

Twenty-Fifth Congress. (SECOND SESSION.)

From the National Intelligencer. DEBATE In the House of Representatives on the Seminole War.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 24, 1838.

At the opening of the debate, (the House having again resolved itself into committee of the whole, Mr. Conner in the chair) Mr. THOMPSON rose, and said that he did not mean to be understood as having said, in his remarks yesterday, that the whole North felt sympathy with the Indians only because they were our enemies.

Mr. BIDDLE said that, in expressing, on yesterday, an unwillingness that the committee should rise, when he was about to address it, he did so from a wish that the remarks he had to offer should accompany what had suggested them.

The course which the debates had taken, on yesterday, might well surprise one who, like himself, was a novice in the House. It began with the war in Florida, and terminated with the abolition of slavery; and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Wise) had struggled to establish that he, of all others, had been the most bitter and uncompromising on this subject.

Mr. WISE said that his remarks had not been properly understood. However fixed and well known his opinions on this subject, he had always cherished a friendly and courteous feeling towards the North.

Mr. BIDDLE said he had certainly understood, but no doubt erroneously, the remarks made as bearing harshly on the North, at a time when a rule of the House forbade deliberate discussion, and when gentlemen were prevented from offering even an explanation of the motives which governed their votes.

Mr. THOMPSON expressed the hope that, as the gentleman from Maine and others had set the example of wandering somewhat from the question, the gentleman from Pennsylvania might also be permitted to take the same course in reply.

Mr. BIDDLE proceeded to say that he had been painfully struck, on yesterday, with the light and familiar way in which a dissolution of the Union was spoken of. Such a tone was directly calculated to provoke that catastrophe.

Mr. PATTON rose and insisted upon the question of order previously suggested by the Chairman. He was unwilling that the committee should be permitted, upon this question, to stray into a discussion of the exciting subject of abolition.

Mr. BIDDLE said he had certainly desired an opportunity in replying to the remarks which had been made, to render intelligible the motives which had governed his vote on a former occasion. The whole subject, however, was delicate, as well as momentous, and he did not even wish to pursue it at bare surference, with a liability to be cut short at a stage which might expose him to still greater misconception than at present.

After a brief interval, he again led that brigade to the glorious victory of Bridgewater. He bears now upon his body the wounds of that day. It had ever been the characteristic of this officer to seek the post of danger, not to have it thrust upon him.

Short as had been his experience here, (Mr. B. said,) this was not the first occasion on which he had seen the House thus goaded into action. In reference to the bill authorizing the issuing of Treasury bonds now forward by a loud cry that the Treasury was exhausted, and that the business of the Government must stop unless that bill passed.

notes issued, for months after the bill became a law, we see how utterly fallacious was the pretext.

How had it been, over and over again, in reference to this very war? Whenever money was wanted, there was no time for explanation. What is the effect of this course of proceeding? Why, sir, it is very well known that some discussion will unavoidably arise; topics will be glanced at; dissatisfaction will be expressed; but all this in a slight superficial way, and with an uneasy feeling, lest opposition may be misconstrued.

Such, Mr. Speaker, was the officer—full of honors, and with unlimited claims to confidence—who was called to assume the command in the South. Of the wisdom and great military forecast which distinguished his arrangements for bringing the contest to a close, there is but one opinion. The Court of Inquiry called to investigate his conduct in the Seminole campaign says:

"The Court is of opinion, from the testimony of many officers of rank and intelligence who served in the campaign, that Major General Scott was zealous and indefatigable in the discharge of his duties, and that his plan of campaign prosecuted was well devised, and with energy, steadiness and ability."

In reference to operations against the Creeks, it is said: "After the testimony of the Governor of Georgia, of Major General Sanford, commander of the Georgia volunteers, and many other witnesses of high rank and standing who were acquainted with the topography of the country, and the position and strength of the enemy, the Court is of opinion that the plan of campaign adopted by Major General Scott was well calculated to lead to successful results, and that it was prosecuted by him, as far as practicable, with zeal and ability, until recalled from command."

But, sir, whilst about to give way to his own ardor, and to reap, at length, the fruits of all his anxious preparations, you know how cruelly his hopes were blasted.

An officer, whose functions had, for many years, partaken of a civil rather than a military character, was assigned to the command of General Scott's army, and he was, with him, in Washington, as now appears, a knowledge that impatience was felt here for a more rapid, dashing style of action.

