

Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation

SPEECH OF HON. ANDREW G. CURTIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA,

In the House of Representatives, Thursday, March 2, 1882.

The House, as in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, having under consideration the bill (H. R. No. 3830) making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic service of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882, and for other purposes—

Mr. Curtin said: Mr. Chairman, the time may come, and it is possibly rapidly approaching, when it will be quite unnecessary to exchange with foreign nations ministers or ambassadors. But while we do send ministers abroad to represent this country, in deference to the customs of nations, we should clothe them with all the proper powers and surround them by all appliances which will give consequence to the representatives of this great nation. We should give them that standing among the nations of the world which this country itself holds, nor take from them any of the dignity of their high position.

I understand perfectly well in what an embarrassing position a foreign minister would be placed should he have a consul appointed without consulting him, without his selection, who would have access to all of the archives and papers of his office, and to all of the private and public correspondence, and have full knowledge of his business, and one who would have charge of the legation and the disposition of the affairs of the Government entrusted to the minister at the court to which he is accredited in his absence as charge d'affaires, which is the law. I know full well that it is common to complain of the expenses of our diplomatic intercourse with foreign nations and of our consular service. Our representation abroad is not made to produce money or revenue. It is a representation of the interests of a great people. And, sir, I do object to making consular appointments abroad a source of revenue.

I regret, Mr. Chairman, to have heard the calculations of expense and profits of the diplomatic and consular service made by the chairman of the committee. He exhibited the numbers of passports issued by various ministers, and the balance in favor of the Government growing out of the consular service. The consular service of the United States we require for the benefit of those engaged in commerce and trade, and a just protection to American mariners. The service, in my judgment, should be rendered free of any expense to the citizen and be paid for by the Government. The fees exacted are a tax levied on the trader, merchant, or mariner, and in restraint to that extent of our commerce with foreign countries. The issue of passports is not properly the business of the minister, although he is clothed with the power. There are very few of the countries in Europe where a passport is required, and American citizens traveling either for business or pleasure are in the habit of securing passports from the Department of State before leaving home. He has direct connection with the court or Government to which he is accredited. He conveys to his own Government all that occurs in the country where he resides in relation to or can have any importance to the trade, commerce, and interests of our people abroad, and he is there, as has been said by the gentleman who last addressed the committee, to protect the rights of citizens, whether foreign born or naturalized, and in that respect recent events have clearly demonstrated that to withdraw our ministers, or to abridge their power, would be an acknowledged weakness in our Government which could not be condoned, and a calamity to those of our citizens who have suffered arrest and imprisonment in foreign countries. It would be a source of serious objection, in my judgment, to an American minister at a foreign court to allow a consular officer, without reference to his own wishes or the qualifications of the consul, to be appointed with power to have access to and control of the records of his legation, of the archives, and of all the business interests represented by him at that Government.

The selection of a secretary to take charge of such matters should be left with the minister himself, so that the citizen who is best qualified may be selected to fulfill the duties. The relation being confidential, the qualifications of a secretary should be of a much higher grade than those required to fulfill the duties of a consulate. Justice to the minister as well as to this Government surely demands that he should have as his secretary a citizen well qualified, and one in whom he can place most implicit confidence.

Mr. Chairman, I have said that the time may come when we may dispense with this system, and thereby cut down the expense; when steam and lightning will give such rapid communication as to annihilate time and space, and we can assert our rights and protect our interests without the presence of ministers abroad. It may be in the near future; but such a happy condition in the affairs of humanity may be postponed until the lion and the lamb lie down together, or the proclamation of the promised peace and good-will settles down upon the world. But while it is the practice of the whole world—of all the great nations of the world—I hold that we, the American nation, should be represented in every nation, or wherever there is an organized Government or exercise of governmental power, and that we should have an American minister, selected for his fitness, to represent our fifty millions of freemen at the seat of Government of every foreign nation, and should surround him with all the rights and powers, the dignity and the consequence of this great nation.

