

The ANTI-LOUNGER... No. IV.

I am just returned from the Connellaga wagon, in Market Street, whither I ventured on my creepers on the ice, to give Jack Hairbrain a private interview, whom I have reclaimed beyond the most sanguine expectations of grey hairs, wisdom and experience.

I always leave the Connellaga Wagon with a melancholy impression. In a room on the first floor, (called now Number 7,) died Major General Lee, once the second in command of the Army of the United States. I was present when Life's Ever-fifth Dream was over with the General. I witnessed his last struggles. I cannot use a word more appropriate than struggles, for there seemed to be a conflict between him and the King of Terrors. He seemed to have lost his senses. The last words I heard him utter, were, "Stand by me, my brave Grenadiers."

This event happened on the second of October, 1782. His earthly remains were conveyed to the burying ground of Christ Church.

It was my original design to have given some anecdotes of general Lee, to have followed him to his privacy, to have traced him to his pleasures, in which no man is a hypocrite; but there are so many gentlemen who have seen him in his social hour, so much better qualified to discharge the task, that moderation bids me decline it. Leaving, therefore, his biography for a more able hand, I shall consider him as a writer.

Were I to be asked what writer I consider the most spirited, racy and elegant in the English language, I should not hesitate to say general Lee. A genius ever capable of exercising its judgment, and appropriating its various knowledge, an unerring taste formed on the standards of elegant composition, a style and language collected from the pure wells of English undefiled; these were the qualities and qualifications of Lee as a writer. Of strong glowing passions, there was always a contest between his reason and feelings; his reason was generally subservient to his rage; and hence his haughty, fiery interrogations; hence his wild intemperate reports, his libellous strain; hence his outrage of invective.

The effect of Lee's pamphlets and other fugitive pieces at the period Americans were ripe to venerate themselves as men, and assert their independence, is not sufficiently appreciated. It is passively admitted to have been the author of Common Sense who swayed the minds of the people.

But Lee did more; he aspired to work more dignified; he influenced their leaders. Who but Lee determined a hesitating, irresolute body, by energetic and skillful oratory? Who but Lee inflamed their dissatisfaction, and roused them to a brave and patriotic efforts? Who was there but Lee that could shake their allegiance to their sovereign, and with the necromancy of a magician blatt at one stroke their loyalty, subordination and submissiveness?

We have the authority of Mr. Rodney (I could wish that gentlemen would impart more fully his conference with the general) that Lee avowed himself the author of the celebrated letters signed Junius. I believe it from his soul; I entertain no scepticism on that head.

The name of Heron is celebrated in the republic of letters; his industry is unquestionably great; and he will produce a quarto volume, where another writer who could not fill a single sheet. His authority is, therefore, great, for, as Lee himself has observed, "the form and magnitude of a quarto is proper on the mind; and men who are unequal to the labor of distilling an intricate argument, or wish to avoid it, are willing enough to suppose that much has been proved, because much has been said." "I have discovered," exclaims Mr. Heron, "the author of Junius's letters; it was Dunning; no other than Dunning, afterwards Lord Ashburton!"

But all this is mere sound and fury, signifying nothing. It is mere assertion. It proves nothing. It is like a man who hallooed before he gets out of the wood.

There are but two modes that I know to prove an author's claim, namely, external and internal evidence. Of external evidence, that Lee wrote the letters signed Junius, there is but Mr. Rodney's; I shall confine myself to internal evidence. The last letter of Junius is dated January 9, 1783.

In a letter by Lee, dated Warlaw May 1787, is the subsequent passage.

"I will, by practice, to make myself a soldier, for purposes honest, but which I shall not mention. If I am defeated in any intention of joining the Russians, I think of passing through Hungary, and spending the entire winter in the south of Italy, Sicily, or some of the islands in

the Aegean sea. As you are a scholar, I venture to talk to you this caper." "As to England, I am rejoiced not to set my foot in it, still the virtue which I believe to exist in the body of the people can be put into motion. I have good reasons for it. My spirits and temper were much affected by the measures which I was witness of—measures absolutely moderate, laudable and virtuous, in comparison of what has been transacted since. To return solemn thanks to the Crown for the manifestly corrupt dissipation of its enormous revenues and impudent demand on the people: to repair this dissipation, to complete their own ruin, its pushing severity further than the rascally Senate of Tiberius!"

I believe there is not one of my readers throughout the Union who will not acknowledge that the sentiments I have just cited, was the mirror of the breast of Junius a twelvemonth before he published his first spirited, indignant epistle, on the invasion of the rights of a great and free people.

