THE GREAT CONVERSATIONISTS.

LESSER LIGHTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

To the Editor of the New York Daily Times:

Led into the circle of the South Carolinians, by the subject of my last sketch, I may as well proceed with other lights there which clustered, in the public view, like mere attendant stars, about Mr. Calhoun, and were, whether deservedly or not, yet in no small degree hid from the popular attention in the blaze of that erratic luminary; as orderly planets, though shining to a much better purpose, cease to attract anybody's gaze, when a comet or a meteor, quite as dangerous as it is bright, flames out near them. Cooper, Preston, Legare, Turnbull, Hayne, McDuffie, Hamilton, were all, though remarkable men, thus thrown into eclipse by the conflagration which Calhoun had always about him for an atmosphere. My metaphor is good, because a descriptive one; I may be pardoned, therefore, for drawing it out a little further, by saying that although other comets seem to be without satellites, yet no less than three waited upon this orb of Agitation, this skyrocket of the Southern sphere of politics. They were the three last above-named. The others belonged to orbits of their own. And now, for the sake of order, I will despatch these secondaries, since their primary has been already described.

Robert Y. Hayne, though quite a clever, quick, adroit man, (take the last epithet in its good sense only; for he was highly the gentleman and the man of honor,) was rather ready and facile than able. He was not strong; he was not great; but he rose to the top of whatever could be done without high powers. Perhaps the justest idea that I can give you of him is to say that he was a sort of splendid mediocrist. He never rose above a certain mark; he seldom fell short of it; and that mark was high for anything but a man of genius. That, he was not at all; yet had just these happy, lucky qualities which win that reputation with the crowd. He came so near being eloquent that few would refuse him that praise; he was so nigh to being able, that, in order to be rightly judged so, he only needed more original and commanding views. In speech his manner was animated, earnest, agreeable, clear, fluent, and engaged not only your attention but respect and good will; it strongly betokened the gentleman bred; and almost as much the sharp, active, practical barrister, though not the great and learned jurist. As to matter, he was copious of all the facts and arguments which previous discussions could supply; and these he reproduced with skill and effect; but I doubt if he ever bestowed upon subsequent discussion a new idea. In short, as a legislator, a politician, or a lawyer, he had just the cast of talents which is fit to win, not (to be sure) the bright and solid meed of lasting fame, by a merit beyond the times and the topics of one's day, but a temporary success, all the surer for a man's having only the thoughts of the day. The last of these his mind was capacious enough to embrace and skilful enough to set in view, not very strongly, but agreeably and well. You will perceive, therefore, that he was the sort of person from whose effort, because always clever, neither his cause nor his reputation was ever like to lose, as long as it was his luck or his discretion not to be matched with an adversary of that herculean kind, which (fortunately for the glory of your common-place champion) is not met in every field of fight. Had not his stars—for they, I am sure, were to blame for it, not he—forced him to try conclusions with Mr. Webster, in that debate of 1830 which the latter's eloquence rendered so celebrated, Mr. Hayne might have enjoyed a much longer and larger Parliamentary renown. As long as a man has not been publicly measured, people who have never seen him may imagine him very tall; but after that application of the standard of inches, Col. Hayne could no longer, even in the South, pass for a giant.

Such was he, in point of public abilities. As to aim, his was good and honorable; for while his integrity was undeviating, and his temper frank and fair, his ambition was in just proportion to his parts; it seems to have always been checked by good sound practical sense, (of which he had much,) at just the point where it was well for him and well for others that his aspirations should stop. It may be that he deserves not, however, the credit for moderation which I am assigning him. Had he lived to see all sorts of political tatterdemalions contending for the Presidency, and men as inferior to himself as Polk and Pierce arriving at it, he might have renounced a virtue which was then comparatively easy.

In private life, he was very amiable and attractive, from the pleasantness of his temper and the amenity of his manners. Well born and well educated, he had strengthened his social position by a quite successful professional career, and the pecuniary reward of an easy fortune which attends it for prudent men. On all sides, then, his personal eminence was on a level with his political, and formed for it that basis of character, competency, and therefore independence, which wise men should always secure, before embarking in public life, lest they should there find themselves forced to sink, (as so many do) into needy adventurers and headlong intriguers, the slaves of circumstance and party. Exempted by his lack of ardent ambition from personal passions, he had incurred little of even partisan resentment, and was met everywhere by the respect of all, the kindness of most of his fellow-citizens. He was good and prudent enough to leave behind him, when he somewhat prematurely died, the praises and the friendship of many, the hostility of few, the reproaches of none.

