

GENERAL HARRISON IN CONGRESS.

The following valuable extracts are given from a small Pamphlet with the above title, agreeably to promise.

GEN. HARRISON, though not old enough to have been a sage of the Revolution, he is the son of a distinguished age of the Revolution, in the midst of which he was born, and in the course of which his mind was trained and disciplined.

In the second place, Gen. Harrison, with a taste which may be said to have been native to the air which he first breathed, ripened by his young admiration of the heroic virtues of the first great men of the Revolution, his familiarity with the annals of the ancient Republics, and to their study and reminiscences he retains much of the early attachment of a classic student.

The dominant influence of these two circumstances in Gen. Harrison's early life is visibly impressed on his speeches, his writings and his actions.

The following sentiment of the great English moralist, on the occasion of his visit to the classic ground of the Hebrides, may be said to be almost the ruling passion of the Soldier of Tippecanoe:

"Far from me and my friends be such frigid philology as may conduct us indifferently and unmoved over any ground which has been dignified by wisdom, bravery, or virtue."

Gen. Harrison took his seat as a member of the House of Representatives on the opening of the Second Session of the Fourteenth Congress, (December 2, 1816.)

On the next day, being the first day after the organization of the House, Gen. Harrison moved the following resolution, in which the reader will perceive the germ of the provision afterwards made for the surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary war:

"Resolved, That the Military Committee be instructed to report a bill providing for the relief of such officers and soldiers who, having faithfully served in the armies of the United States, are now indigent or disabled by their wounds, or for other reasons, and who, not having received wounds or disabilities whilst in actual service, are excluded from the benefits of the pension laws."

On presenting this resolution, Gen. Harrison said: "It had been his intention to offer with this resolution some observations upon the matter to the House: but, understanding that this course was not considered wholly proper on originating a motion, he should reserve his remarks for another stage of the business."

He did so with the less reluctance, since any remarks he should have made would have been with a view to enlist the feelings of the House, and he felt, on reflection, convinced that such remarks must be wholly unnecessary on this occasion, and that the HEART OF EVERY AMERICAN WOULD BEAT IN UNISON WITH THE OBJECT HE HAD IN VIEW.

He had made the resolution as broad as possible, that it might afford to the committee a choice of the various modes of accomplishing the object proposed to be committed to them."

The resolution thus moved, having been modified on the suggestion of an experienced member of the House, an assent to it, according to usage, discretionary with the committee to report by bill or otherwise, was moved without opposition.

Though nothing definite in reference to the subject was done at this Session of Congress, (the two Houses having their hands full of other business of more immediate urgency,) it is plainly evident that it was this proposition which led the way to the provision for the survivors of the Revolutionary war; a measure which circles the fame of this Republic with a glory the ancient Republics could not boast of, by exhibiting to the world the most beautiful example on record of A NATION'S GRATITUDE.

It was not until the following session of Congress that the first act on the subject was passed. At the opening of that Session, Mr. Monroe, who also had veneration for the principles and actors of the Revolution strongly impressed upon his character—not the less strongly from his having been himself personally associated with its trials and perils—introduced the subject to Congress in the following appropriate and touching terms, following very nearly, the reader will perceive, the language of Gen. Harrison's proposition at the preceding Session of Congress:

"In contemplating the happy situation of the United States, our attention is drawn, with peculiar interest, to the surviving officers and soldiers of our Revolutionary army, who so uniformly contributed, by their services, to lay its foundations. Most of those worthy meritorious citizens have paid the debt of Nature, and gone to repose. It is believed that, among the survivors, there are some not provided for by existing laws, who are reduced to indigence, and even to real distress."

"These men have a claim on the gratitude of their country, a few years more, and the opportunity will be forever lost. Indeed, so long already has been the interval, that the number to be benefited by any provision which may be made will not be great."

Of the select committee to which this part of the message was referred, Gen. Harrison would doubtless have been made Chairman, but that Gen. Bloomfield, much his senior in years and in date of service, a soldier of the Revolution, (as well as of the war of 1812.) had come into Congress as a Representative from New Jersey, and it was almost a matter of course that the subject should be placed in his charge. With him were associated other Revolutionary worthies, Col. Tallmadge, of Connecticut, an experienced officer of the Revolution, (also Senior to Gen. H.) being next on the Committee.