If it be objected that there is more apparent labor in the style and language of Junius, let it be remembered that a man in an undress, and dressed for a public assembly, makes a different appearance.—And it is not to be supposed that Junius, who of all writers keeps the most leadily in view the object of his eloquence, would address Mrs. McCauley, with the elaborateness that characterizes his letters to the Printer of the Public Advertiser.

But on this ground I will meet any opponent, and not desire a better. I will show in the progress of this dissertation that the very combinations of Junius's phrases may be traced without difficulty to the common places of Lee.

For my opinion to have weight, and what I instance to be conclusive, I must first attend to the chronology of Lee's life. However ignorance may assert, sophistry evade, or impudence deny, it is a truth not left clear than the sun at noon-day, that Lee was in London from the year 1768 to 1772 inclusive. He embarked for America, on the 16th August, 1773, and it was not till after the last letter subscribed Junius appeared, that he absented himself from England to the neighboring continent. For the proof of this I have not only the testimony of Mr. Rodney, but a record left erring and inaccurate than tradition.

I proceed now to track Junius to the fow of Lee.

LEE. If these hints are attended to, I shall reap no personal glory; if they are despised, I shall be no personal sufferer, as my name will probably never be known.

JUNIUS. This is not the language of vanity. If I am a vain man, my gratification lies within a narrow circle. I am the sole depositary of my own secret, and it shall perish within me.

LEE. Mr. Touchit, or Touchat (for I have not the honor of knowing how he spells his name) and every kind of courtretainer is gratified with a lot.

JUNIUS. I will not bear hard upon your faithful friend and emissary Mr. Touchit; for I know the difficulties of his situation, and that a few lottery tickets are of use to his economy.

LEE. Charles the First was an execrable tyrant. He met with no harder fate than he deserved. And his two sons ought in justice to have made the same exit.

JUNIUS. Charles the First lived and died a hypocrite. Charles was a hypocrite of another sort, and should have died upon the same scaffold.

LEE. I know not whether the author is a layman or ecclesiastic, but he bears strongly the characters of the latter: he has the want of candor and truth, the apparent spirit of persecution, the unfor-giveness, the deadly hatred to dissenters, and the zeal for arbitrary power which has distinguished churchmen in all ages, and more particularly the high part of the church of England.

JUNIUS. He was incapable of the liberal resentment of a gentleman. It was the solitary, vindictive malice of a monk, brooding over the infirmities of his friend, until he thought they quickened into public life, and feasting with a rapturous rancor upon the forlorn catalogue of his distresses. Now let him go back to his cloister. The church is a proper retreat for him. In his principles he is already a bishop.

LEE. When Moyson had the honor of being presented to the king, well general, said his majesty, so you have been cast; and who were the counsel employed by your doughty adversary? The general, a veteran Courtier, long accustomed to royal wag-gery, snarlingly replied, the learned Sirgent Gyan, and the profound duke of Richmond. This was so prodigiously witty, that the whole circle, lords of the bed-chamber, maids of honor, and privy council, all burst out into a loud laugh.

JUNIUS. When his majesty had done reading his speech the lord mayor had the honor of kissing his majesty's hand; after which, as they were withdrawing, his majesty instantly turned round to his Courtiers, and burst out a laughing.

LEE. His facility and complacency (speaking of Lord Granby) to the wickedness of the

court, preponderated over his natural love of justice.

JUNIUS. His mistaken public conduct (speaking of Lord Granby) did not arise either from want of sentiment, or want of judgment, but in general from the difficulty of flying No, to the bad people who surrounded him.

The goodness of his heart is taken from the facility of his never refusing LEE.

This may be a very excellent joke at St. James's, &c.

JUNIUS. This may be logic at Cambridge, &c. LEE.

Unless the banditti at Westminster speedily undo every thing they have done, the Royal Pay-Master will hear of reviews and manoeuvres not quite so entertaining as those he is preferred with at Black-heath and Wimbledon Common.

JUNIUS. One would think his Majesty's Campaigns at Black-heath and Wimbledon might have taught him better. LEE.

The expedition against the Havannah was at this time resolved upon; the troops and fleet were in readiness; my Lord of Albemarle was on this principle appointed to the command, and on this principle so enormously enriched at the expence of the labor, health and blood of the most noble deserving army that this, or perhaps any other country, has been served by His Lordship and his family were indeed aggrandized; but the great views of the distributors were happily disappointed.

JUNIUS. If it be generosity to accumulate in his own person and family a number of lucrative employments; to provide, at the public expence, for every creature that bears the name of Manners; [Lord Albemarle's name] and neglecting the merit and services of the rest of the army, to heap promotions upon his favorites and dependents; the present commander and chief is the most generous man alive.

