

**NORTH-CAROLINIAN.**  
*FAYETTEVILLE:*  
 Saturday Morning, April 10, 1841.  
 Mr S. H. Bell, is our authorized agent at Long Creek, New Hanover County.  
 Hon. Jas. J. McKay is a candidate for re-election in the 15th Congressional District.

**DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

William Henry Harrison, President of the United States, died at the Executive Mansion in the city of Washington, on Sunday night, 4th April, after a short but severe attack of Pneumonia, or bilious pleurisy.

This is the first time, since the adoption of the Federal Constitution, that a President has died, during the term for which he was elected. According to the duties of the office devolve on John Tyler, of Virginia, the Vice-President. What changes, if any, will be made in the policy of the administration, in consequence of the accession of Mr Tyler to the Presidency, time must unfold. It has not been long since, that Mr Tyler, was the bold and fearless opponent of the principal measures, which would have characterized General Harrison's administration; whether his views on these subjects have undergone any change, we know not. If he should fall into the vortex of Federalism, and follow the councils of Webster, Clay and others, he will have to cut loose from his former friends and political associates, and run counter to his oft repeated opposition to a National Bank, a protective tariff and works of Internal Improvement by the General Government. But as we said before, time will show, and we shall not be left to conjecture. At the approaching extra session of Congress, the present administration must show its hand, and unfold its designs, we shall not, therefore, enter upon any speculations as to the future.

The old General is gone, and we say, with all our heart, let oblivion cover his faults and follies, and memory be burdened only with his virtues. May he rest in peace!

The funeral of the President took place on Wednesday, on which day all business ceased, and every company and society in the city, followed his remains to the tomb.

The Vice President arrived in Washington, on Tuesday last.

**Blair and Clay.**

And who is Francis P. Blair, that Henry Clay should call him *infamous*? Once the most intimate friend and associate of Mr Clay, up to the year 1825, when Clay entirely forsook the Democratic party; a citizen of Kentucky, who, from the time he came of age, held high offices of trust at her capital, until he removed to Washington in 1839; the same man, who in 1830, was chosen by Mr Clay's own friends, then in a majority in the Legislature of Kentucky, to the high and confidential trust—the Presidency of the Bank of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; a man who has never changed his political opinions, nor procured offices by a bribe; a man whose private and public conduct for 10 years at Washington, has been open to the whole world all the while watched by inveterate public enemies of both parties—yes! one of General Harrison's own cabinet, has been in the habit of partaking; a man whose honor—whose virtue—whose fidelity and integrity, in all his public relations, and the relations of son, husband, father, friend and neighbor, has never been sullied with the least suspicion of reproach; a man whom Henry Clay trusted and admired, until he apostatized, and Blair would not follow after him. This was the *heinous sin*; this rendered him *infamous* with Henry Clay.

Who is Henry Clay, that he should call Blair *infamous*? An apostate from Democracy; a political changed man; the man who in 1811 pronounced a United States Bank unconstitutional, and dangerous to our free institutions; the man who with professions of respect for the popular will on his lips, when instructed by the Legislature of his State in 1814-15, to vote for General Jackson, contemptuously refused, and against the wishes of his people, voted for J. Q. Adams, and received his reward—the wages of his sin, the post of Secretary of State, under Mr Adams; the man who when Secretary of State, challenged a Senator, (John Randolph), for words used in debate in the Senate, words, which, according to parliamentary rules (as lately laid down by Mr Clay, in his apology to Mr King and the Senate, for transgressing them himself) were strictly in order; but which he (Mr Clay) took umbrage at, because they arraigned the profligacy of his own conduct before the public; the man whose blood-thirsty revenge and reckless ambition burning in old age; trampling without remorse upon private feelings and public morality, and the august dignity of an American Senate, played the part of an insolent blackguard, before the youth of the country and an insulted people, by calling a distinguished Senator a *bar* and a coward; the man who in 1838-'39, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, insulted public decency, and the majority of the people, when Mr Polk was about retiring from the Speaker's chair, by uttering the blasphemous denunciation: "Go! God damn you go!" the man who in private life, has been notorious as a gambler—a rake—a duelist, and a profane swearer.

