

SPEECH OF GOV. J. C. JONES,

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, DEC. 18.
1856, UPON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, AS
PUBLISHED IN THE MEMPHIS APPEAL.

MESSRS. EDITORS: One single sentiment in the speech of the Hon. J. C. Jones, United States Senator of Tennessee, induces these remarks. As a constituent of the Hon. Senator, my thanks are due him for the liberal and courteous manner in which he entered into this debate, but more especially for the clearness and force with which he showed the ultimate designs of the Black Republicans.

In the encounter which he had on this occasion with the Hon. Mr. Hale, there is a sentiment imputed to him which I very much doubt whether he uttered, or if he did, it was done in a spirit of liberal, jocular feeling of private conversation, and not with the solemnity which the Hon. Mr. Hale would have it assume in the Senate of the United States. The question of the Hon. Senator of New Hampshire looked above the law of the land, and contemplated man in the light of the great law of manhood, and in this view, put the question to the Hon. Senator of Tennessee: "If every slave had not the right to escape, or was not entitled to his liberty?"

To this question, Mr. Jones replied, "I am not prepared to say that there is a human being on the face of the globe that has not the right to benefit himself if he can." It is to this answer we enter our demur, and am confident our Senator did not intend to be drawn aside from the work before him at the time, or he would not have made a reply admitting such latitude and which gave, for the moment, such seeming triumph to the North in this controversy. If he had said that according to the great law of manhood every individual had the right to benefit himself, if by so doing, he damaged no one else, we would have admitted it as true. Or if he had replied, that by the great law of manhood, no man had a right to advance his own interest, if by so doing, he produced a corresponding disadvantage to another, it would have kept the point of controversy more clearly defined. We do not doubt that this was the sense in which he intended to be understood; but when it turns alone upon the point "if he can," it will be regarded at the North that we only pretend to hold our slaves by force or power, leaving entirely out of view the morality of the institution. The highest morality in man is obedience to the civil authority; but civil law rests upon man's natural rights, all of which are conditional, and not one of which he may not forfeit. The strongest natural right man has is that of life, yet that right is suspended upon the condition of work, and if he should cease to work, he would cease to live. Man has a right to liberty, it is a conditional right—he must use that liberty for good. He must occupy and improve it, otherwise he forfeits it, and it is taken from him. The whole of man's life is conditional. The new-born infant is suspended upon the will and attentions of the mother for its life and being. But perhaps the Hon. Mr. Hale intended his question to be viewed from a more lofty eminence than this which we have been considering. It does seem to have something about it approaching the dawn of the millennium. We would like to propound one question to him: If God gave life to man and suspended that life upon the condition of labor, and nothing but the fruits of the earth can keep that life, is not every man entitled to as much of the earth as is necessary to his existence; and does not the great law of manhood, that law which looks upon every man as a brother, and which makes us "feel another's woe," require that every one should alike share the good things of life, and in order to this, demand that all things should be held in common. We do not see how any other than an emphatic affirmative could be given in answer to these questions, viewed in the light of the question as put to the Hon. Mr. Jones. This, then, being the case, would it not better accord with the action of the world's great reformer, in this new reformation, to begin at "Jerusalem?" Several other questions suggest themselves to the mind for solution in this connection, but as we only intended a short paragraph, we will not pursue them. The South has always felt that she was acting not only in accordance with civil law, but with the highest laws of morality upon this question; and her great intellects are beginning to look into it with a zeal for truth which we doubt not will overthrow much that has hitherto passed for truth in moral ethics.

J. A. T.

NEAR BROWNSVILLE, Jan. 30th, 1857.

Kansas Correspondence of the Appeal.

[We publish the following letter in the precise words in which it is written, without knowing anything in reference to the facts stated, or the justness of the strictures upon Gov. GEARY'S course:]

LEAVENWORTH CITY, K. T., January, '57.

MESSRS. EDITORS: The affairs in Kansas at present demand a passing notice, and having been here during the exciting times, which have distracted this "bleeding" country during the past year, and being a resident here now, that is a "Squatter Sovereign," I feel competent to deal in facts.

