

L. LXXVIII.

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LEGAL EXECUTIONS.

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE

UNITED STATES, TRANSMITTING TO THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES A REPORT

OF THE EXECUTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN

MADE IN THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES

SINCE THE YEAR 1815.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH A RESOLUTION

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON THE 10TH DECEMBER 1819.

BY

JAMES MONROE,

SECRETARY OF WAR.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 8TH, 1820.

DEPARTMENT, 6th Jan. 1820.

I have caused the records of

the department to be examined for

information it possesses respecting

certain executions & other

transactions, which may have been

contrary to the laws and regula-

tions provided for the govern-

ment of the army, since the year

1815, conformably to a resolution

of the House of Representatives

of the 10th Dec. 1819, requesting

me to lay before it any information

possessed respecting such execu-

tions, which have been made

in the army of the United States

since the year 1815, contrary to

the laws and regulations pro-

vided for the government of the

army, since the year 1815, con-

formably to a resolution of the

House of Representatives of the

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army, since the year 1815, con-

formably to a resolution of the

House of Representatives of the

10th Dec. 1819, requesting me

The Secretary of War directs, that

you forthwith make a particular and

detailed report, stating the orders,

by whom given, by whom executed,

on whom executed, and the time

when executed; with such other

facts as you may deem important on

this subject. I have the honour to

be, sir, your obedient servant,

D. PARKER,

Adjutant and Inspector General.

Col. William King, 4th Infantry,

Tensaw post office, Alabama.

B.

Adjutant and Insp. Gen's Office,

Aug. 10, 1819.

Sir: The commanding general of

the south division has, this day, been

ordered to detail and organize a

general court martial, for the trial of

Col. Wm. King, of the 4th Infantry.

You will therefore, relieve C. I. King

in his command, put him in arrest,

and direct him to remain at such a

place as you shall deem most con-

venient, to meet the orders of the

general of division. You will report

his arrest and station to Gen. Jack-

son, as soon as practicable. By or-

der,

D. PARKER,

Adjutant and Inspector General.

Major Gen. Gaines, US, Army,

Augusta, Georgia.

C.

Extract of a General Order, dated

Adj. and Insp. Gen's Office,

Aug. 10, 1819.

General Order.

'The commanding general of the

south division will detail and organ-

ize a general court martial, as soon

as practicable, consistent with the

interest of the service, for the trial

of Col. Wm. King, of the 4th In-

fantry. Such charges, documents

and communications, as the War

Department possess, are herewith

transmitted, to be put into the hands

of the judge advocate of the south

division, or such officer as may be

deputed for that duty, in case he

cannot attend the court.'

D.

Adj. & Insp. Gen. Office,

30th September, 1819.

SIR,

The President directs me to

state that he has examined your

report of the 2d inst. and the several

communications referred to, relative

to the troops attached to your com-

mand.

The corporal punishment inflicted

on the men at West Point, being

contrary to law, is not justified

by the reasons given for it. It is a

cause of much regret to see an offi-

cer of merit and discernment giv-

ing sanction to a proceeding so high-

ly improper. If evils attain an al-

arming height, they should be sta-

ted to the Department, that such re-

medies as the laws authorize, & the

means of the government are equal

to, may be applied to them, but in

no case should an officer take the

remedy in his own hands, especially

in a manner positively prohibited by

law.

These acts are disapproved, and

the President directs that you pre-

vent their recurrence.

I have the honour to be, sir, your

obedient servant, D. PARKER,

Adj. & Insp. Gen.

To Major S. Thayer,

Superintendent Military Acade-

ing a part of the 87th article of the

rules and articles of war.

It also appears, that soon after

the peace, two general courts mar-

tial, ordered by Gen. Macomb, sen-

tenced several soldiers to receive

fifty lashes each, which sentences

were approved by the general, and

ordered to be carried into effect.

As such sentences have not since

occurred, it is presumed that an im-

pression prevailed in that command,

at that time, that the act fixing the

peace establishment, by generally

repealing the laws enacted during

the late war, restored the provision

which authorised punishment by

stripes and lashes before the war.

These are the only cases I have

been able to find on the records; &

it will be observed that all, except

that of Major McGlassin, were with-

in the jurisdiction of the command-

ing general, and never came up to

the War Department, but as a place

of deposit for the records of courts

to the end that the persons entit-

led thereto may be enabled, upon ap-

plication, to obtain copies thereof.' In

this case, the sentence of the court

was approved by the President, and

the Major was accordingly dismis-

sed the service. I have the honour

to be, sir, with respect, your

obedient servant,

D. PARKER,

Adj. & Insp. Gen.

To the Secretary of War.

CHOICE OF A WIFE.

'Tis not the bold and romping fair,

Nor she whose free and wanton air,

I shuns her of success:

'Tis not the proud assuming dame,

Nor she whose nice and tender

frame,

With danger you would press.

These have no charms for me at

all,

I equally contemn them all.

But 'tis the mild and modest maid,

Whose temper sweet can never

fade,

Who'll please without alloy;

Who's gentle, mild, attractive air,

Proclaims her fairest of the fair,

'Tis she's my only joy.

O! all this world I'd range around,

If I knew where she could be found.

'Tis she who'd bear the galling

hour,

Of adverse fortune's bitter'd sour.

And share with equal glee,

The prosperous gale of fortune's

smile,

And with her charms my cares be-

guile,

'Tis she's the maid for me.

'Tis she who'd captive hold my

heart,

And wound me deep with Cupid's

dart.

For not the wealth of all Peru,

It join'd with Venus' beauty too,

Would me induce to wed,

Unless with these I found combin'd

The virtues which adorn the mind,

And store the female head,

For these indeed I prize more high,

Than massy wealth and beauty's

dye.

But if the destinies above,

Decree that ever I shall love,

O! grant propitious heav'n,

That it may be my happy fate,

To gain the maid I supplicate,

Or else that none be given.

For rather than another woo,

I still would live as now I do.

A BACHELOR.

PARAGRAPHS,

From the London papers.

A new mode of lighting public

buildings has been discovered in

Scotland. At Dumfries, the Meth-

odist Chapel is brilliantly & beau-

tifully lighted with Gas, at a very

trifling expense. The apparatus

cost only 16."

A Portsmouth paper says, Mr. S.

Canning, late British Minister in

Switzerland, is going in the same

quality to the United States of North

America.

On the 3d of Nov. a concert was

given at Edinburgh for charitable

purposes; the receipts were five

thousand, three hundred and fifty-

four pounds, seven shillings and a

penny.

The Glasgow Courier of Nov.

25th, says, "that in the garden of a

Mr. Hanney, in Bangor, Ireland,

there is a Pear Tree, which has pro-

duced three crops this season, and

now has a fourth."

On the 2d Nov. a meeting of 'Ra-

dical Reformers' took place at Glas-

gow. About 30,000 persons were

present; they passed through Tron-

gate with flags, music, and a cap of

liberty, carried by a young female.

They had also a large broom placed

on the top of a pole, with this in-