Who then is *infamous* Blair or Clay? What he, as a Senator, claims the right to arraign other men's characters, before the public, we, the people, claim the right to arraign his character. We tell Mr Clay, then, to pluck the beam out of his own eye—to have respect to his age—the dignity of his station—the laws and youth of his country—the people, and to set about governing himself, before he aspires to govern the nation. Yet, the federalists will say: "oh! how shocking it is to hear Mr Clay, a man of talents—a great man—a distinguished man, an old man too, called a blackguard; as for Blair, he is nothing but a poor democrat, say what you please of him!" Out upon such canting hypocrisy! Let us hold up a high moral standard to our public men. Let not talents—public station and public honors, dazzle with their deceptive glare, and make our youth the dupes of wickedness in high places. Tear off the mask from hypocritical editors, and orators, who, claiming "all the decency and morality," hold up vicious men, to the patronage and admiration of the people! Strip from sin its robes and furdry gowns, and pierce it with the strong lance of justice!!! Virtue in the private life of a statesman, will produce itself in his public life. On this rests the stability of free institutions.

**Mr Allen's Speech.**

On the first page. North Carolinians will you read it? Advocates of a distribution of the proceeds of the public lands among the States, will you read it? Admirers of Daniel Webster, and devotees of Henry Clay, will you read it? You will there behold the distribution scheme pictured in its naked deformity. The subject is there discussed in language which the plainest mind can comprehend, and without a tedious number of words. We put the question to any poor man, whig or democrat, to answer honestly: "do you ever receive the worth of a cent from the last distribution of the surplus revenue. If you never did, that is not all; you never will. Should hundreds of millions be distributed among the States, the poor man, who most needs help, would never receive the worth of a cent from it. And why? Because, the Legislature having the control of it, it is for the most part, *tent out* for the aggrandisement of those who are rich and able to mortgage property as security, and to banks and companies; and will such a disposal of it help poor men? But read the speech, and when you've read it, praise it if you can, the great English solicitor in America, Daniel Webster, and uphold, if you can, the party, who owns him for a leader. Were he under a salary from the British Government, to defend their interest in our council chamber, he could not have performed his duty task more faithfully than he did shame upon the man and the party that would league with such a traitor!

Upon the information of M. J. Eli P. Harrell, we sometime since complained of the manner in which the Post Office at Meltonville, was conducted; and while we express our determination, as guardians of the public welfare, to lash, without fear, the conduct of public officers, we pledge ourselves to do no man an injury, wittingly; and we therefore publish the following from the Observer of last week:

"We, the undersigned, certify that we have taken papers and received our letters at Meltonville Post Office, N. C., and that it is kept in Meltonville, at Mr Wilson Chambers, where we have always applied and received what was due us in the office, unless in cases where we have instructed the Post Master to send our papers or letters to some place for our convenience in getting them.

We furthermore certify, that the office is conducted to our entire satisfaction.

Addison C. Moore, William Tice,  
 R. H. Tillman, Oliver T. Collins,  
 R. S. Huntley, Robt. C. Huntley,  
 Robert Leonard, D. Grady,  
 W. W. Alsbrook, J. F. Lee,  
 J. J. Rushing.

Mr. Haie—Dear Sir: I will state to the public, that a Mr Eli P. Harrell, a resident of Meltonville, claims the honor of being the author of the charge. How far he is sustained, I leave the public to judge.

**H. A. CRAWFORD.**

Meltonville, N. C. March 24, 1841.

It now behoves Maj. Harrell to sustain his charge, which, perhaps he can do, as we have heard of him as a gentleman, and an honorable man. We know nothing of the gentlemen whose names are appended above, but we would respectfully ask Mr Crawford, as an honorable man, how it is, that the Observer reaches its subscribers and not the Carolinian? Can he, if he is what he should be, withhold the Carolinian from its subscribers? We hope he will answer the question in candor and truth.

**Etiquette.**

A Washington correspondent of the Albany Argus says, that at the first official interview with the President of the several foreign missions resident at Washington, Mr Webster was so profoundly ignorant of his duty, that he "actually led in some of the ladies to witness the presentation!!"

The Albany Evening Journal says:

But this is not the worst. A greater outrage remains to be told. We tremble with indignation so that we can scarcely hold our editorial scissors whilst we snip out of the Argus the following lines:

"Mr Curtis, followed (in a frock coat) with the lady of the Secretary of State on one arm, and—on the other, attended by a retinue of other ladies!"

