

Letter from an Old Jacksonian Democrat

of Greenwood Township.

NEAR SEVEN STAR TAYLORS,

March 11, 1876.

My Dear Mr. Editor:—There were

not many young fellows at the Stars

to-night, for you must know that

down here, as elsewhere in the

Christian world, the courting is

done on Saturday night. But, I

tell you, if the young fellows

were away, the old fellows made

it up. They seemed keen on the

talk about a "man and a woman."

A talk on the subject of a "man and a

woman" is always an interesting

subject at the Stars, and on this

evening it was up to fever pitch,

on account of the fuss that

Belknap and his wife kicked up at

Washington, and the way they

went for the woman, nearly made

my hair stand on end. You see the

Speaks are like old Andy Jackson;

they have a warm side for the

woman always. You know how

Old Hickory took down his pistol

and he was a good shot with that

weapon, and was leaving the house

to shoot some fellow who said

Mrs. Jackson smoked a corn-cob

pipe, when she stopped him at the

door and said he shouldn't mind it,

that she didn't, that it was small

talk. He listened, of course, and

did not shoot the fellow. Old

Hickory was always on the side of

the women when they were right.

He must have come from a

Knightly race of men, for his

bearing to the woman who could

claim his attention was the

homage of a princely politeness

without a shade of weakness or

tyranny in it. Andy Jackson never

blew foul breath on a woman; he

wasn't eternally grumbling about

Evil's fall. He always contended

that at least half of that load

should be put on Adam's shoulders,

for if Adam hadn't eaten, most

likely Eve would have been put

away and then he would have

got another Eve, or some other

woman, and the garden would

yet be in existence, and we

would all be happy. Andy

always said the woman couldn't

alone make trouble; it must be

a "man and a woman," and he

never was so conceited as to

declare himself exalted so highly

as to be out of the reach of

temptation, though, to his

credit he said that during all

his long public career he ever

remained faithful, steady as the

needle to the pole, to Mrs. Jackson.

Old Hickory was particularly

severe on men who professed

to be stone blind to the graces

of womanhood, and always held

himself in distrust on the question

of a "man and a woman," for

he had read of so many illustrious

men who fell under the charms

of womanhood, or rather because

of a questionable kind. He

never forgot David and Uriah's

wife, and there was Julius Cesar,

who once was so exalted that he

expressed the sentiment that it

is so common now, that "Cesar's

wife must not only be virtuous,

but Cesar's wife must be above

suspicion;" and not long after

became the party to one of the

most famous "man and a woman

intrigues" in the history of the

world. Old Hickory always

prayed for power to withstand

temptation, or keep from

tempting him. He always held

that in ninety-nine cases in a

hundred the man is the tempter,

and not the woman. He said

that if the Devil has sex he is a

man, and consequently instead

of the race falling through a

woman he fell through a man.

How I wish Old Hickory could

now live and see how life and

step in and help stop the

outrageous arguments that are

daily circulated against the

women for their intrigues and

extravagance. He would find

the Speaks with him, as they

couldn't be found on the other

side without outraging their

pedigree, for in the lists of the

doings of the Old World of

centuries ago, their names were

poised for defenseless women.

Old Hickory knew that it was

the virtue of Lucretia that

expelled the Tarquins and made

Rome a Republic. He never forgot

that the virtue of Esther, through

Abasnerus, her husband, King

of the Medes and Persians, saved

her people from the slaughter

of the sword; and he could

never get done telling of the

good that has come through

women to man at Bethlehem,

on the night when voices in the

sky proclaimed "Peace on

earth and good will to men." He

always closed, in discussing

the subject of a "man and a

woman," by saying that his

"mother was a woman," and

that when he condemned

womanhood he was condemning

his mother. Andy was too

high strung for that. He was

right when he set it down for a

fact that the men are to blame

for the shortcomings of the

women in most cases. I know

if Old Hickory could step

about Washington in the

best now, how he would

give it to Belknap, first for

stealing from the Government,

and then for blaming it on

the wife. Whenever a

woman goes into the

business that Belknap was in,

and then when he is caught,

knowing any man who does

so will sooner or later be,

and sets up a cry over it

and blames it on his wife, he

may be set down as one of the

most contemptible sneaks that

can be scared up. Old

Hickory scorned all such

people. Such a howl as is now

going up against the women

for extravagance. The fellows

are fools for so howling, and

haven't brains enough to

reason that the men are the

cause of the extravagance.

They haven't wit enough to

see that if the men didn't

like it the women wouldn't

indulge in it. They haven't

brains enough to see that the

women dress and are gay to

please the men. The

Belknaps, who are giving it

to the women now haven't

wit enough to know that

Mrs. Belknap made her show

to please her husband. He

set up the standard of

show as a Cabinet officer,

and she was capable of filling

it as he wanted it. What a

senseless fellow he was to

raise it to such a pitch that

his income couldn't stand it.

He stole to keep it up, got

his wife to help him, and

then blames it on her. Old

Andy would say he meant

to "dog" her. Belknap is

one of a class that will live

beyond his means, and his

life at Washington proves

how much he will take from

other people when he can get

it. He is one of a class of

dumb men who believe that

to be in office means that a

man must make a great show.

Old Hickory didn't believe that

Belknap believed that he must

live like the noblemen of the

Old World. It would be all

right for him to live that way

on his own money, but he

believed that he must live that

way to be something in this

Government. He was too

dumb to understand that this

Government is not built on

the same kind of a foundation

as those in the Old World. He

wanted to be an aristocrat

and didn't know how. Aristocracy