His conversation was, as you might expect from the intellectual character which I have drawn, more copious, clever, and lively, than original or striking. It was easy, flowing, free, but not sparkling; of a gentlemanlike but not scholarly elegance; of much general but not recondite information, that bore the marks of being derived from the particular practical occasion, not the loving and long research of independent study; so that his knowledge, though various and abundant, had little of luxury about it, and though borrowing a liberality from his sense and his refinement of the heart and manners, (which always carry a grace and a good taste with them,) was yet utilitarian, as if he had learnt not because it was delightful to learn, but because it was advantageous. It was the man of the world and the man of practice, not the erudite or the wit. Of letters proper, or what used aptly to be called polite learning, he had little beyond that early tinge of the college, which, not striking through to the woof, usually serves but to spoil the native color of the mind with a foreign dye. A man is none the better for them, unless he be plunged headlong into them and held there by the heels, like that hero of old whom a soaking made invulnerable. Now-a-days, however, our youths are dipped at the other end, and barely wet their heels, instead of steeping their heads. But to proceed with my proper theme: Gov. Hayne talked as he spoke, diffusely, though well. His discourse was gay, but never witty; sensible, but not epigrammatic; bright enough, though never shining; and always good, though never surprising.

I have placed him, at the outset, among the satellites of Calhoun. I meant not, however, to intimate that he was a spiritless or servile follower, that wheeled along in the track of a greater sphere, drawing all motion and the nearest light from it. This was not true of either him, or McDuffie, or Hamilton. They were all exceedingly devoted to Mr. Calhoun; but there was nothing abject in their attachment. Whatever their political errors, they were men of elevated personal character, and could never have served any man, except on what they mistook, in this instance, for terms of honor and of public duty.

It may be worth while for me here to correct an error into which the public generally fell in regard to Gov. Hayne. He was falsely taken for the lineal representative of that Col. Isaac Hayne, of our Revolution, whose cruel execution, by Lord Cornwallis, for the purpose of striking terror into our Southern leaders, is the only serious stain upon the character of that elsewise gallant and good commander. Gov. Hayne was the nephew, not the son of Col. Isaac Hayne; whose direct representatives were Isaac Edward Hayne, sometime Treasurer as well as Secretary of his State, and his son, Isaac W. Hayne, who was the youthful Secretary of the somewhat famous Convention, that enacted the notable farce of the South Carolina "Ordinance of Nullification."

Of the humblest origin, but extricating himself from all the disadvantages which poverty and obscurity entail far more in the South than in the North, from the less leveled condition of men there and especially from the want of that most Democratic institution, the Free School, George McDuffie rose to merit and to eminence, by the mere vigor of his own mind and character. Nor was this his most remarkable desert; I have seldom known another in whom a native elevation and ingenuousness had so much effaced the stain of meanness which usually clings, through no matter what condition of fortune, to the upstart. You could never have guessed the penury, through which his youth was condemned to struggle, from any want of either nobleness or simplicity in his demeanor, anything either cringing or overbearing, under or over-refined in his manners. There was nothing creeping about him, nothing swelling; both which vices are usually found by turns in your promoted beggar; who, when he has gotten up in the world, is the greatest of aristocrats, except in that single mark of gentle blood and breeding which cannot be counterfeited—a true courtesy. When fortune picks out from among the base a favorite and advances him to wealth or power, she seems to take pleasure in leaving upon him some visible and odious sign—chiefly that of insolence—in order that people may see he was her work. Upon McDuffie, she had set no such certificate of this sort; he was no fostering of hers, no foundling of success; but the genuine child of self-begetting Talent. In this part of his fortunes and his character, he bore a likeness, which I always hailed with pleasure, to that highest-hearted of our self-made men, the magnanimous Harry Clay; a likeness, but an inferior one. For, besides that his qualities, moral and intellectual, rose not to the supreme manliness which adorned the latter and made him, under every external disadvantage, the foremost man of his times, McDuffie was earlier taken by the hand, helped to a far better education, and when launched into life, received much more assistance in the greatly inferior career which he trod.

