

...from the speech above alluded to. Speaking of the embargo, he says: "I object to the restrictive system, because it does not suit the genius of the people or that of our Government, and the geographical character of our country. We are a people essentially active. I may say we are pre-eminently so. No passive system can suit such a people—in action superior to all others, in patient endurance inferior to many. Nor does it suit the genius of our Government. Our Government is founded on freedom, and hates coercion. To make the restrictive system effective requires the most arbitrary laws.—England, with the severest statutes, has not been able to exclude prohibited articles, and Napoleon, with all his power and vigilance, was obliged to resort to the most barbarous laws to enforce his continental system. This nation ought to be taught to rely on its own courage, its fortitude, its skill and valor for protection. These are the only safeguards in the hour of danger. It was endowed with these great qualities for his defence. There is nothing about him that indicates that he is to conquer by endurance; he is encircled in a shell; he is not taught to rely upon his insensibility, his passive suffering, for defence.—No, it is on the invincible mind, on his magnanimous nature, he ought to rely. Here is the superiority of our kind. It is these that render man the lord of the world. It is the destiny of our condition, that nations rise above nations, as they are endowed in a greater degree, with these brilliant qualities."

Founding his opinions upon such elevated principles, Mr. Calhoun was enabled to command the esteem of his opponents, while, at the same time, he more deeply attached the confidence of the majority, than if he had proved himself but the humble instrument of party views.

Towards the close of this long and arduous session the President transmitted to Congress a message, in which, after enumerating in a forcible manner our multiplied wrongs, he recommended an appeal to arms as the only means of obtaining justice. The Committee of Foreign Relations, to whom the message was referred, made an able report, approving of the sentiments of the President, and accompanied by a bill declaring war.

At the commencement of the next session, an incident took place, which was highly honorable to Mr. Calhoun, and affords strong evidence of the esteem in which he was held. The speaker felt embarrassed in making a proper disposition of the members from South Carolina. Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Cheves, Mr. Lowndes, and Mr. Williams, were all by their distinction, entitled to conspicuous positions; but, coming from the same State, they could not all be placed at the head of important committees. Mr. Calhoun, on an intimation of this difficulty by the speaker, did not hesitate a moment to request that he, being the youngest of the four, should not be placed at the head of any committee. Mr. Smilie, an old and useful member from Pennsylvania, was accordingly placed first on the committee of Foreign Relations, and Mr. Calhoun second. But, at the first meeting of the committee, Mr. Smilie, without the least intimation of his intention, moved that Mr. Calhoun should be chairman. The motion was unanimously adopted, and thus afforded the strongest evidence of the satisfactory and able manner in which he had discharged the arduous and important duties of chairman at the preceding session.

We will not undertake to trace Mr. Calhoun's course, or to recount his services, in Congress, during the war. A volume would be necessary for the purpose. It is sufficient to say, that, in the leading position of Chairman of the committee of Foreign Relations, amidst a complication of adverse circumstances, during the gloomy periods of that contest, calculated to overwhelm the feeble, and equal the stoutest against a weight and ardor of opposition unknown to the Congress of the revolution. As never faltered, never doubted, never despaired of the republic, but, by his reports and speeches, by his genius, wisdom, patriotism, and unshaken firmness, he rose pre-eminently which at that time distinguished both sides of the House, and roused his countrymen to action by the most animating strains of impassioned eloquence, made himself the chief support of the second war of independence, and finally triumphed in the clear sunshine of glory which burst upon his country at its conclusion.

On the arrival of peace in the beginning of the year 1815, a new era opened on the country. The army, the navy, and the revenue, had increased far beyond the wants of the country, in time of

peace, the currency had become seriously deranged, and capital had received a powerful impulse towards manufactures. All these subjects gave rise to questions deeply interesting to the country.

The first that occupied the attention of Congress, was the military peace establishment, on which there was a great diversity of sentiment. The administration, it was understood, was in favor of retaining a force of 15 or 20,000 men, in which views most of the leading members concurred. Others, and amongst them Mr. Calhoun, were in favor of ten thousand. He contended that a small peace establishment was most congenial to the inspirations of the country, and that the great point was to have it permanent and well organized, and not liable to fluctuations, which are destructive to the military tone of the officers, and the spirit, zeal and discipline of the army. The number finally determined to be retained was ten thousand.