Mr. Chairman, we have never been the propagandists of our political ideas. We have never charged our ministers abroad to interfere with Governments to which they are accredited, or to commend our broad liberty and the dead level of our social organization to the

civilized nations of the earth. On the contrary, they are expressly forbidden to interfere with the laws of the Government to which they are accredited. Sir, in the one hundred years of the existence and example of this nation, where free government has been exercising its mighty power over peoples who enjoy its blessings, and all the Governments of the world have felt its power in relieving oppressed humanity, silently but constantly the power of the ruling classes and remitting it to the masses of the people, where it justly belongs.

Our precepts and example, our liberal political ideas have broken down the barriers between centralized power and the masses of the people, and every concession made in Europe to the voice and control of the people in their government is a signal embodiment of the force of the American ideas of government and the rights of common humanity. The people have power in all her governments in Europe save one. Kings and emperors are lessened in their powers and prerogatives, and in my judgment, believing as I do in the future of this great country and of our form of government, our broad liberty and equality, the emperor and the king will soon remain as the tinsel, nominal head of the government, if they are not entirely dispensed with as unnecessary governments which aim to secure individual happiness and prosperity and enjoy the blessings of liberty, peace, and concord; and there will come a time when the rights of humanity will stand up and be asserted and appear in living light in the presence of the American ideas of human rights and liberties. [Applause]

JEFFERSON DEMOCRACY.

The York Daily publishes the following letter received by the Jefferson Democratic Association of York, February 27, 1882, it was resolved:

That this Association desires and invites the fullest and freest discussion of the doctrines of Thomas Jefferson; that we hail it with pleasure, from whatever source it may come; whether from the friends of federal consolidation, or the advocates of local liberty; whether from federalists, imperialist, so-called republican or honest democrat; relying firmly, as did Mr. Jefferson himself, upon the virtue and intelligence of the people, certain that whenever the issue between the blessings of home-rule, and the deadly evils of centralization shall be fairly understood, they will decide promptly and wisely as they did in the years 1800 and 1876.

We gratefully acknowledge the able and interesting letter which Mr. Parton, the distinguished biographer of Jefferson, has kindly added to the literature of the association, and we commend it to the thoughtful attention of men of all parties, who are prepared to sacrifice merely partisan considerations, and sever merely partisan ties, to save the constitution of 1887 from threatened subversion, and the erection of what is euphemistically called a "strong government" on the ruins.

But while we heartily concur in the main with Mr. Parton's deductions from the system of Jefferson, and admire his lucid and forcible application of fundamental principles to the existing situation, we are not to be understood as agreeing with him throughout. We hold, for instance, and we believe Mr. Jefferson, who maintaining that frugality, economy and simplicity, were the great essentials of republican government, would have held with us, that our public servants are as a rule well paid; and that many of them are greatly overpaid. We got better, more faithful and more honest service from them, when salaries were low, than since they have been raised in the general rot of federal centralization and extravagance; and if we were called upon to vote for a change, we would favor, not an increase, but a reduction. That Mr. Jefferson in the single isolated case of Mr. Monroe, regretted his inability to compensate him for an extraordinary public service performed at an extraordinary private sacrifice, is true; but it does not follow that he even then considered the ordinary pay of public officials for ordinary services less than it ought to have been. It was in those days of Jeffersonian simplicity, and truly republican salaries, that men stood ready to serve the country at private loss. We see nothing like it now; when salaries have grown large enough to tempt cupidity, and officers are made the spoils and rewards of partisan work. Instead of that spectacle—Jefferson adjuring Monroe to go serve his country, practically without pay—we see a federalist congress voting a retired civilian, already overladen with gratuities, a mere gift of ten thousand dollars annually, instead of directing proper proceeding to be instituted for the recovery of one hundred thousand dollars wrongfully received by him, as presidential salary, under color of an infamous statute, passed in flagrant defiance of the constitution, and signed by this, the chief beneficiary.

