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B. F. FACKENTHAL, JR.

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Hon. Samuel D. Ingham.

BY REV. D. K. TURNER, HARTSVILLE, PA.

(Doylestown Meeting, January 18, 1887.)

One of the objects of the Bucks County Historical Society is to hand down to posterity the recollection of the worthy deeds and exalted characters of those who have deserved and won fame among our own people. On this roll of renown the name of Samuel D. Ingham occupies a conspicuous place. He was the only one, who, being a native and long a resident of this county was chosen to be an advisor of the President of the United States in his Cabinet. Few others of our own citizens have displayed greater intellectual ability, and none has ever stood in a more elevated position. It is highly appropriate, therefore, that his character and public services should be made the subject of investigation and of comment in the proceedings of this society.

Samuel Delucenna Ingham, son of Dr. Jonathan Ingham and Ann Welding was born at Great Spring, Solebury township, September 16, 1779. His great-grandfather, Jonas Ingham, was of Saxon origin, and emigrated from England about the year 1705. Jonathan Ingham, the only son of Jonas, was born in Trenton, in 1710. About the year 1739, Jonathan, accompanied by his father, removed to Bucks county, and bought a part of the estate of James Logan, containing the noted "Spring," which was long known as "Ingham Spring." This property remained in the possession of the family about one hundred and ten years. Jonathan Ingham, Sr., the grandfather of Samuel, died in Solebury, in 1799, aged 89 years, and was buried in the grave-yard of the Buckingham Friends' meeting. His son, Dr. Jonathan, was born at Great Spring, July 16, 1744. Fond of study from the period of youth, he acquired a knowledge of the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages, and could converse with one tribe of Indians in their own dialect. In the summer of 1793 Philadelphia was visited by yellow fever and large numbers of the inhabitants died.*

Dr. Ingham, Samuel's father, was anxious to discover a reme-

* See Watson's Annals, 1857 Edition, Vol. 2, page 389.

dy for that fearful malady, and with that object in view he often went to the city, and assisted in giving attendance to the sick and dying. This resulted in his being attacked himself, and thinking that the air of a more elevated locality might check the development of the disease, he hastened towards Schooley's Mountain, but before he reached there at a point in the road about a mile west of Clinton, New Jersey, he died in his carriage, October 1, 1793, and was buried in the grave-yard of the Bethlehem, N. J. Presbyterian church. He was the father of eleven children, five sons and six daughters, only one, a son, dying before him. Samuel was the fifth child, the oldest surviving son at the time of his father's death, and only fourteen years of age. A widow with ten children, and an aged grandfather, in his 80th year, were left with no one to provide for them. The youthful Samuel felt that the responsibility of caring for them devolved in a measure upon him.

He learned the trade of paper-making in a mill on the Penny-pack creek, and while thus employed used every effort to acquire an education, often going on foot to Philadelphia, a distance of 16 miles to get books from a library. His intellect expanded, and as he grew to manhood he displayed strong judgment, and became the trusted counsellor of the family. It is said that in his studies during his apprenticeship he was assisted by a Scotchman, named Craig. At twenty-one years of age, when he was his own master, he returned to his mother's home and assumed direction of affairs on the farm and in the paper-mill, which was operated by water-power derived from the "Big Spring".

Soon after establishing himself at the fraternal mansion, August 25, 1801, before he was twenty-two years old, he was united in marriage to Rebecca Dodd, of Bloomfield, N. J., who was the mother of six of his children, three sons and three daughters, all of whom are now dead. As a young man he became interested in local politics and for several years was secretary of the Democratic county meetings. This rendered him familiar with usages of public deliberative bodies, and paved the way for advancement to higher positions. Three successive years, 1805-6-7, he was elected a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and in 1808 he declined a re-election. About this time, without

solicitation on his part, Governor Thomas McKean sent him a commission of justice of the peace. It was mainly owing to the exertions of Mr. Ingham and Benjamin Parry that the act for building a bridge over the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry, between New Hope and Lambertville, was obtained from the Legislature, and those two gentlemen were appointed a committee to superintend its erection. The cost of this including the purchase of ferry rights, toll-houses and approaches was about \$68,000.

Parton says: "Ingham's successful management of his private business, in circumstances of more than usual difficulty, constructing his mill in a region where not a mechanic whom he employed had ever seen one, and starting it with far more credit than capital, proves him to have been a man of executive ability."

