

THE STYLE OF SPEAKERS IN THE AMERICAN SENATE.

The school of oratory is as varied as the tastes of men, and more diversified in Congress, than among any legislative body in the world. The best style is here, and the worst—much better, I am sure, than is heard in the British Parliament, where I have heard the best speakers of the present day, and as had as you can hear any where. As a whole, comparing the general appearance of the members of the two Houses of Congress, with an European legislative assembly, an American will be proud of the Representative character of his country. The heads are good, the countenances marked, and the physical development by no means diminutive. Phrenology or Physiognomy, with all their theories and excesses of criticism, would say this much of any Congress I have seen, taking them as a whole.

The great extent and breadth of the country, its difference of climate and institutions, all differently affecting the temper and minds of men, contributes largely to this variety of taste and character. There is the Demosthenes school of orators, as there is the school of Cicero, and as there is the school of Sallust and Livy among the writers of speeches who put to paper what they speak. There is a style of labial eloquence, as it has been called, and the style of speaking which sinks deep into and springs from the stomach. There is the eloquence of voice merely [*vox et preterea nihil*], and the eloquence of thought springing from a mind of power, and adorned in all the beautiful colors of a pure and rich imagination. There is mental and physical weakness, and in contrast of brass, which send to the ear only the tones of a rattling brass and a tinkling cymbal.

I have been amused, as you may well be, with some of the speaking peculiarities of speakers in Congress, and send you a picture or two from the Senate chamber, with a promise of more anon.

Mr. Foote, of Mississippi, who won so much notoriety here as soon as he was warm in his seat, has a style all his own. He speaks with the left hand in his pocket, and the right moving all the while in a regular circuit between his right leg and the organ of firmness. Words flow apace, and in common place quotations, after the fashion of Dick Swiveller. Latin and English, law and politics, are sprinkled every where to elongate his speeches. He is like some birds with the least music, delighted with his own voice. In the Senate, he is as hot as ginger at the least provocation, and just as ready to give an insult as to resent a seeming affront. Upon the memorable last night, or rather Sunday morning, of the last session, when the Oregon bill was kicked to and fro like a foot ball, all doubtful where it would lodge, and whose *shins* would be the sorest from the bruises taken and given he was as fierce as a whole menagerie of wild beasts and almost challenged the Senate in a body. Senator Houston, of Texas, came in for a share of his fury, and turning to him at two o'clock in the morning he said audibly enough for the galleries, "You fought the battle of San Jacinto, but, sir, you shant trample upon my rights!" The Senate upon that occasion put him down, voted him down upon the yeas and nays, and he has been a more humble man ever since. All this gall and wormwood, however, is only an incident of debate. Senators, messengers, acquaintances, friends, all pronounce him, untamed as a lion in discussion, very amiable and gentle in private life. Even Mr. Hale, whom he would hang in Mississippi, he takes by the hand here, and they talk most lovingly together. I believe he would now even be security in Mississippi to save the Senator from New Hampshire from the hanging of Judge Lynch, which a year since he threatened him with, if he should venture to cross the threshold of his own commonwealth. Mr. F. is of small stature, light complexion, and wears a very bad wig.

And, *apropos* of Mr. Hale, opposition has made him a free, easy, and bold, but not a polished speaker. He has all the feelings without any of the graces of the orator. There is more of passion than judgment in what he says, and a frankness which commands attention and speaks sincerity. He has a quick perception, great readiness, and a good nature not to be disturbed by the bile of those who may assail him. There is nothing like pride of station in the man. Upon the highway he would be taken for a down-east lumber merchant, making sale of his timber, and in the country town for the Calab Quotem of the village. In the Senate, he is very popular with all those who do not allow the temper of the politician to usurp the heart of the true man. Mr. Hale is tall, full, of a red and rosy countenance, and looks as fresh as a May morning.

Mr. Niles is another of the peculiar orators of the Senate Chamber. His appearance is that of Tony Lumpkin in the play, and from the galleries he looks a figure of fun. His gestures are awkward beyond description, and his pronunciation of words as antiquated, at least, as the early settlements of New England. When his feelings are aroused, his arms rise and fall as if they were, at each jerk, tingled and untingled from their sockets. They fall dead upon his sides, first upon the right and then upon the left, and rebound as his hands come in contact with his hips. His voice is as husky as the creaking of heavy cart-wheels upon frozen ground, and makes very much such music. But his matter is hard New England sense, well there are but few men who can, as Sam Weller says, tackle him in argument. His words, too, are well chosen, and his mind acute not only to detect, but to expose a fallacy. This is the last of his Senatorial career, and with all his political sins and eccentricities, the Senate could better spare some other man.