The other important subjects were postponed till the next session, when Mr. Calhoun was placed at the head of the Committee on Currency. Events which took place at the preceding session had in a manner designated him for the place. The House of Representatives had at that session been deeply agitated with the subject of establishing a national bank, principally with the view to enable the Government to raise loans for the prosecution of the war. Believing that loans by a non-specie paying bank, as the one at that time proposed would be during the war, would prove deceptive, and that the bank, by reason of such loans, would, on the return of peace, be enlisted against the resumption of specie payments, instead of being the instrument of restoring them, and that its influence, united with that of the State banks, would defeat the efforts of Congress to re-establish a sound currency, Mr. Calhoun firmly and successfully resisted every attempt to erect a bank, which was not bound to pay its notes in cash. Under a solemn conviction of duty, he had on this important occasion placed himself in opposition to the views of the administration; and though it exposed him at the time to the censure of many of his political friends, there was on the restoration of peace but little doubt, on any side, of the wisdom of the course he had pursued. It left the Government free and untrammelled to adopt whatever remedy might be deemed most advisable for a disease so deep and vital as an unequally depreciated circulating medium. In acting upon it at this session, the committee had the zealous support of the administration, and, in particular, of Mr. Dallas, the able and independent officer then at the head of the Treasury Department. At this period nothing could exceed the disorder and derangement of the currency of the country. During the war the banks had universally suspended the payment of specie, with the exception of a few in New England. Gold and silver, as a medium of exchange, had disappeared. The country was flooded with bank notes, on the issue of which scarce any restraint was left. Depreciation followed, which, so far from terminating with the war, as had been anticipated by some, went on increasing less rapidly in some portions of the country, and in others more so, according to the extent of the bank issues. When the committee entered on the duty of applying a remedy to this fearful disease, the depreciation at some points had reached to upwards of 20 per cent. One of the most striking features which the country then presented was the unconstitutional condition of its currency. It was clearly intended by the Constitution to place the currency under the control of the General Government. With this view it was provided that Congress should have power "to coin money, and regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coins," and prohibited the States from "coining money, emitting bills of credit, or making any thing but gold and silver a legal tender," leaving no doubt that the power over the currency was delegated to Congress, and was not a right reserved to the States. In fact one of the known disorders which that instrument was intended to correct, was the unequal depreciation of the currency which existed in the different States previous to its adoption, and which presented such formidable impediments to the commerce of the country and the fiscal operations of the Government. Notwithstanding these provisions of the Constitution, the power over the currency at this period had in fact passed out of the hands of the General Government, and the disorder in the circulating medium of the country, for which it was intended to provide a remedy, had returned under its most appalling form. The notes of banks incorporated by the States, and under their exclusive control, which could not be converted into specie, and which were restricted in their circulation to the limits of their respective States, and were depreciated from one to twenty per cent, constituted the currency in which the public dues were collected, the public creditors paid, and the moneyed transactions of the country carried on. By what means the control over the currency should be taken from the State Legislatures, and placed under that of Congress

where the Constitution had unquestionably intended it to be placed, and what remedy should be applied to a disease, which, if not arrested, threatened the Union itself, were the highly important questions that claim the attention of the committee.

The first and most simple remedy was to require the taxes to be paid in specie, the legal currency of the country. But this, in the then state of the country, was impracticable. Gold and silver, as has been stated, had disappeared, and the people might, with as much justice have been called on to pay their taxes in diamonds as in either. No one was found hardy enough to propose such a remedy. The next was to enact a bankrupt law, and apply it to the State banks, unless they should redeem their notes with specie. But, besides the doubt as to the right of Congress to apply their power to such a purpose, it was manifest that a measure of the kind could not possibly pass that body. After full examination, it was believed by the committee that the only practicable means by which a sound currency could be restored, and placed under the constitutional control of the General Government, was the establishment of a sufficient capital on sound principles, bound to redeem its notes in cash, which, by its influence and aid, would at once compel and assist the State banks to return to specie payments. On this point Mr. Calhoun rested the bill; and with such irresistible arguments did he enforce his opinion, so clearly did he demonstrate the unconstitutional condition of the currency, so manifestly did he prove its danger and injustice; and that there was no other practicable remedy in the power of the House, that, in spite of the opposing influence of the State banks, the constitutional scruples of many of the members, and the resistance of many of the leaders of the opposition, he succeeded in effecting the passage of the bill, though it was well ascertained that a decided majority was opposed to it at its introduction. Of this powerful, profound, and convincing speech, nothing remains but an imperfect skeleton. At the opening of the argument he declared his opposition to the abstract, to the whole system of banking; but stated, that in his view of the subject, the real question was not whether the system in the abstract was or was not defensible, since it existed beyond the control of the General Government, but whether the form in which it had then existed under the sole control of the States, and particularly where the State Banks did not redeem their notes in the legal currency of the country, as established by Congress, was compatible with the provisions of the Constitution, with justice, and the safety of the community. The result has shown that Mr. Calhoun was not mistaken in selecting the bank as the means for restoring the currency to a constitutional condition. A short period after it went into operation, its salutary influence in correcting the unbalanced and depreciated currency which had previously existed began to be visible, and in less than two years it had caused the State banks throughout the Union, with inconsiderable exceptions, to redeem their notes with specie, thus rendering the currency as uniform as is consistent with the inequality naturally resulting from commercial exchanges. The Hon. Secretary of the Treasury, (Mr. Crawford,) who, by his situation, was rendered perfectly acquainted with the means by which the currency had been restored to a sound condition, attributed it, as is well known, solely to the operation of the Bank.

