



CONGRESS.

THE LAND FUND SAFE.

On Wednesday, the 30th ultimo, important votes on the Land question were taken in both Houses of Congress. Mr. Clay's resolutions being under consideration in the Senate, a long debate ensued of Mr. Rives' amendment, proposing that the Distribution law be suspended—which was finally decided in the negative by a majority of one, as follows:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Archer, Allen, Bagby, Benton, Calhoun, Fulton, King, Linn, McRae, Prentiss, Rives, Sevier, Smith, of Connecticut, Sturgeon, Tappan, Walker, Wilcox, Williams, Woodruff, Wright, Young, &c. NAYS.—Messrs. Barrow, Bates, Berrien, Choate, Clay, Clayton, Evans, Graham, Huntington, Kerr, Mangum, Miller, Moorehead, Phelps, Porter, Prentiss, Simons, Smith of Indiana, Tallmadge, White, Woodbridge, &c.

Mr. Clay's first resolution was then adopted, in the following form:— "Resolved, That it is the duty of the General Government, in conducting its administration, to provide an adequate revenue, to meet the current expenses of the year, and to supply, in time of peace, a deficiency of revenue, especially during successive years, in war, and must lead to permanent consequences."

The sixth resolution was also adopted, in the following words:— "Resolved, That, on the day of the Convention at all times, but more especially in seasons of great distress, to abolish all unnecessary expenses, and to practice economy."

After which, the second, third, fourth, and fifth, were referred to the Committee on Finance; and the remainder to the appropriate committees—Retrenchment, Judiciary, Foreign Relations, Post Office, &c.

In the Senate, on the 30th, Mr. Archer presented the memorial of the Harpers-Ferry Armory, asking redress of grievances complained of in being placed under a military superintendent, instead of a civilian one, as heretofore.

In the House, on the 29th ult. Mr. Barton presented a petition of a large number of the citizens of Harpers-Ferry and vicinity, unconnected with the public armory, complaining of the military superintendency introduced at the public works there, and of rules and regulations relating to the spirit of freedom, and praying for redress. Also, one from citizens of Jefferson county, Virginia, praying for the restoration of a civil superintendency at Harpers-Ferry, and the re-establishment of rules which prevailed from the commencement of the public works until recently. Also, of numerous citizens of the same county, remonstrating against the continuance of a military superintendency at Harpers-Ferry.

In the House, on the 30th March, the Loan bill was further considered, and after the disposition of various amendments, a vote was taken on that offered by Mr. Wise, to pledge the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, instead of the duties on goods, wares and merchandise. This was rejected—ayes 77, noes 104.

On the 31st, the bill was further considered, and a clause introduced authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell the stock at the highest price which he can obtain for the same. The bill was finally passed, by a vote of 105 to 66.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31. IN SENATE.

After several reports from committees on private claims, and ordering two or three private bills to be engrossed— Mr. Clay said (as imperfectly heard in the Reporters' galleries) that, before proceeding to make the motion for which he had risen, he begged leave to suggest, on the only occasion afforded him, an observation or two on a different subject. It would be remembered that he had offered, on a former day, some resolutions going to propose certain amendments to the Constitution of the United States: they had undergone some discussion, and he had been desirous of obtaining an expression of the sense of the Senate upon their adoption; but owing to the infirm state of his health, to the pressure of business in the Senate, and especially to the absence at this moment of several of his friends, he had concluded this to be unnecessary; nor should he deem himself called upon to reply to the arguments of such gentlemen as had considered it their duty to oppose the resolutions. He should commit the subject, therefore, to the hands of the Senate, to be disposed of as their judgment should dictate; concluding what he had to say in relation to them with the remark, that the convictions he had before entertained in regard to the several amendments, he still deliberately held, after all that he had heard upon the subject of them.