In the preceding coincidences of thought and expression I have been studiously careful, that my citations from Lee belonged to papers written unquestionably before the beginning of 1769. Did not the limits prescribed to a periodical writer inhibit me from protruding this lubrication, I could go on to multiply resemblances till I had transcribed nearly the whole of Lee and Junius into my work. I shall resume the subject in a future number; it will deservedly arrest attention. For who can be insensible to the literary merit of Lee? Who can regard with coldness the poignancy of his wit, his synthetic mode of reasoning, the terseness of his language, his knowledge of political parties, the fire of his invective, the elegance of his style, and his polished satire.

•• Opera is returned. I earnestly entreat Mr. Rodney to communicate what he knows more on this topic; a topic that cannot but agitate the breast of every man of taste, whether he be an inhabitant of Europe or Asia, of Africa or America.

Congress OF THE United States of America. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, January 28. Mr. Brown presented a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Northampton and Berkshire counties, praying the establishments of a post road from Bethlehem to Berwick. Referred to the committee on post offices and post-roads.

Mr. Nelson presented a petition from James Royston, an old revolutionary soldier of the 1st Regiment of Artillery, attached to the Maryland line, praying for relief in consequence of his inability from wounds received in the service to provide for himself and family. Referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. Holland moved for the appointment of a committee to report on the disposition of certain lots of ground in the city of Washington which had been given by the former proprietors for public walks and gardens, in such a manner as to answer the purposes of their original appropriation. Referred to a Committee of five.

Mr. Findley presented a petition from the Presbyterian Congregation at George Town, praying for a charter of incorporation. Referred to a committee of five.

Mr. Smilie presented a petition from a number of the inhabitants of the state of Ohio, praying to be indulged with a longer time to make payment for the lands purchased of the United States. Referred to the committee appointed on the subject of the disposal of the public lands north-west of the Ohio.

Mr. J. Clay presented a bill from the committee on that part of the President's message relating to our intercourse with the Indian tribes, which being twice read, was referred to a committee of the whole for Wednesday next.

A message was received from the President of the United States, informing that he had approved and signed the act making an appropriation for the support of the navy for the year 1855; also, the bill appropriating 130,000 dollars for

completing the south wing of the Capitol and other purposes.

A message from the Senate by Mr. Otis their secretary, informing that they had passed the bill for the relief of J. Steele.

The House, on motion of Mr. John Randolph, balloted for a manager instead of Mr. R. Nelson excused; on counting the ballots, amounting in the whole to 95, Mr. Clarke had 52 votes, and was declared duly elected.

Mr. J. Clay moved that a committee be appointed to enquire whether any, and if any what alterations were necessary in the act to prescribe the mode of taking evidence in case of contested Elections of members of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to compel the attendance of witnesses, and that the committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. G. Griswold presented a petition from Abraham Wakebar of Warren, an old revolutionary soldier, praying relief. Referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. Claiborne called for the order of the day, on the bill for the extinguishment of debts due by the United States. On the question to take up the same, only 17 members rose; it was of course lost.

Mr. Dana called for the order of the day on the Yazoo claims.

Mr. J. Randolph called for the order of the day on the report of the committee on the Louisiana business.

On Mr. Dana's call, a motion was made to postpone the same till Thursday next, that motion failed, the division being 51 in the affirmative, and 55 in the negative.

It was moved to postpone it until tomorrow; this motion was carried, 65 members voting for it.

The House then agreed to Mr. J. Randolph's motion to go into a committee of the whole on the Louisiana memorial.

The following resolution, which concludes the report of the select committee, was agreed to without a division.

Resolved, That provision ought to be made, by law, for extending to the inhabitants of Louisiana the right of self government.

The committee rose, and the House immediately concurred without a division in their report, and instructed the same committee that brought in the report to bring in the necessary bills.

Dr. Eustis presented a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Charleston, near Boston, praying to be established as a port of entry.

Referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Crownshield reported from the committee of Commerce and Manufactures, against the petition from Plymouth, in North Carolina, praying to be established as a port of entry. The report was referred to the committee of the whole, for Wednesday.

The House went into a committee of the whole, on the motion of Mr. Root, on the bill to discharge John York from his imprisonment.

Mr. TENNEY, in the Chair. After some time spent in considering the same, the committee rose and reported the bill; which being agreed to by the House, it was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. J. Clay moved that a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law for the more effectual prevention of fraud and forgery on the bank of the United States. The motion was carried, and referred to a committee of three.

The House went into a committee of the whole on Dr. Eustis's motion for sitting up and preparing one of the Navy Yards on the margin of the ocean for the reception and repair of our vessels of war on their return to the United States.

Mr. VARNUM, in the Chair. A lengthy discussion took place on this motion, and several attempts were made to alter it; all which having failed, the committee agreed to the original resolution and reported it to the House.

The vote was 53 in its favor, and 51 against it.

