

can only avoid bodily suffering & secure the comfort of the body by labour in providing food raiment & shelter against inclement weather so likewise moral or spiritual felicity cannot be acquired without employing the mind in cultivating good sentiments. The body labours most in providing those comforts suitable for itself and as the hands by tilling the earth provide for the sustenance of life so the mind by employing its thoughts concerning our creator his providence & his attributes may provide a harvest of joy "Insuperabile & full of glory" Mind & body are compelled to unite in their operations and it is this compound which forms the curiously constituted being man whose prospects are desolation & wretchedness when mind & body both slumber without exertion. The moral field is more spacious than the surface of the world & more fertile than tropical gardens and is planted with good seed but unless the sprouts are nurtured & cultivated they perish like the untended corn of the husbandmen. Prayer is cultivating a moral crop of purest sentiment & therefore I love it & love those who I think practise it with sincerity & therefore I love Mr. Akim.

Mr. Lammum told Skyles & myself this story. That an old man in his neighbourhood had sent his little son to borrow a log chain which the boy got & in going home with it dragged the chain along the road which left such marks in the dust as to show that it was a chain of some kind that made them. A man named King from whom a thief had stolen some gear & chains being in pursuit of his lost property happened to discover the impressions made by the borrowed log chain in the road & followed them until he was satisfied they led to the house of the old man who was so Lammum said very honest & upright. On this discovery King departed without making any inquiries of the old man concerning the chains he had lost or the chains the old man had & determined to collect a party of his lawless friends & to take him from his house in the night time & to give him what is called Lynch law that is to strip him & whip him for the supposed crime of his having stolen Kings gear & to compel him to surrender them. Accordingly King & his party assembled blacked themselves & went in the night to the old mans house when he was only protected by the company of his two daughters & seized him & dragged him off. As the ruffians were carrying the father off one of his daughters took down a gun in the house which was loaded & fired at the party which had the effect of wounding two of them very badly but her father was not released by it. The company carried him on to the woods & whipt him until he was nearly dead then left him & after the girl had shot, one of the party took the gun from her & knocked her down with it. For these violations of the law actions are now pending in the Washington Circuit Court. I have been often impressed with the most solemn sensations in contemplating events such as the one related. I was more than usual, excited in this instance because my admiration for the daughter was

mingled with my sympathy for the father (who it was said) directed his daughters to save themselves by flight but they would (not) & detestation for the savage thoughtless-ness of those regulators as they termed themselves. The innocence of the old man would have been placed beyond all question had an inquiry been made of him concerning the chain, but suspicion with these fools passed for infallible evidence of guilt & they acted without reflecting that they had surrendered the power of punishment into the hands of society. In all their conduct they were probably influenced at the time by motives fine in their estimation altho horribly wicked in the view of others & in their consequences. Hence I have often thought that ignorance is the parent of more than half the evils in the world but ignorance which leads to such outrages as regulating parties often committed should be considered a criminal stupidity & punished with the utmost severity.

Old Mr. Lammum & myself also entered into a political conversation. I soon learnt that he had voted in support of those candidates who had declared their opinions in favour of the legislative power to pass retrospective re-plevin laws & to remove the judges of the appellate court. He from office by repealing the laws regulating that court. He assigned as a reason for his course that last winter while the legislators were sitting three members of the British house of commons had visited Frankfort & that they as well as the Banks of the U. States had great influence with the judges Boyle Owsley & Mills. This was firmly believed by Mr. Lammum who was I have no doubt a very honest & uninformal man. I could only lament to see good patriotic feelings so perverted by the electing falsehoods which have been industriously circulated to deceive the people & by which means a system of demoralizing & infamous legislation has been introduced by unprincipled men & which has very nearly brought about the political ruin of my country. To avert such wicked machinations & to restore confidence & justice are the objects I have in view as a legislator & I have noted the deception practiced on old Lammum as one among the thousand ridiculous stories with which the people have been duped by designing knaves.

Breakfasted in Springfield a poor looking village & very destitute of water. Here we joined with Benjn Hardin of Nelson & Dabney C. Cosby of Washington members of the legislature & traveled on with them to Frankfort. Arrived at a Mr. Lee's where we staid all night near Chaplinsville. Fork of Salt River. Hardin is a talkative man of fine talents of a serene turn of mind. Cosby is reserved sensible & did not introduce any topic of conversation. Hardin possesses an excellent memory & some wit but I doubt whether he feels those elevated emotions of soul necessary to constitute a pathetic orator.

