

Twenty-Seventh Congress: SECOND SESSION.

JOHN TYLER, President of the United States. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD, President of the Senate, pro tempore. JOHN WHITE, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

God save the Union!

IN SENATE...Monday, December 6, 1841

This day, at 12 o'clock, meridian, the Senate was called to order, by the President pro tempore. A quorum was present. Messrs. Bayard and Bates were appointed a Committee, on the part of the Senate, to wait on the President, and inform him that a quorum of both Houses had assembled, and that they were ready to receive any message he might be pleased to make to them.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

This day, at 12 o'clock, the House was called to order by the Speaker. The Clerk of the House then called the roll, by States, commencing with the State of Maine; and one hundred and seventy-seven members answered to their names.

The Secretary of the Senate now informed the House that that body had organized, and was ready to proceed in business.

Mr. Wm. Cost Johnson, of Maryland, now arose and requested the Speaker to leave him out of the Committee on Public Lands.

He also moved that the House adopt the rules of the 26th Congress.

Mr. Adams moved to except the 21st rule in relation to Abolition petitions.

Mr. Johnson only wished the rules of the 26th Congress adopted until the House could adopt others.

Mr. Fillmore, to preserve order, moved to take up the report of the Committee on Rules, made at the last Congress, and hammer away at them until they were adopted.

He moved to adopt the rules of the Extra Session until the new rules were adopted.

Mr. Stanly, of North Carolina, moved to adopt the rules of the extra session for fifteen days, or until new ones should be adopted; and in the mean time, take up the report of the Committee on Rules, print them, and make them the order of the day until they should be adopted; and then moved the previous question.

Mr. Proffit said he had a newspaper, containing a circular, around which black lines were drawn, calling upon the members of Congress to meet at an early day to consider the question of the 21st rule, which, according to the circular, was to be the question of the session.

Mr. Proffit went on to show that there was an Abolition party in the United States, and that they had a Committee around the doors of Congress to urge on the question.

Mr. Stanly called him to order.

The Speaker said the Previous Question had been demanded.

Mr. Proffit then went on to show that the Previous Question should not be put.

He was again called to order—appealed, and then withdrew his appeal.

Mr. Adams now appealed from the decision of the Chair. He considered that Mr. Stanly had no right to move the Previous Question upon his amendment, and demanded the yeas and nays.

They were ordered, and were yeas 147, nays 17. So the decision of the Chair stood as the judgment of the House.

Mr. Wise, to expedite public business, moved, by general consent, to appoint a committee to wait upon the President in connection with a committee of the Senate, and inform him that a quorum of both Houses was present, and that they were ready to receive any message he might be pleased to make.

Before the appeal was decided on Mr. Adams' motion, a sharp debate sprang up on law, parliamentary, human, and divine, and many members delivered themselves of their ideas in a lucid and satisfactory manner. Mr. Adams was dressed in a Geneva skull cap, and seemed to be about taking holy orders. At any rate he looked like the high priest of Abolition in the United States, and of British tyranny in China. How he can preach liberty here, and slavery in China, is more than we can say, and therefore we will say no more about it at present.

The question upon the adoption of Mr. Stanly's amendment was then taken by yeas and nays, and there were yeas 83, nays 87; so it was rejected.

The question on Mr. Adams' amendment was then taken by yeas and nays, and there were yeas 84, nays 87; so it was rejected.

Mr. Wise from the joint committee on the part of the House, appointed to wait upon the President, reported that the committee had attended to the duty assigned it, and that the President would make a communication to-morrow at 12 o'clock. On motion of Mr. Wise, the House adjourned until to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

IN SENATE...Tuesday, December 7, 1841.

Immediately after the reading of the journal in the Senate, Mr. Bayard, from the joint committee appointed yesterday, to wait upon the President, reported that he would communicate with both Houses of Congress to-day at twelve o'clock, by message in writing.