Mr. Ingham represented this district in Congress from 1812 to 1816. But after serving in the 15th Congress one term, the declining health of Mrs. Ingham rendered it necessary for him to resign. He then accepted the position of prothonotary of this county, and removed his place of residence for a few years to Doylestown. In 1819 Governor Findlay, father of the late Judge John K. Findlay, appointed him Secretary of the Commonwealth, an office the duties of which he performed with ability and credit until the close of the gubernatorial term. In 1822, 1824, 1826 and 1828 he was chosen to represent his fellow citizens in the National House of Representatives at Washington, and with his previous service in that body was a member of seven separate Congresses, which has been seldom, if ever, equalled by any delegate from this county. For a considerable time he was chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, and was also a member of the important Committee on Ways and Means. Though he could at any time, as occasion required, present his views upon public questions on the floor of the House, yet he sought more to exert his influence and employ his energies in the deliberations and investigations of the committee room.

During the first Congress of which Mr. Ingham was a member his seat was next to that of John C. Calhoun, to whom he became strongly attached; but did not share his views of the supremacy of the rights of the states.

In 1828 he used his influence to secure the election of General Jackson. In 1824 he had labored earnestly for Jackson and Calhoun, when the latter was elected Vice President, and Pennsylvania cast all her electoral votes, twenty-eight in number, for both those candidates for the highest National offices; but Jackson not having a majority over all other candidates, the election for President was thrown into the House of Representatives, and John Quincy Adams was there elected by a majority of one state, having thirteen states in his favor out of twenty-four.

Parton in his "Life of Andrew Jackson," says, "Mr. Ingham was one of those Pennsylvanians who had originally preferred Mr. Calhoun for the Presidency, and suspended their efforts in his behalf, in deference to the evident wish of the people." Mr. Ingham's warm advocacy of Gen. Jackson's claim to the Presidency both when he failed of an election and later when he secured it were some of the reasons that influenced the general in 1829 to nominate him for Secretary of the Treasury, and moreover he was recommended by his party associates in Congress as well as by his fellow-citizens at home.

While Mr. Ingham was Secretary of the Treasury, the United States Bank was in the full tide of prosperity. It was an institution of vast resources and great usefulness. Its capital was thirty-five millions of dollars; the funds of the general government deposited in it were six or seven millions; the deposits of private individuals were six millions more, and its circulation twelve millions. The principal place of its business was in a splendid marble building in Philadelphia, where were employed a hundred clerks; and besides this there were twenty-five branches in as many different towns and cities of the Union. Its credit was unimpaired throughout the whole land, and its notes were taken at par from Maine to Oregon and from the lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and were received in the countries of Europe with simply the difference of the rate of exchange. Three months after Mr. Ingham entered upon his duties as Secretary a large payment was to be made on the public debt. Nicholas Biddle was then president of the bank, and Mr. Ingham wrote to him at the commencement of the business, accepting the offer of the facilities which the bank afforded for transacting it. While payment was in progress he wrote again, in the following terms:

"I cannot close this communication without expressing the satisfaction of the department at the arrangements which the bank has made for effecting these payments in a manner so accommodating to the treasury, and so little embarrassing to the community." When the task was completed he expressed again his high appreciation of the aid the bank had given and his gratitude for it. It is evident from this that Mr. Ingham did not sympathize with General Jackson in his opposition to the bank or that the latter entered upon his course of hostility to it at a later period. At first the general seems to have entertained no feelings inimical to it. But he became prejudiced against it by complaints from Isaac Hill, of New Hampshire, then Second Comptroller of the Treasury, and others of the same state, that Jeremiah Mason, president of the Portsmouth branch, an intimate personal friend of Daniel Webster, had withheld loans from some who were Jackson men and granted them to his political opponents. Partiality, when exercised against his supporters, aroused the general's resentment, as we might naturally suppose it would; and as Mr. Mason was accused of that offense though the charge was promptly denied, the Democrats in New Hampshire demanded his removal. Nicholas Biddle declined to accede to their wish, and this seems to have been the origin of General Jackson's opposition to the United States Bank. Many letters passed between Mr. Ingham and Mr. Biddle upon this affair, in all of which the Secretary of the Treasury displayed shrewdness, ingenuity and the ability to cope with the ablest minds.

