

which I did make; which assertion, I un-quivocally pronounce to be utterly destitute of that verity, which ought always to characterize assertions made to the public.

The story is briefly this: Last winter was a year, at my lodgings, in conversation with some of my friends, we were discussing the advantages of the occupation of the Oregon or Columbia river, the value of the fur trade of our western rivers, the wealth to be derived from that trade in the Canton market, and the practicability of supplying the valley of the Mississippi with the manufactures of China by that route: when one gentleman observed, that the Mississippi had been discussed at Ghent, and from the character of the gentlemen engaged in it, there was a strong probability, that, if I had that correspondence, I would obtain something, which might be useful to me. I had then presented to the house, my report upon the occupation of that river, and would have to make an exposition of the bill when it came up for discussion. I instantly determined to make the call, as the proper mode of getting the papers: but, I soon found my bill for its occupation, could not, from the place it held in the orders of the day, be acted upon that session: I then determined to postpone the call until the next session—Accordingly on the 17th of January last, I requested all the papers; and on the 23d of February the president answered that request, taking more than a month to prepare a copy.

Mr. Adams says, after commenting upon this, that, "it will be observed, that nearly two months had intervened, between the report of the Ghent treaty documents to the House, and this second call, which Mr. Russell has admitted was made at his suggestion."

Mr. Adams knew very well, the papers were sent to the house, on the 23d of February, and not only ordered to lie on the table, as he states, but likewise ordered to be printed: I had not an opportunity of examining them until they were printed, which would of course require some days. But in that time, I had received intelligence of the afflictions of my family, and Mr. Adams does know I obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session, believing it not possible for me to return.

I left the city, I believe, about the 15th of March, but my family being restored to health I returned to Washington, and arrived, on Sunday the 14th of April. I went into the house on the 15th and on the 18th submitted the second resolution, calling specifically for Mr. Russell's letter; that resolution was adopted on the 19th.

The reason of this second call was, that, on examining the papers I could not find any thing I wanted, though I did perceive from Mr. Russell's letter dated the 25th of December, from Ghent, that he intended to write fully and naturally concluded he had done so as he was a public man, and in the discharge, as I thought, of his duty; and too, expected what I wanted was contained in that letter, to wit, touching the value of the Mississippi river.

I will take no part in the controversy between Mr. Russell and Mr. Adams, nor would I now have written, had not Mr. Adams gone out of his way, in endeavoring to place me in an attitude, which he must know, nothing but his injustice could have exhibited me in.

I am almost as much surprized at the memory of the friend of the National Intelligencer, as at all the rest of this affair: he has certainly reported to that paper as far as he went "substantially" what happened in that debate; but the surprize is, that his memory fails at the precise point where my justification begins I recollect what was said, & made these remarks, & nearly in these words—That I had made the previous calls, and had not renewed it, as the letter wanted had been specifically desired and the President already knew the wishes of the house, and might send it if he thought proper, as he was the judge of the propriety of doing so; I did not think another resolution to the same effect would be consulting the dignity of the house, and if the papers would produce misunderstanding and ill blood, between men high in office and public esteem, which the President, who had the papers seemed to insinuate, I would not be the means of producing that evil. What I wanted was the information, which I supposed the papers to contain relative to the value of the Mississippi, which would according to my view of the occupation of the Columbia river, show the value of the trade to flow into that channel, which was to connect those two great rivers; and

could not be any thing difficult to comprehend in that.—That if the president would tell the house such consequences would flow from the communication, and at the same time state, that copies of the papers would be furnished to any gentleman at the department of state, who might desire them, was a thing left for him to justify and to reconcile—I wished myself to be correct, and said this for my own justification, and to show my own consistency, and not the president's.

I will close these observations by observing to you, that I have seen in your paper a few days ago; the remarks contained in a Charleston journal—I cannot divine how the writer knew I had made a motion to refer the President's communication to my committee, before it was read—I conclude, though, it is much after the disinterestedness of the times, and that a diplomatic mission to some of the new republics, may be the hoped reward of the honest exertions of the writer.—How was that fact ascertained? there is no record showing whether the motion was made before the papers were read or not—this minute fact is known to the writer so distant from Washington, who does not even know the part of the country I live in, as he states me to be a member from the west—it may be honest ignorance—I believe though I did make the motion to refer the papers, as soon as it was ascertained what the papers related to. This is every day's practice, and I have now papers referred to my committee which the house never saw, which contained information I had sought through the medium of the house, as I had done that, which was to be used when my bill was called up—I will say more, that if I, by any proper act, could have prevented this affair, that I would have done so; nor will I either in public or in private, refrain from commenting upon the public conduct and opinions of any public man who may be thought, or may think himself entitled to office. My opposition has always been political, and directed by the ideas I entertain of the power which gentlemen may think themselves entitled to exercise under the constitution of the United States. I look upon that constitution as containing expressed grants of power, and cannot approve any opposite opinion.