It would be recollected by all, that after he was in Florida had assumed a formidable aspect, Major General Scott was called to the command. An officer of his rank and standing was not likely to seek a service in which, amidst infinite toil and vexation, there would be no opportunity for the display of military talent on a scale at all commensurate with that in which his past fame had been required.

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nurse and the physician of those from whom terror and loathing had driven all other aid, cannot be forgotten by a just and grateful country.

"Allow me to congratulate you upon this fortunate consummation of your arduous duties, and to express my entire approbation of the whole course of your proceeding, during a series of difficulties requiring higher moral courage than the operations of an active campaign under ordinary circumstances."

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"The Court is of opinion that the plan of campaign adopted by Major General Scott was well calculated to lead to successful results, and that it was prosecuted by him, as far as practicable, with zeal and ability, until recalled from the command, upon representation made by Gen. Jesup, his second in command; from Fort Mitchell, in a letter bearing date 20th June, 1836, addressed to F. P. Blair, Esq., at Washington, marked, 'private,' containing a request that it might be shown to the President, which letter was exposed and brought to light by the dignified and magnanimous act of the President in causing it to be placed on file in the Department of War as an official document, and which forms part of these proceedings. Conduct so extraordinary and inexplicable on the part of Major Gen. Jesup, in reference to the character of said letter, should, in the opinion of the Court, be investigated."

But, sir, the President was not to be propitiated by the soft and flattering words of the Court; and flung back the proceedings in its face. This is his language of rebuke:

"That part of the opinion of the Court which animadverts on the letter addressed by Major General Jesup to F. P. Blair, Esq., bearing date 20th June, 1836, and which presents the same as a subject demanding investigation, appears to the President to be wholly unauthorized by the order constituting the Court, &c. &c."

Now, sir, I venture to say that no military man will pronounce the conduct of the Court to have been irregular or even unusual. It is not only the right, but the duty; of such a tribunal to call Executive attention to any matter seriously affecting the interests of the service, which may be disclosed in the course of his examination—not for the purpose of final condemnation, but as suggesting a fit subject of enquiry.

Dear Sir: We have the Florida scenes enacted over again. This war ought to have ended a week ago. I commenced operations on the Alabama side, and have succeeded in tranquillizing the whole frontier.

Mr. Chairman, we all listened, with pleasure, on yesterday, to the elegant speech of the honorable delegate from Florida, (Mr. Downing.) But, sir, when he told us that if the Cherokees had not been employed, the war would, in all probability, have long since been over; when he told us that the humanity and forbearance of General Jesup had, as he believed, cost us millions; did we not see that he lost sight, in the midst of details, of the great first cause which has kept this war so long open?

Mr. Chairman, I believe that a signal attainment to Gen. Scott will, one day, be extorted from the justice of this House. We owe it to him; but we owe it still more to the country. What officer can feel secure in the face of that great example of triumphant justice? Who can place before himself the anticipation of establishing higher claims upon the gratitude of the country than General Scott? Yet he was sacrificed. His past services were for nothing. Sir, you may raise new regiments, and issue new commissions, but you cannot, without such a tonement, restore the high moral tone which befits the depositories of the national honor.

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Some of the members of our Legislature have effected to take it in high dudgeon, that Governor Ritner has sent a message to the House assigning his reason for not approving of the "Repair Bill."

The fact is that the favorite scheme of the veto power has been again frustrated by the firmness of the Governor. It is not at all surprising that for the purpose of screening themselves, they should raise the cry of Executive encroachment, hoping in this manner to prevent the public from becoming acquainted with the true character of the "repair bill," and unworthy motives by which they have been influenced in the business.

The people of Pennsylvania will not soon forget that the Legislature last winter with a Van Buren majority of twenty-seven, passed what they called the "improvement bill," appropriating nearly four millions of dollars to various objects, and that the state was saved from bankruptcy by the wisdom and decision of Governor Ritner. The greatest enemies of the Governor must acknowledge that by rejecting this bill of appropriations he consulted the true honor and prosperity of the State. It will also be remembered that the said bill was by one act incorporated eleven coal and other companies to continue twenty years with extensive privileges and a capital of three million two hundred thousand dollars.