Nov. 5th

Travelled on thru a poor country to Hacketts where we breakfasted. Arrived at the mansion House in Frankfort a little after sun set. An immense crowd from all quarters of the State had assembled to witness the meeting of the Legislature. Col. S.P. Sharp visited me & proposed that I should become a candidate for the office of speaker of the house of representatives & promised if I would that he would with pleasure support me & told me that my prospects of being elected were very good if not very sure. I informed him that I should not offer that I believed if I were to offer, that I should be indebted to those who were opposed to my political principles for my elevation in case I was elected & that it was a spirit of opposition to G. Robertson more than personal friendship or a regard for my talents that would induce many to vote for me, that Robertson after having been speaker in 1823 was beat by Ward in 1824 on account of his Robertsons political creed which I thought to be correct that Robertson was my friend and had been my schoolmate & under these circumstances I would not oppose him believing that it was due to the questions which had agitated the country to place Robertson in the chair & that I had no disposition to obtain an office of honor or profit by any sort of management which was not freely conferred on the ground of my merit. The Col said he did not wish me in any respect to violate my feelings or to do that which I thought imprudent or improper but hearing that I would probably be a candidate he had thought proper to mention the subject & to assure me of his good wishes. I answered by telling him that the rumours which had been circulated as to my being a candidate were unauthorized by me & that I would not conjecture how they had originated. We parted for the night. I could not help reflecting that the resentments & hostilities which are felt towards one man are often the causes which elevate another & that if my ambition to acquire distinction had surpassed my desire to do good here was a fine opportunity to forget my country & set up for myself. I do not charge Col Sharp with want of respect to me. I have no doubt he entertained it in a high degree for we were always intimate but in regard to the important question of turning the judges of the court of Appeals out of office by repealing laws we had taken different sides & I believed that he as the organ of his party desired to bring me out in opposition to Robertson who had rendered himself very obnoxious to the judges last winter, for the purpose of a triumph over him.

Nov. 7th

Travelled on thru a poor country to Hacketts where we breakfasted. Arrived at the mansion House in Frankfort a little after sun set. An immense crowd from all quarters of the State had assembled to witness the meeting of the Legislature. Col. S.P. Sharp visited me & proposed that I should become a candidate for the office of speaker of the house of representatives & promised if I would that he would with pleasure support me & told me that my prospects of being elected were very good if not very sure. I informed him that I should not offer that I believed if I were to offer, that I should be indebted to those who were opposed to my political principles for my elevation in case I was elected & that it was a spirit of opposition to G. Robertson more than personal friendship or a regard for my talents that would induce many to vote for me, that Robertson after having been speaker in 1823 was beat by Ward in 1824 on account of his Robertsons political creed which I thought to be correct that Robertson was my friend and had been my schoolmate & under these circumstances I would not oppose him believing that it was due to the questions which had agitated the country to place Robertson in the chair & that I had no disposition to obtain an office of honor or profit by any sort of management which was not freely conferred on the ground of my merit. The Col said he did not wish me in any respect to violate my feelings or to do that which I thought imprudent or improper but hearing that I would probably be a candidate he had thought proper to mention the subject & to assure me of his good wishes. I answered by telling him that the rumours which had been circulated as to my being a candidate were unauthorized by me & that I would not conjecture how they had originated. We parted for the night. I could not help reflecting that the resentments & hostilities which are felt towards one man are often the causes which elevate another & that if my ambition to acquire distinction had surpassed my desire to do good here was a fine opportunity to forget my country & set up for myself. I do not charge Col Sharp with want of respect to me. I have no doubt he entertained it in a high degree for we were always intimate but in regard to the important question of turning the judges of the court of Appeals out of office by repealing laws we had taken different sides & I believed that he as the organ of his party desired to bring me out in opposition to Robertson who had rendered himself very obnoxious to the judges last winter, for the purpose of a triumph over him.