This Committee was not long in deliberating upon the measure: for on the 12th of the same month in which it was appointed, the

Committee reported a bill to provide, again almost in the terms of Gen. Harrison's original proposition, for the relief of such officers and soldiers (and sailors) who have faithfully served, &c. and are now "in reduced circumstances of life."

In the discussion of this bill, Gen. H. took an active part, advocating, however, a just discrimination between actual services and the merely being mustered in the army without any length of time. Sustaining this discrimination, he opposed an amendment proposing to allow the proposed pension to "every officer or soldier who served in any manner during the Revolutionary war, and now surviving," arguing it as follows:

"The amendment now proposed, he said, went too far, because it would embrace every one who had shouldered a musket, even for an hour, during the Revolutionary war. As to those who had seen serious service, so far from having a claim to the deed of liberty, the amendment would be but a measure of justice, as no bounty had been accorded to them. Persons, however, covered with scars and borne down by length of service in those days, ought not to be confounded with those who had been called out for an hour or a day. Some of the MILITIA, he thought, were as well entitled to this pension as any regulars, of whom the Jersey militia might be particularly mentioned. But he wished to have the operation of the bill limited to such as should have served six months or more."

This bill passed the House of Representatives before Christmas day, showing a marvellous despatch of business in the House of Representatives, in comparison with the usage in the same body at the present day, and, what is still more remarkable, the yeas and nays were not even called upon its passage.

Such was the good feeling then prevailing among the members of the House, that the majority would not expose to invidious imputation, by requiring a record of their names, those whose objections to the details of the bill might have induced them to vote against it.

The bill which passed the House so promptly, did not so readily obtain the assent of the Senate; but it finally passed that body towards the end of February following, (yeas 23, nays 8.) and now stands on the statute-book as the act of March 15, 1818, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war."

A few days after the transmission of this bill to the Senate, Gen. Harrison submitted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed jointly with such committee as may be appointed on the part of the Senate, to consider and report what measures it may be proper to adopt to manifest the public respect for the memory of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, formerly an officer in the service of the United States, and the uniform and distinguished friend of Liberty and the Rights of man."

In this proposition the ruling passion of the mover, his enthusiastic admiration of the principles of the Revolution, and his zeal in behalf of liberty in general, and of the rights of man, are plainly developed.

But it is to the following speech delivered on that occasion, extracted from the file of the National Intelligencer, that we bespeak the particular attention of our readers:

On presenting the above resolution, Gen. Harrison addressed the House as follows:

"The public papers have announced an event which is well calculated to excite the sympathy of every American bosom. Kosciuszko, the martyr of Liberty, is no more! We are informed that he died at Solsere, in France, some time in October last."

"In tracing the events of this great man's life, we find in him that consistency of conduct which is the more to be admired as it is so rarely to be met with. He was not at one time the friend of mankind, and at another the instrument of their oppression; but he preserved throughout his whole career, and in the principles which distinguished him, his commencement, which influenced him, at an early period of his life, to leave his country and his friends, and in another hemisphere to fight for the rights of humanity."

"Kosciuszko was born and educated in Poland, of a noble and distinguished family—a country where the distinctions in society are perhaps carried to greater lengths than in any other. His Grecian ancestors, however, earned him with a noble and ardent spirit, the narrow prejudices of a narrow breaking the shackles which..."

"His rank in the American army afforded him no opportunity to distinguish himself. But he was eminent throughout his career for all the qualities which adorn the human character. His heroic valor in the field could only be equalled by his moderation and affability in the walks of private life. He was idolized by the soldiers for his bravery, and beloved and respected by the officers for the goodness of his heart and the great qualities of his mind."

"Contributing greatly, by his exertions, to the establishment of the independence of America, he might have remained, and shared the blessings of peace, under the protection of a chief who loved and honored him, and in the bosom of a grateful and affectionate people."

"Kosciuszko had, however, other views. It is not known that, until the period I am speaking of, he had formed any distinct idea of what could, or indeed what ought to be done for his own. But in the Revolutionary war he drank deeply of the principles which produced it. In his conversations with the intelligent men of our country, he acquired new views of the science of government and the rights of man. He had seen, too, that, to be free, it was only necessary that a nation should will it; and, to be happy, it was only necessary that a nation should be free."