In manner of speaking, there is but one Senator more conspicuously than Senator Niles. It is Mr. Downs, of Louisiana. It is fun to see him in the full tide of debate. The vaunters of the circus would hardly excel him in their antics and contortions of body. Every joint of body, legs, and arms has full play, and the man, if he were caught napping, like the enchanted knight, who slept a hundred years, in one of these bodily stretches, arms extended over his head, legs bent at the knees, and again at the hips, would be taken for an overgrown frog, struck with a host in his language, and though not ultra, he is very decided in his opinions. Mr. Downs speaks but seldom, and never attractively. He is very tall and very good looking.

There is a school above and below this, which I will note hereafter. E. B.

FLOUR at Pittsburg on the 11th was slow sale at \$4. At New York on the 15th, sales were very dull at \$5 to \$5.25 for southern.

COTTON was of dull sale in New York on the 15th, and prices inclined to drop.

Treasury notes sold at \$1 10 for the dollar, at New York on the 13th inst.

The Ohio river was closed with ice above Wheeling.

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A London correspondent of the New York Herald notices a new printing press which has been introduced into the Times Office, and which is capable of working 8000 impressions per hour, with a probability that it will ultimately be increased to 12,000. Col. Hoe's plan of building the types round a cylinder has been adopted. His cylinder revolves horizontally on its axis, whilst that of the Times revolves vertically, and is of considerable diameter. A gallery of some 25 feet diameter surrounds it, and 8 other cylinders, that impinge on the type or centre cylinder, and produce the impression in its revolution. In this gallery are eight corresponding feeding or "putting on" tables. The grand difficulty, which was at last overcome, was to change the horizontal position of that paper, as laid on the table, to the vertical one required to meet the faces of the type. This is accomplished by an arrangement of tapes. The centre or type cylinder has a considerable space uncovered, which is devoted to the inking apparatus, which imparts ink to rollers placed on the external frame, which they in their turn transfer to the face of the types. The vertical cylinder was adopted that gravity might not aggravate the effects of centrifugal force. The forms weigh three quarters of a ton. Arrangements are made on the cylinder by which the rules or column brasses, which are levelled, are screwed to its face to secure the adhesion of the form. The speed seems small in comparison with that of Col. Hoe's presses, though nothing can exceed the beauty and evenness of the impression. From the account given the idea seems to be conveyed that no hopes need be entertained of more than 12,000 copies an hour being produced. The machine is the work of Mr. Augustus Applegarth, who made the old one, which has been in use for the last twenty years in Printing House Square.

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A PHENOMENON!—We have received the following communication from one of the most respectable and intelligent citizens of this place, to which we invite the public attention. Not having observed the Heavens minutely at the hour mentioned in the communication, we are at the first of the strange appearance mentioned in it:

Postmaster General's Report for 1848.

This document has not yet appeared in any paper in this city, but we have received it in our exchange papers from New York, from which we have prepared the following synopsis, intending to publish the report entire as soon as we conveniently can:

The annual transportation of the mail during the last fiscal year was 41,012,679 miles, costing \$2,448,766; foreign mail service, \$100,530. The transportation by railroads costs twice as much for the same distance as by steamers, and three times as much as by coaches.

The number of mail contractors during the last year was 4,017.

The steamer Hermann performs monthly trips between New York and Bremen, carrying the mail.

The steamer Isabel runs between Charleston and Havana, making semi-monthly trips.

The ocean steamers California, Panama, and Oregon, have sailed from New York for Panama—the California to leave Panama for Oregon on the 1st January next.

The Secretary of the Navy has employed the Falcon on the line between Havana and Chagres; so that in future there will be a regular monthly mail from Charleston, by Havana, Chagres, and Panama, to Oregon.

The Ocean Steam Navigation Company have not yet complied with their contract for service between New York and Bremen, two vessels only having been completed—the Hermann and the Washington. Two more are to be built.

The number of post offices on the 1st of July last was 16,159, being an increase during the year of 1,013. The number established was 1,309; the number discontinued, 296.

