

Speech of Hon. Henry Clay.

And occurrences, on the delivery of an Abolition Petition to him, at Richmond, Ind. [From the Lexington Observer, of October 15.]

On the first of October, 1842, Mr. Clay, being on his way from Dayton, in Ohio, to Indianapolis, the seat of Government of the State of Indiana, to which he had been previously invited, stopped at Richmond, a flourishing town in that State, where a vast multitude, amounting to fifteen or twenty thousand, had assembled to meet him, and greet and welcome his arrival among them.

After taking some refreshment, he repaired to a stand, provided for the occasion, from which he addressed the immense assemblage, in his accustomed manner, on the public topics of the day. It is not intended to report any part of that speech, which was received with enthusiastic applause.

After the reading of the petition, the assembly manifested great sensation, some cried out pull him (Mr. Mendenhall) down, and a high degree of excitement, of anger, and of indignation were kindled against him. The slightest manifestation of displeasure on the part of Mr. Clay, might have exposed Mr. Mendenhall to great personal danger. But Mr. Clay rose with perfect calmness and composure, and first addressed the multitude, in a strain of persuasion and entreaty.

This appearing to compose the assembly, Mr. Clay bowed to Mr. Mendenhall, and addressing him, said: "I will now, sir, make to you and to this petition, such a response as becomes me.

Alford me to say, that I think you have not conformed to the independent character of an American citizen, in presenting a petition to me. I am, like yourself, but a private citizen. A petition, as the term implies, generally proceeds from an inferior in power, or station, to a superior; but between us, there is entire equality.

And what are the circumstances under which you have chosen to offer it? I am, a total stranger, passing through your State, on my way to its capital, in consequence of an invitation with which I have been honored to visit it, to exchange friendly salutations with such of my fellow-citizens of Indiana as think proper to meet me, and to accept of their hospitality.

Now, Mr. Mendenhall, let us reverse conditions, and suppose you had been invited to Kentucky to partake of its hospitality; and that, previous to your arrival, I had employed such means as I understand have been used to get up this petition, to obtain the signatures of citizens of that State to a petition, to present to you, to relinquish your form and other property, what would have thought of such a proceeding? Would you have deemed it courteous and according to the rites of hospitality?

opportunity to wound, as they imagined, my feelings, and to aid the cause to which they are attached. In other quarters of the Union, Democrats claim to be the exclusive champions of Southern interests, the only safe defenders of the rights in slave property, and unjustly accuse us Whigs with Abolition designs, wholly incompatible with its security.

And what is the foundation of this appeal to me in Indiana to liberate the slaves under my care in Kentucky? It is a general declaration in the act, announcing to the world the Independence of the Thirteen American Colonies, that all men are created equal. Now, as an abstract principle, there is no doubt of the truth of that declaration; and it is desirable in the original construction of society, and in organizing societies, to keep it in view as a great fundamental principle.

That declaration, whatever may be the extent of its import, was made by the delegations of the thirteen States. In most of them slavery existed, and was established by law. It was introduced and forced upon the Colonies by the paramount law of England. Do you believe, that in making that declaration, the States that concurred in it intended that it should be tortured into a virtual emancipation of all the slaves within their respective limits?

I know the predominant sentiment in the free States is adverse to slavery, but happy in their own exemption, from whatever evils may attend it, the great mass of our fellow-citizens there do not seek to violate the Constitution or to disturb the harmony of these States. I desire no concealment of my opinions in regard to the institution of slavery. I look upon it as a great evil, and deeply lament that we have derived it from the parental government and from our ancestors.

And now, Mr. Mendenhall, I must take respectful leave of you. We separate as we have met, with no unkind feelings, no excitement or dissatisfaction on my part, whatever may have been your motives, and these I refer to our common Judge above, to whom we are both responsible.

The Louisville Journal, speaking of the veto power, says: "In none of the Western States—neither in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, Missouri, nor Illinois, is there any such thing as an Executive veto that may not be overruled by a bare legislative majority.

The good old State of North Carolina, the birth-place of independence, is more republican still. Her Executive has no voice in making the laws whatever, except the right to recommend, and that is a right which belongs to every citizen.

do believe that gradual emancipation (the only method of liberation that has ever been thought safe or wise by any body in any of the slave States) has been postponed half a century.