We hold with Mr. Parton that Mr. Jefferson would have approached the difficult question of tariff reform in a conservative spirit, keeping in constant view the general good of the whole country and not the particular interests of a few owners of capital invested in certain artificially stimulated industries. We think, however, that Mr. Jefferson was rather a fair trader than a free trader. His leading principles on this subject might be formulated thus: Congress may do that which is necessary for the general welfare, as for defense in war—and to that end might impose a customs duty, protective and even prohibitory in character, if the object thereof were to render the United States as a nation independent of foreign nations in the matter of warlike supplies. But congress may not "under the plea of build-

ing up desirable industries," levy, either directly or indirectly, a tribute upon the whole people, which does not reach the treasury, but which passes as a mere bounty into the pockets of a favored few. When Mr. Hamilton announced the reverse of this proposition in his celebrated Report on Manufactures, Mr. Jefferson accepted the issue as a vital one, and informed President Washington, that in his judgment it involved nothing less than the question whether we were to live "under a limited or an unlimited government." But for independence, for defense, for international justice, he believed in the constitutional power of the United States to lay discriminating duties, and to go even to the length of embargo, the last measure short of war. It is clear that no man, of his day, did so much to advance the domestic manufactures of his country as Mr. Jefferson; and to this end he exerted himself equally in both his public and his private capacity. He preferred to raise the necessary revenues of the general government from custom duties, wisely adjusted to that object, rather than by direct taxation; and the first blow of his reform administration was at the inquisitorial system of internal revenue, developed by Hamilton, and the large corps of needless officeholders employed in its execution.

But this is a theme upon which we might pile line upon line and precept upon precept from Mr. Jefferson, and still leave some room for honest differences of opinion as to precisely what course he would take "were he personally present among us." In article II, of the constitution of this association, we present our own statement of Jeffersonian principles, compactly, but clearly, we hope, in so far as they seemed applicable to the present situation. The article is as follows: "Its purpose shall be the association of Jeffersonian democrats for the preservation of the constitution of the United States, the autonomy of the states, home rule, freedom of elections; for resistance to revolutionary changes, tending to consolidation or empire; to the election of any person to the presidency a third time; to the presence of troops at the poll; to the appropriation of public money for any purpose but the support of government; to commercial restrictions for the benefit of the few at the cost of the many; and to class legislation, which destroys the natural freedom of trade, and despoils labor to build up monopoly. To these ends we invoke the spirit and reassert the principles of Thomas Jefferson, the author of the declaration of independence and the founder of the democratic party."

Upon this declaration we stand, and upon this, the slavery question being, as Mr. Parton remarks, happily and forever settled, we believe that all friends of pure republican government, limited by the wise safeguards of the written constitution, must ultimately come to stand with us, whatever may have been their previous party relationships. C. F. BLACK, Pres. J. A. BLASSER, Secretary.

A French Detective.

We walked out together, and in the course of conversation we touched upon the way in which some persons can so disguise themselves as to hide their individuality from their most intimate friends. I expressed myself as being doubtful whether this could be really done, provided the parties to be deceived were on the lookout for such deception. My companion differed from me, and offered to disguise himself so effectually that he would, in the course of the next 24 hours, speak to me for at least 10 minutes without arousing my suspicions. I accepted the challenge, and staked the price of a dejeuner at any cafe he would like to name. He agreed, and the very same day won the bet in the following manner. Shortly after leaving the detective, I met an old friend, who asked me to dine with him at Versailles that evening.

I agreed to do so, but could not leave Paris as early as my friend intended to do, and therefore told him I should go down by the 5.30 train from the Gare St. Lazare. I did so, and as I got into a first class carriage I remarked a short, gentlemanly looking man, with white hair, who followed me into the same compartment. Frenchman like, he began to talk about things in general, and we chatted more or less, nearly all the way to Versailles. When within ten minutes or so of our destination, my new friend quietly took off his hat, pulled off a wig, got rid of a mustache, and to my utter amazement sat revealed before me as my friend the detective! How he had managed to find out that I was going to Versailles—which I had no idea of myself when I left him—or how he had so effectually concealed his appearance that I, sitting within three feet of him, had no idea he was the man I had left some four hours previously, are problems which I cannot solve. The detective himself only laughed when I asked him how he had contrived it. He was evidently greatly flattered at the amazement I displayed, but beyond showing me with some pride his wig and mustache, he was very reticent, and would enter into no details. That he had fairly won the breakfast there could be no doubt, but he said he would rather put off the event until he could see his way as to whether or not he should be able to recover a part or the whole of the

property which my friend had lost. We then parted, he taking the train back to Paris, I going to the house where I was going to dine.

