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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



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TO ROBERT E. SCHENCK.

By Richard H. Jackson

In the congressional debate of the 9th inst. upon the resolution of Gen'l Garfield for increased clerical compensation, you spoke of me with whom you have no personal acquaintance—of one who never did you an injury—of whose personal and political history you are profoundly ignorant—in the most ungentlemanly and unwarrantable manner. You not only took advantage of your representative position to outrage all sense of decency and manhood, but in injustice to the Secretary of the Treasury, wilfully falsified facts (at least so far as I am concerned) as to the manner of his disbursement of the public moneys. Feeling secure in the privileges of a position which you disgrace, you dared to utter that from which you would cowardly shrink in the public street. With the *malice prepense* of the murderer, by your foul, lying, and malicious tongue, you have caused to be spread upon the records of Congress, and thus to be read for all time to come in the political history of the country, infamous charges against men, who in all that constitutes gentlemen, are your superiors. I flatter myself, however, that the wound is not mortal, and that the intelligent reader of his country's history will readily appreciate from whence the blow came. It is my turn now, and I propose to draw your fangs for you. You have "waked up the wrong passenger," and your position shall not protect you from a just exposure.

On the 10th inst., I waited upon you at the Capitol, and by card requested an explanation of your attack upon me, but you could not be seen—were afraid to look full in the face a man whom you had wantonly and deeply wronged. You knew that you deserved a good kicking, but certainly ought to have known that your hideous carcass was protected from harm within the walls of the capitol. The only alternative left me is, either to thus address you, or to shoot you down in the public street as a monster,

“That to be hated needs but to be seen,”—

as dangerous to the public welfare as would be a mad dog in the public highway, or a rattlesnake beneath the pillow of a sleeping infant. Yielding to the earnest entreaties of friends whom I respect, I shall adopt the former, shall leave you to the hangman’s rope, to which your infamous atrocities in Maryland and the every lineament of your wicked countenance, eminently commend you. Nothing else saved you from a dog’s death.

For your information I would state that, after years of active political and professional life—as Editor of the Galena Jeffersonian, Dubuque Express and Herald, Chicago Times, Chicago Herald and Washington Union, as a lawyer of successful practice at the Ills. Bar, a candidate for congress, &c. by pecuniary reverses and the strange vicissitudes of life, I am here a government employee for the miserable salary of \$1400 a year. I am also a member of the Bar of the U. S. S. Court. That I do gross injustice to myself in consenting to occupy such a position, or any clerical position, all who know me will readily inform you; but, in the Providence of God, I hope to soon do better.

Upon the death of my parents in 1858, I returned to Maryland my native state where though a Democrat and against all my personal, social, and political interests I was an active

Union man in the trying cause of the rebellion ; and with others could have saved her forever to the Union party, but for the damnable atrocities committed by you, a military upstart, as commander of that department. By your cruelty many a fire-side was brought to misery.

The cause of the Government was crucified by your despotic acts. The people of the State, undecided what to do, shrunk from it as represented by a wretch who, insensible to all the nobler feelings of humanity, unscrupulously trampled upon every principle of justice and right. Society instinctively shuddered at your high-handed outrages ; recoiled from your misrule ; shrunk away aghast from such a tyrannous administration. The people became estranged from the Government—could not be reconciled to its support—and hence, by your barbarities the present political *status* of Maryland.

In consideration of tried ability, and of personal and political sacrifices in the Union cause, I was appointed June 1st, 1864, to my present humble position by Chief Justice Chase, then Secretary of the Treasury, at the instance of a distinguished Republican statesman. At the instance of Ex-President Lincoln and others who knew me, I was detailed from my desk here, and canvassed, at my own expense, a portion of Maryland in the last Presidential campaign for Lincoln and Johnson.

You will thus perceive that, neither the President or Secretary McCulloch are responsible for my appointment,—that I am not, as falsely asserted by you, “one of the pets of the Secretary.”—Have received no “bonus or premium from him for subserviency”—am no time-serving eunuch”—was not the recipient from him of any portion of the Congressional appropriations—and though now near thirty-three months in the public service competently and faithfully discharging my clerical duties in the most onerous branch of the civil department, am proscribed or neglected by the very authority with whom you

say I am a "pet!" With the ingratitude of my friends towards me, however, you have nothing to do.

The charge that, I have been governed by a "low, mean, vile subserviency to the powers that be," is refuted by the history of my whole life, which has ever struggled in a minority.

"I have not loved the world, nor the world me;
I have not flatter'd its rank breath, nor bow'd
To its idolatries a patient knee,—
Nor coin'd my cheek to smiles—nor cried aloud
In worship of an echo."

Had I politically prostituted myself, rather than been governed by the convictions of my own mind, the dictates of my own judgment, perhaps I would now occupy a position which you dishonor; Sir, I am incapable of bending

"The pregnant hinges of the knee
That thrift might follow fawning,"

otherwise I might join the "bread and butter brigade" commanded by Congress. I have sustained the President not for the reason or in the spirit charged by you, but because I believed his readjustment policy patriotic, humane, just and constitutional.