I, as a public man, am willing to be judged by the test, and when I, or others, cannot defer their opinion, in justice to the country they ought to retire. In my public capacity I called upon the executive branch of the government for papers expressly relating to a national transaction, and for public use; and if evil has resulted, or private letters been divulged—it cannot attach to me.

I am, Sirs, with great respect, your obedient servant, JOHN FLOYD.

From the Washington Gazette.

Though the style of the following communication is as good and chaste as pieces in general are, we truly believe it to be the production of a real Indian, who presented it to us, as his own. We wished to converse with him, but he said this was no place for him—and departed.—Ed.

MR. EDITOR:—Thanks to the Lancasterian and other public schools, I have learned to read and write a little and I am much amused by the pieces that I daily see in your paper about offices.—Our war chiefs are appointed by the general voice of the assemblies when we meet, and we take the most sagacious and persevering as our chief warriors. We do not permit one man, who knows no more than, often not so much as his neighbors, to put men in office, merely because he or his friends have been or may be active at elections. We do choose a chief merely because he was born in the country; for one of our greatest warriors Toucan uche was stolen from his parents of another tribe and brought up in my nation.—He was a keen fellow, for he was a half breed; his father was a white.—I often laugh when I see the disputes about the natives and foreigners; and when I read your constitution, and see that any man who was a citizen before the adoption of that instrument is eligible to any office, even the presidency; and eligible to every other office if a citizen, and has emigrated hither subsequently to the adoption of the constitution, yet see the disappointed pouring out their abuse, and bespattering, with spurious malevolence, every emigrant who is honored with an official appointment, not because he is unworthy, but because he was not born in the country. I must own I feel humbled that I have made choice of the United States for my nation; for I had been accustomed, when

I saw any of the chiefs of my nation seize a young prisoner, and adopt him, under a promise to be unto him a father, to see the adopted treated as a child of the community, and if any distinction were made, it was in his favor, to compensate for the loss of all that was held dear. But here you tempt a man to leave his country, his friends, and kindred; you promise to make no distinction between him and a native, except what may arise from virtue, learning, industry and talents, and when the deluded man has sold out his property where he was born, and has laid out his money here, you cast him off like a squeezed orange; if he has even entered your army fought your battles, and has become a cripple for life, it matters not; for colonel Tousard lost his arm, and under Washington's appointment rose to be the first colonel in your service; but he was born in France, and was turned out of office by Gen. Dearborn (when secretary of war) with other foreign officers, who had become citizens had married in the country, had children, and they were left destitute, to make way for natives, less accomplished, and less distinguished; and that same secretary of war, now deaf, and dumb, is sent as your minister to Portugal! O cæca nocentium consilia!—I, who am from the stock of the Aborigines, view all this as yankeeryism, which in my nation signified war; for really if I were to take my choice I would rather take the man who came here voluntarily than involuntarily; the man who came here from choice than from birth; for many of those who were born here came from parents that came involuntarily; and whenever I hear a man whose name is of the English stock, curse, or abuse the English, I say to myself poor fellow! he cannot forgive the nation that transported his father or grandfather hither! or I suppose him to be what you call a demagogue; a man seeking popularity by vociferating whatever is base, mean, or unworthy, to please the most contemptible of the whole community and creating distinctions between the different classes of his fellow-citizens, as was done when your Washington was in favor of the federal constitution, and the opponents of that compact were called antifederalists: but as they increased in numbers they called themselves democrats, and now distinguish themselves by the appellation of republicans, as if the federalists were any thing else. Being a republican myself I did consider, when I became one of your citizens, that you were all republicans but I consider the federalists as the gentlemen republicans, and democrats as the blackguard republicans; for Washington, Jay, Madison and Hamilton were federalists. Washington signed the federal constitution first, and the others supported it in a work bearing the title of FEDERALIST. But the whole of you, nearly, are but empty vain boasters of republican principles.—You are Aristocrats of the lowest grade!—Shew me a man in your council, shew me a man in your senate, shew me a man in your house of representatives, radicals, and all (for I consider them as the Teddy Logans of the community) who would not be offended by the omission of honorable in his address; although some of them are deficient in common honesty. A gentleman shoe-black must now be called esquire; for mister is only an appropriate title to his underling.—A mounted aristocracy, the most contemptible of all distinctions, except the truly vicious is rising fast, in this nation, which affects to despise titles, and I observe that according to a man's salary or income he is now invited to the tables of the great, and men are elevated by their salaries or income, not by their talents, their honor, their probity, their virtue. The offices are conferred now on the most influential men in elections. Most virtuous must seek retirement till other times!—