And now, said Mr. C., allow me to announce, formally and officially, my retirement from the duties of the United States, and to present the last motion I shall ever make in this body. But, before I make that motion, I trust I shall be pardoned if I avail myself of the occasion to make a few observations which are suggested to my mind by the present occasion.

I entered the Senate of the United States in December, 1806. I regarded that body then, and still contemplate it, as a body which may compare, without disadvantage, with any legislative assembly, either of ancient or modern times, whether I look to its dignity, the extent and importance of its powers, or the ability by which its individual members have been distinguished, or its constitution. If compared in any of these respects with the Senates either of France or of England, that of the United States will sustain no derogation. With respect to the mode of its institution, of those bodies I may observe that in the House of Peers in England, with the exceptions but of Ireland and of Scotland—and in that of France, with an exception whatever—the members hold their places under no delegated authority, but derive them from the grant of the Crown, transmitted by descent, or expressed in new patents of nobility; while here we have the proud title of Representatives of Sovereign States, of distinct and independent Commonwealths.

If we look again at the powers exercised by the Senates of France and England, we shall find that the aggregate of power is much greater here. In all, the members possess the legislative power. In the foreign Senate, as in this, the judicial power is invested, although there it exists in a larger degree than here. But, on the other hand, that vast, undefined, and undefinable power involved in the right to co-operate with the Executive in the formation and ratification of treaties, is enjoyed in all its magnitude and weight by this body, while it is possessed by neither of theirs: besides which, there is another of very great practical importance—that of sharing with the Executive branch in distributing the vast patronage of this Government. In both these latter respects, we stand on grounds different from the House of Peers either of England or France. And then as to the dignity and decorum of its proceedings, and ordinarily as to the ability of its members, I can with great truth declare, that during the whole long period of my knowledge of this Senate, it can, without arrogance or presumption, sustain no disadvantageous comparison with any public body in ancient or modern times.

Each of us, however, as a seat in this Senate is sufficient as it is fit, the aspirations of the most ambitious heart, I have long determined to forego it, and to seek that repose which can be enjoyed only in the shades of private life, and amid the calm pleasures which belong to that beloved word, "home."

It was my purpose to terminate my connection with this body in November, 1810, after the memorable and glorious political struggle which distinguished that year; but I learned soon after, whilst indeed I had for some time anticipated from the result of my own reflections, that an extra session of Congress would be called; and I felt desirous to co-operate with my political and personal friends in restoring, if it could be effected, the prosperity of the country by the best measures which their united councils might be able to devise; and I therefore attended the extra session. It was called, as all know, by the lamented Harrison; but his death and the consequent accession of his successor produced an entirely new aspect of public affairs. Had he lived, I have not one particle of doubt that every important measure for which the country had hoped with so confident an expectation would have been consummated by the co-operation of the Executive branch of the Government. And here allow me to say, only in regard to that so much reproached extra session of Congress, that I believe if any of those who, through the fault of the rules and regulations of political procedure, have loudly censured the measures then adopted, will look at them in a spirit of candor and of justice, their conclusion, and that of the country generally, will be, that if there exists any just ground of complaint, it is to be found, not in what was done, but in what was left unfinished.

Had President Harrison lived, and the measures devised at that session been fully carried out, it was my intention then to have retired from the public service (I feared it might prove a vain hope) that at the regular session the measures which we had left undone might even then be perfected, or the same objects attained in an equivalent form, induced me to postpone the determination; and events which arose after the extra session, resulting from the failure of those measures which had been proposed at the session, and which appeared to throw on our political friends a temporary show of defeat, confirmed me in the resolution to attend the present session also, and, whether in prosperity or adversity, to share the fortune of my friends. But I resolved at the same time to retire as soon as I could do so with propriety and decency.