Your ignorance of the manner of the disbursement of the clerical appropriation would do injustice to a Hottentot. It could not possibly have been given the friends of the President or the "pets" of the Secretary. The Secretary entrusted the disbursement to the Chiefs of Bureaus. It was impossible for him to do it personally. Do you suppose that he can possibly know the individual merits or demerits of every employee in the Treasury Department, except by and through the representations of his chief subordinates? A majority of these, as between Congress and the Executive, support the former. Four-fifths of the Treasury employees are bitterly hostile to

the President, and have been complimented for it by the Washington Chronicle. Coinciding with the views of Congress and the opinions of their chiefs, these employees were almost without exception the recipients of the appropriations. The Secretary, therefore, had personally little or nothing to do with the distribution further than intrusting it to his chief subordinates, and it was disbursed by them according to their judgment or political predilections. He is in no wise responsible for the manner of its disbursement, except, indeed, upon the legal principle, "*facit per se facit per alium.*" Congress surely has no just ground of complaint against the Secretary. If there is any exception to be taken to its distribution, it should come from the President's friends—from none other. So much for your ignorance of the distribution of these appropriations.

Dissatisfied with my position, and wishing to re-engage in my profession, I was recommended by many of the most distinguished statesmen and military men of the country who knew me (*Republicans* and Democrats,) as U. S. Attorney for New Mexico—received the appointment—was sworn in—but, becoming satisfied that just such political cutthroats as yourself would proscribe me for supporting the President, I resigned the office.

Such Sir, is briefly the record hurriedly sketched, of a gentleman whom you have wantonly traduced as a "poor devil—fellow—unworthy," &c., simply because of the honest expression of his political sentiments and support of the President! Shame upon you for such intolerance and wickedness! Shame upon you for thus cowardly assailing an unoffending citizen! Shame upon you for thus disgracing your position and constituents by falsifying the record and

"Traducing the State!"

It is true that I am the author of the preamble and resolutions which have twice unexpectedly created such a fluttering in the Halls of Congress. It is also true that, in support of the President's reconstruction policy, I addressed the people of this District on the 22d February last, and subsequently addressed the N. Democratic Association. It is equally true that, in my leisure hours at night I have been active in circulating documents among the people of the Country, in support of the President's policy. All this I had a perfect right to do. While clerically employed, I have studiously refrained from engaging in political discussion and discountenanced it in others. But, if I'm the "poor devil" you denounce me, why all this excitement and commotion?—why not let me peaceably, in common with my fellow citizens, enjoy my political opinions without personal defamation?—why this cowardly attempt to crush me socially and politically?

Soon after the publication of the resolutions referred to, for reasons satisfactory to myself, I withdrew from the J. D. Club in a card published in the Washington Republican. But, Sir, in justice to that organization, you are informed that, it was composed not of "pets—fellows—time-serving eunuchs," but of civilians and soldiers,—of men who were true to the Government throughout the war—of war-worn veterans, of officers and privates wounded, scarred, and disabled for life in their country's service—men tried upon many an hard-fought battle field, and who

"Plucked success even from the spear proof crests of rugged danger,"

which you, their infamous calumniator, never did. "Poor" 'tis true they are. Not like yourself did they enrich themselves out of the blood, the almost dying extremities of their country, by plunder and robbery under the plea of "Military Necessity."

Villian! disgorge your ill-gotten gains! Pay back the helpless women and children whom you robbed in the State of Maryland! Down, down upon your stubborn knees before God, and ask forgiveness of your manifold sins and wickedness! The heroic, the brilliant Sherman has truthfully said that, "the patriotism of any man was seriously to be questioned, who came out of the War richer than when he went in,"—a sentiment which you are incapable of appreciating, but which points at you with ineffable scorn.

A General without a victory—*except at Vienna!* a hero of drum-like celebrity only heard from except when beaten; a moralist without virtue;—think you that my cherished political sentiments are to be crushed out, my support of the President intimidated by your dastardly vindictiveness? Is a Government employee who faithfully discharges his official duties, to be proscribed for differing with you or those like you? Has he not as much right to sustain the Executive as four-fifths of the employees have to support Congress? Because he will not join in the Radical clamor against the President, is he to be crucified? Are we slaves—insects to be trampled upon without resistance? Wretch! how woefully have you mistaken the spirit of the man, whom you have with malignity incarnate, attempted to crush.

Twice have I been assailed and denounced in Congress for an honest expression of sentiment, and for my support of the President. This "is the head and front of my offending," and if this be treason to Congress, "why—make the most of it."

For your private or personal opinions I care nothing. No sane man who knows you, would hang a dog upon your representations. It may be necessary however, to combat the effect of your prostituted position. Had I not resented this cowardly assault upon my character and feelings, I would have been false to the mother who bore me—recreant to every principle of

manhood ; but hope that I may be spared the necessity of again defending myself from the assaults and aspersions of such in Congress as stoop to slander and villify personally others because of an honest difference of political opinion.

RICHARD H. JACKSON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *Jan.* 11, 1867.

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