The leading topics of interest at present, are the proceedings of the Territorial Legislature and the peculiar course of Governor John W. Geary, or as we more appropriately call him here, His Majesty King John W. the First. Before noticing his recent extraordinary usurpation of power, in his vain attempt to override the law and attach the Judiciary functions to his Executive powers, it is necessary to notice his past course in "stopping the war," as he vainly boasts of having done. You will recollect that last summer General James H. Lane, "Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the North," (as the Free State men call that distinguished worthy,) marched into the Territory with about one thousand Northern vandals, and commenced the work of destruction of the pro-slavery party. Gen. Lane after building forts along the emigrant road from the Nebraska line to the interior of the Territory, fortified himself in Lawrence. Harvey, Walker and Brown, Lane's principal subordinate officers, then commenced their work of destruction, which gained for them such notoriety for deeds of blood and rapine. To Harvey was assigned the work of sacking the villages and laying waste the country on the north side of the Kansas river. To Walker was assigned the country along the Kansas on the south side; while Brown, with his banditti, were to rob and drive out the defenseless pro-slavery settlers that were scattered over the southern portions of the Territory. Harvey succeeded in completely sacking the villages of Osawkee, Easton, Summerville and Alexandria, but was baffled in his attempt on Hickory Point, which was bravely and successfully defended by a few men. Walker succeeded in driving out many innocent settlers—destroying their crops and burning their cabins. With several hundred men he attacked the house of Col. Titus, killed one of the inmates, wounded several, among them Col. Titus, who was taken prisoner, and burned the house and all the improvements. Brown in the meantime, with a band of the most God-forsaken wretches, with which any country was ever cursed, committed the most fiendish murders and the most diabolical midnight assassinations ever heard of.

When these villainies, and the systematic manner in which they were carried on, became known, an outraged people rose in their might to sustain the dignity of the law, and repel the invaders. Under the proclamation of acting Governor Woodson, 2,700 law and order men assembled, with all the arms and munitions of war. After four weeks marching, and counter-marching, we took up the line of march for Lawrence—the chief rendezvous for the traitors and murderers. When within four miles of the place of destination we were met by Gov. Geary. The army proceeded no further. It was disbanded, and returned home. Peace was made. The credit of effecting this pacification is now claimed by Gov. Geary, and I see, by a portion of the Southern press, unjustly given him. I say unjustly, because it robs the patriots who really did effect a reconciliation, of the honor due them, and places it upon one who does not deserve it. The truth is simply this: The law and order leaders were almost to a man strong Buchanan men, and it was evident to them that if they destroyed Lawrence, which was within their grasp, it would afford

the "Freedom Shriekers" of the North much political capital, and probably elect Fremont. Knowing this, and wishing to retire honorably from the contest, they sent for Gov. Geary, in order that he might disband us. He did so, and many of us thought that Kansas had been sacrificed to the success of the Democratic party. But with the belief that Fremont could not be elected we acquiesced. With the disbanding of the army the war closed; but, be it understood, not by the mighty power of Gov. Geary, but by the patriotism of the pro-slavery party. In an address delivered to the 2,700 patriots assembled at Franklin, Gov. Geary made many and fair promises; among them, that he would arrest and bring to punishment the traitors and outlaws, who had disturbed the domestic peace of the Territory.

But the people of the South may judge how much faith may be placed in his promises when they know that the notorious Walker, the same I have spoken of above, was received by him into the United States service and commissioned captain of a Company of Lawrence outlaws, whilst Harvey, the gallant Chicagoan, who had robbed Osawkee, Easton, Summerville and Alexandria, was also commissioned 1st Lieutenant of the same Company. There were several writs against Walker for numerous outrages he had committed against inoffensive settlers, and when the United States Marshal attempted to arrest him, he was prevented by Gov. Geary, and Walker is to day, and has been all the time, enjoying full liberty. Yet Geary received this man and his confederates in the service of defending the very laws they had so often fought against. Whilst this was going on, the Governor, through his influence, had the leaders and the privates of the pro-slavery ranks arrested and bound over under heavy bonds to defend their actions. The pro-slavery, or law and order party, had been called out by a proclamation of acting Governor Woodson, to sustain the laws—the free-soilers had marshaled in military array to put them down. Such proceedings as these on the part of our Governor, rather surprised the law and order party. But his last act of usurpation, in his controversy with Judge Lecompte, severed the sympathies of a large majority of the pro-slavery party from him. The facts in this much talked of case are simply these: One Charles Hays was indicted for the murder of Baumann, a free state man. Hays was arrested and brought before Judge Lecompte, then holding Court at Lecompton. Owing to the vast amount of business, it was impossible to reach his case that term. His attorneys then applied for bail, proving conclusively that Hays was not at the place of the alleged murder on the day specified. Many witnesses testified to this, and the district attorney, who was with Hays at the time he was charged with having committed the murder, swore to the same. Upon this application and evidence, Judge Lecompte released him on bail of \$10,000. Immediately upon granting bail, a delegation of free-soilers from Topeka and Lawrence, united upon Governor Geary and protested against Hays' release. Geary then, upon the strength of his Executive powers, ordered Hays' re-arrest. Marshal Donaldson refused to execute the writ as coming from the Governor, and expressed surprise at the Governor's ignorance. Geary threatened Donaldson but the Marshal still refused. He then placed the order in the hands of his special aid, Col. Titus, and had Hays re-arrested. Hays sued out a writ of *habeas corpus*, and was again liberated. The Governor then threatened to have Lecompte removed for a partial administration of the laws, and has used his influence to do it. But where partiality exists in the Hays case, it is impossible to see. Every lawyer sustains Lecompte's and condemns Geary's course and the sympathies of the law and order party are with Lecompte. I should like to know if the Executive has the power to re-arrest an alleged criminal—to treat with contempt the powers of the Judiciary—to make his simple official order paramount to all law—to all courts. The recent pro-slavery convention of the Territory did not think so, as it sustained Lecompte and condemned Geary.