Nov. 6th

quitted after his friends in Warren, his animated coun-
 ance, his talents of the first order as a lawyer, his office
 as legislator, his wife, his children all suddenly exchanged
 for an unexpected bloody grave, the darling deed the fiend
 like assassin the mysterious motive, all flashed thru my
 mind in quick succession producing sensations which are with-
 out a name. I went to see the body it was pale & dead. I
 saw it enlivened by the soul the overmight the contrast &
 that so sudden, resembles an awful horrible dream. My sen-
 ses told me it was real & I gazed with sorrow while my
 mind insensibly wandered in a train of thought on that un-
 fathomable subject, the creation & final destinies of man,
 & the strange conflicts which the base passions bring about
 in this world & the littleness of the causes which lead to
 the most calamitous events & indeed the littleness of fame
 talents & wealth on earth compared with those unknown scenes
 which an immortal soul may expect beyond the tomb
 Today the general assembly was organized. Mr Robert-
 son was elected speaker unanimously. Mr. Crittenden nomi-
 nated him to the office. Robertson is a man of regular fea-
 tures with grey eyes dark hair & skin inclined to be cor-
 pulent & rather low in stature. He is a man of good sense
 speaks rather slowly & without exciting like the orator.
 Ardent upon the politics of the day & I take him to be
 fond of promotion. He is a pleasant companion and alto-
 gether a man that I esteem very much. He was my schoolmate.
 Crittenden is a man of fine genius. In person not large of
 ordinary size, black hair & eyes. He speaks beautifully
 chaste & with rapidity & can when he chooses excite & re-
 vit the attention of his audience. He is really eloquent
 & when he chooses can seal his adversary by sarcasm. Mr
 Crittenden offered various resolutions relative to the assas-
 nation of Col Sharp among them one offering a reward of
 \$3000 for the detection & apprehension of the assassin which
 was adopted nem. con. The governor's message was delivered
 today. I was on the committee which waited on his excellency
 to inform him that the two houses were ready to receive any
 communication he might think proper to lay before them. He
 received the committee in the secretary's office standing &
 after he had been introduced to myself & others was informed
 by Saml Daviss of the Senate of our object in waiting on
 him. He folded his arms threw his body backward advanced
 one leg to balance & with a smiling look told us that we
 might inform our respectable houses that he would communi-
 cate to them a message in writing in fifteen minutes. We
 retired & in the promised time the message arrived. It
 breathed that spirit which was depicted on his brow when I
 saw him & threatened to use force in suppressing the pro-
 ceedings of the Judges of the Court of Appeals with Boyle
 Owsley & Mills. I take our Governor Desha to be a man
 destitute of the finer feelings of our nature devoid of any
 generous emotion, selfish, ambitious, & uninformative. He has
 attained an office which so far he has administered as a
 thoroughgoing partizan. He has been abused for his conduct
 with extreme rancour & malice & these have carried his

to wit

It is now more than a month since I have put in this book any observations or reflections altho I have seen & thought of many things which would be interesting to those who may change hereafter to look on these pages. A constant devotion to the duties of my station & the necessary attention given to the transaction of business for my constituents & friends unconnected with my duties as legislator have consumed almost the whole of my time. I now set down to throw together a general account of the most important occurrences & my reflections on them. In the commencement of the session the election of Doctor Daniel from Estill was contested by a Mr Oldham upon the ground that Daniel was not eligible to a seat in the legislature when he was elected. The question was one of age. Daniel acknowledged that he was born on the 2nd of August 24 years previous to last August. The election commenced on the 1st of August last & terminated on the evening of the 3rd of August in Estill. Was Daniel eligible under the constitution & would he hold his seat, in other words was he 24 years of age "at the time of his election" such being the requisition of the constitution. It was contended that the whole three days constituted the time of his election in the sense of the constitution and as he was not 24 until the 2nd those votes which he received on the 1st were thrown away on him he not then being capable of receiving them & as a deduction of these votes from his poll would leave Oldham a considerable majority that Daniel was consequently not elected. It was yielded that Oldham was not entitled to take his seat because Oldham had not received a majority of the suffrages of those who had evinced a determination to exercise their right of voting & therefore a new election should be the result. I did not assert to the correctness of the first position. The right of suffrage in a republic is inherent in the people & founded on principles of natural right. There is no restraint on it except that which

Dec. 12

Today the body of Col Sharp was placed in a nice black coffin in the house of representatives and a funeral discourse delivered over it by the Revd. Jacob Creath. The discourse was a miserable one & convinced me that Creath had no talents altho he has been much puff'd as a first rate baptist preacher. After the discourse a procession was formed & the body conducted to the grave about a mile & one half from town & interred. I was one of the committee of arrangements.