At the same session a revenue bill gave rise to a debate on the state of the Union, involving a discussion of the policy of the country in time of peace, to which Mr. Calhoun made one of the most splendid displays of parliamentary eloquence ever exhibited before Congress. His speech abounding in profound, comprehensive, and statesman-like views, respecting our probable relations with foreign powers, the policy we ought to pursue towards them, and the measures of preparation we ought to adopt with respect to the navy and fortifications, might be considered a summary of all that could be said on the interests of the republic and the duties of Government; it elicited a burst of approbation from the galleries which the Speaker was unable to control, and extorted from a member not friendly to the orator this involuntary exclamation, "What a prodigious effort of the human mind!" The editors of the Intelligencer, in their notice of it, declared that Mr. Calhoun might safely rest his fame, as a statesman and orator, upon that single production.

(Concluded in our next.)

**MISCELLANEOUS.**  
Gov. Branch.—The following letter from the Hon. John Branch, late Secretary of the Navy, to a gentleman in this city, has been handed to us for publication:  
Washington City, May 3rd, 1831  
My Dear Sir,—You have no doubt,

before this, seen in the papers accounts of the resignations of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of War, and the dismissal of the other members of the Cabinet.

The letters of the two former, addressed to the President of the U. States, present their reasons; and the motives for the dismissal of the others are assigned in the answer of the President to the Secretary of the Treasury and myself. In these the President admits that the dismissed officers have faithfully discharged their respective duties. But intimates that the want of harmony in the Cabinet, and the protection of the two retiring Secretaries "from unjust misconceptions and malignant misrepresentations," made it necessary that the others should go out also.

So far as regards the members of the Cabinet, this measure is comparatively of little moment. It is, however, a matter of deep concern as affecting the character of the Government. In this point of view the American people have a right to know the whole truth; from whence the alleged discord originated; by whom and for what purpose, it has been fostered; and in what respect and wherefore it has been connected with the public administration of the affairs of the Nation. The President is bound to make these explanations to the people.

If it were intended to be intimated that I am responsible for the want of harmony in the Cabinet, the charge is unjust. I deny that I pursued a course that invited hostility. On the contrary, I went as far as a man of honor could go in endeavoring to promote a good understanding and cordial official co-operation with all the members of the Cabinet. But it seems I was expected to go still farther, and not doing so, it has been held good cause for my dismissal. If it is asked, why I did not abandon the Cabinet and expose to the world the malign influences by which it was embarrassed? I would reply, that I constantly looked forward to a favorable change. That especially I relied for this upon the wisdom, firmness and justice of the Chief Magistrate. I have been disappointed. I have had the deep mortification to see him gradually discarding from his counsels and friendship his old and long tried supporters, and throwing himself into the arms of persons whose cold hearted selfishness and artifices were played off upon him for true and faithful service.

Rest assured, however, that whatever may be the public judgement as to the merits of this question, no consideration arising from personal feeling will induce me to take a course which I should not believe calculated to maintain the character and promote the interest of the State which gave me birth.

Business of importance, especially as enabling me to settle down permanently in North Carolina, probably requires my presence in Tennessee, where I may be detained until August next. On my return to my family, I hope to meet you, when I shall be highly gratified to renew that social and friendly intercourse, which heretofore, so much to my satisfaction, has subsisted between us.

In the mean time, I beg you to receive assurances of great respect and esteem.  
JOHN BRANCH.

FROM THE TROY RUGGER,  
**CHIROGRAPHY.**

"It is generally believed that men of genius do write in a very obscure, infirm, or eccentric character; such as Byron, and Chalmers, and Jeffrey, and Bonaparte."  
HERBERT.

Washington wrote a fair, open, manly, straight-forward line—every letter legible and distinct, bearing the same relation in the composition of the word that his actions all and singular bore in the formation of his general character—nothing hidden or mysterious. Jefferson's hand writing was bold and masculine—partaking of the clearness, purity and firmness of his own great mind. Bonaparte wrote a most hideous and unreadable scrawl—appearing as though while writing he was attempting to dodge an enemy's fire—very little of the generalship about it. Burke's writing was most uneven and hurried-looking as tho' his thoughts quarrelled for utterance, and in their struggle put the outer man in commotion.

