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## CONDITIONS

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Letters to the Editors must be post-paid.

## MARSHAL BLUCHER.

From an English paper.

General *Lebrecht Von Blucher*, the descendant of a noble family in the Duchy of Mecklenburg Schwerin, was born at Rostock, Dec. 16, 1742, being the youngest of six brothers. His father was captain of dragoons in the service of the Elector of Hesse-Cassel, and when young Blucher was 12 years old, four of his brothers were serving in the Prussian, Russian, and Danish armies. At this early period he became a cadet in the Swedish regiment of Mürzer Hussars; but being sent with a detachment of ten men, he was surprised and made prisoner, after having had a horse shot under him. When he was brought before Col. Von Belling, that officer asked him many questions, and finally offered him a commission in the Prussian service. This, however, Blucher refused, unless he could gain his dismissal from that which he owed allegiance. This the colonel succeeded in obtaining by an exchange; and immediately appointed his young friend to a Lieutenancy, purchased for him the equipage that had belonged to his predecessor, and finally made him his Adjutant. Under that officer, Blucher acquired a thorough knowledge of military duty; but when the colonel incurred the displeasure of his Sovereign, and was displaced, his friend experienced some ill treatment in consequence of the zeal manifested by him in the defence of one whom he justly regarded as a parent. Blucher was at that time a captain, and when the Major of his regiment died, a junior officer was placed over his head; on which he remonstrated earnestly with Frederick the Great, but received no redress. He then wrote a letter to the King, requesting permission to "resign rather than expose himself to most acute sensations during every hour of his life." To this letter Frederick wrote the following note, addressed to the commandant of the regiment:—

"Captain Von Blucher has leave to resign, and may go to the Devil as soon as he pleases." FREDRICK.  
Our hero was at this time about to be married to a lady of great merit but small fortune, and his means were also contracted, the disappointment he had sustained in the loss of his majority was severe. However, the union took place and Blucher farmed an estate in Pomerania, whereby his diligence in a few years acquired a considerable landed property. Of that province, he was also chosen High Bailiff; and it should be mentioned, to the honor of Frederick, that however harshly he had behaved towards Blucher in the army, he acted liberally towards him in other respects, particularly by giving him such pecuniary assistance as enabled him to purchase advantageously, and to improve his estates. On the death of that Monarch, fifteen years after the retirement of Blucher, he was again called to the service, and appointed Major of the second battalion of his former regiment of Black Hussars. He soon rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and in 1793, being then full colonel, he was invested with the Order of Merit. His career of glory may be said to have commenced in the campaign on the Rhine, in 1793, where he distinguished himself so conspicuously as to receive the year following the regiment of Black Hussars as a reward for his service. The same year he was promoted to the rank of Major-General, and invested with the Grand Order of the Red-Eagle. At this period he became an author in the line of his profession, by publishing a valuable book, "On a War of Posts and Skirmishes, with Observations on Ambuscades."

In 1801, he was made Lieutenant-General, at which time he took possession of Erfurth & Mulhausen, being also appointed Governor of Munster. At the battle of Jena, Blucher performed wonders though some blame has been unjustly cast upon him for his

precipitancy, when in fact the whole miscarriage of that day was owing to Marshal Müllendorf. After that battle, Blucher was appointed to the command of the Prince of Wirtemberg's corps, with orders to conduct it across the Oder; and while engaged in this service, he fell in with the French light troops, under General Klein, when, by great presence of mind, he completely deceived the enemy, with a declaration that peace had been concluded between France and Prussia.—Bonaparte particularly noticed this occurrence in one of his bulletins, accompanied by a severe animadversion on the conduct of his officers. After a succession of skirmishes and forced marches, Blucher threw himself into Lubec, which he defended with great obstinacy against superior numbers, under Bernadotte, to whom at length the Prussian hero was obliged to capitulate. After the peace of Tilsit the king entrusted him with the command of the Silesian army, with which he has performed deeds that have astonished all Europe. After the victory of Leipzig, our veteran was made Field Marshal; and a few days before his landing in England, he was raised to the dignity of Prince Blucher of Wahlstadt.

On the death of his first wife Blucher married the daughter of Mr. Von Colomb, Counsellor of the Finances.—By his former lady he had three children—two sons, Francis and Gerhardt, and one daughter, who are all living.—Count Francis Von Blucher is colonel commandant of the Brown Hussars; and the second son served as captain in his father's regiment, but having resigned, he now lives on the family estates in Pomerania. The daughter married Count Von Schlenburg, on whose death she took for her second husband, in 1814, Baron Vonder Alreburg.

