



JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN

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DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR.

JOHN BANKS,

Subject to the decision of the State Convention.

No paper will be issued from this office next week, as the publisher intends being absent for a few days.

The "Spy in Washington" writes—"A few days past, Mr. Van Buren informed a gentleman, that for three months before the election was decided, he had no hope of success; that he knew he would be beaten—that he had so stated to his sons. That Gen. Jackson had written to him, and inquired what were the prospects, and that he had omitted answering his letter until the New York election had taken place, but before the result was known, when he wrote to the inmate of the Hermitage, that he was beaten. This, be it remembered, is Mr. Van Buren's own account of the game he has been playing."

Correspondence of the Baltimore American.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18th.

A Crash in the House.

Falling of the Chandelier.

Instead of sending you a report of proceedings of the House of Representatives, I am called upon to send an account of a narrow escape of life and limb, occasioned by the falling of the chandelier in the Hall of the House of Representatives. The accident occurred at ten o'clock or thereabouts, and the fall was the weight of seven thousand five hundred pounds of brass, and lead, and glass, at the distance of some fifteen feet. The fall was a tremendous one, and the crash like the noise of a falling house,—the echo of the Hall giving an increased noise to the fallen mass. Had the House been in session and the members in their seats, some dozen members must have been maimed or killed.

The weight of the chandelier fell in the centre of the Hall,—a part of it forcing a breach in the aperture intended for the furnace. The desks in the vicinity were broken to pieces,—fortunately the only damage done, beyond the destruction of the chandelier.

The chandelier was lighted last night for the first time since Congress was in session. It was a beautiful piece of work,—too gorgeous, perhaps, and certainly too expensive, the cost being about five thousand dollars. There were seventy-eight lamps in it, holding a quart of oil each, and emitting a soft and beautiful light. But the light is out, and it seems in good time, for an escape so marvellous in such a wreck is wonderful.

CONGRESS.

FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 1840.

The Senate did not sit to-day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 1840.

After the journal was read, and several corrections of it ordered on the motion of different members.

Mr. Jones, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the payment of revolutionary and other pensions for the year 1841; which was read twice and referred to the Committee of the Whole, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Jones moved that the Committee of Ways and Means be authorized to employ a clerk; which, after some conversation, was agreed to.

SALARIES OF DISTRICT ATTORNEYS. Mr. Davis of Kentucky, gave notice that he would at the next sitting, introduce a bill to limit the salaries of District Attorneys, Marshals, &c. of the U. S. Courts.

Mr. Wm. Cost Johnson (whose desk had been shattered to pieces by the fall of the chandelier) moved that the House adjourn to Monday next; which was agreed to, and the proper officers were directed to cause the remnants of the chandelier to be removed, and new desks and chairs to be procured.

Another Murder in New Jersey.

By a letter, says the N. Y. Sun, received at Paterson on Thursday evening, directed to Mr. James Jackson, of that place, he was informed of the murder of his brother-in-law. Report says that he was found murdered, and that his body had been placed under ground in a grave yard in Springfield, New Jersey; and it was found by the observation of some persons who had remarked the newness and singular appearance of the grave. They were induced first to believe that some resurrectionist had violated it, and on attempting to ascertain the fact, they found the body of the murdered man. He was a man of wealth, engaged in buying and selling cattle, and at the time of his leaving home he had a large amount of money on his person.

Governor Shannon, of Ohio, uses the word bank or banking, 205 times in his recent Message.

The First Skirmish in the Senate.

INTERESTING.

From the Washington Correspondent of the Baltimore Patriot.

Mr. Clay's Resolution for the Repeal of the Sub-Treasury Act.

Mr. Clay said it was not his purpose to invite a renewal of the discussion of the Sub-Treasury policy; nor to participate in any re-argumentation of that condemned measure. He would as lieve argue to a culprit with the rope around his neck, and while in the cart on the road to execution, that the conviction was according to law and justice, as he would go into a course of reasoning to show that this Sub-Treasury System ought to be abandoned. But, he felt it due to the Senate, and the country, to state why he thought the ordinary course of legislation—which was to move a resolution of inquiry into the expediency of repeal—or to introduce a Bill for the repeal of a particular measure, ought to be dispensed with on the present occasion.