The number of postmasters appointed during the year was 4,221; 2,169 to fill vacancies by resignation, 1,309 for new offices, 197 by removals, the remainder by death, &c., &c.

The letter postage amounted for the year to \$3,550,304—exceeding that of the preceding year \$295,791, being an increase of more than nine per cent.

The newspaper postage for the year was \$767,334, being an increase of \$124,174—19 per cent, and a fraction.

The estimated surplus revenue of the Department on the 30th of June, 1849, is \$428,336.

On the first of July, 1845, the old debts due the Department amounted to \$319,880. Of this sum there has been collected within the year \$10,809. Of the balance it is supposed a large proportion will be lost.

The present rates of postage afford ample means to meet the annual expenditure and probable increase of the service.

The number of paying letters which passed through the Post Office for the year ending the 30th of June, 1847, is estimated at 52,153,480; for the last year at 58,069,075; of which 14,303,753 paid at the rate of ten cents.

The Postmaster General is of opinion that inland letter postage can be safely reduced to a uniform rate of five cents for each letter weighing one-half ounce or less; foreign letters to pay fifteen cents.

It is recommended to charge newspapers according to weight—one cent per ounce and for fractions under an ounce; all other printed matter of every kind to be rated with double newspaper postage. Letters containing articles of value to be charged with triple letter postage.

It is recommended that the franking privilege be abolished, which is regarded as "indispensable" should the proposed reductions take place. From the sixth to the twelfth of August last, there passed daily through the City post office at Washington 5,078 pounds of free matter.

Between the 1st of December and the 1st of October last, there were sent from the two Houses of Congress about five millions of copies of speeches and other matter of weighing under two ounces, and about one hundred and twenty-seven thousand public documents, besides the letters written by the members of the House of Representatives, and there remained to be forwarded more than one-half of the public documents ordered to be printed at the last session.

The Postmaster General suggests whether it be not well worthy of consideration that that officer should be appointed for a term of years, not to belong to the Cabinet, and not to be removable from office, unless by impeachment; and that he should have the appointment of the principal subordinate officers for a like term of years, and that they shall not be subject to removal but for good and sufficient cause, to be reported to each session of the Senate.—*Weekly Globe*.

Population of California.—The population of California is destined to increase at an unprecedented rate. A Philadelphia cotemporary says:

The number of passengers who have already sailed, or are on the point of sailing from Boston to California, is three hundred and seventy. The Boston Journal says there are now between twenty and thirty vessels at Boston for California, most of which will carry out a greater or less number of passengers. Two hundred and ninety-two passengers left New York on Saturday in two ships, and some fifty more are ready to follow. Throughout the West parties are forming to go to the gold land; so that California will soon have a numerous population, who will build up flourishing towns upon the Pacific, and expedite the period when the East India and China trade will take this course.

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MODE OF DISTRIBUTING THE COMMON SCHOOL MONEY.

When the bill to consolidate the several acts relating to Common Schools was before the Senate, on the 11th, Mr. Gilmer offered an amendment providing that the distribution of the Literary Fund shall hereafter be made according to white population (instead of federal population, as at present.) The amendment was opposed by Mr. Smith, of Hartford, and supported by Mr. Woodfin, of Buncombe. It will be with a feeling of mortification and deep regret that the inhabitants of the western part of the State, (where North Carolina's strength of souls and sinews lies,) will refer to the large majority by which the Senate refused to change the present most inequitable mode of distribution. These Senatorial representatives of the Property of the State, who have by this and kindred acts withheld justice from the children of the people, deserve to be marked for future consideration, when they shall again ask for popular favors; while those who have stood up for the popular rights and the just claims of the white children of the State, deserve our thanks and our grateful remembrance in time to come.

We have heretofore illustrated the monstrous inequality of the present mode of distribution, and consider the present a proper time and occasion again to call the public attention to a few illustrative examples.

The federal population of Rowan and New Hanover, for instance, is precisely equal; consequently each of these counties receives precisely the same amount of school money. But look at the difference in the numbers of their white population! The white population of Rowan exceeds that of New Hanover two thousand two hundred and seventy five; and the number of white children between the ages of 5 and 20 years (the class for whose benefit the Literary Fund was intended) in Rowan exceeds the number in New Hanover eleven hundred and fifty.

Pasquotank and Ashe have each nearly the same federal population, and receive nearly equal amounts of money—the former having a little the advantage. Yet the white population of Ashe exceeds that of Pasquotank two thousand three hundred and sixty two, and the number of school children in Ashe exceeds the number in Pasquotank one thousand seventy four.