He was born of parents in the humblest condition of life, but had the good fortune to attract as a fine, intelligent-looking boy, the attention of a neighboring gentleman of property, Mr. John E. Calhoun, cousin to a yet greater lord of the vicinage, the far-renowned Nullifier. The first named gentleman sent him to school. There the hopes of himself which he gave were so uncommon, that he was by and by sent to the State College at Columbia, in order that he might fit himself, by a complete course of study, for a liberal profession. At college, again, he so greatly distinguished himself as to have already, before he left as a graduate, fixed upon him the attention of his State as one of its destined ornaments.

That augury he made haste to verify by flinging himself upon the study of the law. To support himself, meanwhile, he taught a school. During the period of double probation that ensued, he is said to have enjoyed the countenance of John C. Calhoun, and his guidance in his studies. He does not seem to have derived from him any further assistance. Indeed, that sage was little profuse of anything but his counsels and his theories. His notice, however, was flattering; and McDuffie was ever after grateful to him. Perhaps he was so beyond the occasion.

For as Mr. Calhoun was but an indifferent lawyer, his professional pilotage could have been no great boon; and as he was an avowed contemner of books—boasting, at one time, that he had not read one in ten years—his mentorship cannot well have been of any very enormous value to the other studies of our young Telemachus. Thus the airy gift of his political fancies must have formed the true, as it was the customary, extent of his benefactions.

I need not enter into further details of young McDuffie's career. He soon came to the Bar, where he rose almost at once to eminence, and by and by to fortune. And as, in the South, it is difficult to be kept out of Politics, when one has become the successful lawyer, he was soon drawn into that other public arena, and transferred, as a Representative in Congress, to a greater field of contest. His history there needs no repetition. It was exceedingly honorable to both his abilities, and character. Except Legare, Preston and Calhoun himself, no man from his State, and few from his section have, since the time of William Lowndes, made so great a figure in the National Councils.

The leading characteristic of his oratory was an argumentative vehemence, which bore down before it debate and even doubt. He reasoned not only powerfully, but passionately. For ardent as he was strong of mind, his logic and his feelings went together; and as that grew positive, these grew excited. Hence, when his subject was important, he was a very fiery speaker. I have often seen him carried away by such a violence of conviction, that all his features quivered; and his limbs were convulsed with emotion; while his hands, little called in aid but for one main jesture, were unconsciously dashed with such fury upon the table before him, that, when he ceased, they were battered into a general and severe bruise. Of course able and thus strongly affected himself, he affected others strongly; and wielding a heavy mass of argument in a compact style, he gave severe blows to the adverse debate, and was apt to make it stagger before him. Nor must you imagine that far as he carried this excited manner, he ever spoke over-heatedly, went beyond the warmth which his view of the subject justified, or fell into rant. His very violence seemed but the fit expression of his reason. In short, he was a very vehement, not a turbulent, noisy, bellowing speaker, such as one is not seldom compelled to stop his ears at, in Washington—fellows of the Ohio Allen order, whose logic is a convulsion-fit, whose rhetoric is a roar, and who think they are eloquent, because they make a super-human din.

Such was George McDuffie, while still in all his vigor, and before yet the ball lodged against his spine, in his somewhat too famous duel with Col. Cummings of Georgia had so affected his whole bodily system, as gradually to enfeeble his mind. With that cause conspired an outward one—the declining public fortunes and the increasing extravagances of him to whose cause he clung with devoted fidelity—Mr. Calhoun; sacrificing to that leader's more and more desperate ambition all that was left him of former reputation and of future consistency: that consistency which, like other great rules of life, must occasionally be set aside; but yet makes in the main, if not the absolute morals, yet the point of honor to the public man. Into many capital violations of that, Mr. Calhoun drew him; and they told still more heavily upon the good name of the unevasive partisan than that of the chief, subtle in apologies, and who had, besides, not only many more defenders, but a greater fame from which to spare. It was for one of the inconsistencies thus incurred—that enormous one about the annexation of Texas—that McDuffie (when from some years of retirement he came back to public life in the Senate,) fell under that terrible exposure, made more humiliating by whatever of ignominious personal malignity could venture to add to the occasion, which Benton so mercilessly inflicted upon him. It was a cruel scene, that by its ferocity of punishment enlisted at last the sympathies of nearly all who witnessed it. The contradiction, the confutation, the contemptuous ridicule of McDuffie by McDuffie—of his new speech as Senator by his old Message as Governor—of his reasons then and his reasons now—of his present love for Annexation and the contumely with which he had formerly treated it and the Texans—were so flagrant and so pitilessly displayed, that not even the proud and fiery man himself could hold up his head under it, that never quailed before. He sat under that long and furious infliction, overwhelmed, helpless and aghast, like one suddenly stricken out of all spirit and even honor, as if his were totally gone.