It was the period of my entry on this noble task, with short intervals, to the present time, I have been engaged in the public councils, at home or abroad. Of the nature or the value of the services rendered during that long and arduous period of my life it does not become me to speak; history, if she deigns to notice me, and posterity, if the recollection of my humble actions shall be transmitted to posterity, are the best, and, I trust, the most impartial judges. When death has closed the scene, their sentence will be pronounced, and to that I appeal and refer myself. My acts and public conduct are a fair subject for the criticism and judgment of my fellow-men; but the private motives by which they have been prompted are known only to the great Searcher of the human heart and may, I am persuaded, be pardoned for repeating a declaration made some thirteen years ago, that, whatever errors—and doubtless there have been many—may be discovered in a review of my public service to the country, I can with unshaken confidence appeal to that Divine arbiter for the truth of the declaration that I have been influenced by no impure purpose, no personal motives, have sought no personal aggrandizement; but that in all my public acts I have had a sole and single eye, and a warm and devoted heart, directed and dedicated to what in my best judgment I believed to be the true interest of my country.

During that long period, however, I have not escaped the fate of other public men, not called to incur censure and detraction of a malignant character; and though not always insensible to the pain it was meant to inflict, I have borne it in general with composure, and without disturbance here, [pointing to his breast.] waiting as I have done, in perfect and undoubting confidence, for the ultimate triumph of justice and of truth, and in the entire persuasion that time would, in the end, settle all things as they should be, and that whatever wrong or injustice I might experience at the hands of man—He to whom all hearts are open and fully known, would in the end, by the inscrutable dispensations of His providence, rectify all error, redress all wrong, and cause ample justice to be done.

But I have not meanwhile been unassailable. Every where throughout the extent of this great continent I have had cordial, warmhearted, and devoted friends, who have known me and justly appreciated my motives. To them, in language susceptible of fully expressing my acknowledgments, I would now offer them as all the return I have now to make for their genuine, disinterested, and persevering fidelity and devoted attachment. But if I fail in suitable language to express the gratitude to those for all the kindness they have shown me—what shall I say—what can I say—all commensurate with those feelings of gratitude which I owe to the State whose humble representative and servant I have been in this Chamber? [Here Mr. C.'s feelings appeared to overpower him, and he proceeded with deep sensibility and with difficult utterance.]

I emigrated from Virginia to the State of Kentucky now nearly forty-five years ago; I went as an orphan who had not yet attained the age of majority—who had never recognized a father's smile nor felt his embraces—poor—penniless—without the aid of the great—without an imperfect and inadequate education, limited to the slender means applicable to such an object; but I set my foot upon her generous soil when I was received and embraced with parental fondness, caressed as though I had been a favorite child, and patronized with liberal and bountiful munificence. From that period the highest honors of the State have been freely bestowed upon me; and afterwards, in the darkest hour of calamity and detraction, when I seemed to be forsaken by all the rest of the world, she threw her broad and impenetrable shield around me, and bearing me up aloft in her courageous arms, repelled the poisoned shafts that were aimed at my destruction, and vindicated my good name from every false and unfounded assault.

But the ingenuity of my assailants is never exhausted, and it seems I have subjected myself to a new epithet; I do not know whether it should be taken in honor or derogation; I am held out to the country as a "dictator." A dictator! The idea of a dictatorship is drawn from the Roman institutions; and at the time the office was created the person who wielded the tremendous weight of authority it conferred concentrated in his own person an absolute power over the lives and property of all his fellow-citizens; he could raise armies, he could build and man navies; he could levy taxes at will, and raise any amount of revenue he might choose to demand; and his death rested on his fiat. If I had been a dictator, as I am said to have been, where is the power with which I was clothed?—Had I any army? any navy? any revenue? any patronage? in a word any power whatever? If I had been a dictator, I think that even those who have the most freely applied to me the appellation must be compelled to make two admissions: first, that my dictatorship has been distinguished by no cruel exactions, stained by no blood, nor soiled by any act of dishonor; and, in the second place, I think they must own (though I do not exactly know what date my commission of dictator bears—I imagine, however, it must be commenced with the extra session) that if I did usurp, and restrain a dictator—I at least voluntarily surrendered it within a shorter period than was allotted for the duration of the dictatorship of the Roman Commonwealth.