After a short delay, Mr. Robert Tyler, the President's private secretary, delivered the message to the President of the Senate, and it was read by the Secretary. The reading occupied about an hour; after which, Mr. Mangum moved that the Message and documents be laid on the table and printed.

Mr. Smith, of Ia., moved that the usual number of messages and documents be printed for the use of the Senate. He presumed the Journal would direct the number. The President of the Senate observed that 1,500 of the documents, and 3,500 of the message, would be the usual number; and a motion being made to print that number, Mr. Benton objected to two features in that part of the President's Message relating to the fiscal agency, as follows:

Mr. Benton said, that he could not reconcile it to himself to let the resolution pass, without making a few remarks on that part of the message which related to a new Fiscal Agent. Looking at that part of it, as read, he perceived that the President gave an outline of his plan, leaving it to the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish the details in his Report.—He apprehended that nothing in those details could reconcile him to the project, or in any manner meet his approbation. There were two main points presented in the plan, to which he never could agree; both being wholly unconstitutional and dangerous. One was, that of emitting bills of credit, or issuing a Treasury currency. Congress had no constitutional authority to issue paper money, or emit Federal bills of credit; and the other feature is, to authorize this Government to deal in exchanges. The proposition to issue bills of credit, when under consideration at the formation of the Constitution, was

struck out, with the express view of making this Government a hard money Government—not capable of recognising any other than a specie currency, a currency of gold and silver, a currency known and valued and equally understood by every one.—But here was a proposition to do what was expressly refused to be allowed by the framers of the Constitution.—to exercise a power not only not granted to Congress, but a power expressly denied. The next proposition is, to authorize the Federal Government to deal in and regulate exchanges, and to furnish exchange to merchants. This is a new invention—a modern idea of the power of this Government, invented by Mr. Biddle to help out a National Bank. Much as Gen. Hamilton was in favor of paper money, he never went the length of recommending Government bills of credit, or dealings in exchange by the United States Treasury. The fathers of the church, Mason, and John Randolph, on others, called this a hard money Government: they objected to bank paper; but here is Government paper, and that goes beyond Hamilton, much as he was in favor of the paper system. The whole scheme making this Government a regulator of exchange—a dealer in exchange—a furnisher of exchange, is absurd, unconstitutional, and pernicious, and is a new thing under the sun.

Now, he objected to this Government becoming a seller of exchange to the country, for which there is no more authority than there is for its furnishing transportation of goods or country produce. There is not a word in the Constitution to authorize it—not a word to be found justifying the assumption. The word exchange is not in the Constitution. What does this message propose? Congress is called upon to establish a Board with agencies, for the purpose of furnishing the country with exchanges.

The British Debt began in the time of Sir Robert Walpole, on issues of exchequer bills; by which system the British nation has been cheated, and plunged irretrievably in debt to the amount of nine hundred millions of pounds. The proposition that the Government should become the issuer of exchequer notes, is one borrowed from the system introduced into England by Sir Rob't Walpole, whose Whig administration was nothing but a high Tory administration of Queen Anne. He had much to say on this subject, but this was no time for entering at large on it. This perhaps was not the occasion to say more, nor would it, he considered, be treating the President of the United States with proper respect to enter upon a premature discussion. He could not, however, in justice to himself, allow this resolution to pass without stating his objections to two such obnoxious features of the proposed fiscal policy, looking, as he did, upon the whole thing as one calculated to destroy the whole structure of Government, to change it from the hard money it was intended to be, to the paper money Government it was intended not to be, and to mix it up with trade, which no one ever dreamed of. He had, on another occasion, stated that this Administration would go back not only to the Federal times of '98, but to the times of Sir Robert Walpole and Queen Anne, and the evidence is now before us.

He had only said a few words on this occasion, because he could not let the proposition to sanction bills of credit go without taking the very earliest opportunity of expressing his disapprobation, and denouncing a system calculated to produce the same results which had raised the unfounded debt of Britain from twenty-one to nine hundred millions of pounds. He should avail himself of the first appropriate opportunity to maintain the ground he had assumed as to the identity of this policy with that of Walpole, by argument and references, that this plan of the President's was utterly unconstitutional and dangerous—part borrowed from the system of the English Exchequer issues, and part from Mr. Biddle's scheme of making the Federal Government an exchange dealer—though Mr. Biddle made the Government act indirectly, thro' a board of Bank Directors, and this makes it act directly, through a board of Treasury Directors and their agents.