Sacred memory of Beau Nash—shade of Beau Brummel—defend us! Ned Curtis, since appointed Collector of the Port of New York, present "in a frock coat!" We honor the sagacity of the Argus compositor for his expression of the deep indignation of the accomplished author of the letter, by the italicized emphasis upon *frock coat*! Ned Curtis, the audacious, contumacious, contumelious, Curtis—himself dressed in a *frock coat* (a blue one with a velvet collar, and a little worn on the right cuff with letter writing, it is said) and in this *frock coat* looking at the Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Queen Victoria, and upon the Barons, the Counts, the Chevaliers who represent their several European Majesties and the Brazilian Emperor, eye, and upon all the *Chargés*, the Secretaries of Legation, the Counsellors of Legation and the numerous *attaches* thereof! Hardened, unthinking man! And this, too, in the face of day—with a lady on each arm!

It is not to be wondered at, that this should have excited the indignation of Mr Van Burden, being himself the very Brummel of statesmen, most learned in all the mysteries of dress and undress, most deeply skilled in all the distinctions between *frock coats*, and body coats, and dress coats, and court dress coats proper, with "single breasts and a standing collar—being indeed and in truth

Of that high art—a first rate dresser." This is no light matter! The consequences of the frock coat may be terrible, "absolutely," as Judge Scott would say. The French Revolution, it is well known, was hurried on and the monarchy overthrown in consequence of Roland, the Minister of the Interior, coming to Court with strings in his shoes instead of buckles.

The young men of Georgia are taking an active part in the affairs of the country. They hold crowded meetings to nominate and appoint members to the Democratic Convention, to be held at Milledgeville, on the first Monday in May next. Georgia may yet be redeemed, especially when she sees two abolitionists in the cabinet; Daniel Webster, and Francis Granger.

The Baltimore Clipper says the trial of McLeod cannot come on probably for 12 months.

The citizens of St. John, Colleton, S. C. held a meeting on the 31st ult. and passed divers resolutions in favor of the Sub-Treasury, and condemning a National Bank, distribution of the public lands, a high tariff, &c., as unconstitutional.

**An Honorable Villain.**

Charles F. Mitchell, a whig member of Congress, from the Niagara District, New York, has been playing the part of a forger, very extensively, in N. Y. & Philadelphia. Knowing, however, that sooner or later, he would meet the reward of his villainy, he addressed a letter to the editor of the New York Courier and Enquirer, stating that when a man is detected in crime, thousands are up and ready to swear that he never was honest, and that he had always been a pretty considerable rascal; He says, that up to this time, he never wronged any human being. He goes on to give a short sketch of his former life and doings, and winds up with the following:

"I write this calmly, early in the morning, after a sleepless night. What my feelings are no one can imagine. I have before me a path environed with imminent peril. I shall be a wanderer all the days of my life, in an unknown land, leaving behind me friends and kindred that are nearer and dearer to me than my own heart's blood, who must all share in the disgrace which attaches to me. I leave behind me my wife and children! May God throw his protecting arm around them, is all that I can say. Am I not punished sufficiently severe for all that I have done? Why death to me were absolute relief, but I cannot embrace it. I have canvassed the whole ground over carefully. There were three alternatives presented to me.

To remain and meet my fate in the eyes of all who know me, to commit suicide, or to flee the country. I have decided upon the latter and for the single reason that I may possibly yet live to rescue my name from every stigma which rests or shall rest upon it.

F. C. MITCHELL.

N. B. I shall be pursued no doubt, but it will be useless. I shall not be brought back; for if I were to be overtaken I have provided myself with two contingent friends, either of which will spare me the mortification of being brought back like a felon. Death were under any circumstances preferable to that."

This is the same whig who tried to barter with Duff Green for the public printing, in order to cheat Clair out of it.

Dr. Lytle has withdrawn from the canvass in the Lincoln district. That is right.

LATE FISHING.—It is said the fishing season will not commence on the Potomac this spring, before the 10th of April, on account of the recent great frost, the usual time is about the 25th March.

Col. Harney, in exploring the everglades of Florida, killed two animals, said to be heretofore fabulous among us, a sort of sea cow, about 13 feet long, with two flippers; next weight, 2,500 pounds. It cannot leave the water, but feeds on the grass on the margin.