If (said he) we should look back to 1800, when Mr. Jefferson came into power, but by a far less general decision of the public in his favor than that which has called General Harrison to the Chief Magistracy,—if we should suppose that the Alien and Sedition Act had been passed for permanent duration—would we not think it idle in the majority in Congress at that time to have introduced a resolution instructing a Committee to inquire into the expediency of repealing a measure so generally censured? The Sub-Treasury Bill has been discussed for more than three years—longer than the whole period of the last war—and half as long as the war of the Revolution; and after the discussion, the Nation has in the most unequivocal manner expressed its opinions and feelings respecting it.

The Nation (exclaimed Mr. Clay, with peculiar emphasis,) wills its repeal—the Nation commands its repeal. There are in this chamber Senators from nineteen States who stand instructed to vote for its repeal.

We may contend as to what was and what was not involved in the late contest. There are many measures, many questions, as to whether and to what extent they were connected with the struggle. Gentlemen on the other side have heretofore been fond of declaring that such an election decided this, that, and the other—but the People had sustained the war upon the Bank, the removal of deposits, &c. &c. There was room for controversy in all those cases. But as to the Sub-Treasury system, there could be no doubt at all about the decision of the People. The Nation had pronounced judgement against the measure; and when the Nation has spoken, has willed, has commanded what should be done, in so clear and intelligible a manner, what necessity was there for a Committee of the Senate to inquire as to what the Senate ought to do? Who of the Senators from these nineteen States referred to, will stand up, and say he will under these circumstances oppose the repeal?—Those Senators whose constituents have given a different verdict may indeed oppose it. But surely the obedient Republicans from the Anti-Sub-Treasury States will find no difficulty in complying with the wishes of their fellow-citizens.

Mr. Clay said he had hoped that the President would, with that magnanimity which might have been expected from his office, have announced the will of the nation, and recommended to Congress a course of policy conforming to that will. He had too much respect for Mr. Van Buren—and too much consideration for human nature, to have wished that the President should come to Congress and say "I have been wrong all this time—I have been urging on you measures founded in error." But he did expect that the President would, at least, have referred to the nation's imperative will so decisively pronounced. Least of all (added Mr. Clay) was I prepared to find the President, instead of recommending a repeal of the Sub-Treasury, gravely proposing amendments to the Bill—emendations of the details of a measure which the country has so overwhelmingly condemned in the principle, and in the whole scope of its tendency and character! and when both the President and the Secretary knew that it would not endure, as an act of Congress, longer than the first day of the first session that could be called under the administration of President Harrison, if the majorities now in Congress will persevere in resisting its repeal.

The President had spoken of the successful operation of the Sub-Treasury. Mr. Clay said it would have been more satisfactory if the President or Secretary had gone a little into detail on this point; and had stated what alterations have grown up in the fiscal administration, under the new system. Instead of doing that, we are simply told in very general terms that the system has satisfied the expectations of its authors, and is now in successful operation! The country would inquire into the truth of this general declaration. He lived, (thank Heaven!) far from any Receiver General; but he would ask the Senator from New Hampshire, (Mr. Hubbard,) or the Senator from New York, (Mr. Wright,) to state what was the operation—how it worked? and how it affected the monetary concerns of the Government?

Mr. Clay believed there was not the slightest difference between the fiscal practice of the Government now and that which had preceded July last; and he entered into a number of details to prove this position; and to show that there was in point of fact no divorce of the Government from the Banks. He maintained therefore that no inconvenience would result from the repeal—that things would be as precisely as they were in July last; with this difference, that the accounts instead of being opened with a Collector or Receiver, on his own individual credit, would be opened with the Treasurer of the United States.

But, whatever inconvenience might result,

the duty of the Senate was plain—and he for one was ready to discharge his. He would obey the voice of the Nation.

Mr. Clay concluded with saying that if the Senators on the other side wanted time to make up their minds, he would agree to let the resolution lie over for the present.

After Mr. Clay sat down, Mr. Wright instantly rose, and thanked the Kentucky Senator for having presented this issue. He did not desire to discuss it; but wanted the Senate to be full, when it should be decided.