This is the first time that a formal proposition has been made to change our hard money Government, (as it was intended to be,) into a paper machine; and it is the first time that there has been a proposal to mix it up with trade and commerce, by making it a furnisher of exchanges, a bank of deposit, and an imitator of the old Confederation in its continental bills, and a copyist of the English Exchequer system. Being the first time these unconstitutional and pernicious schemes were formally presented to Congress, he felt it to be his duty to disclose his opposition to them at once. He would speak more fully.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at noon, when the journal of yesterday having been read, Mr. Thompson, of Mississippi, appeared, was sworn, and took his seat.

The Message.—The private secretary of the President then presented himself at the bar, and announced that he was the bearer of a message in writing. The message was then received and read by the clerk.

Mr. Wise then rose and observed, that were the House governed by any rules, he would move the reference of the message just read to a committee of the whole on the State of the Union. But as no rules had yet been adopted, he would move that the message do lie on the table, and that 10,000 extra copies, with the accompanying documents, be printed.

Mr. W. C. Johnson rose and urged his motion of yesterday in relation to the rules, as the first business in order.

Some discussion of a desultory character arose between Messrs. Adams, Johnson, and others, as to what was in order, after which it was agreed that the question on the motion of Mr. Wise should be taken without further debate.

A division of the question being called, the question was first put on printing the usual number of copies, and it was carried, there being but one negative vote (Mr. Botts).

The second branch of the motion, viz: the printing of the extra copies, was also agreed to, with the exception of Mr. Botts.

Rules of the House.—Mr. Johnson then called up his resolution, pending the consideration of which the House had on yesterday adjourned, viz: "that the rules of the 26th Congress be adopted as the rules of the present session, until the report of the select committee on the rules shall be disposed of."

Mr. Fillmore suggested that it would be better to name some specific time when that report should be considered.

Mr. Johnson then modified his resolution, so as to make the report the special order for Thursday next, and each succeeding day until finally disposed of.

Mr. Adams made some remarks, complaining of the conduct of the Speaker, yesterday in deciding that he, Mr. A., could not speak, &c.

The Speaker explained.

Mr. Adams was not satisfied, and began to talk about "trickery," etc., for which he was called to order.

Mr. A. then desired to renew his amendment, "excepting the 21st rule," but the Speaker decided that it could not be done. Mr. A. grumbled.

Mr. Proffit also complained of the manner in which he was compelled to take his seat on yesterday, while other members were permitted to speak.

After some remarks from Mr. Campbell, of South Carolina, the question was taken on the resolution of Mr. Johnson, as modified, and it was agreed to: yeas 97, nays 95. So the rules of the 26th Congress, at its last session, will be in force until the report of the committee on the rules shall be disposed of.

The usual resolutions authorizing the appointment of committees, &c., were then adopted; after which the House adjourned.

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1841.

The House met.—The Hon. Wm. Smith, of Va., was qualified, and took his seat. After ordering newspapers for the members, the majority decided that John Sergeant had a right to transfer his seat and wafer-box to any body he pleased; thus keeping up the monopoly law advocated by the old Bank Attorney. By this decision, one gentleman, who took the seat in person, at this session, was ousted, and another gentleman, who swapped with Mr. Sergeant, at the last session, was confirmed.—The House adopted a joint resolution to choose two chaplains, which the Senate adopted, and thereupon both Houses adjourned.

Thursday, December 9, 1841.

The Senate, after some unimportant business, adjourned, on Mr. Mangum's motion, to Monday.