**Daniel Webster.**

Occupying the position that Mr Webster does, his opinions are entitled to great weight, and should receive the strictest scrutiny. We have ever believed him to be inimical to the South. We have always thought his opinions on the subject of slavery to be as dangerous to Southern interests, as those of any man living, and we are sorry to say that our opinions are confirmed and strengthened, by his own well considered and deliberate expressions.

It may be within the recollection of our readers, that during the late session of Congress, Mr Cuthbert, a Senator from Georgia, charged upon Mr Webster that, he, Mr Webster, entertained the opinion that Congress had the power over the subject of slavery, in the District of Columbia, and that it had the power to prevent the sale of slaves between the States. This charge was denied by the friends of Mr Webster, and Mr Cuthbert was urged to address a note to Mr Webster, and the belief confidently expressed, that he would give an unequivocal denial. Mr Cuthbert has addressed Mr Webster on the subject, but without drawing from him an answer that should be considered satisfactory by any Southern man.

In commenting on this subject, the Globe says: "To show how little faith is to be placed on general declarations on this subject! In a debate which took place in the Senate, in 1837, on the subject of Abolition, Mr Cuthbert charged on Mr Webster the memorial and its doctrines. What is most material in the debate, consequent on this charge, is here annexed.

From Gales and Seaton's Register of Debates, vol. xvi, p. 715.

Mr Cuthbert proceeded to refer to certain resolutions which had been adopted in Boston, in 1839, in which that gentleman had been concerned; one of which declared that Congress had authority to act on the subject of slavery in the District of Columbia, and the other that Congress had power to regulate the transfer of slaves from one State to another.

Mr Webster went on to speak of the resolutions to which Mr Cuthbert had referred. He had no recollection of the circumstance alluded to, or of what the resolutions contained; but there was not in his mind a particle of doubt that Congress had an unquestionable right to regulate the subject of slavery in the District of Columbia, simply because they constituted the exclusive Legislature of the District. It appeared to him little short of an absurdity to think that there were certain subjects which must be tied up from all legislation. And as to the other point, the right of regulating the transfer of slaves from one State to another, he did not know that he entertained any doubt, because the Constitution gave Congress the right to regulate trade and commerce between the States. Trade in what? In whatever was the subject of commerce and ownership. If slaves were the subjects of ownership, then trade in them between the States was subject to the regulation of Congress. But while he held this opinion, he had expressed none on the one side or the other as to the matter of expediency. He thought that ought to be discussed by those who were most concerned in it.

Mr W. then asked whether, instead of exhibiting so much indignation that he should in 1819 have had any thing to do in carrying such resolutions as had been referred to, it

applied to public works undertaken by the States—to the payment of their debts and their current expenditure—the only form in which the people could feel the benefit in the reduction of their taxes.

At first, sir, the object of distribution was disguised; but now, very true. The Senator from Massachusetts, no longer concealing the real motive, declares that he presses the distribution of the revenue among the States, in view of its application to the payment of their debts, and for this he finds constitutional authority in the obligation of this Government to uphold the credit of the States, which, he informs us, has been rudely assailed. And here, sir, it was, at this point of his argument, that the Senator broke forth in the bitterest denunciation of those by whom he alleges his assault to have been made. But who are they? In what manner, then, by means, have they assailed the credit of the States? Will it be believed (and yet it is true) that it was the democracy to whom he alluded? He adverted, first, to extracts in a British paper, taken from the Globe of this city, styled by him the organ of the administration. Next, having referred to measures with which he knew the Democratic members of this body to have been associated, he pronounced these things as an attack upon State credit; and then declared that "the man who would impair the State credit is an enemy to America, by whatever name he may call himself." What, sir! the democracy assail the credit of the States!—the democracy enemies to America!—they who, on all occasions, have ever defended, most zealously, the rights of the States, and liberties of the people, the interests, honor and glory of America; who have defended all these, whether endangered from abroad or within; whether by treasonous machinations, or open war; they who, in the hour of their country's utmost need—when perilled by foreign arms and domestic treason, were, of all her sons, the first to come forward—the first to proffer their counsel, their substance, their blood, in her defence—the most cheerful to die;—they who now, in the pending struggle, again swear, as they ever have sworn, upon the altar of that country, unsparing hostility to tyranny in all its forms—to every league into which ambition and avarice may enter, for usurpation and pillage;—are these the men, this the party, who are thus denounced; denounced as enemies to America, because, in this trying crisis of the Government, when all the humors that commonly conspire to bring liberty to its death are manifesting themselves around us; because, I say, they dare, in such a crisis as this, to oppose what they solemnly believe infracts the constitution, blots out the States, hazards the public peace, and tends infallibly to shed over the land the baleful influence of a foreign power; because they dare oppose a system of measures which threatens to fire the passions of men to fury and madness, by placing all property in the hands of Government, as a prize, to be sought by fraud and violence, and obtained, amidst the turmoil of a general strife, only by the most daring and profligate? Are these the citizens denounced, for opposing such measures, as enemies to America? Yes; this is the imputation—indirect, it is true, but still the imputation—made by that Senator; made with feelings transported beyond all bounds, as if, whilst struggling thus to mortgage to British Bankers the soil of his native country, his allegiance had been inflamed anew by a glance at that signal which, at the dawn of battle, first rose on the terrible day of Trafalgar—England expects every man to do his duty."