Mr. Claiborne called for the Yeas and Nays on taking the question upon the same in the House.

But while the members were rising in support of Mr. C's call, a motion was made and carried to adjourn.

TUESDAY, January 29. The motion of Dr. Eustis for preparing and sitting up one of the Navy Yards on the margin of the ocean for the reception and repair of the vessels of war now on cruise or foreign station, being the unfinished business of yesterday was taken up.

Mr. Nicholson moved to refer it to a select committee.

On the question, there were 47 yeas, and 62 noes, so it was lost.

Dr. Eustis moved to postpone the consideration of the same till Saturday next. Agreed to.

Mr. Nicholson called for the order of the day on the bill making provision for the preservation of peace in the ports and harbors of the United States, and in the waters under their jurisdiction.

Mr. Thomas reported from the committee for the purpose a bill to authorize Joshua Sands and others to erect a bridge across the marsh and Wobles-baugh in Navy Yard on Long Island, which was read twice, and referred to a committee of the whole for to-morrow.

Mr. Elliot renewed his call for the order of the day, which was agreed to, accordingly the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the Yazoo claims.

Gen. VARNUM, in the Chair. After a short discussion, the committee rose and reported the resolution in favor of admitting the claim by way of compromise.

The vote was 61 in the affirmative, and 50 against it.

The House took the report of the committee of the whole into consideration—and

Mr. Clark proposed to amend the resolution by adding a proviso. That no part of the five millions of acres reserved to compensate certain claims, should be applied to the benefit of the claimants under the act passed or pretend-d to be passed by the legislature of Georgia in the year 1795.

On this question Mr. J. Randolph called the yeas and nays, in which he was supported by the constitutional number.

Mr. J. Randolph went into an argument showing the impropriety of the measure; and the sitting terminated some time after the usual hour by an adjournment.

TRENTON, January 28.

BARCLAY vs. COOK.—At the late Somerset court a very interesting cause was tried, in which the Rev. M. Barclay of Boundbrook was plaintiff, and Dr. Aaron Cook defendant.

It seems that a report had for some time past been in circulation in that neighborhood, that Mr. Barclay lived in the habitual violation of the seventh commandment. The enormity of the transgression, and the sacred profession of the accused, gave great interest to the report. It spread far and wide; and from some circumstances accompanying it, obtained full credence with many.

Whether it was true or false, is not for us to say. Mr. Barclay, however, thought proper to endeavor to arrest the report, and wipe the foul stain from his character, by commencing actions for damages against several persons who had assisted in giving it report currency.—The first that was tried, was that in which Dr. Cook was defendant. Several able lawyers were employed by each of the parties; and this, added to the general interest the cause had excited, drew together an immense concourse of people. The trial lasted three days. The jury were out several hours, and at length returned with a verdict—eighty dollars damage.

NEWARK, January 29.

FIRE!—On the morning of Thursday last about half after one o'clock, a fire was discovered in the house of Major Samuel Hays, of this town; and notwithstanding the alacrity of our citizens in turning out, and their exertions at the fire, the house together with the principal part of the contents were consumed.—And had not a person who accidentally passed by, alarmed the family, it is altogether probable a part if not all of them would have perished in the flames.

In this providential escape they had to fly with no other apparel than what they went to rest in; and but a few escaped without receiving some personal injury by the fire.

The goods lost in the house, at a moderate calculation, is estimated at 1500 dollars. The fire originated in the cellar.

The want of Fire-Buckets was manifestly evident on this occasion. Every body was proceeding to the fire, but nobody had Buckets to hand water for its extinguishment. We believe 20 could not have been counted. The consequence was, the ludicrous sight of men snow-balling a house, to put out the fire!

On Saturday evening last, about dusk, we were again alarmed by the cry of fire. It proved to be a Cooper's shop occupied by Mr. Hoyt, in the upper part of the town, which by the exertions of the citizens, was happily extinguished without damage.

THE WEATHER.—The winter thus far has been extremely severe.—We have had more snow than common; and the cold weather is remarkably tedious and steady. The Snow has been falling without intermission for nearly forty-eight hours; and at the time our paper was put to press, (Monday 7 o'clock P.M.) it still continued falling.—It is well on 20 inches deep on an average.—We believe such a body of snow on the ground at one time has scarcely been known since the hard winter of 1780. Indeed, it is a people remark, that the present winter season, thus far, resembles that winter more than any one since that period.

PHILA DELPHIA, January 30.

LONGEVITY.—There are now living in Hilltown Township, Bucks county, two aged women, who have survived potter-ry down to the fourth generation.—One of whom can with propriety say, "Arise daughter, and go to your daughter, for your daughter's daughter has daughters. The genealogy of the other is interminable with sons."