8th

opponents in many respects beyond the boundary of courtesy & perhaps truth & now I look upon Desha as the most miserable man I ever saw. His life would be intolerable to himself, but for his insensibility. And I should judge that the passion of vengeance & love of power are the only motives of the heart he now feels and the circumstances of the times are so ordered that these cause his wretchedness. He cannot wreak his vengeance. He can never hope to be in power again, after his term of service expires.

is imposed by positive law unless therefore the constitution in this instance did restrict it the people of Estill had an unquestionable right to select Doctor Daniel or a boy 10 years old for their representative. The constitution should therefore receive a construction favourable to the natural rights of the people the phrase therefore "at the time of his election" should be taken as alluding to that period of time when the candidate is actually elected twixt the termination of the election & not the whole time during which the election was pending. Besides the literal import of the phrase means that point of time when the candidate is actually elected. A man shall not contract unless he be 21 at the time of making his contract is a synonymous phrase. If he be 21 on signing the contract is valid he need not be 21 when he begins to chatter on the subject of the bargain. The debate took an unexpected turn. Blackstone lays it down that a man is of age on the day before his birth day & this satisfied Ben Hardin & others that Daniel ought to retain his seat & satisfied me that B. H. was not so splendid for talents as I had imagined him to be. P. H. Darby employed to represent Oldham as council redoubled the dictum of Blackstone said it was at war with the laws of God contradicted all nature & was based upon the absurdity of old times which could not have influenced the members of the convention in framing a constitution etc. Possessed of an ugly face Darby has a sparkling mind & speaks & writes with point & some elegance. He has a propensity to indulge in sarcasm & seems to delight in the agitations of a storm.

Leave was asked to bring in a bill to remove the seat of government from Frankfort & 34 members voted against the leave. Another constitutional question arose. The house of Representatives consists of 100 members. The constitution requires the assent of 2/3rds to the passage of a bill removing the seat of government. As 2/3rds are required to concur in the passage is leave to introduce the bill refused unless two thirds grant it? I think not. The introduction of a bill is a question of desertion for the majority of the house who may at pleasure regulate its proceedings in regard to subjects of discussion. But the result of those proceedings & whether they shall or can eventuate in a law or not depends upon the conformity between the ultimate determination of the legislative body & the provisions of the constitution at least they must not be inconsistent the one with the other. Now altho the seat of government can not be removed unless 2/3rds concur in assenting to the bill upon its final passage altho more than one third were opposed to its introduction. Such may be the beneficial result of investigation & discussion.

I find it impossible to progress with this journal according to my original design. Business & repeated interruptions have ended it.

Today I was put in nomination as a candidate for the office of Speaker of the house of Representatives in op-

1826
Dec. 4

position to George Robertson, whom I refused to oppose last session. The reasons assigned for that refusal may be regarded by some as inconsistent with my conduct in suffering myself to be put in nomination at this time. I received a letter from Mr S. Turner of Madison requesting me to become a candidate for the chair some weeks before I left home. I answered it & gave my opinion on the subject very frankly, by stating to him, that I thought that there should be nothing like canvassing for the chair, that such a course was incompatible with the respect which the members owed themselves, that the intelligence & dignity of the House would be best displayed by selecting that member to preside, whose merit should draw to him an unbiased judgement & that if a majority under these impressions should select me as their speaker I would accept the station & serve with my best abilities. I more-
 ever thought, that the indignity offered by party rancour to Robertson in the election of Ward had been atoned for or rather compensated by his unanimous election in 1825. I did not perceive why those who had acted politically with Robertson were under any obligations to him which should induce them to decline office merely for his gratification or promotion. Having been all my life opposed to the spirit of party dictation, I determined to be neutral & let the house dispose of me as it pleased, taking the ground that the office of speaker should neither be sought nor declined. I communicated these views to all those who spoke to me on the subject. I found however there was some dissatisfaction on the part of my political associates they did not like my refusal to subject myself to party-
 trimmings. This produced a correspondent interest in my behalf among my political opponents. The consequence was that I received nearly all their votes and Robertson got those of the old court party with a few exceptions & was elected over me by a majority of I did not know when we assembled in the Representative Chamber that I would be put in nomination. I told those who spoke to me to exercise their own discretion I did not know until after the election was over who nominated me. I had not previously spoken to the member on the subject.