This was a severe penalty for a gentleman and an honest man, who loved and had earned reputation, to pay for his personal devotion to Mr. Calhoun. It was but one of many such. The folly of the "Forty Bale theory" was a second remarkable one. But worst of all—Calhoun not being by any means the man to wield the sword he was constantly sharpening, his experiment of "Peaceful Nullification" forced his State, somewhat oddly, to prepare for desperate war, and poor McDuffie, to turn tactician-in-chief, grand-generalissimo, the Mars of the musterfield, a sort of militia god-of-war. Ardent in all he set about, he incontinently got a book of strategy and a musket; learned drill and manœuvre; called his brigade together in camps to do likewise; harangued upon the military art; published bulletins, and finally, as Governor, invented that magnificent improvement in the new art of war—the having bayonets six inches longer than those of other people; by means of which infallible device, the troops of South Carolina were, themselves unharmed, to pick up on their musket points the congregated assailants from all the rest of the Union. Whether, at last, contact with a great discovery had awakened in him a sort of genius not his own, or that the grand idea was really Mr. Calhoun's, cannot be positively ascertained. I am inclined to the latter hypothesis. The child looks marvellously as if it were of Calhoun's getting. And, indeed, it were well that, as the eldest born apostle of Democracy and Nullification shone in the invention of gun-boats, the terrapin system, and other martial means of war, to prevent its hurting anybody, the second apostle should bring a still better melioration, and show how a nation may kill off all foes without ever getting a scratch. Mr. Jefferson, over-anxious for personal safety, forgot that it was necessary at the same time, to manage that your enemy should not be safe. Mr. Calhoun's sublime conception of the long bayonet, secures both ends.

H. SECRETARIO.

ONE OF FANNY FERN'S BEST.

It is only a little pauper! Never mind her.—You see she knows her place, and keeps close to the wall, as if she expects an oath or a blow.—The cold wind is making merry with those thin rags. You see nothing of childhood's round symmetry in those sunken limbs and pinched features. Push her aside, she's used to it; she won't complain, she can't remember that she ever had a kind word in her life. She'd think you were mocking if you tried it.

She passes into the warm kitchen, savory with odorous dainties, and is ordered out with a threat by the portly cook. In the shop windows she sees nice fresh loaves of bread and tempting little cakes. Rosy little children pass her, on their way to school, well fed, clad, and joyous, with a mother's parting kiss yet warm upon their sweet lips.

There seems to be happiness enough in the world, but it never comes to her. Her little basket is quite empty, and now faint and hungry, she leans against that window. There is a lovely lady, who has passed in. She is buying cakes and bon bons for her little girl as if she had the purse of Fortunatus. How nice it must be to be warm, and have enough to eat. Poor Meta! She has tasted nothing since she was sent forth with a curse in the morning, to beg or—steal, and the tears will come; there is happiness and plenty in the world—but none for Meta!

Not so fast little one! Warm hearts beat sometimes under silk and velvet. That lady has caught sight of your little woe-begone face and shivering form. Oh! what if it were her child?—and obeying a sweet maternal impulse she passes out of the door, takes those little benumbed fingers in her dainty gloved hands, and leads the child, wondering, shy and bewildered, into fairy land.

A delightful and novel sensation of warmth creeps over those frozen limbs—a faint color tinges the pale cheeks, and the eyes grow liquid and lovely, as Meta raises them thankfully to her benefactress. The lady's little girl looks with an innocent joy, and learns for the first time, how 'blessed are the merciful.'

And then Meta passes out with a *heavy basket* and a *light heart*. Surely the street has grown wider and the sky brighter! Meta's form is erect *now!* her step is as light as a child's should be. The sunshine of human love has brightened her pathway! Ah, Meta! earth is not all darkness—bright angels yet walk on the earth. Sweet-voiced Pity and heaven-eyed Charity sometimes stoop to bless. God's image is only marred, not destroyed. He who feeds the ravens, bends to listen. Look *upward* little Meta!

We have not had a quarrel, says the Boston Transcript, these many years, that did not grow out of tobacco juice. In an omnibus, not long since, a well dressed "stranger" of rather formidable proportions, in dispensing his salivary favors, sent a brown colored rivulet over our glazed boot. We called his attention to it. He turned away with a careless remark that it was an accident. We requested him to wipe the boot. He looked at us with an incredulous stare, and shook his head; whereupon we quietly lifted our foot, and very carefully wiped the boot upon his new broadcloth indispensables. The tobacco-chewer began to roll up his sleeves as if preparing to take hold of us, but a burst of applause from three or four gentlemen passengers, who were witnesses of the provocation and the punishment, checked him, and he settled back in his seat with the remark:—"Well stranger, I don't know but you have done just what I should have done under the same circumstances."