Yes, sir, I repeat it—feelings transported; for never but once before have I known that Senator excited to an equal heat beyond the uniform temper of his mind. And when was that? Need I tell you, Senators, (most of whom were present) that it was on the memorable night when, pending the proposition for three millions to defend the country in the event of a war with France, he stood forward, and in his place, upon the floor, declared he "would vote it not, even if the enemy were battering down the walls of the Capitol"—a declaration in reference to which a member of the other House, from his own State and of his own party, (Hon. J. Q. Adams) proclaimed it in that body, "that the man who would utter such a sentiment as that, had but one more step to take, and that was—into the ranks of the enemy."

As to the new tax proposed to be laid, for distribution, upon the wines and silks now annually exchanged by France with us for cotton, to the amount of twenty millions of dollars, it must, I have said, fall chiefly on the people of the south and west. And why chiefly upon them? Because a tax upon those articles, they being luxuries, must, if sufficiently high to produce the expected revenue, result in their exclusion from this country, and, by consequence, the exclusion of our cotton from France; because that exclusion of our cotton must, by restricting thus the foreign market, reduce, in a corresponding proportion, first the price, and then the quantity raised in the south; because such reduction in the quantity of cotton must reduce, to that extent, the quantity of labor now engaged in its culture, and increase the product of grains and meat in the South, by the transfer of labor from cotton to them; because that transfer of labor, and increase of grains and meats produced in the cotton region, must diminish in that proportion the demands there for the grains and meats of the northwestern states—Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and others; because such decreased demand must diminish proportionately the price of these northwestern products, grains and meats; and because, finally, that diminution of price must fall a dead tax upon the people who raise those products.

England, however, and England alone, would be benefited by this process; and benefited doubly and trebly would she—benefited in exact proportion to the injury sustained by us; for as she, with the exception of France, now affords our only market for cotton, if the ports of the latter be thus closed against us, then must she enjoy an exclusive traffic in the article, and thereby power absolute over its price.

Should this Government blend its legislation with that of the States, and thus, as the

national power, afford a pretext for making the security of this British capital a question of peace or war, then will British influence be felt in all its energy; then will it enter, not as heretofore, slyly and incidentally, into our political struggles, but with system, openly, and as a matter of pretended right; then will it pervade our public councils, form the basis of a British faction among us, and eventually stamp the impress of England upon American legislation. And, sir, who can doubt—who that acknowledges any allegiance to truth dares to doubt, that the influence of England has been felt—deeply and dangerously felt—in producing that state of things which brings these measures now before us? What British steamer, for the last three years, has struck your shore, whose shock did not vibrate throughout the land? When did the Bank of England speak to the commercial world, that your paper system did not quiver in all its fibres? When did your banks suspend—when contract or inflate the currency;—when did they either of these, without funding in England a reason for their conduct? Never. And think you that a nation so vigilant of her interests as the British—so ambitious of dominion—so deadly hostile to this people, to liberty here and the world over—so prone to interpose in the affairs of all others—with motives so strong, and means so adequate, to aid in the change of our councils:—think you that she stood indifferent to the recent contest, when, through the agency of her stocks, the machinery of the paper system, through the curtailment of our currency, the reduction of our prices, the consequent distress and discontent of the people, she could effect that contest, and secure the triumph of her measures? No. Impossible. England takes care of England's interests, wherever they may be; nor will she ever want friends where those interests require them.