What will be the finale of the extraordinary drama now being enacted, is hard to foresee; but I will endeavor to keep your readers posted as regards the progress of events in this fated Territory.

S. G. Q.

CHAPTER ON GENERAL JACKSON.

The following is taken from Hon. JOHN BARNEY'S "Fifty Years of Events—political, poetical, historical—with Anecdotes of Remarkable Men:"

I saw for the first time, at a ball given at the Baltimore Assembly, in 1818, in honor of the hero of New Orleans, the stern, intellectual countenance, and, when lighted up by a smile full of benignity and benevolence, the never to be forgotten features of General Andrew Jackson.

An incident engrossed the attention of all—the mat then required six or eight hours to track its weary way from the Capital to Baltimore.

Dawn's early light was just gilding the horizon, when it was announced that General Lancock, of Pennsylvania, had that day moved in the Senate a resolution censuring, in strong terms, the execution of Arbuthnot and Ambrister.

Fire dashed indignant from the eyes of the hero patriot.

"By the Eternal, I will have the rascal's ears off before twenty-four hours;" then, with a bland and courteous smile, he said to the managers, "will either of you gentlemen be so kind as to order me a carriage to take me to Washington?" His urban, courteous manner was forthwith resumed, when he discovered the trepidation created by his fierceness, and he remained until the close of the session.

I had many interviews with him in Washington during the Congressional contest for the Presidency. Intruders would force themselves into his presence, telling him that Mr. Clay said the greatest danger to be apprehended to the republic was the accession of military chieftains to power. He replied that the real danger to the republic was to be apprehended from political demagogues. I remarked, "Do not, General, permit yourself to be excited by designing men."

Another would come in and imperatively ask, "How is the election going, General?" to which he sternly replied, "I know nothing about it;" I don't read the newspapers, but if I may be permitted to judge from the decline in the number of visitors, my prospects of success diminish in an equal ratio." When elected to the Presidency, up to the period of his arrival at Frederick, he expressed the most friendly feeling towards Mr. Adams; he sent kind messages to him, stating the season was so inclement he hoped he would not remove his family from the White House until milder weather; that he was an old soldier, accustomed to rougher quarters, was now alone in the world, and could be comfortable anywhere.

The manifestation of those kindly feelings appalled his numerous disinterested, devoted friends. On the one day's journey his mind was poisoned against Mr. Adams by the insinuation that Mr. Adams was the real editor of the *——*, in which the sacred name of his wife had been grossly slandered.

The chord was struck—it vibrated in discord through his frame; the fell besom of party proscription commenced; the doctrine that "to the victor belong the spoils" was consecrated and has been the watchword ever since.

One solitary exception was made, in favor of James Beatty, of Baltimore; but not permitted to be consummated. Captain Isaac Phillips, a worthy and respectable officer of the navy, had been peremptorily dismissed by the elder Adams for permitting a British frigate to muster on deck the crew of an American sloop-of-war, under his command, to impress British subjects.

He applied to General Jackson to appoint him to office in consideration of his persecution by the elder Adams, and told him that the gentleman now holding the appointment of Navy Agent, at Baltimore, had held it many years. "That proves him worthy of confidence," said the General. "I then told him," said Captain Phillips, "that he was rich and did not require the office." "Then," replied the hero, "he has no inducement to be dishonest"—the General all the while calmly smoking his pipe, his feet resting on the mantelpiece. "I was now," says the Captain, "in despair, and resolved to make one last desperate effort: 'I have an aged wife,' he pleaded, 'we are fast declining into the valley of the shadow of death, in wretched poverty; this office would give us the comforts of life, and speed our downward path to the tomb.'" The General dropped his feet to the floor, laid his pipe on the table, called for pen and ink, wrote a note and handed it to Captain Phillips. "Here's an order for your appointment; take it to the Secretary of the Navy. If this little office is not necessary to the comfort of its possessor, and will make your aged wife and yourself happy, you shall have it."

"I carried it," said Captain Phillips, "to Governor Branch. He said, 'Thank God, you are too late; Mr. Beatty has been recommended by Gen. Smith and other political friends of the administration as an officer of strict integrity, indefatigable industry in every respect; his nomination is now before the Senate of the United States; you are too late; I won't recall it.' I returned to the President and told him the result. 'He won't recall it! Then, by the Eternal, I will. Mr. Secretary, fill up a nomination for Captain Isaac Phillips; carry it to the Senate chamber, recall the nomination of James Brady, and substitute the one for Isaac Phillips.' In a few minutes Capt. Phillips received his commission.

He presented himself to Governor Branch to receive his instructions, and to express his gratitude for the appointment. "You owe me no