







Inaugural Address

DELIVERED BY

GEN. JOSEPH HEISTER,

ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE GOVERNMENTAL CHAIR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

FELLOW CITIZENS—

The distinguished mark of confidence with which I have been honored, in being called by the public voice to perform the functions of the executive department of this State, demands my warmest acknowledgments. The opportunity now presented is embraced to express to you, and through you, to the freemen of this Commonwealth, the lively sense of gratitude with which the public suffrage in my favor has filled me. My conduct in that station in which the people have been pleased to place me, contrary to my own inclination and judgment, shall, I hope, prove the sincerity of the gratitude expressed.

The solemn pledge which I have just given to perform the duties of my office with fidelity, impresses me, with a deep sense of their importance, and I have reason to implore the assistance of Divine Providence in the arduous task I have undertaken.

The many difficulties a Chief Magistrate of this State has to encounter, increased probably at this time, beyond what they have been heretofore, and the great responsibility attached to his office, render me seriously apprehensive, that my best efforts will be inadequate to give satisfaction, even to the disinterested and patriotic part of the community. But I trust if any errors shall be committed, they will not be chargeable to intention; they will owe their origin to the imperfection of our nature and the narrow limits of human foresight; they will not proceed from a wilful neglect of duty on my part, nor from any want of devotion to the best interests of our beloved country. Such errors, I may justly hope will meet with indulgence from an enlightened and liberal people. Where censure shall, upon a full and impartial view of matters, be merited, let it not be withheld. It is the duty of freemen to examine closely into the conduct of those to whom they have delegated their power, or the guardianship of their rights and interests; to censure the abuse of the one, or the neglect and mismanagement of the other.

In approaching the station to which I have been called, with a due sense of its difficulty and responsibility, I pledge myself to pursue with sincerity and diligence, that course which my best judgment shall direct to promote the public happiness, and believing that to cherish and to strengthen an attachment to free government, to soften the rancour and allay the prejudices of party spirit, to unite the mass of the people as one republican family, will be among the means of increasing the comforts of social life. I shall direct all my efforts to accomplish those purposes. Considering myself as elected by the People of this Commonwealth, and not by any particular denomination of persons, I shall endeavor to deserve the name of Chief Magistrate of Pennsylvania, and to avoid the disgraceful appellation of Governor of a party. In appointments to office it will be my duty to select, without distinction of party, such as I shall believe to be the most honest and capable; and if I shall be successful in this respect, I trust that with the assistance of your wisdom and patriotic endeavors in matters of legislation, the prosperity of the Commonwealth may be promoted, its relation with the general government maintained honorably upheld, and all its lawful rights maintained.

In deliberating upon the concerns of the Commonwealth, gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives, you will find one of the most prominent topics to be the stagnation of trade and business of every description, the almost total annihilation of confidence between man and man, and the distress of many individuals of the community. If any thing could be done to encourage and revive the activity of our citizens; if any means could be devised to restore confidence and to prevent the sacrifice of property, with due attention to the rights of all parties, I should most heartily concur in any measures calculated to attain those desirable ends. Permit me to suggest to you, whether it would not be possible to devise some method of reducing the enormous power and patronage of the Governor, without impairing the other general features of our present excellent Constitution; whether the annual sessions of our Legislature might not be shortened without detriment to the public good—whether a reduction of salaries, of fees of office and compensation for public services, might not at this time to take place, to correspond in some degree with the reduced prices of Agricultural produce. It also deserves serious consideration whether public improvements might not at this time be advantageously made; and domestic manufactures encouraged with success. Above all it appears an imperative duty to introduce and support

a liberal system of education connected with some general religious instruction. These are matters which will certainly engage your attention, and will probably be objects of your deliberations, and if any adequate measures shall be proposed it would give me great pleasure to be instrumental in their promotion. Let us, fellow citizens, every one in his station (for we are all members of one family by whatever name we may be designated) unite in earnest laboring to promote the common good, and that Providence, which has heretofore granted us abundant blessings, will, I humbly trust, continue them, and so crown our labors, that our posterity, in the enjoyment of every desirable civil and religious privilege, may bless our memory when we are mouldering in the dust with those whose toil and blood achieved our Liberties.

JOSEPH HEISTER.

December 19, 1820.

Latest from South America.

Arrived at this port last evening, the schooner Lady's Delight, Stribner, 20 days from Curacao. By this arrival, we have received, from our correspondent, a file of the Currocoa Courant, to the 25th of November, inclusive.

The latest accounts of the contending armies on the Spanish Main will be found in the extracts from the Currocoa Courant.