Hamilton wrote a light running hand quite sparing of ink. Canning's penmanship partook of all the chasteness and classical purity, and at the same time of all the nervousness of his mind. Byron, "stooping to touch the loftiest thought, as though it scarce deserved his verse," wrote "like very mad," to the great patterment of his paper and ruffled shirt, which by the way, we believe, he never wore. We have had our eye upon the scribbles of divers other poets, divines, statesmen, warriors, lords and ladies. But they have long split their last quill and death subscribed their prayers.—*Finis.* We turn from the dead to the living.

Madison writes a fair, firm upright line, without distinction of hair and body strokes; and not unlike him writes Marshall. The autograph of J. Q. Adams is neat, manly and perpendicular. Jackson writes rather a clumsy, careless hand than otherwise, as if with a bad pen, and

yet it is characteristic of his firmness and independence. James Kent's calligraph is perfectly unique—to be compared to nothing this side itself. Brougham writes a hasty hand, but with a good pen and full of ink. Peel writes with a stiff pen and with considerable taste and correctness. Cobett writes with fury—just as he does every thing else. Dr. Chalmers, as if with the feathered end dipped in ink—a real spider scrawl. Webster like a hopeful child of the tariff school, giving encouragement that improvement will follow experience. W. Irving writes a perfect lawyer's hand, as though he wished no one could read it but himself. W. Scott's autograph is rigid and scrappy, tho' tolerably legible. Croly, writes with a furious rambling, excursive, but most vigorous pen. Wadsworth tho' he bought ink by the barrel—no down-right crow-bar hand.—Jeffrey writes as if he wrote against time, with a sick dipped in ink—nothing so hideous and unintelligible; yet there is power and vivacity about it not unlike the man. Crabb's hand writing is neat, elegant and woman-like; and Mrs. Hemans masculine, bold and strong.

**SMUGGLING.**

From the New Hampshire Patriot.  
THE FEDERAL "AMERICAN SYSTEM!"—During the past week, a load of Smuggled Broadcloths, the property of two red-hot Federal Tariff men, was taken by our vigilant officers of the customs. The fact of the Clay party, in this vicinity, being engaged in violating the very Tariff, in a private manner, which they publicly support, is an excellent comment upon the rottenness and falsity of their principles. The democratic party are in favour of having the Tariff so modelled as to prevent smuggling; but the Clay party, it would appear, see upon the opposite principle, we should think the payment of a few such duties as the revenue laws exact from smugglers, would have the effect of changing their theory as well as practice.—*Montpelier (Vt.) Patriot.*

That the business of smuggling has actively revived, is evinced by the movements "to and fro" all the way between Boston and Montreal, of some of the old war smugglers and other young sprouts, who have been educated by them. The recent passage of loaded teams through the alternate mud and snow drifts, at a season when there is so little produce of the country to be transported—teams with casks, and barrels, and kinks, as if of pot or pearlashes, distilled spirits, butter, &c.—fully demonstrates to our conviction, that all is not right. There are no custom-house officers on the way for more than a hundred miles—on search can be lawfully made; of course, tons of smuggled goods may pass without detection, and there can be but little doubt that tons do pass.

When smuggling of British goods is carried on by the "American System" men with impunity—when the revenue is defrauded of hundreds and thousands, if not millions of dollars—when the people are obliged to pay a tax on their wearing apparel, for the sole benefit of smugglers—when our manufactories, instead of being benefited, are positively injured by high duties, being shamefully evaded—is it not high time, either to enforce the laws for the punishment of smugglers or so to reduce the duties as shall do away the temptation to violate them?

**Anecdote.**—A Yankee gentleman travelling in the state of New York, drove up to a somewhat spacious looking hotel, and entering the bar room, enquired of a trim looking woman, for the landlord—who referred him to a 250 pound negro who was seated in the bar. The stranger requested snowball to grain his horse—which the latter proceeded to do. After he had left the room, the traveller enquired of the woman if that man was her husband?—she replied in the affirmative! With astonishment, the yankee continued his enquiries, and asked her how "in the name of Heaven she came to marry a black man?" "La!" said she "I done a great deal better than my sister!" "What could your sister do?" demanded shrewd Jonathan—"why" replied the hostess, "she married an anti-mason."  
*Tol. Adv.*

In the Chinese laws, one of the grounds on which a husband may divorce his wife is her being given to too much talking.