitution, and my pledges for the faithful execution of the duties, to which the suffrages of the people have again called me, I avail myself of your presence, to express to you, and through you to my fellow citizens of the Commonwealth, my gratitude for the favor with which they have regarded my efforts, to discharge the duties of my trust, in good faith. The practical knowledge which I have acquired, of the various and complicated duties of the Chief Executive Magistrate of the State, increases my distrust, I have always felt, of my ability so to perform them, as to justify the public approval; and constrains me to solicit a continuance of the same kind indulgence, which has been hitherto extended to me so generously.

In taking the solemn oath, which the Constitution exacts from all who are clothed with the delegated will of the people, it is proper to recall to mind the principles upon which our government is based—that their spirit and meaning may be apprehended, their value appreciated; and the obligation to guard them, with untiring vigilance, enforced.

In the formation of our government, political power has been resolved into its simplest element. It is the power of THE PEOPLE, by the expression of their will, in free and equal elections, to RULE; and this assumes for its basis, the great fundamental truth; that man is capable of self government.

This great political principle, only partially developed before, was, by our republican fathers, made the ground-work of written constitutions, which defined and limited the powers of government, and prescribed the duties of those to whom its administration was entrusted. This is the animating principle of our whole system. It shields life and liberty, the acquisition and enjoyment of property and reputation. Assuming the inherent and exclusive right of the people to institute government for their peace, safety and happiness, it secures religious freedom, free and equal elections, the trial by jury, general education, the liberty of the press, and all the essential guards of religious, political, civil and personal right. This democratic power of government, is the security of liberty in all its forms;—and no other

fundamental, political power, is recognized in this country.

Its happy influence is traced, in the rewards which follow industry and enterprise among us, with such astonishing rapidity. But as wealth increases, causes that are inherent in human nature, produce inequality in its distribution. The fathers of our government, foresaw the tendency of this, and that it might eventuate in the creation of a permanent aristocracy of wealth. Wisely guarding against it, they not only abolished the laws of primogeniture and entails, and enacted our equal laws of descent and distribution, but they secured to us, their posterity, the equal right of acquiring, possessing and protecting property, by making it an essential article of the Constitution.

Still, political society is, and always must be influenced, to a considerable extent, by the different circumstances of the people. Capital and labor, if regarded separately, have apparently different interests:—and yet these powers, if left to their unrestricted action, under the salutary influence of our system, mutually sustain and cherish each other. Those who represent each, will, in the progress of affairs, change their positions; laborers will become capitalists, and capitalists laborers:—and these quiet, and peaceful, and equalizing revolutions, will be ever in progress; neither power predominating, or injuriously controlling the other; but both contributing, in perfect harmony, to the promotion of the general welfare.

It is to this free and natural combination of labor and capital, under the controlling influence of religious and civil liberty, that we must ascribe the unexampled progress of civilization and refinement amongst us, the advance of science and the arts, and the illustrations which surround us on every side, of the power of man to exalt his moral and intellectual nature. Yet it is a fact, not to be concealed, that the interests, so beneficially and justly united by the wise policy of our system, are not always content with that equality of rights, which is in fact the best security of both. Capital, with untiring industry, is ever seeking, from the Legislature, the grant of special protection and perpetuity of privilege. This, if admitted, is at once destructive of the balance between those powers, which it should be the aim of government steadily to maintain, and works most injuriously to the citizen, leading to oppression on the one hand, and to independence on the other. Thus, the beautiful order of the whole system is deranged, and the foundations upon which this noble structure of government has risen, to command the admiration and control the destinies of the world, are undermined. To counteract this injurious tendency of capital, and to confine it within the just limits prescribed by the Constitution, is the high and imperative duty of every citizen, and especially of those to whose official guardianship the public interests are confided.

Impressed with the force of this obligation, and with a fixed purpose to maintain all the principles of our government, I adhere to the opinions I had the honor to announce in my first Inaugural Address; and I avail myself of this occasion to add, that I hold every attempt on the part of those who are entrusted with delegated and limited powers, to create public debt without providing ample means for its payment, within a reasonable period; to make contracts in the form of grants to individuals for binding posterity; to create new powers of government, without the consent of the people; to place any delegated powers, which are dependent upon the popular will, beyond its control; to increase or diminish any executive, legislative or judicial power, as defined by the Constitution, is interdicted by that instrument, or manifestly unwise and impolitic. These opinions are only a response to the public sentiment, in regard to the principles of the government, which sentiment is always in advance of those who affect to distrust the judgment of the people, and doubt their capacity to rule themselves.