A Valuable Hen.—The Rochester Daily Advertiser says that Mr. Recker less than a year ago purchased a pair of Cochin China Fowls from the proceeds of which since that time, he has realized $433. The Chickens sold for $10 per pair and the Eggs for $4 per dozen.

A GENTEEL SKINNING.

We have not often met with a better thing than the following good natured rebuke administered to that everlasting talker, the Hon. Abraham Venable, by his democratic friend, Mr. Nabers of Mississippi:—

Mr. NABERS. Mr. Chairman, I had hoped that this short session of Congress would be appropriated entirely to business, and that members, as far as lay in their power, would avoid speaking altogether. I have observed that rule, so far as I am concerned. The published proceedings of the House will show, I think, that I have not occupied five minutes time in debate, from the commencement of the session up to the present hour. Sir, I have not refrained from speaking because I did not desire to speak; for I am free to confess that I am exceedingly fond of speaking. But I have never yet satisfied myself that it would be proper to speak, if in doing so, the legitimate and proper business of the country would be retarded. The particular kind of debate, however, which sprung up on yesterday, and which was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina, [Mr. Venable,] has led me to a wish to occupy some twenty or thirty minutes of the time of the committee.

I was deeply impressed on yesterday with the idea that the very first speech I ever heard made by the gentleman from North Carolina was notoriously out of order; but by the courtesy of the committee it was allowed to go on nearly to the close of his hour, in utter violation of the rules of order; and allow me to say that the first speech I ever had the desire to make was in reply to that made by the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, though, as a matter of course, if made at all it must have been made out of order. It will be recollected, therefore, that in rising to reply to the gentleman from North Carolina, on a former occasion, knowing as I did that I must reply to him out of order, if at all, I notified the committee that if they intended to call me to order, I desired they would do it at the beginning, and not subject me, young, modest, and inexperienced as I am, [laughter,] to perpetual embarrassment by points of order. Well, sir, some gentleman from the Old Dominion was kind enough to take me at my word, and call me to order, and thereby saved the time of the House, and perhaps saved me from inconvenience in not being allowed to go on and occupy my hour.

But, sir, do not understand me as taking any particular exception to the remarks of the gentleman from North Carolina on yesterday. But I submit to the gentleman himself, and to the committee, whether a lecture from him with regard to the rules of the House, and with regard to the decorum of members, comes with a good grace? Now, sir, a gentleman should not lecture his fellow-members upon matters of decorum, unless he is well satisfied that he comes here with clean hands. Sir, I undertake to say now, that if every member of this House had occupied as much time in debate during this short session as the gentleman from North Carolina has, there never would have been time to have taken one vote.—[Laughter.] The calculation is easily made.—We have but three months in the session altogether. Now, the gentleman from North Carolina, some time ago, occupied one hour in making a speech against sicaling Cuba, or against filibustering. Yesterday he occupied another hour in speaking against the rules of this House. There are two hours, aside from his innumerable little incidental speeches every day or two. [Laughter.] All this time has been occupied by the gentleman from North Carolina during the present session of Congress. Now, appropriate as much time as that to every member upon this floor, and I say you would not have time to take a single vote, or transact any business during the session. You could not pass your deficiency bill, or any sort of bill. The House will recollect that we are in session not more than three or four hours, ordinarily, in any one day, and they can in a moment make the calculation of how much time we should have to transact business if we all were to occupy as much time in speaking as the gentleman from North Carolina has done.

Well, sir, in noticing, as the gentleman did on yesterday, the useless consumption of time in this House, I was surprised that he should pass over one very prolific source by which the valuable time of the House is destroyed, and that is by making precisely such speeches as the gentleman has been regularly in the habit of making this session—I believe the ordinary term is "Buncombe." Who does not know that the Cuba question has never been regularly before this House? Who does not know that no proposition to remedel or to amend our rules has been submitted to the House? Yet two hours have been occupied by one single member during the present session in the discussion of such questions as these. Well, sir, it is well enough for a member to make a speech to inform his constituents that he is "right side up with care." [Laughter.]—But, sir, as I have accidentally mentioned Cuba, I will say that I should like very much to make a speech upon that subject if I had the opportunity; but as it is, I will only make one remark with regard to the speech of the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina on that subject. He observed, among other things, that he had yielded to the wishes of the people of his State in regard to what are called the compromise measures. Sir, I recollect very distinctly that the gentleman from North Carolina opposed those measures, and chiefly for the reason then assigned by him, that its effect would be to restrict the area of slavery. But in his speech the other day, he opposes the acquisition of Cuba for the reason that its acquisition would go to extend the area of slavery, or would draw slaves away from his and other States.