Mr. Wright then passed on to his old and hackneyed topics of abuse against the Harrison party, that they had never declared their principles previous to the election, and argued that the country had given no judgement on the Sub-Treasury. He maintained that the true verdict had been given at the Congressional Elections a year ago! From this he proceeded to talk about a National Bank, and the State Bank Deposit System; and contended that the result of the election only proved that the Capitol ought to be torn down, and a Log Cabin erected in its place! (How very witty!) Then came many professions of obedience to the public will, accompanied, however, by earnest protestations against the verdict in this case being regarded as expressive of the public will.

Before he took his seat Mr. Wright made one important admission that **TWO THIRDS OF THE REVENUE ARE PAID IN PAPER.**

Mr. Clay, while he agreed to the proposition of Mr. Wright to allow the resolution to lie over for a while, took occasion to reply to some of his observations.

In regard to what Mr. Wright had said about "a no principle party," "Log Cabins," "Coon Skins, &c. &c. &c." Mr. Clay asked, what kind of a party that must be which could have been so overwhelmingly beaten by a party that has no principles, whose only badges were coon skins, and whose only residence are log cabins! He denied that there was any correctness in these imputations. He asked if Mr. Wright, at this late day, was in want of information respecting the opinions of the Whig party.

Mr. Wright had referred to Congress as exhibiting in the state of parties, a better index to the popular will. Mr. Clay said he hoped the Senator would not make it necessary for him to look into the New Jersey affair.

He repeated that as to the Sub-Treasury there could not be two opinions about the will of the people. As to the Bank of the United States or the State Bank Deposit System; sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. When the obstacle to good Government, the Sub-Treasury, is removed, the Administration of Harrison will build up good measures.

One of the most brilliant passages of Mr. Clay was that in which he repelled the equally idle and commonplace imputation uttered by Mr. Wright, that the principles of the Harrison party are not known.

"Not known!" exclaimed the Kentucky Senator, in tones that rang through the Chamber. "Does the gentleman not know that we are against the Sub-Treasury? that we are for economy? that we are for retrenchment? that we are opposed to the fearful abuses and corruptions and encroachments of the Executive? Why, sir, the gentleman must forget that the election is over. He must fancy himself in some New York Convention, at Poughkeepsie, perhaps; instead of the United States Senate. He will not surely dare to say here in his place, that the Senators to whom he is opposed have not shown their principles. No, sir; No, sir. He understands our principles well enough.

He understands that we are for conducting the administration of public affairs openly and honestly—that we are against all mere expedients of every kind—that if we should get into debt we would confess it, and not attempt meanly to conceal it, as the men now in power had done. Look at their condition! in debt for the District of Columbia—in debt for our Indian relations—in debt for investments made in state stocks for political purposes—in debt for the absorbing Florida war. The Administration is indeed covered all over with debt, and yet we find the President declaiming against a National Debt as he and his party did against bank paper, when they were, and are at this hour using it.

The amount of the public debt is not yet known. But it will be discovered when Gen. Harrison shall come into power."

Mr. Clay closed with expressing his hope that there would be on the part of the majority of the Senate a disposition to obey the declared wishes of the People.

The Uniontown Genius of Liberty, a Van Buren paper, alludes to the question of Governor, and expresses the opinion that the better and safer course "would be to take a new candidate from the west, for the west has strong claims—some plain, substantial, clear-headed, sound-hearted man, like Dr. Sturgeon, or Gen. Beeson, of Fayette, or Col. Ringland, of Washington."

The Harrisburg Reporter gives the above, and remarks, "Several other democratic papers advocate the nomination of a new candidate, without having named any gentleman as their choice. We know of none, however, that will not support Governor Porter, if nominated by the 4th of March convention. Delegates have been chosen in several counties with no instructions in some cases, and in others with instructions to go for Porter."

The "present incumbent" will, no doubt, be nominated on the 4th of March, but without a degree of unanimity, and a spirit of harmony calculated to assist his prospects. It is probable that, in the meantime, he will lose the patronage of the Public Improvements, and without said patronage, his re-election must be considered a doubtful matter indeed.

FROM WASHINGTON.
Mr. Webster's First Speech of the Session.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16th.