If I have sought, at the extra session and at the present, by the co-operation of my friends, to carry out the great measures intended by the popular majority of 1810, and to have desired that they should all have been adopted and executed; if I have ardently desired to see a disordered currency regulated and restored and irregular exchanges equalized and adjusted; if to have labored to replenish the empty coffers of the Treasury by suitable duties; if to have endeavored to extend relief to the unfortunate bankrupts of the country, who had been ruined in a great measure by the erroneous policy, as we believed, of the Government; if I seek to limit the circulation of paper money; if I have, in a restrained and judicious manner, exercised authority; if to retrench unnecessary expenditure and abolish useless offices and institutions; if, whilst the public honor is preserved unimpaired by supplying a revenue adequate to meet the national engagements, incidental protection can be afforded to the national industry; if to entertain an ardent wish to redress every wrong, and to give every promise fairly made by my political friends with a view to the acquisition of power from the hands of an honest and confiding People; if these objects constitute a man a Dictator, why, then, I suppose I must be content to bear, although I still only share with my friends, the odium or the honor of the epithet, as it may be considered on the one hand or the other.

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to principle, and whose rare and accomplished powers in debate, are known and ready in advance to the whole Senate and to the country. I move that his credentials be received, and that the oath of office be now administered to him.

In relating, as I am about to do, forever, from the Senate, suffer me to express my heartfelt wishes that all the great and patriotic objects for which it was constituted by the framers of our Constitution may be fulfilled; that the high duty designed for it may be fully and bravely discharged; that its deliberations, now and hereafter, may eventuate in restoring the property of our beloved country, in maintaining its rights and honor abroad, and in securing and upholding its interests at home. I retire, I know it, at a period of infinite distress and embarrassment—I wish I could take my leave of you—under more favorable auspices; but, withdrawing at this time to say whether any one whom reproaches for the sad condition of the country should feel, I appeal to the Senate and to the world to bear testimony to my earnest and anxious exertions to avert it, and that no blame can justly rest at my door.

May the blessing of Heaven rest upon the whole Senate and each member of it, and may the labors of every one redound to the benefit of the nation and the advancement of his own fame and renown. Anon when I shall retire to the bosom of your constituents may you meet that most cheering and gratifying of all human rewards—their cordial greeting of "Well done, good and faithful servant."

And now, Messrs. President and Senators, I bid you a long farewell. Mr. Crittenden then duly qualified and took his seat; when Mr. Preston rose and said: "What had just taken place was an epoch in their legislative history, and from the feeling which was evinced, he plainly saw that there was little disposition to attend to business. We would therefore move that the Senate adjourn, which motion was unanimously agreed to."

The Senate did not sit on Saturday; and on Monday, after Mr. Evans reported the Loan bill from the House, the Senate went into Executive session.

Business has been engaged for several days upon private bills, and on Monday the General Appropriation bill was further considered.

Foreign.

THIRTEEN DAYS LATER FROM ENGLAND.

Arrival of the Columbia. We rejoice (says the New York American) to announce the safe arrival of the Columbia steamer at Halifax, which port she reached on Friday morning at 6 o'clock. The passengers, 35 for Boston, and 4 for Halifax, are unanimous in her praise as a first rate sea boat. Her mails and passengers were transferred to the Unicorn, which arrived at Boston Sunday evening. Among the passengers was Mr. Cunard.

A passenger in the Columbia, who has crossed the Atlantic more than fifty times, states that this voyage was more severe than he ever experienced. The London dates are to the effect of the 3d of March and Liverpool to the 4th, both inclusive.