But stop! The Senator from Massachusetts, indignant as when, but a moment before, he imputed to others the crime of being enemies to America, exclaims "I am tired of hearing this British influence talked of. Indeed! And therefore tired! Has not that sound been long familiar to him? Heard he not those words during our recent war with England? when that England, forgetful of our common origin, regardless of all the dictates of humanity and justice, of religion and of honor—regardless of the rights of civilization itself—employed the hereditary vengeance of the Indian tribes against our people; employed the hatchet of indiscriminate massacre, not only in the field of battle, but in the slaughter, upon their farms, of the unoffending citizens of the frontier—men and women, old and young—sparing not even the poor little children? Heard he not then those words, when, in the solitude of the wilderness, remote from all succor, the western settler, returning with the coming night to his lonely cabin, might find that cabin wrapped in fire; might see by this blaze the furious features of the braving savage as he raised himself up from his deed of death, holding in one hand the bleeding scalp, and with a wild and horrid glee, brandishing with the other the reeking tomahawk over the cloven brain of the wife; whilst the infant, yet alive, clung for protection to the mangled corpse of its mother, and turned a mercy-imploing eye upon her murderer;—heard not that Senator of British influence then? And if not, where was he? Where, in that day of his country's danger, when, with her borders in flames, her Capitol in ashes, her energies strung to their utmost tension, she stretched forth her hands, and with a parent's voice, demanded the aid, the counsel, and courage of all her sons;—where, in that day, was the man who now, when England's interests are involved, denounces democrats as public enemies, for refusing obedience to a British edict? Where then was he? Did he respond to that call of his country? or did he scoff at her calamities, and utterly insensible to the sufferings of his fellow-citizens from conflagration and massacre, did he, as a member of the other House, answer their cries for aid, by refusing even bread and clothing to the troops marching to their relief—marching to put out the fires, and to save the victims? I ask these questions, and I appeal to the journals of Congress—yes, to this whole nation—to answer.

Recent occurrences, Mr President, have thrown a dark pall over the face of the land. Causes innumerable, each in its way threatening the public freedom, have collected about us. To those pre-inclined to despondency, the future presents, therefore, a dreary and a dismal prospect. But to the high-hearted, untiring democracy, there is nothing in that future to excite terror or despair; for, united in purpose and in action, and roused by the great object of a nation's deliverance, such a party cannot be withstood in a cause so just and so glorious. Courage, then, my friends; let us draw fresh courage from the very presence and magnitude of the danger; and, with confidence unabated in the general body of the people, let us rally in one great effort to the coming strife. Then will the league of ambition and avarice, now formed against us, be speedily broken; then will the constitution be restored to life; law to its dominion; truth to its authority; and justice to its rights. No; let none despair. The source of all power and of all hope—the heart of the nation—is still sound to the core; still are the forms of the Government left; and still, over our infant liberty, the guardian star keeps watch in the sky. Long may it yet elude the search of the tyrant. And if, in after days, when grown to maturity, the high priests and money changers shall conspire to bring it to the cross, there, even there, in pity and in mercy to poor human nature, will it, amid the last agony, invoke: "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do."

**BEGGING.**—A little girl who had been in the habit of begging for cold victuals, called as she had been accustomed, at a certain house in a village, and on being give the usual portion, entered her protest against it, and said there was not enough. "Why," said the lady, "is this not as much as we have been in the habit of giving you?" The girl very innocently replied, "oh, yes; but we are taking boarders now."

would not have been better to show that the Constitution, in speaking of trade and commerce between the States, did not mean to include slaves? While so much pains were exhibited to resist information on one side, there should not be pains to misrepresent on the other. To maintain the right of Congress was one thing, to hold the expediency of exercising it was another.

Mr Cuthbert replied, and said that the country now knew what were the sentiments of the gentleman from Massachusetts, and it would be impossible for him to give any other cast to them than an encouragement to legislation on the subject of slavery. The time and the circumstances under which the resolutions were adopted rendered this impossible. They had been passed in 1819, just after the issue of the Missouri question; taken in connection with the time and the circumstances, the doctrines in the resolutions were calculated to revolt the whole Southern States, nay, to revolt the entire Union.