Mr. VENABLE. Will the gentleman allow me a word by way of correction?

Mr. NABERS. The gentleman from North Carolina made so heavy a speech against these—

A MEMBER. "Injections."

Mr. NABERS. Yes, "injections," that I hardly know whether I ought to allow the gentleman. I am rather unwilling to submit to the infliction. [Laughter.]

Mr. VENABLE. I only wished to correct the gentleman in point of fact.

Mr. NABERS. If the gentleman is under the impression that I have misstated what he has said, I will allow him time to correct.

Mr. GIDDINGS. I desire to know whether, under the Baltimore platform, these gentlemen have the right to agitate? I raise that question of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is not a legitimate one for the Chair to decide.

Mr. VENABLE. I am doubly indebted to the courtesy of my friend from Mississippi, which I assure him I asked with great reluctance. I objected to the compromise measures because they limited the area of slavery upon our own territory. But I object to filibustering, and the acquisition of Cuba, because we have no right to extend the area of slavery upon the territory belonging to anybody else.

Mr. NABERS. Mr. Chairman, it is no part of my purpose to speak upon that subject. The speeches of the gentleman from North Carolina upon the various subjects to which I have alluded, are in print, and any one, therefore, who feels sufficient interest in the subject to ascertain his opinions can examine them; but I think *the reason* against the acquisition of Cuba was a very strange one coming from *him*—very strange. There may be, and doubtless are, good reasons why Cuba should not be annexed; but I ask the gentleman himself whether *this* particular reason does not sound strangely as compared with his uniform arguments touching the interests of the slaveholding States of the Union?

But I desire to confine myself mainly to some points with regard to our rules. The gentleman from North Carolina seems solicitous to make the impression that if every member of the House had been as anxious to promote the business of the House as he was himself, these bills for the relief of injured orphans and suffering widows, and everything of that sort, would not now be undisposed of; but your entire calendar of private bills would have been cleared. Every claimant upon the justice of the Government would be satisfied. But I have already shown you that according to his mode of advancing the public business, it would be totally and utterly impossible to transact any business at all. It will be remembered, that a short time since a resolution passed providing for holding night sessions; and would any member who heard the speech of the distinguished member from North Carolina have supposed for a single moment that he fought those night sessions to the death? But he did oppose them. Yet if his speech of yesterday remains unanswered, the impression will be created throughout the country that these night sessions were opposed by every member in the House, except the gentleman from North Carolina, who desires so much the passage of every private and public bill before Congress.

There is another incident which occurred during the gentleman's speech, to which I ask the attention of the House for a moment. He made a labored argument against the rules of this House; but at the conclusion of that speech, he wound up by the candid confession that he knew nothing about them. In the progress of his remarks, the gentleman ought to have said that one great reason why the business of the country is so much retarded, is because we speak so much upon questions about which we know nothing, or, in other words, we speak so much upon the "*third head.*"

Several Members. What is that?

Mr. NABERS. I will tell you. Upon a certain occasion, a speaker got up and said to his audience, "Gentlemen, in the first place, I will tell you what I know and you do not know; in the second place, I will tell you what you know and I do not know; and, in the third place, I will tell you what *neither you nor I know anything about.*" [Great laughter.] Now, the speech of my distinguished friend from North Carolina against the rules, in this House, was, by his own confession, a "*third head*" speech, [renewed laughter;] for it was a speech in relation to a subject of which, by his own acknowledgment, he knew nothing.

Now, it is a rule of universal application, that we should never condemn that about which we are not informed; for if you act upon this principle, what cannot you condemn? You may condemn the best system of government the world has ever seen. You may condemn, if you choose, the very light which comes from God out of heaven. I repeat, there is nothing you may not condemn, if you condemn everything you do not understand.