On the 12th November, the brig Maria and Jacoba arrived at Currocoa, in 35 days from Amsterdam, having on board his Excellency Paulus Roeloffszantlear, Knight of the Order of the Netherlands Lion, Rear Admiral in the Navy, &c. and his lady.

Advices have been received at Currocoa that it was very sickly at Surinam.

The schr. Hope sailed from Currocoa for the opposite coast with a cargo of dry goods, and having stopped at a place called Serador, she was boarded by seven Spaniards, who cut the Captain in a most shocking manner, and threw him into the sea. The crew, to avoid similar treatment, jumped overboard, leaving the Spaniards in possession of the vessel. After having plundered the schooner of her cargo, and every thing valuable on board, they picked the people up, tied their hands behind their backs and confined them in the hold, and returned to the shore, leaving the people in a situation scarcely able to navigate the vessel. She arrived at Currocoa the Friday following.

From the Currocoa Courant, Nov. 4.

Extract of a letter dated Maracaibo, 10th Oct.

"I have the honor to communicate to you, the following pleasant information, received from Col Felto, the officer in charge of the division of the army, commanded by Gen. Latorro, who is at present at head quarters, arranging future operations, and every moment expected back with considerable reinforcements.

"Gen. Calzada, with an army of 7000 men, after having defeated the insurgents at Pipay & penetrated into the kingdom, driving the enemy before him, and took possession of Santa Fe, the capital.

"Before we knew of this success, we learn that Bolivar had gone out from Rozario with two battalions to assist the fugitives from Santander, but previous to her getting up to them, he made a precipitate return, and his army is now reduced to 2000 men; who are followed by about 6000 men and women, emigrating from the kingdom.

"It is now a quarter past five o'clock, and of the governor of this place, has just received an official communica-

tion from Col. Felto, and among other things, it says:

"The rebel Bolivar has been defeated by Calzada, who is now occupying Pamplona, and the valleys of Cucuta.

"But Bolivar with his remaining force of 2000 men from New Grenada, is overthrowing every obstacle to get to the plains of Apure, and his rapid movements make me retreat with the division as far as the stope passes on the road to Truxillo.

"I have just received advice that general Latorre is on the way from Tuenjo to Truxillo with the two battalions, 1st of Valency, and 2d of Barbastro and I shall join him at Truxillo, to operate against Bolivar, in the plains of Cucuta."

Extract of a letter dated Coro 27th Oct. 1820.

"The trumpet of war resounds throughout our territory, which is likely to become a new theatre of action. On all sides, we are menaced by an onset from insurgents; to withstand which, active measures have been taken by the governor. We are much in want of reinforcements, consisting in men and ammunition from the head quarters, in order to form a body capable to lash our wicked foes. Reyes Vargas, the Indian formerly so conspicuous for the scourges he inflicted on the Rebels, has now become their partisan and is a severe loss to us, for the considerable influence he wields over the Indians. He has already collected some troops, besides 500 New Granadians with which Boliver reinforced him, and taken possession of Carrora and Siquisque. Bolivar has his head quarters at Carache, composed of 6000 men, and Paez in the environs of San Carlos with 5000."

From the Currocoa Courant, Nov. 15

We learn from Caraccas, that on the 9th inst. accounts were received from the head-quarters of General Morillo, at Tueyo, stating that his excellency was to march on the following day, and would attack the enemy in their position near Truxillo on the 12th, provided he could bring them to action. The forces of the general consist of 4 to 5000 men, including Felto's division.

It seems now that the propositions made by Bolivar to Morillo, to enter into conferences in order to effect a reconciliation of their long existing differences, turns out to have been nothing more than a ruse de guerre played off by the former for the purpose of drawing the forces of Morillo towards San Fernando de Apure, while Bolivar, in his absence, it is supposed, was to make a dash upon Caraccas with the forces he had at Truxillo. Paez in the mean time, had sent 6000 cattle across the Apure for the use of his troops, who were shortly to follow, and thus keep Morillo in check, whilst Bolivar possessed himself of the capital. The project, however, miscarried, and Morillo, instead of proceeding to San Fernando, directed his forces against the Independents at Truxillo, where, as we have stated above, he intended to attack them on the 12th.

The Spanish commissioners had, notwithstanding, proceeded to the rendezvous appointed for them, to meet those of the Independents, if they were to be found.

Character of Charles James Fox.

From the National Recorder.

The following character of

this eminent statesman, delineated with so much truth, force, and discrimination, is from the masterly hand of Sir James Mackintosh, one of the most accomplished, eloquent and philosophical orators of the present day.