Mr Webster called upon the Senator to remember that he had not admitted that the doctrines referred to were contained in those resolutions.

Mr Rives said to present a petition, if respectful in its language, was a duty which Senators were bound to perform; but when, not satisfied with this, they came forward and volunteered their own views on so hazardous and delicate a subject, and claimed for this Government new powers, the calculation must be extraordinary on the passiveness of the South, if gentlemen suppose they were to sit in silence. If a solemn decision of the Senate was entitled to command respect, he would call the attention of the Senator from Massachusetts to the overwhelming majority by which it had pronounced the determination that the subject of slavery in the District was not to be contested on that floor; a majority, if he recollected right, of 34 to 6. After such an expression of the views of this body, could any gentleman persuade himself that it was wise and patriotic to throw into the Senate such a firebrand?

The gentleman from Massachusetts had taken occasion not only to read sentiments, from the memorials, which were obnoxious to the South, but had volunteered the expression of his own opinion as to the constitutional power of Congress over the subject of slavery in the District of Columbia. Wherefore introduce this subject again? Why put forward the expression of an opinion in regard to the regulation of trade in slaves between the States, to warrant which the Senator could find nothing in the statute book? He had told the Senator that laws had been passed on that subject, with the sanction of the South. Mr R. joined issue with the Senator, and called on him to point to the law. He was very confident there was none. As to the laws to which he presumed the reference had been made, they did not touch the matter. Laws to prevent the escape of slaves, or to secure their restoration, were only in fulfillment of the Constitution, which expressly provided for the delivering up of runaways; and, so far from being an unfavorable interference with the tenure of slave property, it was, on the contrary, a recognition of the right in slaves, and a guarantee of that right.

Mr Webster could not perceive the cause of that warmth which had been exhibited by the Senator from Virginia, while he was so strenuously exhorting other gentlemen to keep cool. That Senator could not express more strongly the want of power in the General Government to interfere with slavery in the States than Mr W. had often and always done. The Senator had said, however, that those only were interested in this subject who were suffering in the immediate presence of the evil. This Mr W. could not but consider as a great mistake. Mr W. though living in a Northern State, and a State non-slaveholding, felt that evil, too, from the train of consequences which it inevitably drew after it. He had as deep an interest in the peace and the preservation of the Union as the Senator from Virginia.

Mr Rives thanked the Senator from Massachusetts for the edifying lesson of coolness he had given him. He admitted the perfect justice and propriety of it in a general sense. But he begged leave to remind the honorable Senator that the spectator of a battle, occupying a distant and secure position, might look on with great serenity; while those who were in the midst of the conflict, defending their lives and persons from the point of the bayonet, would reasonably exhibit a very different temper and demeanor. The gentleman himself, if it so pleased his fancy, might disport himself in tossing squibs and firebrands about this hall; but those who are sitting upon a barrel of gunpowder, liable to be blown up by his dangerous missiles, could hardly be expected to be quite so calm and philosophic.

The gentleman from Massachusetts had taken occasion also to say that he had expressed no opinion, in regard to slavery, which was not sanctioned by my own sentiments. Now, sir, has the gentleman overheard from me any thing to countenance his broad and dangerous notions of interference with the subject of slavery in this District? As to the evil, or otherwise, of slavery in itself; as to the existence or non-existence of a power in this Government to interfere with it in the States, these are mere abstract questions, leading to no practical consequences. The real and only practical question is as to the interference of Congress with the subject of slavery in this District. Here is the fulcrum on which the whole lever of abolition turns; and if you give a foothold here, it is virtually a surrender of the whole ground. The surrender of this "vantage ground" to the Abolitionists, if I have not misunderstood the vote of the honorable Senator against rejecting the prayer of the petitioners during the last session of Congress, is precisely what he has already done, and is prepared still to do.

Thus, then, at the time Mr Webster was publishing and defending the doctrine, that Congress has authority under the Constitution to regulate the slave trade between the States—and, according to Mr Webster, (as the Boston memorial manifests), the authority to regulate necessarily includes the authority to prohibit—at that very time, Mr Webster did

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