There was another fancy touch in the speech of the gentleman from North Carolina, and that is the foul monster—a majority; I do not know that the gentleman meant to leave the impression upon the public mind that our Government or our list of rules, which can be controlled by a majority, is the fearful tyrant of which he spoke. But I do not hesitate to say, if he means to create the impression that our Government, where the will of a majority rules, is oppressive and tyrannical, that he knows as little about the Government as he does about our rules. [Laughter.] Every man in our Government is conscious that such is not the fact. We know that our limbs are unfettered, our minds are free, and that we never have, and never will call any man master. The gentleman refers to the one-man power, and to the will of the majority. But is it not a notorious fact that the very rules upon which this assault has been made, were designed to protect the rights of the minority? And has not that gentleman himself resorted to the privilege given by the rules to stave off what are believed to be unwholesome measures—to a call for the yeas and nays, motions to adjourn, and to the various other stratagems known to the rules by which you may stave off unwholesome measures? I have no doubt that gentleman himself has often resorted to those means that are called revolutionary, for the purpose of defeating measures to which he is opposed, and when the gentleman succeeds, he puts on as complacent an air as any gentleman I ever had the pleasure of meeting.—[Laughter.] All right. All perfectly in accordance with law, the rules, and the Constitution—provided that the particular taste of the gentleman from North Carolina is satisfied, but if not, it is all tyranny and oppression.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know that I can notice all the vulnerable points which I observed in the gentleman's speech of yesterday; but there are one or two others to which I must pay a passing compliment. Among the other subjects of complaint on yesterday, was one against the hour rule, by which speeches are limited to that time. In my humble judgment, it is the most sensible rule this House ever adopted. I do not know, if we would adopt a rule to limit speeches to one half hour, but it would be better than the hour rule which we now have. But am I authorized to infer from the gentleman's complaint against the one hour rule, that he measures the value of his speech by its volume? I hope not, because it is notorious to almost every individual who hears me to day, that the most unmeaning speeches are generally the most voluminous.—Why, a man who is in the habit of talking any how about little or nothing, can talk a day or two about nothing at all. [Laughter.] I believe either myself, or the gentleman from North Carolina can do it. [Renewed laughter.] Well, sir, if we are to have such members, in this or the other branch of Congress, what will be the result? Why, sir, they will kill off any measure by speaking against time. But sir, in a body, embracing so large a number of members as ours, if the rule as to the time to be occupied in debate is unlimited, it is notorious that among talking members like myself, and a few others I could name, we never should reach the legitimate and proper business for which we are assembled here under the Constitution and laws of the country.

I was astonished that the gentleman from North Carolina should have acknowledged that there was anything which he did not understand, and especially the rules of this House. He has been here six years. Could not a hundred and forty or a hundred and fifty rules be understood in that time? It is certainly a very strange position. I will venture the assertion that in his school-boy days, his teacher compelled him to learn double that quantity in less than twelve months. It seems that a generous and confiding constituency have given him a seat upon this floor for six years, and yet he is totally uninformed in regard to the rules which govern this body. Now a great many people, who are unsophisticated, would say that if that gentleman had applied himself with any degree of industry for six years to the study of our rules, and could not understand them, it would be time to quit. [Laughter.] A great many would come to the conclusion, if a hundred and fifty rules could not be understood in six years, it is rather a failure. [Renewed laughter.] That would be only twenty-five rules a year. Now what an effect is this announcement of the gentleman from North Carolina calculated to have upon young aspiring gentlemen like myself? [Laughter.] It would be tantamount to a sort of a hopeless task." But I am standing of them as a hopeless task." However, willing to give them more than one trial. [Laughter.] I believe myself, that any member of this body who sincerely desires to be acquainted with the rules, can do so, at least to the extent to be enabled to keep himself in order; and I tell you, sir, it is a disgrace to some members of this House, when I come to say that when each member is supposed to be well acquainted with the rules to keep himself in order, there will be no danger of a repetition of those disorganizing scenes which now occur almost every day on the floor of this House, if we promise to keep myself in order from this time forward till the adjournment. It is only fourteen days, and during that time, I think I can behave myself. I presume that every member can do the same good behaviour during that time, at least, if fourteen days be excepted. [Laughter.]

The session must soon terminate, and a question will be submitted to a good many of my constituents before we again return here, as to the capability of understanding the rules and doing a great many other genteel things. [Laughter.] What will be the result of their decision I am not prepared to say; but it is the nature of man, and the gentleman from North Carolina and myself, especially, as we have the lamp of logic so fully developed, to believe that everything will be propitious. [Laughter.] We do not doubt but the next Congress to be thrown into gloom by the sad and certained fact that we are not to be here. So much we love the country too well for anything of the sort. [Laughter.] And I have not a particle of doubt that we will go home and tell our people that we are, to the best of our knowledge and belief, among the cleverest of men.