With an earnest desire fully to realize the imposing solemnity of my position, and feeling my dependence on our Heavenly Father, I humbly invoke His assistance, that His strength may sustain, and His wisdom direct me in the performance of all the duties of the high office to which I am called; that I may always recognize the sensibility of those to whom the people have delegated any portion of their sovereignty, and use the power conferred upon me, for the single purpose of promoting the public good, preserving inviolate all the cherished principles of liberty, and adding to the stability of the foundations upon which they rest.

FRS. R. SHUNK.

John Jacob Astor, the millionaire of New York, is said to be dangerously ill. He is now ninety years of age.

The Caledonia steamer sailed from Boston on Saturday, for England—she took out two hundred thousand dollars in specie.

Gen. Pierce, and Major McCulloch, of the Rangers, direct from Mexico, have arrived in Washington city.

A man in New York is exhibiting the snake that killed Dr. Wainwright.

## Remarks of Mr. Meek,

Of Centre county.

ON THE SUBJECT OF COMMON SCHOOLS.

Mr. Bushnell, of Wayne, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That 5000 copies of the report of the Superintendent of Common Schools, be printed in English, and 2000 in German for distribution among the people of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Bull, of Chester, proposed to amend, by striking off the 2000 German copies.

On the amendment, Mr. Meek, remarked:

Mr. SPEAKER:—When the report of the Superintendent of Common Schools, in this State, was read to the House, I intended to move for the publication of 10,000 copies in English, and 3,000 in German. The motion of the gentleman from Wayne to print 5,000 English, and 2,000 German copies, in addition to those already printed, is, I think, the least possible number that we can in decency propose, if we would benefit our constituency by the circulation of this able and useful state paper.

We must give our friends information of what is done, and now doing with their money. I go for economy where the improvement and intelligence of the people are not retarded thereby. But we must stop for that. The people pay all; bear all burdens, and demand of us imperatively, a knowledge of the purposes for which we appropriate their money. Then do permit us to circulate the reports of the public officers of this Commonwealth freely among the people. They read—they enquire—they think.

The principal objection is "printing so many copies in German." Now, to my mind, this is precisely the best part of the resolution. We have a large German population in the heart of the State, whose claims are to be respected. Many of them not only speak, but read and think in German. They are our nearest, wealthiest and most successful farmers. Yes, sir, they are the MODEL FARMERS of this great nation.

Sir, no man on this floor can boast a nobler consistency than myself. Honest, industrious, frugal, upright and intelligent; they are at once the honor and ornament of this great, good old Commonwealth.

But it is of the German part of my constituency, I wish now particularly to speak. They form what has aptly been termed, the "OLD GUARD" of the Democracy of Centre county. From where I live, at the extreme west, to the lower end of Penna valley, lies a row of townships where our German population mainly reside. In four of these townships we only circulate German tickets pending an election; it is here we have our strength; here are the incorruptible, staunch, sterling Democracy—when we foot up our election returns, we usually have from five to six hundred majority.—Hero, sir, are good farms and farmers—good barns and other improvements—good men and true. I love the German character because of its uniformity—its stability. It, like your hills and mountains, is unchangeable.

I know it is objected, that they are behind the times—not up to the age—benighted, dark, ignorant. This is not the fact—far from it—as all may see who acquaint themselves with them. I admit my German constituents to be primitive and uniform in their habits. While the wily and changeable Yankee, cameleon-like, changes his manners, the cut of his coat, and shape of his hat, with every fresh importation of fashion, my sturdy old German friend wears his broad hat and drab over-coat, the same through life!—perhaps the same his father wore—rides a good horse—manufactures much of what he wears, and preserves the same simple, unostentatious manners through life.

Some gentlemen have expressed a wish to have the German, as a vernacular language, extinguished in this country. I have no sympathy with such a wish; I am not of that mind; nay, sir, I should regret it greatly. I trust it will never cease to be taught in our common and high schools, and spoken in our country. I prize the noble old German—the deep, strong, rough language of our Saxon ancestors. If the Anglo Saxon be better, it owes most to its deep Saxon root—its great mixture with this fountain—prolific of the richest and most profound literature. Why drive it out of the country.

Sir, the German Saxon was the language of the great LUTHER—the language of the Reformation.

It is charged by those opposed to the resolution, that the Germans are slow to adopt the common school system; yea, that they oppose it. I readily concede that they are slow to fall in with new and novel enterprises. This is their way. They look before they leap; they reason—they inquire for evidence of the utility of new measures. Is this wrong? Is it a fault? Not with me. I love this very slowness. It keeps them aloof from the interminable changes of the age. Once gain the confidence of a German community, and you are sure of their friendship as long as you deserve it. You may always leap upon them.

Of this very character are my German constituents; always Democrats, good and true. It is for these I want Dutch docu-