The Capture of Major Andre

adapted from a Sanders' Union Reader

One of the saddest events in the history of the American Revolution is the treason of Arnold, and in consequence of it, the death of Major Andre. Arnold was an officer in the American army, who, though brave, had a proud and impatient spirit.

He fancied he had not all the honor and the pay due for his services, and having plunged himself into debt by his expensive style of living, these things soured his heart. And, as is the case with ungenerous minds, he never acknowledged a fault nor forgave an injury. More than this, he sought revenge against his countrymen by plotting treason against his country.

Soon after forming this bad design, he opened a secret correspondence with the English General, Henry Clinton, and at the same time, asked General Washington to give him the command of West Point, an important post on the Hudson River. Washington let him have it, and this he determined to betray into the hands of the enemy, provided he could make out of it a good bargain for himself.

He wrote to General Clinton what he would do and asked to have a secret interview with some English officer, in order to agree upon the terms. General Clinton was delighted for he thought an army divided against itself must prove an easy conquest. And he asked Major Andre, a gallant young officer, to meet Arnold and settle the price of his treason.

Andre did not wish to engage in such business; but he obeyed and went up the Hudson in an English sloop-of-war for this purpose. Arnold agreed to meet him at a certain spot and, when night came on, sent a little boat to bring him ashore. He landed at the foot of a mountain called the Long Clove, on the western side of the river, a few miles from Haverstraw, where he found the traitor hid in a clump of bushes.

Little did poor Andre foresee the fatal consequences of this step. All that still starlit night they sat and talked; daylight came, and the business was not concluded. Arnold dismissed the boatmen and led his companion to a solitary farmhouse on the river's bank, where the papers were finally drawn up and hid in one of Andre's stockings. Andre felt how exposed he was to danger in the enemy's country and heartily wished himself back to the sloop.

Forced now, however, to go by land, Arnold gave him a pass to go through the American lines; and at sunset, he set off on horseback with a guide. They crossed the river and, getting along on their dangerous journey with but few alarms, the guide left the next morning, and Andre rode briskly on, congratulating himself upon leaving all dangers behind, for he was rapidly nearing the English lines. When, suddenly, there was a loud shout, “Stand! HALT!” and three men issued from the woods, one seizing the bridle and the others presenting their guns.

Andre told them he had a pass to White Plains on urgent business from General Arnold and begged them not to detain him; but the men, suspecting that all was not right, began to search him; and hauling off his boots, they discovered his papers in his stockings.

Finding himself detected, he offered them any sum of money, if they would let him go. “No;” answered the sturdy men, “not if you would give us ten thousand guineas;” for, though poor, they were above selling their country at any price. Andre was sent a prisoner to General Washington's camp. Arnold, on learning the news of his capture, immediately fled from West Point and made his escape to the English sloop.

According to the rules of war, poor Andre was sentenced to the death of a spy. Great efforts were made to save him. General Clinton offered a large sum to redeem him. So young, so amiable, so gallant, and to meet a felon's doom! But, in ten days he was hung.

Arnold lived; but with the thirty thousand dollars—the price of his treachery—he lived a miserable man, despised even by those who bought him. And one impressive lesson, which the story teaches, is that the consequences of guilt do not fall alone on the guilty man; others are often involved in distress, disgrace, and ruin.

Written Summation

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Model Practice 1

Model Practice 2

Model Practice 3

Transcript of President Andrew Jackson's Message to Congress 'On Indian Removal' (1830)

Andrew Jackson's Annual Message

It gives me pleasure to announce to Congress that the benevolent policy of the Government, steadily pursued for nearly thirty years, in relation to the removal of the Indians beyond the white settlements is approaching to a happy consummation. Two important tribes have accepted the provision made for their removal at the last session of Congress, and it is believed that their example will induce the remaining tribes also to seek the same obvious advantages.

The consequences of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to individual States, and to the Indians themselves. The pecuniary advantages which it promises to the Government are the least of its recommendations. It puts an end to all possible danger of collision between the authorities of the General and State Governments on account of the Indians. It will place a dense and civilized population in large tracts of country now occupied by a few savage hunters. By opening the whole territory between Tennessee on the north and Louisiana on the south to the settlement of the whites it will incalculably strengthen the southwestern frontier and render the adjacent States strong enough to repel future invasions without remote aid. It will relieve the whole State of Mississippi and the western part of Alabama of Indian occupancy, and enable those States to advance rapidly in population, wealth, and power. It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites; free them from the power of the States; enable them to pursue happiness in their own way and under their own rude institutions; will retard the progress of decay, which is lessening their numbers, and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the Government and through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits and become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community.

What good man would prefer a country covered with forests and ranged by a few thousand savages to our extensive Republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms embellished with all the improvements which art can devise or industry execute, occupied by more than 12,000,000 happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization and religion?

The present policy of the Government is but a continuation of the same progressive change by a milder process. The tribes which occupied the countries now constituting the Eastern States were annihilated or have melted away to make room for the whites. The waves of population and civilization are rolling to the westward, and we now propose to acquire the countries occupied by the red men of the South and West by a fair exchange, and at the expense of the United States, to send them to land where their existence may be prolonged and perhaps made perpetual. Doubtless it will be painful to leave the graves of their fathers; but what do they more than our ancestors did or than our children are now doing? To better their condition in an unknown land our forefathers left all that was dear in earthly objects. Our children by thousands yearly leave the land of their birth to seek new homes in distant regions. Does Humanity weep at these painful separations from everything, animate and inanimate, with which the young heart has become entwined? Far from it. It is rather a source of joy that our country affords scope where our young population may range unconstrained in body or in mind, developing the power and facilities of man in their highest perfection. These remove hundreds and almost thousands of miles at their own expense, purchase the lands they occupy, and support themselves at their new homes from the moment of their arrival. Can it be cruel in this Government when, by events which it can not control, the Indian is made discontented in his ancient home to purchase his lands, to give him a new and extensive territory, to pay the expense of his removal, and support him a year in his new abode? How many thousands of our own people

would gladly embrace the opportunity of removing to the West on such conditions! If the offers made to the Indians were extended to them, they would be hailed with gratitude and joy.

And is it supposed that the wandering savage has a stronger attachment to his home than the settled, civilized Christian? Is it more afflicting to him to leave the graves of his fathers than it is to our brothers and children? Rightly considered, the policy of the General Government toward the red man is not only liberal, but generous. He is unwilling to submit to the laws of the States and mingle with their population. To save him from this alternative, or perhaps utter annihilation, the General Government kindly offers him a new home, and proposes to pay the whole expense of his removal and settlement.

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