"And was it not possible to procure these blessings for Poland—for Poland, the country of his birth, which had a claim to all his efforts, to all his services? That unhappy nation groaned under a complication of evils which has scarcely a parallel in history. The mass of the people were the abject slaves of the nobles; the nobles, torn into factions, were alternately the instruments and victims of their powerful and ambitious neighbors. By intrigue, corruption, and force, some of their fair provinces had been separated from the Republic, and the people, like beasts, transferred to foreign despotisms, who were again watching for a favorable moment for a second dismemberment. To regenerate a people thus debased, to obtain for a country thus circumstanced the blessings of liberty and independence, was a work of as much difficulty as a danger. But, to a mind like Kosciuszko's, the difficulty and danger of an enterprise served as stimulants to undertake it."

"The annals of these times give us no detailed account of the progress of Kosciuszko in accomplishing his great work, from the period of his return from America to the adoption of the new Constitution of Poland, in 1791. This interval, however, of apparent inaction, was most usefully employed in illumine the mental darkness which enveloped his countrymen. To stimulate the ignorant and bigoted peasantry with the hope of future emancipation—to teach a proud but gallant nobility that true glory is only to be found in the paths of duty and patriotism—interests the most stubborn, and habits the most inveterate, were reconciled, dissipated, and broken, by the ascendancy of his virtues and example. The storm

which he had foreseen, and for which he had been preparing, at length burst upon Poland. A feeble and unpopular Government began to yield, and the national indignation followed its example; in their extremity every eye was turned to the hero who had already fought their battles, the sage who had enlightened them, and the patriot who had set the example of personal sacrifices to accomplish the emancipation of his people."

"Kosciuszko was unanimously appointed generalissimo of Poland, with unlimited powers, until the enemy should be driven from the country. On his virtuous mind reposed with the utmost confidence; and it is some consolation to reflect, amidst the general depravity of mankind, that two instances, in the same age, have occurred, where powers of this kind were employed solely for the purposes for which they were given."

"It is not my intention, sir, to follow the Polish Chief throughout the career of victory which, for a considerable time, crowned his efforts. Guided by his military genius, he led his multiplied, ill-armed militia charged with effect the veteran Russian and Prussian; the mailed cuirassiers of the great Frederick, for the first time, broke and fled before the lighter and more appropriate cavalry of Poland. Hope flattered the breasts of the patriots. After a long night, the dawn of an apparently glorious day broke upon Poland. But to the discerning eye of Kosciuszko, the light which it shed was that of a sickly and portentous appearance, indicating a storm more dreadful than that which he had resisted."

"He prepared to meet it with firmness, but with means entirely inadequate. To the advantages of numbers, of tactics, of discipline, and exhaustive resources, the combined despoils had secured a faction in the heart of Poland. And, if that country can boast of having produced its Washington, it is disgraced also by giving birth to a second Arnold. The day at length came which was to decide the fate of a nation and a hero. Heaven, for wise purposes, determined that it should be the last of Polish liberty. It was decided, indeed, before the battle commenced. The traitor Poniaki, who covered with a detachment the advance of the Polish army, abandoned his position to the enemy, and retreated."

"Kosciuszko was astonished, but not dismayed. The disposition of his army would have done honor to Hannibal. The succeeding conflict was terrible. When the talents of the General could no longer direct the mingled mass of combatants, the arm of the warrior was brought to the aid of his soldiers. He performed prodigies of valor. The faded prowess of Ajax in defending the Grecian ships was realized by the Polish hero. Nor was he badly seconded by his troops. As long as his voice could guide, or his example fire their valor, they were true to him. In this crucial contest Kosciuszko was long seen, and finally lost to their view."

"Hope for a season bade the world farewell, 'And Freedom shrieked when Kosciuszko fell.' He fell, covered with wounds, but still survived. A Cossack would have pierced his breast, when an officer interposed. 'Suffer him to execute his purpose,' said the bleeding hero; 'I am the devoted soldier of my country, and will not survive its liberties.' The name of Kosciuszko struck to the heart of the Tartar, like that of Marius upon the Cambrian warrior. The uplifted weapon dropped from his hand."

"Kosciuszko was conveyed to the dungeons of Petersburg, and to the eternal disgrace of the Emperor Catherine, she made him the object of her vengeance, when he could be no longer the object of fear. Her more generous son restored him to liberty. The remainder of his life has been spent in virtuous retirement. Whilst in this situation in France, an anecdote is related of him which strongly illustrates the command which his virtues and his services had obtained over the minds of his countrymen."