The result of this days proceedings has more than ever convinced me that party discipline is on odious tyranny. Hence-
 forth & forever I abjure it. I will not with a party just so long as they are influenced by principles. I will never join combinations to put up or put down men where no principle is involved. Under these resolves I never calculate on having thoroughgoing partisans for my supporters & partisans; & hence if I ever rise to distinction in the republic it must be the consequence of a solid character for honesty & talent. I despise the political juggler & all under hand management; & had rather dwell in obscurity with the proud consciousness of self worth, than live in the temple of fame, blazened in the world's eye, yet suffocating beneath a knowledge of my own weakness.

1826
Dec. 30

Today an act was passed to remove the unconstitutional
of Appeals. I did not like the wording of the preamble to
this act & made some efforts to give it a form in accord-
ance with my views in which I failed. Notwithstanding this
I am glad the bill has passed & terminated I hope forever
one of the most bitter political controversies that has
ever agitated any country. -- A controversy in which the
successful party believed the stability & value of repub-
lican government was put at stake & severely tested. It
was the object of our adversaries to establish the Suprem-
acy of the Legislative department instead of regarding it
a coordinate Branch of the government. Their design ac-
complished & the consequence would have been, that the
liberty & property would be in the power of demagogues &
liable to distraction from their ignorance, baseness & fury,
without the possibility of successful resistance. Honesty,
industry & patriotism in popular committees may be uprooted
& scattered like chaff before a whirlwind. It is indispens-
ible to give value to republican government that there
should be checks interposed to stop the mad actions of tools
stimulated by the talents of unprincipled knaves, until rea-
son & judgement shall have had time to operate. I have seen
the constitution at the brink of destruction by a new election
project, which originated in a personal dislike to John Pope
secretary of State & a thirst of power felt by the projec-
tors. I have seen this scheme of baseness inaugurated by
demagogues until good men of weak intellects were so en-
raptured with it that they were almost ready to shed their
blood in its support. I have seen the constitution actually
violated & the head of the judiciary a coordinate Branch of
the government paralyzed for two years. I have seen many
good men too supporting this outrage from the finest mo-
tives believing that they were making war upon tyranny &
fighting for freedom. But I have seen these dangerous her-
esies exploded. It has taken time in both cases to do it.
They were both built up by their authors pretending before
the people that they were actuated by much disinterestedness
& great love for their wellfare, when in truth, those who
started the New election project only desired to prostrate
their rivals and increase their own power; & those who
wished to pull down the judiciary were secretly urged on
by the desire to relieve themselves & their friends from
the consequences of their imprudent contracts & retain in
their own hands the means of living at ease by depriving
creditors of their just debts. It was a predatory war up-
on property carried on in disguise. Those who supported it
deserved the name of tyrants, which they lavished on their
adversaries merely to alarm & delude the ignorant.
These things are not yet fully understood. On that I
had leisure to write a history of the times. I could a
tale unfold which it seems to me would teach posterity
that knowledge which would enable them to guard against
the artfulies and wickedness of unprincipled demagogues.
I should be glad to devote one Chapter to the Compromizers
of last winter.

September 25

I left home this morning for Frankfort. President Jackson said last night in Bowlinggreen being on his way to Washington. I travelled to Glasgow today calculating that I should probably fall in with Jackson before he reached Harrodsburg.

Sept. 26

Left Glasgow in company with William Mosely of Woodford formerly a merchant of Glasgow. On reaching Brents near the Ellick we learned that Genl Jackson had passed half an hour before & intended to lodge that night in Greensburg. I had business with Brents & staid with him all night. Mosely went on to Greensburg attracted mainly by curiosity to see the President. At Brents I witnessed a striking display of that devotion to or admiration of exalted persons which has often influenced men to sacrifice themselves to an idolized individual. Mr Doharney & Col Woodridge of Woodford acquaintances of Mosely rode up just as I had dismounted. After salutations passed Mosely told them he was going that night to Greensburg to see the President & requested them to turn about & go with him, as they were (in the partizan language of the times) Jackson men. They said they had met the President & been honored with an introduction. They soon yielded to Moselys solicitation, shaved, dressed & turned about & went to Greensburg. Thus delaying their journey down the country to do honour to the man they admired at the cost of person- al inconvenience & loss of cash. Perhaps Jackson will not remember ten days hence that there are two such beings on earth or if he does will smile at their folly. What good will it do? Is the question I always ask myself on such occasions. These gentlemen were poorly employed if their conduct proceeded as I suspect it did from a principle of man worship. If their object was amusement & they had time & money to throw away or if they were seeking opportunities to make observations on the conduct & characters of others with a view to self improvement it may all have been well enough. But it has always in my opinion been somewhat degrading to enter the train of a great man as a mere shout- or trumpet of his fame. It is an infallible mark of littleness of soul & a want of true dignity of character to desire the huzzas of an unthinking multitude. Real greatness finds its happiness within itself and is as little moved by the breath of adulation as the Andes by a tornado. A good mans motives spring from his relation to his God & if he is great the abulations of human passion whether manifesting devoted admiration or exterminating hatred are met with the calmness of pity or firmness of scorn.