In the House, Mr. Fillmore moved to take up the President's Message, and refer it to the appropriate Committees. Some debate arose, which was cut off by Mr. Lawrence announcing the death of his late colleague, the Hon. Henry Black, (the successor of Mr. Oglet, of Penn.) After adopting the Resolutions usual on such occasions, the House adjourned.

Friday, December 10, 1841.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

After the House was called to order, the Speaker presented several communications, which were ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

The Speaker then called for petitions.

Mr. Johnson, of Maryland, objected. He said the rules and orders were in order, and therefore moved to lay the report of the Committee on Rules on the table. Carried by yeas and nays—96 yeas, 88 nays.

Mr. Fillmore then moved, that when the House adjourns, it should adjourn over to Monday. Carried by acclamation.

Mr. Wise moved that the House do now adjourn. The yeas and nays were ordered, and were—yeas 71, 118 nays.

Mr. Cushing moved to go into an election of Chaplain, but upon the question of postponing the election to Monday, the yeas and nays were ordered, and were yeas 118, nays 71.

Mr. Fillmore now offered resolutions to refer the Fiscal Plan, the apportionment of Representatives, and the Smithsonian bequest to Select Committees of 9 each.

The Chair decided the resolutions to be in order.

Mr. Care Johnson appealed, and Mr. Clifford of Maine, seconded it in an able and unanswerable speech: but upon taking the yeas and nays upon the same, there were—yeas 104, nays 90.

Mr. Stanly now called the previous question upon the resolutions, and it was sustained by 101 yeas, 81 nays.

The main question, being the passage of the resolutions, was then taken by yeas and nays, and there were 113 yeas, 83 nays.

A resolution was adopted to appoint a Select Committee of nine upon the National Foundry; and then the House adjourned.

On Monday, the 13th, after electing Chaplains, and receiving various Reports from the Departments, both Houses adjourned.

Controversy with New York.—The Committee on Federal Relations, in the Legislature of South Carolina, have made a long and able Report on so much of Governor Richardson's Message as relates to the controversy between Virginia and New York. They bring in a bill, which they recommend the Legislature to pass. We presume, it conforms with the Resolutions which conclude the Report. These resolutions indignantly repudiate the course pursued by the Governor of New York, and request the Governor of South Carolina "to communicate to the authorities of Virginia, the high sense entertained by this Legislature, of their moderation and respectful forbearance in conducting the recent unhappy controversy with the State of New York—of the justness of the position assumed by Virginia, and the assurance of the hearty co-operation of South Carolina, in all proper measures to vindicate her rights as a State, and to protect the property of her citizens."—Richmond Enquirer.

Foreign.—The Acadia arrived at Boston on Tuesday evening last, the 7th instant, bringing fifteen days later news from England.

The English were rejoicing over the birth of an infant Prince, who came into the world on Tuesday the 9th of November, as Duke of Cornwall, but will be made Prince of Wales, probably at his baptism. Both mother and boy were doing well.

The most appalling distress still prevailed in the manufacturing districts of England; and in Ireland there is a prospect of the terrible calamity of the failure of the Potatoe crop. The wheat and Oat crop are one third below the average, and the price of meat high and rising, owing to the prevalence of a distemper among the cattle.

No political news of importance—the Cotton market continued heavy—nothing new from China.

Raleigh Register

Coon Skins Exempted.—A bill was recently introduced into the Georgia Legislature to incorporate a company for Tanning. After it had been duly read, one of the Whig members moved an amendment to the effect that "Coon Skins should be exempted from the process of the establishment, as they had, within the last few months, been tanned sufficiently."—Jonesboro' (Tenn.) Sentinel.

The "Hiwassee Rail Road" banking company has gone to the devil feet foremost, and no mistake. That is, the notes issued by the Treasurer of the Hiwassee Rail Road, are not worth shucks in these parts now. It was about all the money in circulation here—after this we guess there will be none. We want the company to put the thing on its legs again, until we get rid of a three dollar bill we have, and then they may look us if they can.—Ib.