Halifax and Rutherford (as it was in 1840) are nearly on the same footing in federal population and receipts of school money. Yet the white population of Rutherford, as it is put down in the census table, exceeds that of Halifax ten thousand two hundred and forty two, and exceeds in white school children four thousand three hundred and seventeen.

Guilford county has a federal population of 18,117. The three counties of Carteret, Hyde and Onslow together have a population of 18,056, entitling them to an aggregate amount only some six or seven dollars less than Guilford. Yet these three counties have only 5044 white children, while Guilford has 6112—or one thousand and sixty eight children more to educate with the same amount of money.

Guilford county does not receive as much under the present mode by more than five hundred dollars a year as she would if distribution were made according to white population.

These illustrations are based upon the census of 1840: the inequality has been increasing ever since.

There is absolutely no excuse for this state of things. It is both absurd and unjust. The people of the East, it is true, pay the largest amount of State tax; but the Literary Fund has been raised without the payment of one cent of popular tax. Neither the East nor the West has any peculiar claims to it on that score.

If any portion of class has any peculiar claim to it, surely it must be the white children of the State. The original intention, as expressed by the act of 1825 creating the Literary Fund, was that the proceeds should "be divided among the several counties, in proportion to the free white population of each." This wise intention was only changed by an unrighteous use of power among those who represent a minority of the people. We find sympathists to that power in the West as well as in the East. Among the latter there is the excuse of self-interest. Among the former there is no excuse at all. These things will not continue forever.

P. S. Since the above was written we have been informed by our Raleigh correspondent that the measure was defeated in the House of Commons by only one vote. The House of Commons is not quite the House of the people, (as it will be under a new constitution securing free suffrage and equal representation,) or this one vote would not have been in the way of this just proposition.

Later from Michigan.—The Detroit papers contain later accounts from Lansing. There were no cases of fever on the 9th inst, and all the alarm had subsided among the members.—The House went into an election for U. S. Senator on the 9th, which resulted as follows:—Lewis Cass, 34; Epaphroditus Ransom, Loco, 11; Edwin Lawrence, Whig 15; Joseph R. Williams, F. S. 1; and Dewitt C. Lawrence, F. S. 1. The Senate, on the 11th, indefinitely postponed the election. The Ransom men in the Senate carry everything their own way.—Only 34 out of the 66 Lococo members attended the Legislative caucus on the 6th inst., at which Cass was nominated. The indefinite postponement by the Senate of the Senatorial question is considered a great victory by the Ransom men. The telegraphic announcement of the unanimous nomination of Gen. Cass was caused by the adoption in caucus of 34 Members, of a motion declaring Cass unanimously nominated.

[So Mr. Cass cannot be made even a Senator of now.—*New York Express*.

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STATEMENT Of the Federal Population, State Debt, Debt per Head for each Inhabitant, Value of Real and Personal Property taxed, Annual Revenue, and number of miles of Rail Road and Canal in each of the several States.