I will now follow the example of my distinguished friend from North Carolina, who, when he gives what are called down in my part of the country "scissors," never fails to wind up by applying the scissors. No matter how severly he may have scissored his antagonist, he generally closes by a blandishment and tells him that no harm was intended, that he did not mean no harm to the gentleman from North Carolina. The first speech I desired to make was intended to be in reply to one of that gentleman, but I did not get an opportunity to make it, and I trust there never will be any occasion in the future for the slightest conflict between that gentleman and myself. I think, however, that he commits some very serious mistakes. I think, further, that the entire weight of this Government is not on his shoulders. [Laughter.] That is the error my friend labors under. He seems to be greatly impressed with the fact that the well being and success of this House and the Government largely depends on his own individual exertions. If he does not say that he believes [Laughter.]

[Here the hammer fell.]

Extravagance of the Times.—A New York correspondent of the Boston Transcript writes home what he calls some plain truths about the extravagance of our people here, which is too true in the main; and as the truth ought to be told, we quote:

"In respect to extravagance in other things New Yorkers are now in advance of all former times. The rage for showy and costly furniture for private dwellings, far exceeds the emulation which exists between the rival hotels up town. As a matter of curiosity, a few of the fashionable styles of parlor ornament will be stated. One of the latest patterns of parlor tables or light stands is made of the richest decorated French porcelain set in a gilt frame and stand. These are very beautiful; the price ranges from $200 to $500, according to the value of the painting.

"French porcelain ornamental gas fixtures for the mantel, are imported and sold for $150 apiece. A pair of bronzed mantel candelabras, with a vase for a centre piece, are for sale at $600 a set. An importer stated that he had sold four sets for one house, at $3000. A novel and unique mantel clock valued at $500—would be a rich mantel ornament. This clock has no hands. The hours and minutes are denoted by figures which move like a modern, whist counter. One firm here have a small mantel clock for which they ask $1200. Two birds come out and sing from the clock each hour. Bronzed vases with handles are plenty at $300. Porcelain tea sets of tea and six pieces are held at $180 a set. And so one could go through the list of household articles of elegance and utility, and name prices that would not do except in an "age of gold." It cannot fail to call to mind the common illustration suggested by the uppish tendency of property in this city, and to state that we are witnessing the brilliant ascent of the rocket, no less certain descent of the valueless stick not be so agreeable, particularly if it should fall on us, or near to us."

A Touch of Nature.—A car full of passengers recently passed over the Western railroad, which occurred a simple but touching incident worthy of record. One of the passengers was a woman, carrying in her arms a child, which cried every one by its petulance and cries. From mile after mile the passengers bore the infliction of the noise, which rather increased than diminished until at last it became furious, and the passengers nearly so. There were open complaints, and one man shouted, "take the child out. The woman stopped at a station, when an old gentleman went and made the simple statement that the child had died recently away from home, that the mother had been on a visit to her friends and had died while on the visit; that her husband was on board the train; and that the child was in the arms of a woman who was a stranger to it. It was enough. There was a tear in every eye, and all were melted into perfect patience. All selfishness was lost in the desolation of the poor little wanderer. They would have found a warm welcome in each heart a moment before, would almost have taken it with a blow.—*Springfield (Mass.) Republican.*

A Chinese preacher in a Christian pulpit is a novel incident of the times, yet such an incident we notice, in which in the services of Christ Church, Savannah, on the evening of the 4th in aid of the cause of the Episcopal Mission in China, Tong Choo Keang, a christianized Chinaman, and a pupil of the Missionary School at Shanghai, making a touching and effective appeal on behalf of his benighted countrymen. The address was simple and affecting, and consisted of the great difference between the idioms of the Chinese and English languages, was pronounced distinctly, and with great correctness. Among other things, he said, that, when he arrived in New York, he was astonished at the fine buildings he saw on every side, such as were not seen in China. This enabled him to judge better than before the difference between Christian countries, where God is worshipped, and Idols. Shall not China be thus blessed? He told you that you sent a bishop and ministry to him whom I was brought to the knowledge of God. But you have not yet sent enough. China is a large country, and children are taught from the ignorance of the true God.