Tennessee.—The two Houses of the Legislature of this State, on the 30th ult., agreed to assemble in joint meeting on the 2nd inst., to elect a United States Senator for 6 years—and on the 3d to elect another Senator in place of Mr. Grundy, dec'd.

P. S.—Since writing the above, we have received the Nashville Journal of the 3d inst., from which we learn that the attempt to elect a Senator on the previous day failed in consequence of the refusal of a majority of the Senate to unite with the other House in going into an election. If we properly understand the question, the "glorious twelve" who have presented an election are in the wrong.—Lynchburg Republican.

COMMENTS ON THE MESSAGE.

We annex an article from the Washington Globe, reviewing a portion of Mr. Tyler's Message, and also another on the same subject, from the Richmond Enquirer. The Enquirer says:

He squints rather obliquely at the Protective Principle, when he says, "So also the Government may be justified in so discriminating, by reference to other considerations of domestic policy connected with our manufactures." But in the next breath he adds, "So long as the duties shall be laid with distinct reference to the wants of the Treasury, no well founded objection can exist against them."

But he warns them of the effect of passing the 20 per cent. limit, from its effect in annulling the Distribution act of the last session, which act is declared to be inoperative the moment the duties are increased beyond 20 per cent., the maximum rate established by the Compromise Act." Far better would it have been for the Chief Magistrate to have said at once: "Gentlemen, repeal your odious and absurd Distribution act. Take back the money you want—to that extent relieve the people from taxes or from debt—Retrench your expenses to the most economical standard—and if then you want money, throw yourselves upon the good sense and liberal consideration of your country."

But the most important part of the Message relates to the Fiscal Agency. Mr. T. goes as strongly as we could desire him against corporate privileges. He contends with great distinctness and force, against the adoption of any scheme which is not repealable at the pleasure of Congress. In these positions he is perfectly decided; perfectly correct—but we are free to say, and all must admit, that the whole subject of a Fiscal Agency is, per se, as complicated as it is momentous. Until the State Banks are compelled to resume specie payments (and the State Legislatures should compel them to adopt the measure as early as practicable,) the exchanges of the country must be disturbed, and the circulation must be vitious. But the remedy in the mean time, which is compatible with the Constitution, and most calculated to advance the interests of the country, is the difficult problem to be solved. We have no time to enter upon the merits of Mr. Tyler's scheme. The principle on which it proceeds, is eminently entitled to grave consideration. It requires great reflection, and will receive elaborate discussion. In the mean time, we are prepared to say, as at present advised, that there are objections to matters of detail, which appear to be of a serious, if not insuperable character. Among these is, 1st. The administrative machinery—the Board of Control at Washington. Whence the necessity of such an arrangement? Why not leave the general superintendance at Washington to the hands of the Treasury Department—(the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Treasurer of the U. S.)? No such Board was constructed under the Sub-Treasury system, nor did experience prove it to be necessary. It multiplies the offices and enlarges the patronage of the Government—and seems to lay the nest-egg of a great monied corporation. 2d. If the "agencies" in the States are to be new offices, it is doubtful whether they be necessary or proper. The present officers of the Government would seem to be sufficient for every purpose. 3d. It invests the Institution with the power of discounting on Bills of Exchange, under certain limitations. We had hoped, that Mr. Tyler had set his face against any such power in any form. 4th. The assent of the State in which the agency is situated, that discounts private bills of exchange, is to be required—as if the assent of the States could legalize what was otherwise contrary to our Institutions. 5th. The interconvertibility of the Treasury notes into specie, except at the point of issuance, will prove to be a serious clog to the measure. It seems to us, that they ought to be paid at a few specified points, where gold and silver will be constantly and conveniently kept for their redemption.

From the Washington Globe.

MESSAGE.

We resume our notice of this state paper, to put in our protest to the doctrines of Mr. Webster's portion of it. We think on every point where it approaches Great Britain, that it bears the impress of an humbled, yielding spirit, conscious of inferiority, and ready to pay homage to the assuming superior.