A White Indian.

A SCIENTIST'S SELF-SACRIFICE—THE ZUNI TRIBE.

Chicago Times. Mr. Frank H. Cushing, accompanied by six Zuni Indians, arrived in the city yesterday, and is stopping at the Palmer House. An extended account of his life for two and a half years in the tribe—he having been sent there by the Smithsonian Institute—appeared in the Times Monday. The appearance and unsophisticated manners of these Indians show that their conservative temperament has kept their natures from acquiring that "sharpness" which is noticed in so many other tribes. While they were at supper they received an invitation to attend a reception which was being given by the Templar lodge, No. 440, in the dancing hall, and, together with Mr. Cushing, they spent a brief hour watching with wondering interest the "wardance" of the pale-faces. On solicitation of the Templars, three of the Indians gave the assembled company an exhibition of their own dance, to the evident satisfaction of all. The dance was an improvement on the raquet, and threw the Newport into the shade. It was a cross between a "hoe-down" and the gyrations of a man suffering from a cramp in his stomach. Being very tired with their sight-seeing and dissipation, they retired. They leave to-night for Washington. Mr. Cushing, the young man who has thus taken three years out of his life for the advancement of science, is a member of the bureau of ethnology under Maj. Powell, one of whose assistants he is. He was sent out two and a half years ago, and presented himself to the tribe for membership. He was cordially received, but came near losing his life when they discovered him taking notes and making sketches. This, however, he continued to do, and has expressed all his notes to Washington. The greater part of his information is locked up in his long haired cranium, and safe from the Indians. He began by adopting their costume and customs, and by learning their language and manners. This he succeeded in doing in a short time, and gained their respect and admiration.

Step by step he advanced until he found it necessary to adopt their religion also, that he might learn all the ceremonial details. This he also did, and he is now second chief of the tribe of sixteen hundred. He has made a thorough study of the Zuni language, including its grammar and etymology. Being an enthusiast in ethnology he found ample time and opportunities for this branch of science, and his work will doubtless prove of great value. He found that by joining the priesthood of the Bow he would be further enabled to prosecute his researches, and he accordingly joined and has attained the first degree. Five of those with him are members of the order. The order corresponds to the Masonic organizations of civilization, has the character of a political ring, controlling all the "influence" and even going so far as to deal out capital punishment when necessary.

Mr. Cushing says that the only capital offense among the Zunis is witching, but that this crime includes many others. The criminal is given over to the priesthood and then disappears from society. The tribe, as is known, is the oldest among the North American Indians, and is also the most conservative, which accounts for the failure of civilization to make the slightest impression upon their religion or manners. They are all spiritualists, the priests acting as mediums. Their errand east is partly to get their cans and bottles full of sea water, which they hold as sacred. This will probably gain Mr. Cushing great advantages on his return to the tribe, which takes place in about two months. The Zunis, Mr. Cushing says, are the true stock of the old Pueblo race and through them he is enabled to trace back all the old traditions and manners to the time of the Montezumas. He finds that the religious rites, the ceremonies of the secret order, all the manners and customs are identical, to the minutest degree, with those of the race of three hundred years ago, as shown by the cave pictures. Mr. Cushing is therefore a genuine Indian to all intents and purposes, having adopted all savage manners and customs, as well as religion. The Times, however, has his word that he has not married into the tribe. This they much desire him to do, but so far he has refused. He seems to have great influence with them, and he shows his love and respect for them in every action. He is a brother, by adoption, of the head cacique, who is with the party, and it was with the utmost solicitation and tenderness that he assisted the rheumatic aboriginal about the room. It might be of interest to know the names of the Indians, but life is too short for protracted pleasures. Mr. Cushing evidently has made a thorough examination of everything of scientific interest regarding the tribe and its traditions, and undoubtedly is entitled to a great deal of credit for the sacrifices which he has made to accomplish his results.

THE GREATEST.