There was in Washington during the early years of General Jackson's administration, a hotel kept by William O'Neal, where a large number of members of Congress boarded during their stay in the city. His daughter Peggy, as she was called in her girlhood, bright lively and beautiful, formed the acquaintance of many public men, and was a general favorite. At length she married Mr. Timberlake, a purser in the navy, who died a few years after by his own hand while on a cruise at sea. Major John H. Eaton, Senator from Tennessee, had admired the young woman before her marriage, and when she became a widow, he being a widower was inclined to marry her. Coming from the same state as Gen. Jackson, and a gentleman of fine manners

and address, an acute lawyer, interesting in conversation, and a polished speaker in legislative halls, he was one of his intimate friends and mentioned to him that he had it in mind to marry Mrs. Timberlake, but that reports had been circulated prejudicial to her good name. The general scouted the idea that anything could be said truthfully against her character or conduct, and advised him to follow the inclinations of his heart in spite of all the malicious slanders that envious women could invent. Major Eaton gladly took the counsel of his distinguished friend, and the naval officer's widow became the Senator's wife. Shortly before the inauguration, it was rumored that the new President expected to take Major Eaton into his Cabinet. No one seemed disposed to make serious objections, so far as the Senator himself was concerned; but it at once occurred to the ladies of the upper classes in Washington, the wives and daughters of Senators and the highest officers in the government, that as the wife of a member of the Cabinet Peggy O'Neal would be entitled to a place in their society. The President was visited and remonstrated with, and assured that trouble was in store for him if he persisted in carrying out the proposed plan. But General Jackson, as usual, would not yield. He claimed that Major Eaton was worthy of the place; that the country would be benefitted by his services, and that lying tales about one of his family should not swerve him from a course which he deemed right; that other people might visit whom they pleased, but he should always treat the major and his lady with the highest respect. The general had his way about the composition of his Cabinet, but he could not control the ladies of Washington, and they influenced their husbands. The Secretary of War soon found himself and family slighted and contemned. The Cabinet was divided on the question of the proper treatment to be given to him and his household. Those who would pay no heed to the rumors were the President and Major Eaton, Mr. Van Buren, Secretary of State, and Mr. Barry, Postmaster-General; on the other side were Mr. Ingham, Mr. Branch, Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Berrien, Attorney-General, Mr. Calhoun the Vice President. Major Eaton was in an extremely embarrassing position. So little was said against him that he could not demand satisfaction from those whose families would not associate with his family; yet his intercourse with the three married men in the Cabinet was for a

long time strictly official. General Jackson was dissatisfied with the want of harmony in his Cabinet, and he finally conceived the idea that "Messrs. Ingham, Branch and Berrien were using their influence to have Major Eaton and his family excluded from all respectable circles, for the purpose of degrading him, and thus driving him from office," and he declared that if such was the fact, he would deprive them of office.

Mr. Ingham prepared a long and minute statement of his conduct and views in regard to the settlement of the difficulty which was submitted to the President, and from which the following may be quoted:

"As to the family of Mr. Eaton, I felt an obligation on me not to say anything to aggravate the difficulties, which he labored under, but to observe a total silence and neutrality, and to inculcate the same course as to my family, and if any other representations had been made to the President they were false. If he chose to exert his power to force my family to visit anybody they did not choose to visit he was interfering with what belonged to me, and no human power should regulate the social intercourse in my family, by means of official or any other power, which I could resist. If I could submit to such control I should be unworthy of my station and should despise myself."

When Mr. Ingham's positive denial of any combination or conspiracy against Major Eaton was communicated to the President he appeared satisfied and disclaimed the wish to regulate the social relations of the families of his advisers. He went so far as to propose a meeting between Mr. Branch and Major Eaton for the purpose of securing a reconciliation between them, and after this for a time apparent concord reigned in the circle immediately about the National Chief Magistrate. But he seldom consulted the three gentlemen, and after a time meetings of the Cabinet ceased to be held altogether. In 1830, about a year after Jackson had entered the White House, he learned in some way that Mr. Calhoun had proposed in 1818 that his conduct in the Seminole war should be investigated. Whereupon he called upon Vice-president Calhoun by letter to explain his connection with the unjust and false accusations.

The Vice-President's reply not being satisfactory, the general refused to have further amicable relations with him, and all who had been particularly friendly to Mr. Calhoun incurred his displeasure. Among these were the members of the Cabinet who had differed from the President in respect to Major Eaton's

family. They fell into disfavor, and he determined to dissolve the Cabinet. Mr. Van Buren and Major Eaton opened the way for this measure by tendering their resignation, and the others soon learned that the President desired that they imitate their example. In accepting Mr. Ingham's resignation the President closed his letter as follows:

"It is with great pleasure that I bear testimony to the integrity and zeal with which you have managed the fiscal concerns of the Nation. In your discharge of all the duties of your office, over which I have any control, I have been fully satisfied; and in your retirement you carry with you my best wishes for your prosperity and happiness."

A dissolution of the Cabinet had never before taken place since the formation of the Federal Union, except at the close of a Presidential term. It was not expected by the people generally and aroused surprise and excitement throughout the land. Many blamed Calhoun for it; others thought it a cunning movement of Van Buren; and others still ridiculed General Jackson about the *unity* of his Cabinet. The New York *American* published the following:

"TO THE HERO: TOUCHING HIS 'UNIT,' "

"Your rats united might have been,
But should we judge from actions,
We'd say, although a 'Unit' then,
They now are *Vulgar Fractions*."

