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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

A work has lately appeared enti[tled] *"A Sketch of the Life and Literary [Car]eer of AUGUSTUS VON KOTZEBUE, [writte]n by himself."*

Kotzebue, who is still alive, and [seems] [to] be in the zenith of his reputation, is foremost in the rank of dramatic writers. The facility with which he writes, the energy with which he depicts character, and the general correctness of his sentiments, have made him the successive favorite of Germany, England, and America. His performances are very unequal, but all of them burn with the fire of genius.

The life of this man, penned by himself, exhibits the strongest evidence of candor and veracity.

As a true delineation, therefore, of the heart, it will be prized by all those who prefer simplicity to refinement. The whole succession of events which he describes, exhibits the liveliest picture of enthusiasm we have ever contemplated; and we are persuaded no one can view it without admiration and delight. The following extract will amuse the reader; but it is only the perusal of the whole performance unmutilated, that can give him an adequate idea of the author.

Of his youthful feelings he speaks thus:

"Come forth then, ye enchanting images of youth, though the pictures ye exhibit scarcely seem to bear any resemblance to my present self! Come forth! Delude my fancy, ye beloved shadows!—ascend, ye sweet hours of infancy, as a thin vapour from the ocean of the past, and float once more before my eyes!—I stand upon the brink of the stream of time, and eagerly watch the current as it bears my flower along upon its surface. Even now I behold it glittering upon the back of a wave, for the last time ere it be plunged into the depth below, and lost forever to my sight.

"Let me catch this last glitter! See there that boy who hangs with fixed eyes upon his mother's lips, while on a winter's evening she reads in some good book to him and his sister! See him again making a table of his stool, and a seat of the footstep, as he eagerly fe[a]sts upon a beloved romance, while his ball and hobby-horse lie neglected in a corner!—Ah, that boy is a child no longer!"

Of his first poetical attempt he observes:

"Well do I remember my first attempt at writing poetry. I was scarcely six years old, and used to keep my manuscript behind the looking-glass, with the rod.—The poem was to be a description of rural scenery, and the images for it were ransacked from all the poets with which I was then acquainted. I well remember the two following lines, since they particularly delighted me because they skipped so prettily:—

Es singet die steigende Lerche,
Es hupfen die Schæfgen am Berge.

The lark, ascending, sings,
The sheep skip upon the mountains.

"I was not at all aware, however, that they were dactyls; and indeed they were the only lines of that measure in the whole poem. For many days together did I puzzle my brains to make all the other [...]ance with equal agility, but in vain. The remainder of the poem was composed of heavy spondees, which I could not alter; neither could I comprehend how it was possible to make verses either creep on a foot's pace, or gallop at pleasure.

"Soon after I ventured on a first essay at dramatic writing. The fable of the Milk-maid and the two Huntsmen had accidentally fallen into my hands: the favorite little opera on that story was not then in existence, or at least was unknown to me. On this subject I wrote a comedy, which filled a whole octavo page. I was indeed sensible, that to bear any resemblance to a real comedy, it ought to have been immeasurably longer; but where was I to learn the art of spinning my thread to a proper length?"

He is next in love at seven years old.

"My passion for poetry soon produced its usual effect of rendering my infant heart extremely susceptible of tender impressions. My affections were now ardently fixed upon a very amiable young woman, even then grown up, and who afterwards became my aunt. On my seventh birthday, the 30th of May, 1768, I wrote a very passionate letter addressed to this lady, upon the blank leaf of a drawing-book.—I made her many tender reproaches for her cruelty in preferring the uncle to the nephew, vowed an unalterable fidelity to her, and concluded with requesting permission, as the greatest of all favours, to kiss her little delicate white hand.

"This circumstance I own to be in itself extremely insignificant. I only mention it on account of the consequences. My mother discovering the letter, and finding the expressions and turn of sentiment far above my years, was extremely delighted, nor could her maternal vanity forbear reading it in my presence to some visitors who were at the house. They very naturally, though to my utter confusion, laughed at it most heartily, and this gave the first really, and deeply tormenting sensation that I ever remember to have experienced. Nor were these feelings transitory. A lasting impression was made upon my soul; and every time the letter was read again—for my mother's vanity stopped not at a single reading; this torment was renewed with ever increasing bitterness. I used to retire to an out-house, where we kept wood, and there shed the most poignant tears of shame and disappointed ambition, till at length I secretly got the detested drawing-book out of a little green corner cupboard in which it was kept, and threw it into the fire.—From this period I lost for a long time all confidence in my mother, with regard to concerns of the heart; and I mention the circumstance as a warning to parents and others engaged in education, to be extremely cautious how they conduct themselves in this respect towards children of acute feelings. Nothi[ng] can be more hazardous than to expose them, even though only in sport, to the mortification of being put to the blush."