Now, sir, I venture to say that no military man will pronounce the conduct of the Court to have been irregular or even unusual. It is not only the right, but the duty; of such a tribunal to call Executive attention to any matter seriously affecting the interests of the service, which may be disclosed in the course of his examination—not for the purpose of final condemnation, but as suggesting a fit subject of enquiry.

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MR. CALHOUN'S RESOLUTIONS. The following is a copy of these resolutions as they passed the Senate:

I. Resolved, That in the adoption of the Federal Constitution, the States free, independent and sovereign, States, and that each, for itself, by its own voluntary assent, entered the Union with the view of its increased security against all dangers, domestic as well as foreign, and the more perfect and secure enjoyment of its advantages, natural, political, and social.

II. Resolved, That in delegating a portion of their powers to be exercised by the Federal Government, the States retained, severally, the exclusive and sole right over their own domestic institutions and policy to the full extent to which those powers were not thus delegated, and are alone responsible for them; and that any intermeddling of any one or more States, or a combination of their citizens, with the domestic institutions and policy of the others, on any ground, political, moral, or religious, or under any pretext whatever, with the view to their alteration or subversion, is not warranted by the constitution, tending to endanger the domestic peace and tranquility of the States, interfering with, subversive of the objects for which the constitution was formed, and by necessary consequence, tending to weaken and destroy the Union itself.

III. Resolved, That this government was instituted and adopted by the several States, in the exercise of their sovereign powers, and that they are alone responsible for the maintenance of their mutual security and prosperity; and that, in fulfillment of this high and sacred trust, this government is bound so to exercise its powers, as not to interfere with the stability and security of the domestic institutions of the States that compose the Union, and it is the solemn duty of the government to resist, to the extent of its constitutional power, all attempts by one portion of the Union to use it as an instrument to attack the domestic institutions of another, or to weaken or destroy such institutions.

IV. Resolved, That domestic slavery, as it exists in the southern and western States of this Union, composes an important part of their domestic institutions, inherited from their ancestors, and existing at the adoption of the constitution, by which it is recognized as constituting an important element in the apportionment of powers among the States, and that no change of opinion, or feeling, on the part of the other States of the Union in relation to it, can justify them or their citizens in open or systematic attacks thereon, with the view to its overthrow; and that all such attacks are in manifest violation of the mutual and solemn pledge to protect and defend each other, given by the States respectively, on entering into the constitutional compact which formed the Union, and as such are a manifest breach of faith; and a violation of the most solemn obligations.

V. Resolved, That the interference by the citizens of any of the States, with the view to the abolition of slavery in this district, is endangering the rights and security of the people of the district; and that any act or measure of Congress designed to abolish slavery in this district, would be a violation of the faith implied in the cession by the States of Virginia and Maryland, a just cause of alarm to the people of the slaveholding States, and have a direct and inevitable tendency to disturb and endanger the Union.

And Resolved, That any attempt of Congress to abolish slavery in any territory of the United States in which it exists, would create serious alarm, and just apprehension, in the States sustaining that domestic institution, would be a violation of good faith towards the inhabitants of any such territory who have been permitted to settle with, and hold slaves therein, because people of any such territory have not asked for the abolition of slavery therein, and because when any such territory shall be admitted into the Union as a State, the people thereof will be entitled to decide that question exclusively for themselves.

The Baltimore American of Monday says: "One of the custom house officers at Annapolis has captured the schooner Deborah and Sally, of Philadelphia, for violation of the laws of Maryland, in fishing for oysters with a rake. She has been confiscated, and will be sold at auction on the 17th inst. The Philadelphia oyster fisherman have recently been guilty of outrages in the neighborhood of West River, and on Thursday last a steamboat duly armed and manned, was despatched against them. The rogues, however, had taken the alarm, and left the river, and could not be found."

CATCH HIM! Do not think we are going to offer a reward, money-making reader—the subject of this paragraph is not worth a dozen of old newspapers. A man who would run off without paying his printer's bill is not fit game for even dogs to follow—and such a man did live in Claysville, in this county. He has fled to parts unknown, forgetting to pay us for his paper. His name is

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, D. Guernsey Times.

Extract from a letter dated "JACKSON, (Miss.) Jan. 5, 1838: "Both houses of the Legislature have organized. We have a clear, acknowledged majority in both branches, and yet, we have been defeated at the very threshold in the choice of officers. This may be ascribed, in one case, to the good nature and liberality of the Democratic members—the besetting sin of our party every where."