UNITED STATES SENATE.

The Vice President, Richard M. Johnson, made his appearance in the Chair to-day, having arrived in the city last week.

An Executive Document from the War Department was received and laid upon the table.

The Bill for the support of Government in part for 1841, received from the House yesterday, was read twice and sent to the Committee of Finance. The Bill was reported back from the Committee to the Senate, during the morning hour, read a third time and passed.

ONE PRESIDENTIAL TERM.

Mr. Tallmadge, of N. Y. proposed an amendment to the Constitution, fixing the time of Presidential service to one term. The Resolution received its first and second reading, and was, no one opposing, ordered to be printed.

EXCHANGES.

Mr. Benton offered a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for information in relation to the rates of foreign and domestic exchange, particularly between the cities of New York and Philadelphia, since the period of suspension of specie payments.

REPORTS.

The Judiciary Committee reported through their Chairman, Mr. Wall, two important Bills, which had their first and second reading. The one to punish certain crimes against the United States, and the other preventing the counterfeiting of coin.

A bill for the relief of certain companies of Missouri Volunteers was referred to the Military Committee.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The Vice President, after the expiration of the morning hour, announced the postponed motion of Mr. Webster to be the subject in order before the Senate.

Mr. WEBSTER said that it was not without some reluctance that he had concluded to address the Senate upon the subject of the President's Message—especially at this period of the session. He had no disposition to reopen old wounds, or to enter again upon the discussion of topics which had so recently, and at such great length, been discussed in the Senate. All that I propose to do is to submit some remarks with regard to the finances of the country. I do not propose to refer at much length to the past, or to speculate upon the future. I wish to consider the finances of the country as they are, and to comment briefly upon some of the facts or opinions laid down in the Message.

He thought the President was mistaken in some of his positions in reference to a National Debt and a National Bank. Of a National Bank, said Mr. Webster, I shall say nothing at present. In regard to a National Debt, I wish to submit to the Senate whether any party since the foundation of the Government, ever made a National Debt one of its governing principles. If so when did that party exist, and where is the proof of its existence? It is true that the Government has contracted debts—the old Continental Congress contracted debts—loans were made in the days of the Revolution—a debt was contracted by John Adams with Holland; but of the propriety of these measures there are none who doubt them.

But, continued Mr. Webster, the remark of the President is particularly unfortunate when he says that a National Debt has been one of the prominent measures before the country. The present is the only Administration which in a time of profound peace has contracted a debt, and this Administration has expended twenty seven millions five hundred thousand dollars more than its income.

Reserved by the Deposit Act, \$6,000,000 on the first of January, 1837.

Here was this amount on hand. In 1837 the fourth instalment was kept back, amounting to \$9,000,000. In addition to this, the Bonds due from the old Bank have been the means of paying into the Treasury the sum of \$8,000,000. To this is to be added the outstanding Treasury notes, making in all \$27,500,000; and this shows that for the three or four years past the Administration has expended nearly eight millions per annum, beyond its income.

But, asked Mr. Webster again—is this all? I am afraid it is not all. I think the Secretary of the Treasury has taken to his own account as income of the Government, what properly belongs to the Trust Fund, provided for the Indians under certain treaties. Mr. Webster noticed some of these, referring to the official reports. From the War Department he read of one investment of \$1,800,000. This sum was deposited in stock—State stocks—which were named by the Senator. Belonging to the Chickasaws was invested the sum of \$1,500,000. Other sums were invested, leaving but \$300,000 of these Trust Funds which were not invested.

The Secretary had kept no separate account of these Trust Funds, and as a matter of book-keeping it might, or might not, be a proper mode of doing business. He should have thought that this account should have been kept separately, the Department being as it was a Trustee for the Fund.

Mr. Webster then quoted the prices of the State Stocks, showing that they were below par, and had fallen greatly since the pledge. The United States were indebted to the Indian tribes. We had received their lands—we had pledged to invest their fund in permanent stocks, and this we have not done, and the United States were indebted for the loss. Now they were indebted to the sum of \$2,500,000 on account of these Trust Funds and investments.