The political news by the Columbia is not of much interest, nor is there anything very encouraging in the commercial accounts. Money continued easy, but no improvement in the market since the Manufacturing Districts. Cotton has declined 1/8d. per lb. and freely offered at that reduction. Wheat has also fallen 2/8 to 3/8 per qr.—good red American being quoted at 60s per quarter free while for bonded there was no sale.

The quotation for bonded Flour is 26s to 29s per qn. Tobacco is also 1/4d per lb. below the last quotation, without induction of new stocks. In American stocks the only actual transactions were sales of \$100,000 Pennsylvania Fives at 47 1/2 and a small amount at 50, and 100,000 Ohio Sixes, of 1847, at 60. We annex the quotations of the 3d of the principal American securities: N. Y. Fives 75; Pennsylvania Fives 47 1/2; Ohio Sixes 60; Indiana and Illinois Sixes 50; Maryland Sixes 55; U. S. Bank 20s.

Money continues abundant, without exhibiting any prognostic of a reverse during the month, which was considered usually the heaviest in the quarter. The Bank of England had lowered its rates of discounts from five per cent. to four.

The State of Trade in the manufacturing districts was as dull as ever. The Liverpool Circulars of March 1st notice a very considerable increase of the stock of bonded Wheat and Flour. The duty on Wheat from foreign ports from Friday to Tuesday, increased 1/2 per quarter, and 1/4 per barrel on Flour.

A sale of 1500 barrels of superfine sweet United States Flour was reported at 26s per barrel in bond at Liverpool, but the importers generally were not sellers, and it was not so easy to make purchases at such low rates. The non-receipt at London of any new imports from China by the extra overland mail, had prevented any particular change in the market for tea, and the result of the public sales was rather in favor of a rise upon some qualities.

A rumor is current that the French government has discovered a new and formidable plot against the lives of the King of the French and his family, and that, in consequence, the most extraordinary precautions are taken to guard the Tuileries and various entrances thereto. The army will, it is said, be immediately strengthened by the enlistment of 50000 men. In the House of Commons on the 18th, the debate on Mr. Villier's amendment, in relation to the Corn Law motion, was commenced and lasted five days. The result was a majority of 302 against the amendment. In the Lords on the 21st—The Earl of Aberdeen laid upon the table a copy of the treaty signed by the representatives of Great Britain and Denmark to cause additional supplies to be brought from

those comparatively new sources, at all the rates of duty stated in the government scale. It will lower the price of corn in England so much as to render those of the five or seven years, commencing with 1843, the lowest to be found in the present century, for a consecutive period of equal duration."

He regretted that he was under the necessity of informing their lordships that the ratification of the King of the French had not been exchanged with those of the other powers; neither was he able to inform the house of the precise time when that ratification might be expected. Their lordships, probably, were aware of the causes which had produced this decision on the part of the French government; and he felt that it was his first duty to say nothing more, and to do nothing which could by any possibility increase the difficulties which existed, or throw any efficient obstacle in the way of their removal. The protocol, at the desire of the French plenipotentiary, had been left open for the accession of his government. The treaty would now bind the four powers by whom it was ratified. The treaty with France, concluded in 1831 and 1833, remained in full force and vigour.

The present treaty had in fact originated in part in the treaty of 1833, which bound England and France to propose to the other powers to accede to the treaty into which they had entered, and it was principally with a view to obtain the perfect concurrence of the five great powers that this treaty had been entered into, and not with the intention of forming new engagements or entering into new articles; for there was scarcely any deviation from the former treaty. The treaty of 1831 gave the mutual right of search, which was fully recognized and established by the treaty of 1833; the articles of which furnished sufficient grounds for capture in certain cases. The present treaty coincided with the former with the exception as to the extension of the latitude in which the right of search is to be exercised.

Lord Brougham expressed his deep regret that the ratification of the important treaty should have been even temporarily postponed; and vindicated the government, as well as the people generally, from the imputation of any sinister motive in the effort they were now making to abolish forever the African slave trade. Sir R. Peel, in introducing the same declaration in the Commons, avowed his expectation, that ere long France would accede to the treaty. Lord Palmerston expressed the same hope, saying that the Plenipotentiary of the King of the French had not exceeded the powers confided to him in signing the treaty.