The Columbus (Ohio) Journal of the 13th inst. says:—"A Sub-Treasury Bank ran away from Liberty in Montgomery county, the other day, with a large amount of funds deposited with him by his Loco Foco neighbors. He was Postmaster at the place mentioned."

During the discussion which grew out of the removal of the deposits from the Bank of the United States, the question often arose, "What is the Treasury of the United States?" The party never, we believe, settled the thing entirely to their satisfaction—though the majority inclined to the opinion that it was General Jackson's breeches pocket. The Whigs thought, that, as the law placed the public treasure in the United States Bank; that Institution, for the time being, was the Treasury.

the passage of this iniquitous resolution by the H. of R. of the United States, which is a virtual denial of the right of petition to the sovereign people, and which was sustained by all the Van Buren representatives in congress from Pennsylvania, with but two solitary exceptions, has drawn forth a burst of indignation and censure from the people of the FREE STATES of all sects and political parties.

The Van Buren presses generally, seeing that numbers of their own partisans highly disapprove of this gaglaw, are endeavoring to smooth the matter over as well as they can, in order to screen those pliant members of congress, who betrayed their constituents in voting for this odious resolution, merely to conciliate the south for party purposes. They are obliged, therefore, to have recourse to palpable misrepresentations, and hold out the idea that the right of petition was not surrendered. We are told by a neighboring Van Buren editor, that, "in the passage of Mr. Patton's resolution, no right to petition has been interfered with, since all memorials and remonstrance on this subject are announced, received, and laid on the table." But why not give the concluding part of the resolution, which contains the whole gist matter? "Without being debated, read, or referred, and that no further action whatever be had thereon."

What use is the right of petition; which is guaranteed by the constitution—to all citizens, if their petitions are neither "read," "referred," nor "debated" by recreant representatives? Is it not a mere mockery—an insult to the people?—and a gross violation of the spirit of the constitution? Has not the "right of petition" been most outrageously "interfered with" by this high handed and arbitrary act? If congress have the right to treat the petitions of the abolitionists in this way, have they not the right upon the same principle to reject any other class of citizens? Most unquestionably they have.

But we are told by the same editor, that the agitators consume the time of congress, at an expense of thousands of dollars to the people, and the neglect of public business, by their petitions—and, therefore, that it was the duty of congress to put a stop to the proceeding. Because it is alleged, that it is "inflaming unnecessary" the southern portion of the Union. Are the citizens of the free states to be deterred from petitioning congress for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade in the capitol of the Union, which is provided with laws by the national legislature, lest it might "inflame, unnecessarily, the southern portion of the Union." Are we to succumb eternally to the daring spirits of the south, who threaten to dissolve the Union whenever any measure is brought before congress that may be considered by them as calculated to militate against their interests? Is not the time of congress consumed, at an expense of thousands of dollars to the people, with the consideration of other than abolition petitions? Has not much of the time of the senate been consumed with debate on Mr. Calhoun's resolutions? However much we regret the time consumed in the consideration of abolition petitions in congress, and however much we disapprove of the fanatical and headlong course of the leading abolitionists, we prize the right of petition too highly not to condemn those recreant members who voted for the "outrageous resolution" of Mr. Patton. —Harrisburg Chronicle.

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We notice this subject now, to state that the Loco-Focos in the present Congress have taken the matter in hand—and have determined, as we learn by the Sub-Treasury Bill of Mr. Wright, to constitute certain "rooms, vaults, and safes," in the new building now erecting for the Treasury Department, as "the Treasury of the United States." The "rooms, vaults, and safes" are required by law to be "fire proof," but as they may not prove "chief proof," we suggest whether it would not be as well to authorize the Smithsonian Agent, who is now in London, to obtain an insurance in that city from the company which first flourished in the days of the "South Sea Bubble," and which was established to "insure against thieves." Something of the kind is necessary to keep the public money safe—and if nothing better can be proposed, our plan of insurance should be adopted.

Some persons might be malicious enough to hint that the premium of insurance, taking into consideration who would have the immediate charge of the Treasury, would be enormously high—but we make no imputation of the kind. —Baltimore Chronicle.

A dwelling occupied by Dr. Andrew Gardner, in Antis township, Huntingdon County, Penn., was destroyed by fire on the 21st ult., and three of his children, the oldest of which was about 12 years old were burnt to death.