	I. Pop.	II. State Debt.	III. Per Head.	IV. Property.	V. Revenue.	VI. Road & Canal.
Pennsylvania,	1,724,033	\$40,108,976	\$25 50	\$350,000,000	\$3,977,025 89	1929
New York,	2,428,921	17,054,968	7 50	1,120,000,000	4,843,608 00	1609
Virginia,	1,233,766	7,880,303	9 00	508,000,000	1,503,745 54	558
Ohio,	1,510,464	12,019,856	8 00	740,000,000	2,654,785 25	847
Massachusetts,	737,699	5,000,000	6 88	340,000,000	51,985 42	504
Tennessee,	829,210	3,617,225	4 35	380,000,000	374,660 54	164
Kentucky,	779,828	4,608,735	6 00	343,000,000	419,143 46	96
Maryland,	470,019	15,080,000	32 00	198,000,000	1,374,903 93	398
Louisiana,	352,411	19,735,000	56 50	188,000,000	230,580 13	194
Alabama,	590,756	13,882,000	23 75	276,000,000	291,024 67	358
Mississippi,	590,756	13,882,000	23 75	256,000,000	379,735 19	83
Indiana,	685,866	10,064,000	14 75	384,000,000	335,302 67	312
Illinois,	476,183	11,772,000	24 25	298,000,000	145,645 57	131
Missouri,	383,702	2,500,000	6 75	240,000,000	196,976 73	—
Arkansas,	97,574	3,100,000	33 00	609,600,000	185,134 56	—
Michigan,	84,574	5,340,000	18 75	148,000,000	51,918 42	131
Georgia,	691,392	500,000	7 50	320,000,000	350,523 24	636
Maine,	501,793	1,554,976	2 30	240,000,000	501,102 10	61
North Carolina,	753,419	976,000	1 20	306,000,000	89,644 40	263
South Carolina,	594,398	5,753,770	10 50	242,000,000	329,638 32	254
Florida,	95,000	54,477	73 00	30,000,000	40,000 00	12
Delaware,	78,085	—	—	33,000,000	80,754 41	33
N. Hampshire,	284,948	—	—	120,000,000	134,434 21	32
Vermont,	291,945	—	—	120,800,000	104,974 85	2
New Jersey,	373,376	—	—	166,400,000	184,711 84	386
Iowa,	43,112	55,000	1 10	52,000,000	19,750 50	—
Texas,	143,205	13,164,256	94 00	56,000,000	77,268 18	—
Connecticut,	309,978	—	—	132,000,000	117,934 94	242
Wisconsin,	220,863	—	—	86,000,000	000,000 00	—
Rhode Island,	108,880	34,000	90	52,000,000	80,818 00	86

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FRENCH CONSTITUTIONS.

The constitution recently established in France is the eleventh in the series of French constitutions since the meeting of the States General in 1789. Eleven constitutions within sixty years!

The first constitution, according to the list of the *Courier des Etats Unis*, is that of November, 1791. This was of short duration, and soon gave way to the constitutional Monarchy of Louis XVI. The Constituent Assembly, in which Mirabeau figured, presented that as the final result of its labors. The acceptance of this constitution by the King was celebrated with great rejoicings. Harmony seemed re-established between King and People, and all promised well. Lafayette believed that the great work was finished.

Within a year afterwards a new constitution declared the abrogation of royalty and proclaimed the republic one and indivisible. Then followed the execution of the King and the reign of terror—that terrible epoch. France was then governed by committees and clubs, ruled over by such men as Danton, Marat, and Robespierre.

The next constitution was that of 1795, or of the year III, according to the revolutionary idiom. By this constitution the Directory was established.

On the thirteenth of December, 1799, or the year VIII, the Directory having been overthrown, an elective consular government was established, at the head of which was Napoleon Bonaparte. Three consuls were elected for ten years.

The sixth constitution, declaring a consulate for life, and fixing it in the person of Napoleon Bonaparte, was submitted to the people and decreed by the popular vote in 1802. Next came the empire in 1804. Here the republic disappears entirely, and a hereditary government is established in the family of Napoleon, Emperor of the French.

Three several constitutions have marked different periods since the restoration of the Bourbons. One pronounced the decree of forfeiture against the Emperor, and was but temporary in its duration. Then followed the charter of Louis XVIII, which was granted in 1814. It continued in force for sixteen years, when, in 1830, the charter under which Louis Philippe governed was established.

Thus ten distinct constitutions have preceded that of November, 1848. Within sixty years France has twice abrogated royalty, and twice it has been restored—once in the person of Napoleon, and again in the return of the Bourbons. But it is to be noted that the royalty of Napoleon and that of the old regime are widely different in the essential particular of their origin. One was the creation of the people, who accepted the empire of their own free will; the other claimed to rule by right of inheritance. Napoleon, until he sought to ally himself with the House of Austria, and thus to claim affinity with the principle of Legitimacy, was in fact the representative of democracy, as democracy existed in France. His whole career was one of warfare against the hereditary despotism of Europe, which France had mortally offended by casting out her own hereditary despots.

The new constitution of France contains much that has been embodied before in her constitutions and decrees. Whether these be any better guarantees of permanence now, than those which accompanied previous declarations of constitutional principles, it is for those to say who can venture to speak with confidence on that point. One thing, however, is gained—gained beyond the risk of any and every contingency: France has vindicated the right to govern herself, without the danger of having an expelled line of Kings forced back upon her by the buy-offs of allied despots. The restoration of 1814 can never be repeated. The sovereigns of Europe have enough to do to maintain themselves on their own thrones. They cannot afford to undertake crusades abroad.—*Balt. American*.

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