

Thomas Speed, one of his letters is here copied; also an extract from a pamphlet he published on Temperance in 1830, and also some verses he wrote in 1806 :

LETTER TO HIS WIFE.

“WASHINGTON CITY, January 30, 1819.

“DEAR MARY: Your letter of the 16th I have just received, and it gives me great comfort to hear that you all continue well.

“Our time for a fortnight past has been employed in a debate on the conduct of General Jackson in relation to the Seminole war on the Southern frontier of the United States. The General has rendered some very important services to his country, particularly at New Orleans. But it is thought by many, and by myself among others, that he has of late adopted some bold and high-handed measures which require the monitory hand of Congress. The subject of this discussion, in the form of resolutions, offered by Mr. Cobb, of Georgia, you have seen in the *Intelligencer*. The execution of those two individuals, Arbuthnot and Ambruster, even admitting they were guilty as charged, was without the sanction of any law or usage of Government, and in cold blood. This is a power which ought not to be countenanced in any man. The invading the Spanish provinces, and forcibly taking possession of their forts, was unauthorized by any declaration of war by Congress, who alone have the power of declaring war, and it is only owing to the weakness of the Spanish Government if it does not involve us in a war with that power. The reasons he has given for having thus acted might probably have been the ground for declaring war by the proper authority, but can not justify him, more especially as it was contrary to his instructions. These, I say, are high-handed measures, but they are entirely in keeping with General Jackson's character, both as a citizen and an officer. He has never had the character of being very regardful of the rights of others, and, though the energy of his character has rendered him useful in some instances, it ought not to have unbridled sway.

“The debate has been very able and lengthy, but I expect the popularity of the General, and of the Executive who takes his part, will prevent the resolution of censure from passing. Indeed, I expect the cause of the General will be the most popular among the people, but I shall do what I conceive to be my duty, without regard to whom it may please or offend. I am glad the session is drawing to a close. I shall pack up and send my books next week. I had bought Dwight's Hymns and Psalms, and Watts'. If I can find the one Eliza wants, I will get it also. Give my love to Eliza and mother, and kiss the little boys for me.

Yours,

“THOMAS SPEED.”