"In a late invasion of France, some Polish regiments, in the service of Russia, passed through the village in which he lived. Some pillaging of the inhabitants brought Kosciuszko from his cottage. 'When I was a Polish soldier,' said he, addressing the plunderers, 'the property of the peaceful citizen was respected.' 'And who art thou,' said an officer, 'who address us with this tone of authority?' 'I am Kosciuszko.' There was magic in the word. It ran from corps to corps. The march was suspended. They gathered round him, and gazed with admiration on the object which he presented."

"Could it indeed be their hero, whose fame was identified with that of their country? A thousand interesting reflections burst upon their minds; they remembered his patriotism, his devotion to liberty, his triumphs, and his glorious fall. Their iron hearts were softened, and the tear of sensibility trickled down their weather-beaten faces. We can easily conceive, sir, what would be the feelings of the hero himself in such a scene. His great heart must have been laid open, and he would have been surrounded by the emotions of his glory; and that he would have been upon the point of saying to them, 'I am Kosciuszko.'"

"The delusion could have lasted but for a moment. He was himself a miserable cripple; and, for them! they were no longer the soldiers of liberty, but the instruments of ambition and tyranny. Overwhelmed with grief at the reflection, he would retire to his cottage, to mourn afresh over the miseries of his country."

"Such was the man, sir, for whose memory I speak from an American Congress a slight tribute of respect. Not, sir, to perpetuate his fame, but our gratitude—his fame will last as long as liberty remains upon the earth, and as long as a vote is offered upon her altar, the name of Kosciuszko will be invoked. And if, by the common consent of the world, a temple shall be erected to those who have rendered most service to mankind—the statue of our great countryman shall occupy the place of the 'Most Worthy,' that of Kosciuszko will be found by his side, and the wreath of laurel will be entwined with the palm of virtue to adorn his brow."

It does not at all detract from the merit of this admirable eulogium on the character of the gallant and true-hearted Pole, that Gen. Harrison did not succeed in his motion. It appeared, when the matter came to be examined, that the proposed proceeding was against precedent, Congress having therefore, in the case of native officers of equal rank to Kosciuszko, declined adopting similar measures, when proposed. But the Speech is on record, and no one can deprive its author of the merit of a production, of which any living orator might well be proud.

(To be continued.)

A Historical Celebration of the adoption of the first Civil Constitution by the Colony of Connecticut, then consisting of the towns of Hartford, Windsor and Weathersfield, took place in Hartford on the 21st ult., under the direction of the Connecticut Historical Society. It was numerously attended.

Hymns were sung composed for the occasion; prayer offered by the Rev. Dr. Field; the old Constitution of 1739 was read; the 78th psalm was also read from the old version of Sternhold and Hopkins, and a historical discourse delivered by Noah Webster, Esq. when another hymn was sung, and the exercises closed with prayer by Rev. Mr. Bacon, and the benediction.

On Sunday morning the large flouring mill, the property of Mr. NATHAN TYSON, situated about three miles from the city of Baltimore, on the Falls road, was completely destroyed by fire. The fire was communicated from one of the kilns by accident, and before the services of the city firemen, who went out with their apparatus, could be made effectual, the building was consumed, and but little of its contents saved.

THE SMITHSONIAN LEGACY.

The able Report of Mr. Adams, the Chairman of the Committee appointed on this subject, appears in two or three numbers of the National Intelligencer, of a late date. We regret that the document is too extensive to be copied at large into the Register at present. We publish, with pleasure, the following extract from it:

From the papers transmitted to Congress with the message of the President, it appears that James Smithson, a foreigner, of noble family and affluent fortune, did, by his last will and testament, made in the year 1820; bequeath, under certain contingencies which have since been realized, and with certain exceptions, for which provision was made by the same will, the whole of his property, of an amount exceeding four hundred thousand dollars, to the United States of America to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of Knowledge among men."

In the acceptance of this bequest, and to the assumption and fulfilment of the high and honorable duties involved in the performance of the trust committed with it, the Congress of the United States, in their legislative capacity, are alone competent. Your committee believe, not only that they are thus competent, but that it is enjoined upon them, by considerations of the most imperative and indispensable obligation. The first step necessary to be taken for carrying into effect the benevolent intentions of the testator, must be to obtain the possession of the funds now held by the Messrs. Drummond, bankers in London, executors of Mr. Smithson's will, and subject to the superintendence, custody, and adjudication of the Lord Chancellor of England. To enable the President of the United States to effect this object, the committee report herewith a bill.