The McLeod affair is thus brought under review:

"Alexander McLeod, having his option either to prosecute a writ of error from the decision of the Supreme Court of New York, which had been rendered upon his application for a discharge, to the Supreme Court of the United States, or to submit his case to the decision of a jury, preferred the latter, deeming it the readiest mode of obtaining his liberation—and the result has fully sustained the wisdom of his choice. The manner in which the issue submitted was tried, will satisfy the English Government that the principles of justice will never fail to govern the enlightened decision of an American tribunal. I cannot fail, however, to suggest to Congress the propriety, and, in some degree, the necessity of making such provisions by law, so far as they may constitutionally do so, for the removal, at their commencement, and at the option of the party, of all such cases as may hereafter arise, and which may involve the faithful observance and execution of our international obligations, from the State to the Federal Judiciary. This Government, by our institutions, is charged with the maintenance of peace and the preservation of amicable relations with the nations of the earth, and ought to possess, without question, all the reasonable and proper means of maintaining the one and preserving the other. Whilst just confidence is felt in the judiciary of the States, yet this Government ought to be competent in itself for the fulfillment of the high duties which have been devolved upon it under the organic law, by the States themselves."

It will be remembered that Mr. Webster, in his correspondence with Mr. Fox, at the threshold, admitted the obligation of this Government to surrender McLeod, whether innocent or guilty of the criminal offence for which he was put on trial, on the demand of Great Britain—that power taking the responsibility of the act, as done under its orders. If this were the duty of the Federal Government, it would follow that no State jurisdiction could contravene it. The admission that a State court had the right to try, involved the right to condemn and execute. There is no right of appeal from the State courts to those of the United States courts, for crimes against the municipal laws of the States. This McLeod's counsel well knew, and therefore did not attempt to appeal from the State jurisdiction to that of the General Government. If they had, it would not have been allowed by the State tribunal. The Message, on this point, makes a total misstatement of the law, and evinces a consciousness of it, by proposing to make "such provisions by law, so far as they may constitutionally do so, for the removal at their commencement, and at the option of the party, of all such cases as may hereafter occur." &c.

If McLeod had this option at the commencement to remove the case before the Federal Courts on habeas corpus, where is the pretext for saying that a provision by law is necessary to make the remo-

val? The truth is, Mr. Webster knows that the Federal Courts have no jurisdiction over a murder committed in violation of the laws of a State, but he seeks support in a new enactment of Congress for his monstrous concession, that the assumption by Great Britain of the crimes committed by her subjects against the jurisdiction and citizens of the States, absolves the culprit from all liability, and imposes the necessity of his surrender at the bidding of the English Government by the Government of the Union. The principle asserted by Mr. Webster in his letter to Mr. Fox is shocking, and his application to Congress to sanction it, an insult.

The treatment of the Caroline affair, out of which McLeod's case grew, is in perfect keeping with Mr. Webster's views of the responsibility incurred by the actors in that flagrant violation of the laws of nations—involving New York with fire and sword in a time of profound peace. The message says:

"This Government can never concede to any foreign Government the power, except in a case of the most urgent and extreme necessity, of invading its territory, either to arrest the persons or destroy the property of those who may have violated the municipal laws of such foreign Government, or have disregarded their obligations as arising under the law of nations."

If Great Britain has the right to invade our soil and jurisdiction, murder our citizens, and give their property to confiscation, "in a case of the most urgent and extreme necessity," the party having the right to take this high-handed course, must of course judge of the "urgent and extreme necessity." If the party entitled to exercise this supereminent power over another had time to consult the one to be affected by it, there would evidently be no urgent necessity in the case. Mr. Webster, therefore, in supposing that an urgent necessity would be sufficient justification for the conduct of the British party at Schlosser, most clearly intends to advance that plea for England in regard to the monstrous outrage on our country in the case of the Caroline. But then Mr. Webster has a salvo for us in thus yielding the right of England to set aside our Government on this side of the lakes, and take it in her own hands. It will be found in the close of the paragraph of the message which concludes its comment on this subject:

"The correspondence between the two Governments on this subject, will, at a future day of your session, be submitted to your consideration; and in the mean time, I cannot but indulge the hope that the British Government will see the propriety of renouncing, as a rule of future action, the precedent which has been set in the affair at Schlosser."