This 2,500,000 was a debt—to all intents and purposes a debt—due by the Government, and though not necessarily to be paid to-morrow, nevertheless due from the Government to the Indians.

There are other and outstanding debts contracted, within the four years past, debts due to unpaid contractors, on account of Indian and frontier claims—on account of spoliation—on account of treaties—on account of borrowed moneys—on account of Treasury Notes outstanding.

I agree, continued Mr. Webster, with much that is said in the Message upon the subject of Public Debt, and the impropriety of contracting such a debt in a time of profound peace; but it does seem to me, added the Senator, that the opinions of the President come with an ill grace from him. For the debt is as old as the Administration. There has been no moment when this Administration was free from debt, and in debt on account of borrowed moneys. The scope and tendency of the Message upon this subject is therefore calculated to create an erroneous impression? Why they cannot be brought together—summed in their various items, for many months to come.

I hope, said Mr. Webster, that the President of the U. S. did not intend to forestall public opinion on this matter, and to hide the present by concealing the past. I will not impute this motive to the President, but the scope of the Message is calculated to create a false issue. I intend, said Mr. Webster, to prevent this if I can, and to prevent the President from leaving this impression on the minds of the people.

I intend to move too that new books be opened on the 4th of March next; that there shall be what the merchants call a *rest*—that we shall begin *de novo*, giving the Treasury full credit for any balances accumulated there in March, and making it responsible for its indebtedness also.

Mr. Webster then referred to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, and to the fact of his saying that though there were \$4,500,000 yet due for Treasury notes, this was less by \$23,000,000 than the amount due the Treasury, and deposited with the States. This representation also was calculated to leave an erroneous impression on the public mind. Did the President mean to recall, or say the three instalments deposited with the States should be recalled? Did the Secretary of the Treasury mean this? It was well known to Congress and the country that the Treasury had no control of the money deposited with the States—none whatever. The money could not be recalled by the President or the Department, but must be recalled by an act of Congress authorizing the recall of the money. The reference that this sum belongs to the Treasury is false, and calculated to mislead the public mind.

Mr. Webster proceeded to comment upon other topics in the Message, and spoke of the approaching termination of the Compromise Act. Nothing was said of replenishing the Treasury on account of a diminution of revenue. The President contented himself with ardent and urgent generalities in reference to the future, while his experience had shown him that it was necessary to expend \$27,000,000 and more beyond the actual receipts of the Government. Such was the difference between theory and experience. The new Administration was to manage the affairs of Government without means, while the present Administration had expended \$27,500,000 beyond the receipts of the Government.

Mr. Webster spoke but for an hour, and in conclusion, expressed the hope that the new Administration, which had the power to provide for the support of Government for 1841, would pursue a line of conduct which would make an extra session of Congress unnecessary. The inconvenience attending such a session would be great, and the expense considerable. He hoped, therefore, that the Treasury would be left in a condition to make a called session unnecessary.

No one rose to speak as Mr. Webster concluded. The question before the Senate was upon the reference of the financial part of the message to the committee of finance.

Mr. Wright rose to reply, but was not prepared, and solicited a further postponement, until to-morrow.

"Postpone," said Mr. Webster, and such was the order of the Senate.

Mr. Calhoun followed with a motion to adjourn, and at an early hour the Senate adjourned.

The Last Murder in New Jersey.

The New York Sun states that the name of the murdered gentleman was R. Rufford, that he was formerly a merchant at Johnsonburg, N. J., and that his body was found near Jugtown, Warren county, N. J., deposited under a coffin where another person had been buried previously.

Imports.

The Madisonian states that there have been five years in our history since 1815, in which our exports have exceeded our imports. These years 1820, 1825, 1827, 1829, 1840. The excess of exports over imports in 1840 is \$26,766,069. This is quite remarkable. It is owing, doubtless, to our great indebtedness abroad; and since we are largely indebted, the above indication may be regarded as a convalescent one, though probably 12 to \$15,000,000 of have gone to pay interest.

An Execution.

A man named Charles Cook, was executed at Schenectady on Friday last, for the murder of Mrs. Merry in October.

Flour was selling at Detroit on the 16th, at \$3 25 a \$3 50. Pork at \$3 a \$3 50.