Your committee think they would perfectly discharge their duty to the House, to their country, to the world of mankind, or to the donor of this most munificent bequest, were they to withhold a few brief reflections, which have occurred to them in the consideration of the subject referred to the House—reflections arising from the condition of the testator, from the nature of the bequest, and from the character of the trustee to whom this great and solemn charge has been confided.

The testator, James Smithson, a subject of Great Britain, declare himself, in the caption to the will, a descendant in blood from the Percys and the Seymours, two of the most illustrious historical names of the British Islands. Nearly two centuries since, in 1660, the ancestor of his own name, Hugh Smithson, immediately after the restoration of the royal family of the Stuarts, received from Charles the Second, as a reward for his eminent services to that house during the civil war, the dignity of a baronet of England—a dignity still held by the Dukes of Northumberland, as descendants from the same Hugh Smithson.

The father of the testator, by his marriage with the Lady Elizabeth Seymour, who was descended by a female line from the ancient Percys, and by the subsequent creation of George the Third, in 1776, became the first Duke of Northumberland. His son and successor, the brother of the testator, was known in the history of our Revolutionary war by the name of Lord Percy; was present, as a British officer, at the sanguinary opening scene of our Revolutionary war, at Lexington, and at the battle of Bunker Hill; and was the bearer to the British Government of the dispatches from the commander-in-chief of the royal forces, announcing the event of the memorable day; and the present Duke of Northumberland, the testator's nephew, was the ambassador extraordinary of Great Britain, sent to assist at the coronation of the late King of France, Charles the Tenth, a few months only before the date of the bequest from his relative to the United States of America.

The suggestions which present themselves to the mind, by the association of these historical recollections with the condition of the testator, derive additional interest from the nature of the bequest—the devotion of a large estate to an institution "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

Of all the foundations of establishment for pious or charitable uses which ever signalized the spirit of the age, or the comprehensive beneficence of the founder, none can be named more deserving of the approbation of mankind than this. Should it be faithfully carried into effect, with an earnestness and sagacity of application, and a steady perseverance of pursuit, proportioned to the means furnished by the will of the founder, and to the greatness and simplicity of his design, as by himself declared, "the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men," it is no extravagance of anticipation to declare that his name will hereafter be enrolled among the eminent benefactors of mankind.

The attainment of knowledge is the highest exclusive attribute of man, among the numberless myriads of animated beings, inhabitants of the terrestrial globe. On him alone is bestowed, by the bounty of the Creator of the universe, the power and the capacity of acquiring knowledge. Knowledge is the attribute of his nature, which at once enables him to improve his condition upon earth, and to prepare him for the enjoyment of a happier existence hereafter. It is by this attribute that man discovers his own nature as the link between earth and Heaven; as the partaker of an immortal spirit; as created for higher and more durable ends than the countless tribes of beings which people the earth, the ocean, and the air, alternately insinuated with life, and melting into vapor, or mouldering into dust.

To further the means of acquiring knowledge is, therefore, the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind. It prolongs life itself, and enlarges the sphere of existence. The earth was given to man for cultivation, to the improvement of his own condition. Whoever increases his knowledge multiplies the uses to which he is enabled to turn the gift of his Creator to his own benefit, and partakes in some degree of that goodness which is the highest attribute of Omnipotence itself.

If, then, the Smithsonian Institution, under the smile of an approving Providence,

and by the faithful and permanent application of the means furnished by its founder to the purpose for which he has bestowed them, should prove effective to their promotion; if they should contribute essentially to the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men, to what higher or nobler object could this generous and splendid donation have been devoted? The father of the testator, upon forming his alliance with the heiress of the family of the Percys, assumed, by an act of the British Parliament, that name, and under it became Duke of Northumberland. But, renowned as is the name of Percy in the historical annals of England; renowned as it does from the summit of the Cheviot hills, to the ears of our children, in the ballad of Chevy Chase, with the classical commentary of Addison; freshened and renovated in our memory, as it has recently been, from the purest fountain of political inspiration, in the loftier strain of Alwrick Castle, tuned by a bard of our own native land; doubly immortalized as it is in the deathless dramas of Shakespeare; "confident against the world in arms," as it may have been in ages long past, and may still be in the virtues of its present possessors by inheritance; let the trust of James Smithson to the United States of America be faithfully executed by their Representatives in Congress; let the result accomplish his object, "the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men;" and a wreath of more unfading verdure shall entwine itself in the lapse of future ages around the name of Smithson, than the united hands of Tradition, History, and Poetry have braided around the name of Percy, through the long perspective in ages past of a thousand years.