All is made safe for us by indulging the hope that the British Government will see the propriety of renouncing, as a rule for the future, what Mr. Webster is willing to concede was sufficient justification for its past conduct!

The arrogant pretension—the right of search—which Great Britain has again practically asserted under the plea of its necessity in suppressing the slave trade, is met by Mr. Webster in a way which might have been expected from one who did not think it cause of war when employed in impressing our seamen, from our national ships. This topic is thus broached in the message:

"I invite your attention to existing laws for the suppression of the African slave trade, and recommend all such alterations, as may give to them greater force and efficacy. That the American flag is grossly abused by the abandoned and profligate of other nations, is but too probable. Congress has not long since, had this subject under its consideration, and its importance well justifies renewed and anxious attention."

Whether this Government should now enter into treaties containing mutual stipulations upon this subject, is a question for its mature deliberation. Certain it is, that if the right to detain American ships on the high seas can be justified on the plea of a necessity for such detention, arising out of the existence of treaties between other nations, the same plea may be extended and enlarged by the new stipulations of new treaties, to which the United States may not be a party. This Government will not cease to urge upon that of Great Britain, full and ample remuneration for all losses, whether arising from detention or otherwise, to which American citizens have heretofore been, or may hereafter be subjected, by the exercise of rights which this Government cannot recognize as legitimate and proper."

Our flag is grossly abused by the abandoned and profligate of other nations; and because profligate adventurers abuse it, therefore Mr. Webster is willing, by convention, to give Great Britain a right which no one can doubt from past experience, would be abused by that domineering power, to harass our commerce and subject our ships to every species of intrusion, and their crews to all the wrongs which led to the last war.

Nothing can be gained by truckling to Great Britain. And the suggestion of a convention to stipulate in relation to the concession of the right of search to that haughty power, is in our opinion derogatory to the high ground heretofore maintained by every Republican administration of the Government, and an invitation to the continued perpetration of those aggressions, which have evidently extorted the suggestion of a convention to concede, as a right, what has heretofore been resisted as the most flagrant wrong, and at the cost of the best blood of our country.

RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE.

The Philadelphia papers inform us that the judgment creditors of the United States Bank have attached the debts due to that institution by Messrs. Webster, Biddle, Riddle, and others. We hope that the secrets of the prison house will now be unfolded. It is time to bring the despoilers of the widow and the orphan to a just reckoning. But a few years ago and Mr. Biddle denounced the Democratic leaders as fugitives from the penitentiary. If half what is alleged against him be true, where should he now be? It is painful to see the tone of society among us so demoralized by the practices of late years. Men occupying the highest social position are detected in offences the most shameful and ruinous to the community, and are yet permitted to hold up their heads in the very presence of their victims. In England, when the South Sea bubble exploded, all who were even remotely suspected of participation in the fraud, were driven ignominiously from the country, or were put in jeopardy of life and estate. Here, the plunderers of the innocent and the confiding are permitted to occupy the highest posts, political and social. Law died an exile and in poverty. His American imitators, though more guilty, have public opinion with an unblushing front. They seem to feel no remorse for the misery they have inflicted. We have heard of two ladies, the widows of gallant officers, who are reduced to beggary by the fraudulent insolvency of this ill-fated institution. We know the case of a gentleman who, at an advanced age, has lost the sole dependence of a numerous family. Such instances are without number. They have filled the land with desolation—they have sent many gray hairs with sorrow to their grave—they have wrung agonizing sighs from many broken hearts; and yet the authors of such complicated, far-spread misery still revel in their ill-gotten wealth and honors.

But the officers of this ill-fated institution are not alone guilty. Those who made use of their political importance to obtain enormous loans, or rather gifts, far beyond their possible means of repayment,