Without any knowledge of the relations in which I stand to my slaves, or their individual condition, you, Mr. Mendenhall, and your associates who have been active in getting up this petition, call upon me forthwith to liberate the whole of them.

What my treatment of my slaves is, you may learn from Charles, who accompanies me on this journey, and who has travelled with me over the greater part of the United States and in both the Canadas, and has had a thousand opportunities, if he had chosen to embrace them, to leave me.

Let me recommend you, sir, to imitate the benevolent example of the society of Friends in the midst of which you reside. Meek, gentle, imbued with the genuine spirit of our benign religion, whilst in principle they are firmly opposed to slavery, they do not seek to accomplish its extinction by foul epithets, coarse and vulgar abuse, and gross calumny.

I shall, Mr. Mendenhall, take your petition into respectful and deliberate consideration; but before I come to a final decision, I should like to know what you and your associates are willing to do for the slaves in my possession, if I should think proper to liberate them.

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THE MESSENGER.

D. R. McANALLY & J. ROBERTS, EDITORS.

ASHEVILLE, N. C.

Friday, November 11, 1842.

We are requested to say that owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Rev. Mr. ROWLEY's school at this place will not commence until Monday the 21st inst. instead of the 14th, as heretofore advertised.

The next Legislature.

Our Legislature is soon to meet and soon to commence the consideration of the ten thousand memorials, petitions, remonstrances and prayers which will be presented. Much ought to be done, but whether much will be done for the benefit of the State is very questionable.

These are among the many things which we think ought to be done by the Legislature, but we fear that body will be so closely engaged in correcting the affairs of the nation, that such minor considerations as these will be entirely overlooked.

ELIJAH BOSTICK, Esq., one of the members elect of the Legislature from Richmond county, died a few days ago.

Bishop SOULE, who has for some time past been absent from the United States as the delegate from the General Conference of the Methodist E. Church, has landed in New York—his health having greatly improved during his absence.

The way to make a Poor man Rich.

1. Buy nothing but what you really need; and then buy an article for service, and not for show.

2. Never be unemployed—never trifle away time—rise early, and be actively engaged all the time.

3. Attend strictly to Dr. Franklin's excellent maxims—"Take care of the cents and the dollars will take care of themselves."

4. If you be a farmer, cultivate no more land than you can do well.

If a mechanic, be at your work early and late—work for fair prices, and take special care not to disappoint customers when it can be possibly avoided.

Finally, do every thing as if you were to live forever, and live every day as though you were to die at night.

Riley asserts that Arabs, in the desert, live two hundred years.

"That same old COON."

Various reports have been in circulation about that old Coon who made such havoc among the Democrats of the Union in 1840. The Washington Globe says that in the late elections he has been skinned and most essentially "used up."

Passing along the road the other day we saw a huge coon track, and it occurred to us that perhaps the old fellow claimed the old North State as his lawful right, but had become disgusted with the conduct of the Whigs in the eastern and middle portions of the State, and had determined to betake himself to the mountains, where he knew the true Whig principles always predominate.

Hogs, horses, cattle and sheep are passing through this village in great numbers on their way to the Southern market.

Reader, did you ever sit and listen to a party of young ladies in a sewing circle? We have. And of course they talked away all the time as "thick and fast" as ever they could, but a great part of what they said was "all Greek" to us.

On the 23d of September last, a fire broke out in Liverpool, England, which destroyed property to the amount of two and a half millions of dollars.

A FUNERAL WHERE A MARRIAGE WAS INTENDED.—On last Tuesday, we attended the funeral services of Miss MATILDA CASE, of this county, the very day and the very hour of the day when she was to have been married to the young man of her choice!

The deceased had just past her eighteenth year—had been for several years previous, to her death, a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and died in the full triumph of the christian faith.

Gen. Jackson's Views concerning a Protective Tariff.

The fact that Henry Clay and the whigs stand now in respect to the protective policy upon the old democratic platform, as established in Mr. Madison's administration, may be rendered indisputable by a reference to historical record.

It may be satisfactory to many of Gen. Jackson's admirers to know exactly his views on this important subject. We find in the Nashville Banner various extracts from the General's published letters and official messages, bearing upon this point.

The following extract from his letter to Dr. Coleman, of North Carolina, in 1824, has already been published in our paper; but it will lose nothing by a second appearance:

"Heaven smiled upon and gave us liberty and independence. That same Providence has blessed us with the means of national independence and national defence. If we omit, or refuse to use the gifts which he has extended to us, we deserve not the continuation of His blessing.