It is, then, a high and solemn trust which the testator has committed to the United States of America, and its execution devolves upon their Representatives in Congress duties of no ordinary importance. The location of the Institution at Washington, prescribed by the testator, gives to Congress the free exercise of all the powers relating to this subject with which they are, by the Constitution, invested as the local Legislature for the District of Columbia. In advertising to the character of the trustees selected by the testator for the fulfilment of his intentions, your committee deem it no indulgence of unreasonable pride to mark it as a signal manifestation of the moral effect of our political institutions upon the opinions, and upon the consequent action of the wise and the good of other regions, and distant climes; even upon that nation from whom we generally boast of our descent, but whom, from the period of our revolution, we have had too often reason to consider as a jealous and envious rival. How different are the sensations which should swell in our bosoms with the acceptance of this bequest! Jas. Smithson, an Englishman, in the exercise of his rights as a free-born Briton, desirous of dedicating his ample fortune to the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men, constitutes for his trustees, to accomplish that object, the United States of America, and fixes upon their seat of Government as the spot where the institution, of which he is the founder, shall be located.

The revolution, which resulted in the independence of these United States, was commenced, conducted, and consummated, under a mere union of confederated States. Subsequently to that period, a more permanent union was formed, combining not only the principle of confederate sovereignties with those of a Government by popular representation, with legislative, executive, and judicial powers, all limited, but coextensive with the whole confederation.

Under this Government, a new experiment in the history of mankind is now drawing to the close of half a century, during which the territory and number of States in the Union have nearly doubled, while their population, wealth, and power have been multiplied more than fourfold. In the process of this experiment, they have gone through the vicissitudes of peace and war, amidst bitter and ardent party collisions, and the unceasing changes of popular elections to the legislative and executive offices, both of the general Confederacy and of the separate States, without a single execution for treason, or a single proscription for a political offence. The whole Government, under the continual superintendence of the whole People, has been holding a steady course of prosperity, unexampled in the contemporary history of other nations, not less than in the annals of ages past. During this period, our country has been freely visited by observers from other lands, and often in no friendly spirit by travellers from the native land of Mr. Smithson. The reports of the prevailing manners, opinions, and social intercourse of the People of this Union, have exhibited no flattering or complacent pictures. All the infirmities and vices of our civil and political condition have been counted and noted, and displayed with no forbearance of severe satirical comment to set them off; yet, after all this, a British subject, of noble birth and ample fortune, desiring to bequeath his whole estate to the purpose of increasing and diffusing knowledge throughout the whole community of civilized man, selects for the depositors of his trust, with confidence unqualified with reserve, the Congress of the United States of America.

In the commission of every trust, there is an implied tribute of the soul to the integrity and intelligence of the trustee; and there is also an implied call for the faithful exercise of those properties to the fulfilment of the purpose of the trust. The tribute and the call acquire additional force and energy when the trust is committed for performance after the decease of him by whom it is granted, when he no longer exists to witness or to constrain the effective fulfilment of the design. This magnitude of the trust, and the extent of the confidence bestowed in the comital of it, do but enlarge and aggravate the pressure of the obligation which it carries with it. The weight of duty imposed is proportioned to the honor conferred by confidence without reserve. Your committee are fully persuaded, therefore, that, with a grateful sense of the honor conferred by the testator upon the political institutions of this Union, the Congress of the United

States, in accepting the bequest, will feel, in all its power and plenitude, the obligation of responding to the confidence reposed by him with all the fidelity, disinterestedness, and perseverance of exertion which may carry into effective execution the noble purpose of an endowment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.

The bill accompanying this report was introduced in the House of Representatives, substituted in the place of the joint resolution which had been received from the Senate. It authorized the President of the United States to appoint an agent or agents to prosecute, in the Court of Chancery in England, the rights of the United States to the bequest of Mr. Smithson, and to recover and pay over the amount of the same into the Treasury of the United States. This bill passed in the House without opposition; was concurred in, without amendment, by the Senate; and, on the 1st of July, 1838, received the approbation of the President of the United States.