## MARSHAL SOULT.

The following biographical sketch of a distinguished general, is in circulation. It represents him to be a German. It is said, however, on very respectable authority in this country that the name is a French name, that many years ago a brother of Marshal Soult was a consul of France in one of the Southern states, and that Marshal Soult himself is a native of the south of France. It is true that both the French Empire and the German Empire have produced great generals, and it is no discredit to the marshal to be claimed by one or the other, or both. It would appear prudent to receive the accounts of European party newspapers with caution. As to *Mechanical employments*, we know well in this country, that very great and very good men spring up in those valuable classes of our free citizens.—*Franklin Rittenhouse, Greene*, and many other mechanics repose forever in the loftiest bed of honor, and in the bosom of their country's love. It is agreed by all, that marshal Soult has not *cabbaged* either fame or fortune out of *other men's cloth*, though he very well knew how to seize the skirts and fore bodies of the enemies of France, and to cut them up. In his last battle of 1814, he made *eyelot holes* innumerable, in the many colored materials of which the army of Wellington was composed.—*Press.*

## For the Democratic Press.

I met the following short account of Marshal Soult's life, by accident, in one of the German country newspapers, called the "Yorksfriend," and translate it for your paper, as a subject apparently worth the perusal of your readers.

Mr. Printer.—A short and concise narrative of the life of Marshal Soult, a warrior become so famous in the modern history of Europe, cannot but be acceptable to many of your readers. Being a countryman of his, and having known him personally, I am enabled to warrant the following facts:

Marshal Soult, (the duke of Dalmatia) is now one of those proscribed men, who being accused of a particular adherence to Bonaparte, and of having broken their oath to Louis XVIII. have to quit the French Empire within a year, and are closely superintended in the interim. He is a German, and was born on the right bank of the Rhine, at the city of Dusseldorf, in the duchy of Berg. His father was by trade a tailor, and had intended him for the same business, but he not relishing it, quitted his father, and before the latter could prevent it, got himself enlisted as a drummer in the garrison of Dusseldorf, being for the carrying of the musket, too young yet. Some years afterwards he shouldered the gun, and the French army having at the same time penetrated into the Netherlands, he left the palatinate service, and went over into that of the French. Here he

distinguished himself in many bloody battles against the Austrians, by his superior courage and bravery, and that was in those first times of the revolution merit enough to arrive to the highest military posts of honor. At the murderous battle of Fleurus, he nearly succeeded in making the emperor of Austria prisoner, who, by the rapid turn of the battle, was drawn into the thickest, and only saved by his having been perceived in good time by several Hungarian hussars who precipitated themselves up to him, and rescued him. At that time he received eighteen wounds, and was confined in the hospital for a long time before he recovered and was fit for service again. From that time his military career takes its date, and he was promoted from post to post. When the French under general Jourdan, for the first time passed the Rhine, he had already attained the rank of a brigadier general, and was appointed commandant of Dusseldorf. As such he did essential services to his place of nativity, and alleviated as much as he could, all military requisitions and contributions in the place; at the same time he also rendered support to his poor father, and enabled him to quit the tailor's business, become too laborious for his age.

At all military expeditions afterwards, as well as in all the different changes of the French government, Soult remained always the same, and enjoyed the esteem of the whole army.

When Bonaparte began to play his distinguished part, he soon perceived the extraordinary military merits of Soult, whose tried bravery and military knowledge he so valued as to make him a marshal; and afterwards the duke of Dalmatia. In the later expeditions he commanded as general in chief of the French army in Spain, and it is his superior skill and the great resolution of his mind, that France has to thank for the preservation of that army.

Louis 18th, after the first fall of Bonaparte, raised him to the highest military rank, namely, to that of the minister of war. When Bonaparte returned from Elba, Soult clung to him again, and quitted the king's service.—He received command on the Rhine, but was beaten by the invading army of the Bararians, and is now found on the list of the proscribed since Bonaparte's second fall, for his adherence to him.

Soult is, perhaps, amongst all the French marshals, the one who got the least riches out of the storms of the times and the continued stay of the French army in the enemy's country. A small country seat on the bank of the Seine is all his landed property, which at the present decline of landed property in France, would give to him out a very middling price. He was married before he quitted the Palatinate service; his wife the present duchess of Dalmatia, was a servant girl at Solingen, in the duchy of Berg.