The London Times of the 19th, in announcing the authority of its Paris correspondent, the non-ratification of the treaty, has the following article:—"Our correspondent communicates, in addition, a fact which, if any doubt could be entertained of the candor and loyalty of the French Government, would bear a suspicious appearance. He states that a letter, in the nature of a protest against the ratification of the treaty by France, had been presented to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (M. Guizot) by General Cass.

The American Minister in Paris, General Cass, says our correspondent, states in that document, that it being indisputable that under color of the treaty in question England would pretend to a right to board and search American vessels, and that as the President of the United States had formally declared such proceeding could not in any case, nor under any pretext, be permitted, war would necessarily follow any such outrage. That in such case all the parties to such treaty would be regarded by America as participating in its guilt of the Power which should actually thus assail American independence. That he (Gen. Cass) therefore called upon the French Government to pause ere it committed itself to a treaty whence might result a war between France and the United States.

That which would, but for our trust in the good faith of the French Government in this transaction, appears suspicious, is that within three days of the expiration of the two months allowed for the ratification of the treaty, the French Government, a party to it, had not yet ratified it, and that the American Minister in Paris protests against its ratification. With the American Minister's proceedings we find no fault. He acts, we suppose, on the view taken of the matter by himself and his Government, but the French Minister will, by their refusal to ratify a treaty to which France is a party, commit an error which we sincerely pray may not lead to unpleasant results.

A letter from the correspondent of the Times, dated at Paris, Feb. 20, says that a council of Ministers was to be held that day at the Chateau de Tuileries under the presidency of the King, at which the protest of the American Minister against the ratification would be discussed. The non-ratification of the slave treaty by France still engages the attention of the Paris papers.

The news from China is not later than has been received here direct. It is stated that a reinforcement of 10,000 men was going forward from India to China with heavy guns, and that Sir H. Pottinger's first grand movement would be against Peking.

Sixteen ships, amounting to 10,092 tons, have been engaged by the Government for the conveyance of troops to China, and the average price to be paid is eight annas per ton per month. LONDON, March 3.

CORN IMPORTATIONS.—Last night all Sir Robert Peel's resolutions, for the regulation of his new scale of duties on the importation of wheat, oats, and barley, were adopted, and a bill was ordered to be prepared in accordance with such resolutions; Sir R. Peel, Sir S. Graham, and Mr. Gladstone, were ordered to bring in the same. It is expected that it will then be read the first time, and a day fixed for the second reading, when the debate will be taken on the first principles of the bill.

The results which the writer of the Banker's Circular considers will follow the passing of Sir Robert's measure, as he has proposed it, are the following:—"It will create a regular trade in foreign corn, and a large quantity be annually imported. It will stimulate the production of corn in Spain, Egypt, and the United States, (as well as in Prussia, Mecklenburg, and Denmark) so as to cause additional supplies to be brought from

those comparatively new sources, at all the rates of duty stated in the government scale. It will lower the price of corn in England so much as to render those of the five or seven years, commencing with 1843, the lowest to be found in the present century, for a consecutive period of equal duration."

The Free Press.

Thursday Morning, April 7, 1843.

Fruits of the Rejection of the Land Fund: A tax upon the silver Watch of the Mechanic; A tax upon the old Family Clock; A tax upon the Piano of the Zemle Teacher; And a tax upon the Bank Stock of the Widow and Orphan!

People of Virginia—How do you wish these things? And how do you like, in addition, to be still under the necessity of borrowing from the Banks to meet current demands upon the State Treasury?

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION. Agreeably to notice, the different Temperance Societies of Jefferson County appeared by their delegates, on Friday the 4th of April, and formed a procession according to the programme in the last Free Press.</