A picture or cartoon was issued and circulated extensively, in which the members of the Cabinet were represented as rats with human heads. The portrait of each man quite lifelike, and the President stood over them with a broom sweeping them out of the house.

Mr. Ingham resigned the office of Secretary of the Treasury in April, 1831, but the vacancy being filled by the appointment of Hon. Louis McLane, minister to the court of St. James, who did not return from England till August, he continued to discharge the duties of the position for several months. Major Eaton also remained in Washington, and becoming exasperated almost to madness by the reports which had crept into the public journals, among others a statement that Mr. Ingham had said he would not associate with the major's family, an angry correspondence ensued between them. The major demanded an apology or satisfaction by a duel. Mr. Ingham would give neither. Then Major Eaton waylaid him to horsewhip him, or as Mr.

Ingham supposed, to assassinate him, and to avoid any further difficulty he retired from the capital and returned to his home in Bucks county, where he was received with great honor by his fellow citizens, by whom his course in political life was almost universally approved. Rev. George Hale, D. D., of Philadelphia, his son-in-law, says of him: "He was offered the ministry to Russia, but he declined. There was a time, when, if he had given consent, his name would have been put forward as Pennsylvania's choice for the highest office in the gift of the American people. Mr. Ingham never received a commission for pensions secured or any pecuniary compensation directly or indirectly for any special service rendered through the whole period of his public life."

For several years, Mr. Ingham efficiently co-operated with the Bucks County Agricultural Society* and had a large share in developing the anthracite coal resources of Pennsylvania, through the Beaver Meadow Co., and afterwards through the Lehigh Valley Railroad and kindred organizations. In 1860 he warmly adopted those principles which led to the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States. "He was a man of strong feelings, but always master of himself, temperate in meat and drink, even eschewing tobacco in every form; never careless, inconsiderate, or extravagant in speech."

His first wife began as early as 1815 the first Sunday school ever held in New Hope, and every Sabbath Mr. Ingham, though not a communicant, attended Mrs. Ingham to the school, assisted her in the work, and then escorted her home again. Mrs. Ingham, in connection with another "Mother in Israel," was the founder of the Solebury Presbyterian church, and in carrying the project into effect he was unsparing in the contribution of influence, effort and funds. He was always a regular attendant on the preaching of the gospel in the sanctuary and a liberal supporter of the pastor and a firm believer in the fundamental doctrines of Christianity. In 1849 he removed from Solebury to Trenton, N. J., where his death occurred June 6, 1860. He lived for more than eighty years without a stain upon his character. His remains lie buried in the graveyard of the Thompson Memorial Presbyterian church, Solebury.

* For Mr. Ingham's address before Bucks County Agricultural Society, see Hazard's Register, Vol. VI, page 118.

Mr. Ingham was twice married. His first wife, Rebecca Dodd, died August 25, 1819. His second wife, to whom he was married December 2, 1822, was Deborah Key Hall, daughter of Clement Hall, of Salem, N. J., who was the mother of three daughters and one son. The latter, William A. Ingham, is an attorney at law in Philadelphia, and the only living daughter is the wife of Rev. Dr. George Hale, of the same city.

The Mode of Life in Our Early Settlements.

BY DR. GEORGE H. LARISON, LAMBERTVILLE, N. J.

(Solebury Deer Park Meeting, July 26, 1887.)

These counties, Hunterdon of New Jersey and Bucks of Pennsylvania whose historical societies have joined together in holding this inter-state meeting present quite a different appearance from what they did when the white man first made his way through the virgin forests and settled upon his first home, his mode of living then was fitted to his surroundings and very different from our mode to-day.

Our counties were first reached by settlers under Penn, who pushed their way from the landings on the Delaware, on the south, and from landings on the east at Manhattan and thereabouts.

From the landings in and about Philadelphia came from England some of her best blood—men of steady habits, great courage, honor and industry. And from the landings on the east, at Manhattan, the Kill Von Kull and Arthur Kill, came the noble Hollander mixed with French Huguenot blood from the goodly land of dykes and Van Dykes. With these there came the Welsh and Scotch, and to the north, there came from the German provinces not a few.

The Welsh settled from the Pennypack to Hilltown and the Scotch selected to best suit themselves.

All these had habits and modes of life learned in the Fatherland—and as Cæsar said of Gaul's divisions—"All these differ from each other in language, customs and laws."

More than Cæsar's men, each had a religious notion, characteristic withal.

The Englishman had a trade from home apprenticeship, which