The greatest thing in the world is the falls of Niagara; the largest cavern, the Mammoth cave of Kentucky; the largest river, the Mississippi—4,000 miles in extent; the largest valley, that of the Mississippi—its area 5,000,000 square miles; the greatest city park, that of Philadelphia, containing 2,700 acres; the greatest grain port, Chicago; the largest lake, Lake Superior; the longest railroad, the Pacific railroad—over 3,000 miles in extent; the most huge mass of solid iron is Pilot Knob of Missouri—height, 250 feet, circumference two miles; the best specimen of architecture, Girard College, Philadelphia; the largest aqueduct, the Croton of New York, length 40 1/2 miles, cost \$12,500,000; the longest bridge, the elevated railroad in Third avenue, New York; its extent from the Battery to the Harlem river—the whole length of the eastern side of the Manhattan Island—seven miles long or nearly 40,000 yards. The longest bridge over the water, however, will be that now being constructed in Russia over the Volga at a point where the river is nearly four miles wide. The most extensive deposits of anthracite coal are in Pennsylvania.

IT IS ONE OF THE UNEXPLAINABLE THINGS

of moral ethics, how people decide so promptly as to how little rain and bad weather it takes to keep them away from prayer-meeting and how much is required to keep them away from a good show. No man is so fond of liberty himself as not to be desirous of subjecting the will of some individuals in society to his own.

Neither a man nor woman is entirely safe until he or she can endure blame and receive praise without excitement.

Daniel Webster's Widow.

LAI'D TO REST AT ROCHELLE—SKETCH OF HER LIFE.

Special by Telegraph to the Times-Star.

NEW YORK, March 1.—The funeral of Mrs. Daniel Webster took place this morning from Trinity Church, New Rochelle, and the remains were buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. The services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Canada. Mrs. Webster was the great statesman's second wife, and was born in New York City in 1797. Her father was the late Herman Leroy, head of the once famous house of Leroy, Bayard, McKiven & Co., who had a large trade in different parts of the world. Mr. Leroy was also the first Holland Consul to the United States. Mrs. Webster's mother was Hannah Cornell, a daughter of the last of the royal Attorneys General of the State of North Carolina. Caroline was one of eleven children, and inherited from her parents qualities that bespoke high birth and high connections. Even in her girlhood days she was noted for a certain stately and impressive demeanor that caused her playmates to look up to her with deferential respect. She was sent to a fashionable boarding school in New Brunswick, New Jersey, where she received her education, and on her return to her home at once began to make a brilliant impression in the leading society of the city of that day. She became widely known for her gifts as a conversationalist and for her attractive qualities generally. Her father's house at this period was at No. 76 Broadway, then one of the fashionable centres of the city, and it was here that, in 1828, she was first introduced to Daniel Webster, the Senator from Massachusetts. Those conversational abilities, which had charmed so many of the visitors in her father's house, soon captivated the distinguished Senator, and after only a few months' courtship, he married her. The ceremony was performed in Grace Church in February, 1829, in the presence of a large and fashionable assemblage.

After Mr. Webster's death Mrs. Webster returned to New York and lived with her brothers and sisters. But two of the family have survived her—the brothers who were at the bedside when the deceased lady passed away. After Mr. Webster's death 100 citizens of Boston contributed \$1,000 each to a fund of \$100,000, which was invested for his widow's benefit, and the interest of this she received regularly, although she had inherited sufficient property from her family to supply her needs. Mrs. Webster was among the spectators at the unveiling of the Bunker Hill Monument, and the last public event she attended was the ceremony of the unveiling of her husband's statue in Central Park in 1877. For three years preceding her death she had been in the habit of staying at the Leroy House in Rochelle, the builder of which had in his life-time often carried across the seas mercantile goods for her father's house. Her sister-in-law, Mrs. Jacob Leroy, had been staying with her since November last, when Mrs. Webster first began to be ailing, although she was able to be up and around the house daily. Her courteous manners were the subject of admiring comment among all who came in contact with her, and she treated high and low with equal kindness and politeness, those who were more intimate were often entertained by her anecdotes of her husband's career, of which she remembered and could narrate scores. She was very unostentatious in her later years, and loved the quiet retirement of the romantic house that wins an added interest and historical value from the fact that she lived and died there. Her family were among the oldest settlers in Pelham, and the family name is well known all over the country.