Mr. Fox united, in a most remarkable degree, the seemingly repugnant character of the mildest of men, and the most vehement of orators. In private life he was gentle, modest, peaceable, kind, of simple manners, and so averse from dogmatism, as to be not only unostentatious, but even something inactive in conversation. His superiority was never felt but in the instruction which he imparted, or in the attention which his generous preference, usually directed to the more obscure members of the company. The simplicity of his manners was far from excluding that perfect urbanity and amenity which flowed still more from the mildness of his nature, than from familiar intercourse with the most polished society of Europe. The pleasantries, perhaps, of no man of wit, had so unlabored an appearance. It seemed rather to escape from his mind, than to be produced by it. He had lived in the most intimate terms with all his contemporaries distinguished by wit, politeness, or philosophy, or learning, or the talents of public life. In the course of thirty years he had known every man in Europe, whose intercourse could strengthen, or enrich, or polish the mind. His own literature was various and elegant. In classical erudition, which by the custom of England is more peculiarly called learning, he was inferior to few professed scholars. Like all men of genius, he delighted to take refuge in poetry, from the vulgarity and irritation of business. His own verses were easy and pleasant, and might have claimed no low place among those which the French call *verse de societe*. The poetical character of his mind was displayed by the extraordinary partiality for the poetry of the two most poetical nations, or at least, languages of the west, those of the Greeks and of the Italians. He disliked political conversation, and never willingly took any part in it.

To speak of him justly as an orator would require a long essay. Every where natural, he carried into public something of that simple and negligent exterior which belonged to him in private. When he began to speak, a common observer might have thought him awkward; and even a consummate judge could only have been struck with the exquisite justness of his ideas, and the transparent simplicity of his manners. But no sooner had he spoken for some time, than he was changed into another being. He forgot himself and every thing around him. He thought only of his subject. His genius warmed and kindled as he went on. He darted fire into his audience. Torrents of impetuous eloquence swept along their feelings and convictions. He certainly possessed, above all moderns, that union of reason, simplicity, and vehemence, which formed the prince of orators. He was the most Demosthenian speaker since the days of Demosthenes. "I knew him," says Mr. Burke, in a pamphlet written after their unhappy difference, "when he was nineteen; since which he has risen by slow degrees, to be the most brilliant

and accomplished debater the world ever saw."

The quiet dignity of a mind roused only by great objects, the absence of petty bustle, the contempt of show, the abhorrence of intrigue, the plainness and downrightness, and the thorough good nature which distinguished Mr. Fox, seem to render him no undue representative of the old English character, which, if it ever changed, we should be sanguine indeed to expect to see it succeeded by a better. The simplicity of his character inspired confidence, the ardor of his eloquence roused enthusiasm, and the gentleness of his manner invited friendship. "I admired," says Mr. Gibbon, after describing a day, passed with him at Lansanne, "the powers of a superior man, as they are blended in his character, with all the softness of simplicity of a child; no human being was ever more free from any taint of malignity, vanity, or falsehood."

The measures which he supported or opposed may divide the opinion of posterity, as they have divided those of the present age. But he will most certainly command the unanimous reverence of future generations, by his pure sentiments toward the commonwealth, by his zeal for the civil and religious rights of all men, by his liberal principles, favorable to mild government, to the unfettered exercise of the human faculties, and the progressive civilization of mankind; by his ardent love for a country of which the well-being and greatness were, indeed, inseparable from his own glory, and by his profound reverence for that free constitution, which he was universally admitted to understand better than any other man of his age, both in an actually legal, and in a comprehensive philosophical sense.

Wilmington, Del. Dec. 19. SHOCKING.

A gentleman from Baltimore, by the name of Griffin, who owned a farm between that city and Havre-de-Grace, was killed, and another person very severely wounded, by a runaway slave, on Thursday last, within about seven miles of this place. The following are the circumstances of the case, as they have been related to us.

Mr. Griffin, with his overseer, came to this place, in search of the runaway, and upon enquiry, having received some information, respecting him, proceeded with some other persons, up the Kennet road, to a place at which he had been told the man might be found, and being directed to the barn where he was at work, Mr. G. when attempting to seize him, was shot dead upon the spot by the slave, and the overseer who followed after him, received from the furious black blow upon the head, with the axe, which produced such contusion that his life is despaired of. Both of them had families.

The negro, we understand has been apprehended and sent to West-Chester jail, to await his trial.—Del. Gaz.

The following recipe is an effective cure for a horse that had a film, it is generally called, over its eyes.

RECIPE.—All that is necessary to take a little clean hog's lard on the end of your finger, rub it well in quadruped's eye, once a day, for three or four days in succession, and the film will be removed effectually.

Plough Boy. A resolution is pending before the Legislature of Virginia to reduce wages of its members, and all the members of the Commonwealth whose salaries can be constitutionally reduced.

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