(To be Continued)

COURT MARTIAL.

IN THE CASE OF CAPTAIN LITTLE.

[CONCLUDED]

The Executive Government is at length deceived and induced to consider it a national concern. A Court Martial, consisting of respectable officers, is convened at great trouble and expence, and upon trial it appears, that the defendant has conducted towards his prisoners with the most perfect humanity and kindness, and with not less integrity towards the Government and his own crew; that no cruelty or unnecessary severity has been exercised, much less sanctioned; that the Capt. of the prize, the most proper organ and judge of the pretensions of his own crew, has lavished encomiums upon his polite and humane deportment, and what is most remarkable, that after a capture of a large and valuable ship of war, and among two crews, consisting of several hundred men, upon the most severe and extraordinary scrutiny ever instituted, all that is pretended to be missing are a few paltry watches and trinkets, which were probably plundered from our own citizens or others, and not one of which ever came into capt. Little's hands, or was submitted to his inspection. On the contrary, he relinquished to the French captain a sum more than equivalent to them all.

If upon charges originating in such sources, and supported by such evidence, a naval commander is thus exposed to vexation, expence and dishonour, great patriotism and fortitude will be requisite to induce men of honor and independent principles to encounter these dangers, more formidable than they can meet in battle, and which do not [e]xist in the service of other nations; they are not sure of victory, when their enemy is vanquished, but are liabl[e] to be led captive by their own prisoners in their own country.

It is, Mr. President and gentlemen, with you under these circumstances, to secure to capt. Little the only consolation which he is capable of receiving. By the forms of proceeding in courts of common law, the honest innocent man, even after an acquittal, is sometimes confounded with an equally fortunate, though less deserving character. The concise and icy verdict of not guilty is common to both, and is all that either can obtain. A court of honor is competent to do more than this; to approve as well as to acquit: and I persuade myself that this court will delight in this occasion of doing justice to a brave and meritorious brother officer. Acquainted with the embarrassments and vexations incident to naval command; with the passions of the human heart, which appear in all their unpleasant varieties in the crew of a large ship, you can decide whether capt. Little has betrayed a want of humanity and discretion. Realising the multiplicity of avocations, the incessant care and exertion, unavoidable by a commander in a long cruise, after a bloody conflict with a dismantled prize in tow, you can judge, whether he has been culpably deficient in vigilance, or ought to be responsible for the conduct of others: feeling as men of honor and spirit, you can appreciate his sensations at these dishonest attempts to cover him with ignominy, and sacrifice him to the rancor of men, who, with the same pleasure would see your epaulets torn from your shoulders, and this ship brought a wreck under the stern of that* which flaunts her colors in our view.

In making this defence I have carefully avoided every expression of censure and reproach against the administration, by whose order the court is instituted. No wonder with the unwearied pains which have been taken, that the executive officers should be deceived, and I willingly impute their orders on this occasion to a sincere desire to rescue the honor of our navy from reproach. Their promptitude however, in pursuing this investigation affords a laudable example for the French republic, in the coffers of some of whose naval commanders, upon examination, would be found, not merely a few contemptible baubles, but an accumulation of all the American spoil, which avarice, directed by fury, has been able to extort from the opulent merchant, the sailor, the fisherman; from the proud ships, which depend with the wealth of India, and the shallow craft that scudded from their pursuers with the gleanings of poor industry. Should this example rouse the rulers of that country to imitation and to justice, then indeed will an important benefit be derived to our nation.

* *The Berceau.*

SENTENCE

Of the Court Martial pronounced in the trial of captain George Little.

The court having heard all the evidence and the prisoner's defence, and maturely and seriously considered the whole, are unanimously of opinion, that the charges are malicious and ill-founded.

The court do therefore unanimously and honorably acquit the said captain George Little of the several articles contained in the charge against him; and he is hereby fully and honorably acquitted accordingly.

September 7. 1801.

(Signed) S. Nicholson, President,
Silas Talbot,
Stephen Decatur,
Alexander Murray,
Edward Prebble,
John Mullowny,
Thomas Robinson,
Hugh G. Campbell,
Cyrus Talbot.