Soult will probably now resort to his place of nativity, where by his former humane conduct as commandant of the hostile garrison, he has acquired the permanent esteem of his fellow-citizens.

Since the above has been in type we have read a very interesting biographical memoir of Marshal Soult written by general Sarrasin. It is silent as to the birth place of the marshal, but confirms the above sketch so far as relates to his being "born of parents but in middling circumstances," and says "he was only 16 years of age when he enlisted as a common soldier." The marshal is now not more than 45 years of age, his height 5 feet 10 inches, and his constitution vigorous. It is a little extraordinary that any doubt should remain as to the country or birth place of a man so distinguished as the duke of Dalmatia, a man who immediately after the battle of Austerlitz, was embraced by Bonaparte, who in the presence of all the officers of his staff said "my dear marshal, I hold you to be the first tactician of my Empire."—"Sire, I believe it," replied Soult "since it is your majesty that has the goodness to tell me so."

## NAPOLEON.

(Supposed to be from the French of M. Chateaubriand.)

"At this time arose a hero who gave an era to our history; whose will was his law, and whose word was power. He bound the iron crown of the Queen of the World upon his brows, and withered Monarchs with his look. He thought it no robbery to be made equal with Princes. He assumed the mock-majesty of Kings, and mimicked the demi-puppets and pageantry, that so he might take upon him the infirmities of his people, and bear their reproach among nations, and clothe them with his might as with a garment. He outlaced the servile

slaves of appearances in their own way, and played off their own poor miracles of sound and show against them. They hated and scorned the truth, and he made them chew their darling lies in gall and bitterness.—But, in spite of this degrading equality, he still in the sovereignty of his mind and his throne, stood afar off in the field of battle. He who had watched in Julius Cæsar's tower, and had fed on the dreams of Ossian's heroes, could not dwindle into the head cypher of a Court. Overlooking the insignificance of modern thrones, he moulded himself in the glass of antiquity. Brooding over the great and permanent, his plans partook of the vastness of time and nature. His mind projected and stamped the image reflected from the past on the future. His lofty ambition looking back to the mighty deeds of an Alexander, a Cæsar and a Charlemagne, could not rest till he had reared a monument of equal height and glory for the wonder of posterity, nor till he had divided the circle of immortality with them."

## LUDICROUS VILLAINY.

The following account of a singular case tried in one of the courts of Pennsylvania, is extracted from the Democratic Press.

Commonwealth vs. John Dady, alias Thate.

This person was a phenomenon in the annals of roguery. It is to be regretted that more of his history is not known, as it would no doubt be very entertaining.

He was a German by birth, and came to this country with the Hessians, in the time of the American revolution. He possesses a fascinating eloquence in the German language, and was pretty fluent in the English tongue.

Before his villainy and baseness were known, his talents had procured him clerical employment among the uninformed but honest Germans.

In the year —, he made his first appearance in the criminal courts of the counties of Bedford and Dauphin in the garb of a clergyman.

Quitting the sacred garb of religion when it would no longer serve his venality, he put on that of a physician.—With this professional cloak he sat himself down among the poor inhabitants of a mountainous part of York County, where in various artful ways he depredated on the purses of the unwary.

In the year —, he was indicted and convicted of a conspiracy to cheat, of a most extraordinary kind. The following report, or rather abstract of the evidence, as it appeared in evidence on his trial, excites pity for the stupidity of the individuals duped, at the same time that it creates laughter at the means used to seduce them out of their money.

*Rice Williams*, or rather Rainsford Rogers, a New-England man, and John Hall, a New-Yorker, who had been plundering the people of the southern states by their wiles, and had probably escaped from some of the jails, came to the house of one Chamberlain, who is a neighbor of Dady's, in July last.

The following morning Dady came to Chamberlain's, and had a private intercourse with them before service.—Dady left them. Williams then asked Chamberlain whether that place was not haunted—he was answered in the negative. Williams said it was; he had been born with a veil over his face; could see spirits, and he had been conducted thither sixty miles by a spirit. Hall assented to the truth of this. In the evening they had another interview with Dady. Williams then asked Chamberlain to permit him to stay all night, and he would show him a spirit. They went into a field where Williams drew a circle, around which he directed Hall and Chamberlain to walk but not speak. Williams stood in view at a small distance. Chamberlain heard a terrible screech (this was the black one) in the woods a little distance off, in a contrary direction from the place where Williams stood. In a few minutes a white ghost appeared; Williams spoke to it in a language Chamberlain the witness could not understand. The ghost spoke to him in a squeaking language. When the ghost went away Williams said it had a treasure which it was permitted to disclose to a certain number of men, these were eleven in number. They must be honest, religious and sensible, but neither horse jockies nor Irishmen.