"I will ask what is the real situation of the agriculturist? Where has the American farmer a market for his surplus produce? Except for Cotton he has neither a foreign nor a home market. Does not this clearly prove when there is no market either at home or abroad, that there is no market labor employed in agriculture? Common sense at once points out the remedy. Take from agriculture in the United States one hundred thousand men women and children, and you will at once give a market for more breadstuffs than all Europe now furnishes us. In short, sir, we have been too long subject to the policy of British merchants. It is time we should become a little more Americanized, and instead of feeding paupers and laborers of England, feed our own—or else in a short time, by continuing our present policy, we shall be rendered paupers ourselves.

The Journal of the U. S. Senate of 1824 when General Jackson was a member of that body, will show that during the discussion of the Tariff Bill of that year he voted as the several items came up, in favor of a duty on iron, in bars or bolts, of 9 cents per hundred; on cheap cotton cloths, a duty of 100 percent, and more; on cotton bagging a duty of 4 1-2 cents the square yard; a duty of 3 cents per pound on iron cables or chains; a duty of 3 cents per bushel on wheat, and 50 cents per hundred on flour; upon iron a duty of 37 dollars per ton; and an increase of duties on distilled spirits 15 per cent.

An extract of a letter from Gen. Jackson to Governor Ray, of Indiana, dated Feb'y 29th, 1823, reads thus, after a brief introduction:

"With these remarks, I pray you, sir, respectfully to state to the Senate of Indiana, that my opinions at present, are precisely what they were in 1823-24, when they were communicated by letter, to Dr. Coleman, of North Carolina, and when I voted for the present Tariff and appropriations for Internal Improvements. As that letter was written at a time when the divisions of sentiment, on this subject, were as strongly marked as they now are, in relation both to the expediency and constitutionality of the system, it is enclosed herein; and I beg the favor of your Excellency to consider it a part of this communication. The occasion, out of which it arose, was embraced with a hope of preventing any doubt, misconception, or necessity for further inquiry respecting my opinion on the subjects to which you refer—particularly in those States which you have designated as cherishing a policy at variance with your own. To preserve our invaluable Constitution, and be prepared to repel the invasions of a foreign foe, by the practice of economy, and the cultivation within ourselves, of the means of national defence and independence, should be, it seems to me, the leading objects of any system which aspires to the name of 'AMERICAN,' and of every prudent administration of our Government."

From the first annual Message of Gen. Jackson in 1829, we take the following: "The general rule to be applied in graduating the duties upon the articles of foreign growth or manufacture, is that which will place our own in fair competition with those of other countries; and the inducements to advance even a step beyond this point, are controlling in regard to those articles which are of primary necessity in time of war. When we reflect upon the difficulty and delicacy of this operation, it is important that it should never be attempted but with the utmost caution. Frequent legislation in regard to any branch of industry, affecting its value, and by which its capital may be transferred to new channels, must always be productive of hazardous speculation and loss."

In his Message of 1830, Gen. Jackson again refers to the subject; and let it be noted that he here sustains protection as a principle in itself worthy to give existence and permanence to a specific policy. We may take occasion, too, to say that the constitutional argument is set forth by him in a manner as clear and forcible as language probably could express it:

"The States have delegated their whole authority over imports, to the general government, without limitation or restriction, saving the very inconsiderable reservation relating to their inspection laws. This authority having thus entirely passed from the States, the right to exercise it for the purpose of PROTECTION does not exist in them; and consequently, if it be not possessed by the general government, it must be extinct. Our political system would thus present the anomaly of a people stripped of the right to FOSTER THEIR OWN INDUSTRY, and to contract the most selfish and destructive policy which might be adopted by foreign nations. This surely cannot be the case; the indispensable power, thus surrendered by the States, must be within the scope of the authority on the subject expressly delegated to Congress."

"In this conclusion, I am confirmed as well by the opinions of President Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, who have repeatedly recommended the exercise of this right under the Constitution, as by the uniform action of Congress, the continued acquiescence of the States, and the general understanding of the people."

In 1832, when the National debt was about to be paid off, and a new adjustment of the Tariff desirable, inasmuch as the wants of the Government did not require so large a revenue as before from customs, Gen. Jackson spoke thus on the subject: "In effecting this adjustment, it is due in justice to the interests of the different States, and even to the preservation of the