After the passage of this act, Richard Rush, Esq. was appointed Agent to go to England and attend this business, and in September, 1838, the sum of \$508,315 was deposited in gold by him in the name of the United States at Philadelphia, being the proceeds of the legacy. Various propositions have been proposed in Congress for disposing of the large sum of money, but nothing has been yet agreed upon. It was supposed that the subject would have been discussed and settled at the present session; but Congress is not expected to remain much longer in session; it is presumed that there will not be time to act definitely upon a subject of so much importance.

EDITOR'S CORRESPONDENCE.

Cincinnati, May 12. I see in the speech of Senator GARDNER at the Baltimore Convention, a quasi appeal to the Postmaster of Cincinnati, who was then in which he insinuates that a Committee of Committees here go to the Post Office, receive, and open the letters of Gen. Harrison, and the Postmaster, now in Washington, in pursuit of a re-appointment, remain quiet during this appeal. The statement, if it is intended for use, is not only false, but has not even a shadow of truth to stand upon, and if not known to be false, by the promulgator of it, was well known to be so by him who was compelled by his humiliating position to receive the appeal in silence.

The abandonment of Col. R. M. Johnson by this Baltimore Convention, to incur the sole benefit of Mr. Van Buren, will not be forgotten nor forgiven by his political friends in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. The news has created not a tumultuous, but yet a profound sensation in the West, and marks so clearly the calculating and blood-poled policy of sacrificing both substance and soldiers for the life of the chief, that injury and insult will be avenged.

The reiterated and prolonged personal warfare the Van Buren party is waging upon Gen. Harrison is developing a feeling in the West, of which you can have no idea from description; and this insult now put by the New York Regency and others upon a patient fellow-soldier of Gen. Harrison at "Thames will but add to this feeling. The corrupt and ruinous measures of the Administration unquestionably have a powerful effect upon all thinking men; but the People are rallying rapidly upon new and more noble enterprises—that of the last war, and calling they thought it in—whether they were well or ill done. You well know that in the West, the leading and most eminent men in Kentucky, Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, were under General Harrison's volunteer soldiers; and when Tippecanoe and Fort Meigs, and the Thames are attacked through Gen. Harrison, the thousands of volunteers who served under him, and whom he always attached to him as personal friends, feel as if they were attacked too, and they make it a personal question.

It does seem to me, looking calmly at things here, that the people are volunteering here now, in the Presidential campaign, just as if they were to drive off Proctor and Cornish again—for the enthusiasm is similar. There is to be, for an example, a convention on the battle ground of Tippecanoe, on the 29th, and people are preparing their tents, camp equipage, their forage, their camp kettles, &c., just as they did when they rallied under Harrison at the call of Meigs and Shelby in the last war. Thousands upon thousands will be on this battle ground on the 29th, and it will be the greatest ever witnessed in the West. I do not like to use language too strong about elections for they are so often uncertain, but I can say with safety now, that Mr. VAN BUREN might just as well attempt to dam up Niagara as to stop this Niagara of Harrisonism in the West. Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois are certain for him as the Mississippi is to run down stream, and Missouri is going to be one of the hardest fought fields in the Union.—National Intelligencer.

UNIFORM BANKRUPT LAW. This very important measure is under discussion in the Senate. We believe there has seldom arisen a question upon which public opinion was more strongly in favor of a law for the discharge of insolvent individuals upon a fair and equitable assignment of their property for the benefit of their creditors. Such a law has been proposed by the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, which appears to us to be simple and adequate in its provisions; and we believe its passage would be hailed as a jubilee throughout the land. But we cannot conceal our fears that the success of the measure will be endangered and defeated, for it presents upon which parties are much divided.

It has been proposed to bring State corporations within the operation of the bill. We could most devoutly wish that if there are any who think Congress has power to make such a regulation of the State Banks, they would still, in mercy to the thousands of unfortunate debtors who now supplicate for a bankrupt law, keep all such measures and propositions distinct and separate from the bill reported by the Committee, which has for its object, viz. the relief of honest debtors who declare themselves insolvent, and wish to give up their property to their creditors.

Fit Greene Hallock.