Sept 27

Today I fell in with the President at Sanders near Muldroughs hill where he dined. Here I likewise met Mr Mosely with whom I parted yesterday at Brents. In the evening when riding on to Lebanon Mosely told me this story relative to the interview between the President & the people of Greensburg on the night preceding. He said

that the President lodged at a private house & after supper he was placed in a spacious room where the citizens collected to pay their respects. Among the number was Joel Yanney. Before I proceed with the story I must state something of the character of Yanney as I write this for posterity. I know him well. He learned in early life that assiduous attentions to all classes was mistaken by the world as evidence of benevolence & that apparent friendship for every body was the surest road to popularity. He made it his business to shake hands & learn the names & connections & relationships of the people & was always ready with a how d'ye do & "How is Dick & Tom & Sue & Nel I hope, dear sir, they are very well."

Practised in the arts of a vulgar demagogue without talents, without consistency & without principle he would run with every popular current no matter what. He indeed the people of Barren County to send him to the Legislature as their Representative for many years where he was not distinguished for anything unless it was the ardor of his professions of love for the people & a devotion to every thing which was calculated to secure him votes at home. Taking advantage of Jacksons popularity to change his professions of friendship for Mr Adams & to desert Mr Clay upon a silly pretext, he was elected to Congress. His inconsistency here at length opened the eyes of the people to his worthlessness & he was defeated by C Tompkins. It was soon after discovered that he had spent his estate & his pay as a member of Congress in corrupting the people & in dissipation. He sunk into a state of want & for the purpose of retrieving his fortunes he is now an applicant to Jackson for some office which will bring him money. To show his devotion to the President he rode about 40 miles yesterday to spend the night with him in Greensburg. Moseley said that Yanney seated himself by the President & seemed to take upon himself the right to direct the conversation & the introduction of the crowd. He took the Presidents hand on the little finger of which he wore a fine ring & presenting it to the company said "General tell the company why you wear this ring how you came by it & all about it." Thereupon Jackson said on the day that he heard that Clay Calhoun & Webster had formed a coalition to defeat his resolution & to destroy the utility of his administration a friend had presented him the ring on which was the picture of Hercules strangling the Hydra & expressed a wish that he might be as successful in vanquishing the machinations of these triumvirs. Yanney in great apparent exultation exclaimed addressing himself to the crowd this is the man we support. He is the Hero of two wars & this same hand shows the marks of the wound inflicted by the British officer who beat the general for not blacking his boots: & looking at Moseley whom he knew to be a friend of Clay & who was standing a little distance off he then addressed Moseley as if he was inordinous & said Come up

Mr Moseley come up sir & see for yourself." Moseley being designated by name said he advanced under some feelings of surprise at the vulgar electioneering which was going on & examined the hand which upon two fingers had marks of wounds similar to those which would be made by biting with the teeth in a rowdy fight. While looking at the hand the President remarked that was not all he had been struck on the head with a stick on the same occasion & if Mr Moseley would put his hand up he could feel the scar which was left. Moseley said the remark & manner of the President was an invitation that he should do so & accordingly he placed his hand on the Presidents head to feel for the scar. The President told him he felt too high took hold of his finger & said "I will direct it to the spot" & did so. It was a scar on the back part of the head just above the junction with the neck. Moseley said "I feel it sir" & the scene ended. The crowd looking on with various & strong sensations no doubt.

I told Moseley I could scarcely believe that a President of the U States on the eve of an election would for political effect so far forget his personal dignity as to expose his scars in order to conciliate & make an impression upon a mixed company. He assured me whatever might be my astonishment it was nevertheless a fact. I believe he told me the truth & I have put down the story in the hope that it may be published 100 years hence. It will teach the people who may then live that there is no artifice which will not be resorted to for the purpose of procuring & retaining office & power. Before that time trust the evils resulting from the election of Jackson will be seen, & that future generations in choosing a president will look to the contents of his head & heart and not the scars on his body to direct their choice.