George Blake, acting as Judge Advocate on the occasion.

THE LETTER.

Navy Department, Sept. 25, 1801.

The act of Congress for the better government of the navy of the United States, declares that no person of the navy shall pillage prisoners on board a prize, on pain of such punishment as a court martial shall adjudge. In the aforegoing case, among several unimportant informal allegations, there is a charge of pillage exhibited against capt. Little, and it was for the trial of this charge, principally that the court martial was constituted. Not only the honor of the nation, but the honor of this officer, was deeply implicated, and therefore called for such a solemn investigation. In this trial it was the government that was the party prosecuting. The prisoners were only as the informing witnesses in a criminal prosecution. These prisoners, in legal contemplation, are not, neither were they, in the contemplation of government, considered as parties. They could not have been, in any degree, benefited by a sentence against captain Little; because, a court martial is not competent to decree a restoration of any property alledged to have been pillaged: it is only competent in such a trial, to pass a sentence of acquittal or punishment.

The evidence adduced in this trial clearly proves, that the prisoners on board the prizes have been pillaged. It is apparent, that watches, rings, and buckles, constituting a part of the dress of the prisoners, have been pillaged from them by some persons belonging to the Boston frigate; that these articles, at the time of taking them, were not deemed, even by the persons who took them lawful prize; that they were not reported to the officers of the admiralty court as prize, to be adjudicated and condemned; that they have not at any time since been produced; and that no kind of satisfactory information has yet been given respecting them. But from the face of the proceedings of the court martial, it does appear, that the orders issued by captain Little were perfectly correct and legal; that he was not in any degree, a party in this mean and disgraceful pillage, and that the charge against him has no evidence, either positive or presumptive, to support it. I therefore, do approve of the senten[ce pro]nounced by the court mart[ial.]

RT. SM[ITH,]
Secretary of the N[avy.]

The foregoing are true copies from [the] originals on file in the navy departme[nt.]

CH. W. GOLDSBOROUGH.

[The following compilations of the sentiments of the leading supporters of the late administration on *Appointments and Removals* have been made for the Boston Chronicle. Though we do not coincide with the writer in ascribing to impure motives the enaction of the law investing the President with the power of removing all officers, excepting judges, yet the speeches quoted, unequivocally shew that the friends of the late Administration have no just reason to complain of their *partial exclusion* from office, as from their own declarations, avowed and gloried in, they were the first to set the example of a *total exclusion* from office of all men who differed from them in political principles.]

"It has been said *(says Mr. N. Smith, of N. H.)* the Executive had determined in future not to appoint any gentleman to office whose political opinions did not coincide with his own. That the executive had formed the resolution attributed to him he was ready to admit, because he thought it was high time such a determination was made. He admitted that the executive had lately and probably would for the future, appoint to office only such as were of similar political sentiments with himself.

Vide: Debate on Foreign Int. Bill, Jan. 18th, 1798.

"He *(Mr. Sitgreaves)* had no objection to declare it to be his opinion that wherever the administrators of government had deviated from a rule of this kind, (viz. to exclude from public offices all those who were of a different opinion from the executive) they had done so to their sorrow and to their loss, and the experience of government in this respect had produced a sad and awful lesson, which doubtless would have its effect in future. The Constitution and Laws of the Country have made certain offices necessary, and left it to the executive to fill them as it pleases;—would gentlemen say, that the executive ought to appoint persons to offices who possessed an opinion contrary to its own? If the executive acted upon just principles, it would endeavor to give singleness of design to its operations, and it could only do this by admitting persons into the government who thought with it. This would be a right, prudent and honorable conduct, and where it has been deviated from, government has received an awful lesson for its future conduct.

Vide: (as before.)

"He *(Mr. Allen)* believed there were persons within that House who thought the government ought to be overset, and that it could not and ought not to be supported, and who believed that the most effectual way of destroying it, was to destroy the confidence of the people in the individuals, who administer it. *ib.*

"*Mr. Griswold* said gentlemen charge the executive with being possessed of an influence which they foretel will prove the destruction of the government. He considered such opinions only as mere chimeras of the brain, supported upon no rational ground. He said gentlemen went still further and said that this power had already been actually abused, as the executive, in his appointments to office, had respect to the political opinions of those whom he chose. He confessed that he had thought, from some appointments which had been made, that the President had not adopted the determination which some gentlemen were of opinion he had, though he acknowledged it was a determination which every real friend of the government must wish to see adopted. Could it be believed that the President would not have some respect to the opinions of the men he employed?—What! employ men whose very opinions and principles lead to discord. If the determination of attending to the opinions of men appointed to office had not been adopted, it ought to be adopted:

"They appeared to him *(Mr. Griswold)* upon this point as saying, 'We know our principles are such that we have no chance of appointments; we will not therefore suffer the President to appoint any body else. The gentleman from Georgia has expressed great surprize at hearing this defended as a principle of the executive. But he asked whether the principle was not supported by the best authority in the country? Is it not the principle upon which the people, the sovereign people themselves act? Do they ever chuse representatives of poli[tical] th[...] who ha[...] to reproba[te ...] versally adopte[d ...] him either confin[...] sessions, or respectful [...] selves. The President [...] justified in following an examp[le ...] people, whose will has created [...] ought therefore to direct him. If [...] ever deviated from this principle the c[onse]quences have convinced him of his [...] And he hoped that profiting by hi[s expe]rience, a similar conduct would b[e ...] in future.

"In the first place *(Mr. Sewall)* would refer to what the gentleman from Virg[inia] had said. He called upon the peopl[e of] the U. S. to confederate with him aga[inst] the executive; he had endeavored to ra[ise] an interested passion, not in the people at large; but in those who may have been disappointed in their application for offices to the President, and to all those who have partialities elsewhere, to consider the executive in a degraded point of light, for having joined a certain party, and for having determined to chose no person to office but persons of a certain opinion, thereby degrading the executive of the U. S. by representing him as the *head of a party.* Nor was the gentleman contented by drawing around him all the discontented of th[e] community, but he also made an attem[pt] upon that part of the people who were [ge]nerally in favor of the measure of the e[xe]cutive.—In this manner was the exe[cu]tive to see, not only the disconten[ted] part of the people, but his friends array[ed] against him.—He trusted he should not [be] considered as wanting in respect to th[e] people if he considered them as an improper tribunal to be appealed to on this occasion: if abuse existed he had pointed out the constitutional way of rectifying it. He was further of opinion that any attempt to misinform the people on this subject was a sort of treason against the peaceful enjoyment by the people of their liberty. It was therefore necessary that the people should be well assured of the truth of such a charge; for if it had the effect he had mentioned, and we[re] not founded in fact, he should consider the man who made it as a traitor to the people."

FOR SALE.

A TRACT of land containing 2,500 acres lying immediately on the river Potowmac, in the county of Northumberland, Virginia, late the residence of PRESLEY THORNTON, Esq. Seventeen hundred acres of which are of the most valuable kind of low grounds on the river; between three and four hundred acres heavily timbered, the remainder is wavy high land extremely productive. The soil of this tract is equal to any in the state for cultivation of corn, wheat, tobacco, timothy, and small grain of all kinds. On this tract are a large commodious two story brick mansion house and two offices, a large brick stable, a valuable [...] cow house, and many other out-houses, all in good repair. The orchards and garden contain a variety of valuable fruit trees, and the waters abound with excellent fish and oysters. It is situated about a day's sail from Alexandria, Baltimore or Norfolk.—There are two good mill seats for grist, or saw-mills on this estate, and plenty of cedar and chesnut timber, exclusive of the heavy timber, which if sawed up into scantling will command a price in the City of Washington, nearly equal to the value of the land.

The terms will be made easy to the purchaser or purchasers, and the tract will be divided into two or more plantations if necessary.—Apply to

RICHARD PETERS, junr.
No. 85, Walnut street Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Nov. 11. eptf

PUBLIC SALE.

By virtue of an order of the Orphans' Court of Washington County, District of Columbia, will be sold to the highest bidder, on Thursday the 26th of November, at the late dwelling of James Robinson, deceased, about one mile from the Eastern Branch Ferry.

THE personal property of the said Ja[mes] Robinson, deceased—Consisting of H[ouse]hold Furniture, kitchen and farming ute[nsils,] some wearing apparel and other articles.

Terms of sale, where the property bo[ught by] any one purchaser does not amount to t[en] dollars—ready money. For all purchases [above] that sum, a credit of six months; the purcha[ser] giving Bond, with good security for the [pay]ment of the money with interest, in six [months] from the day of sale. Hour of sale [...] A. M.

LEWIN TALBUR[T]
Washington County,
Novemb. 11, 1801.