The intercourse between Williams and Dady now ceased to be apparent, though it was kept up in private.—Williams shortly after married Dady's sister-in-law. Dady performed the marriage ceremony by Williams' double name.

Chamberlain satisfied with the existence of a ghost, and a treasure, was

easily persuaded to recruit a company, which was soon effected.

Each candidate was initiated by the receipt of a small sealed paper, containing a little yellow sand, which was called "the power." This power the candidate must bury an inch in the earth, for three days and nights, each evening carefully wetting it. A circle of two perches in diameter was formed in the field, the centre of which had a hole of six inches wide and as many deep. A captain, lieutenant, and three committeemen were elected: Hall had had the honor of the captaincy.—The exercise was to pace round the circle, at which time if any one inclined to —, the centre was the place.— This it was said strengthened and precipitated the white ghost, who was supposed to an unfriendly one called Pompey. In the course of their nocturnal exercises, they were frequently pleased with a view of the white ghost.— They saw Pompey also, but he belloved surlily and threw stones at them.— On the night of the 18th of August, Williams undertook to get instructions from the white ghost. Here is a short extract from this pretty epistle:—"Go on and do right and prosper, and the treasure I am permitted to write this in the same hand, I wrote in the flesh for your directions O— Take care of your powers in the name and fear of God our protector, if not, leave the work. There is great treasures, 4000l. a piece for you. Don't trust to the black one. Obey your orders.— Break the enchantment; which you won't do until you get each man an ounce of P., mineral dulcimer elixir some German doctor has it. It is *nigh*, and *dear*, and *scarce*; let the committee get it for all. Committee send one to get it, but don't let the doctor know what you are about, he is wicked."

This is but a small part of this precious communication. The folly, impiety, and barbarism of the whole is beyond credibility. In consequence of this ghostly direction, a young man by order of the committee waited on Dr. Dady. The doctor preserved his elixir in a heap of oats; the bottle containing it had a large red seal upon it.— The doctor demanded \$15 an ounce for his mineral dulcimer elixir.—Young Kephard could not afford so much, but gave him thirty-six dollars and 3 bushels of rye for three ounces of it. When the doctor gave the stupid youth the liquid, he shut the windows and doors, observing it was *too strong for the air*. Jost Linnard, a German, another of these wise committeemen, paid the doctor 121 dollars for eleven ounces of this stuff. The doctor said he had brought it from Germany with him, the indecorous scoundrels, the more factually to gull the males, had the art to seduce the females into their orgies. By means of letters from the ghost to certain superstitious women, the ladies were introduced, and actually, in the presence of certain men nominated for the purpose, performed the central ceremonial of the circle. This company was increased to 30 persons, many of them English, some wealthy.— The wickedness of the wretches could not be confined to such narrow bounds. Williams nominated a call from a ghost resident in the barrens of York, forty miles distant from Dady's. Jacob Wister, one of the conspirators, who on account of his age, is confined in York gaol, was the agent of Williams on this occasion. He instituted a company there of 21 persons, (all ignorant Germans) the same ceremonies, and even more absurd than were used by those people, and the communications of the ghost obtained in a still more ridiculous manner; all of which pointed to Dr. Dady as the person from whom the dulcimer elixir should be obtained, together with a sand needful to give validity to "the powers," and which the ghost denominates the Asiatic sand. Ulrich Neaff, a committee-man of this company, paid to Dr. Dady 90 dollars for 7 1/2 ounces of the elixir. Paul Zichter, another committee-man, took with him to Dady's 100 dollars to purchase Asiatic sand at \$3 per ounce. Dady was from home, but Williams, who was convenient, procured him from the doctor's shop as much sand as his money would purchase at the above-mentioned rate. In this instance Williams cheated the doctor; he kept the spoil to himself, and hence arose disunion and a separation of interests. It would seem now that each of them set up for himself.— Williams procured directions from his ghost, that both the companies should dispatch a committee-man to Lancaster to a Doctor there to procure D. derrick's elixir, the one on the 20th, the other on the 27th February last, which was to be had at 5 dollars per ounce. In the meantime Williams and his wife came to Lancaster, where they fabricated elixir, which is no other than a composition of *coffees and the rest*.