This is no time for either you or me, We are not certain'd with the great man's minions; We tell not all we hear in secret whispers, And play the Ear-wig to our potent chiefs, Basely calumniating good and great, And recommending base and cringing knaves, To play the under plot of our advance—

[An old Play.]

I once heard John Randolph, in the House of Representatives, say he gloried in possessing the blood of the English, the blood of that nation that gave birth to Russell, to Sidney, to Newton, and to Bacon. I think he might have boasted of blood that flowed in still higher veins: the blood of the most no-

ble Potentates! I have heard my grandfather relate how the great chiefs of his day used to hunt upon the ground that are now covered with your palaces and cities. I consider you ALL as intruders in my country. Some of your forefathers were transported to this fine region for their crimes; others came that they might worship the GREAT SPIRIT in their own way, and they became transported with the country. The first were the settlers, the others were the emigrants. Washington's father and mother were emigrants; but still I am of opinion that the great names of which I have heard: my grand fathers speak, sound as well as any of your imported names. He told me of the magnanimity, the intrepidity, the mental powers, the goodness of four of the principal chiefs, viz: Quantoklin, Shakkaton, Leggoioski, and Chinango. Their names I think sound more like the names of great men, than your Washington's, your Franklin's, your Adams's, or Jefferson's; but to make way for you and your descendants you have driven us back, and have despoiled our forests, then you destroyed the land, which at present will scarcely produce a blade of grass, then you took from us another portion of our land, and drove us back. We were of course unwilling to submit, but our efforts to resist your encroachments you called war; and after war a treaty of peace must take place. In every treaty you stipulated for a large portion of our country. Fresh aggressions obliged us, from time to time, to attempt our defence; but as you became more powerful we of course became doubly weak, not only comparatively to your strength, but by our continual losses in battle, and loss of means of support by the diminution of our hunting grounds.

You are christians, but forgetful of the great maxims of your Lord; that you should do unto others as you would they should do unto you," you pursue my brethren of the forest with a never-ceasing avidity for our groves and plains, for our mountains and rivers, you seize territory after territory, you force us upon other nations of Red men who raise the tomahawk in defence of their birthright; you look on, cold-bloodedly, and instead of imposing your kind offices to procure peace, you only calculate the quantity of rich land you will gain by our extirpation. The land gained, it must be worked, and though you march night and day, and fight like Demons to obtain the land, you are too proud or too indolent, to work it. You protest nobly, and with apparent sincerity, against the increase of slavery, and have opened another mart for the slaves. Missouri must be supplied, and it is supplied, directly from Africa. Stop, writer, for thou knowest our laws forbid it! I despise the laws that will hang one man for what they would vote a crown of laurel to another! Your declaration of independence proclaims to the world "that all men are equally entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." But the magistrates or freeholders of _____, will tell you a different tale. These observations may probably give offence, for there are very few great men, who have minds strong enough to bear truth: they are so accustomed to flattery, that truth becomes a nauseous drug. Now Mr. Editor, if the scribblers, who are in favour of the descendants of the first settlers, are really and truly in earnest, and honestly think them the best entitled to offices. I hope they will not play yankey with me likewise; for I was born here, my ancestors inhabited this country, even before your Adam was created; as you may conceive, by the great works they performed when they connected the lakes; and Niagara was a mill race. The mammoth was then a common beast of burthen and men were giants such as are described in the ancient records of the children of Israel. From that race I descended. As you are disputing much about the election of a president, although I know it to be an office that requires constant attention, and is but poorly compensated for such expenditure of intensity of intellect, & nevertheless, consider it as an incumbent duty to offer myself as a candidate; and if you regard a man who has no fear, but of offending the GREAT SPIRIT, and good men who serve him, if you love a man who dares tell the truth to your great men, and who will never shrink from responsibility, you must candidly admit that no man in the United States can honestly contend with

WHANNINGO.

Council Grove, 2d day of the 4th moon or panting month, in the year of the world 114,172.