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CONGRESSIONAL.

SPEECH OF THE HON. MR. SPEIGHT, OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Delivered in the House of Representatives, on the subject of the resolution, submitted by Mr. McDuffie, reducing the per diem allowance of members to two dollars per day, after the sitting of Congress for 120 days, during the long session, and 90 days during the short one.

Mr. SPEIGHT said: He had hoped that when this subject was first brought forward by the gentleman from South Carolina, (Mr. McDuffie,) it would have met with little or no objection. He thought the evil complained of was one obviously plain to the view of every person; and he would venture to say, if gentlemen in this House refused to apply the remedy, the people of the country would not long submit to the impositions that were practised on them. Mr. S. said, he had scarcely heard a single gentleman open his mouth in this debate who had not conceded the point that much time was unnecessarily consumed here in legislation. Yet, when a remedy is proposed, there is such an apparent sensitiveness manifested as almost to preclude the possibility of ever acting on the subject, much more of effecting any thing like a remedy. Sir, the further this debate has progressed the more I have been convinced there is not the least shadow of hope of effecting any thing like retrenchment in this House. We hear it resounded from all sides, that the effect of this resolution will be to cast an imputation on our own conduct. That it is impliedly saying, we do not render an equivalent for the time we consume here in legislation. Sir, I care not what the imputation might be—I am convinced something ought to be done to stop the progress of an evil which, in its tendency, threatens evils of no ordinary magnitude.

He would repeat, again, that he cared not what might be the effect it might have on public opinion; he asserted much unnecessary time was consumed here. Our sessions are too long; and Sir, without intending to cast imputation on the character of any gentleman, my own opinion is, if our wages were curtailed, it would shorten the sessions. Sir, do you confine Congress within its legitimate sphere, and three months in each year is more than sufficient for the legislation of this country. Pass a law commensurate with this resolution, let it become the law of the land that the first session of each Congress shall be limited to four months, and beyond which, the pay of Members shall not exceed \$2 per day; and Sir, my impression is, there would not be many days consumed after the four months expired. Considerable pains, said Mr. S. has been taken by the gentlemen opposed to this resolution, to show that the present session will not exceed those heretofore, on account of time and expense. We have been told that every long session has lasted five months, and, as a matter of course, this must be so too. This, Sir, is the very reason why I am for the new order of things. Sir, "old things are to be done away, and all things are to become new." These are the hallowed days of "retrenchment and reform," and, for the very reasons which gentlemen oppose the resolution, he would support it. The people expect at our hands, a correction of all those abuses which have crept into the Government; and he could assure the House, that there was none which they were more disposed to work at, than the one now complained of. Sir, if this abuse of trust—this profligate waste of public money, has existed coeval with the formation of this Government, it is high time the evil was arrested—"now is the accepted time and day of salvation."

It is high time, indeed, that the laborer should be made to render an equivalent for his hire. He did not mean to impugn the Members of Congress who had preceded him, but he would say, if he were to judge of the past by the present, abuses had existed. We, Sir, commenced our session on the 7th day of December, and what time has elapsed, and what have we done? There is a bill which has been passed of a public nature, save a few appropriations, they have escaped my memory. And, Sir, how many private ones have we passed! Some forty or fifty; and here, Sir, is our indefatigable exertions which gentlemen boast of. Sir, I will state one fact which, in my opinion, carries condemnation with it. During the first month, and until after the Christmas holidays, we met at 12, and adjourned between two and three o'clock; and every week, adjourn over from Thursday till Monday. Two months, Sir, of the first of this session, was spent without doing any thing but undergoing the mere formalities of meeting and adjourning. These are some of the evils which the gentleman from South Carolina proposes to remedy. And yet we are gravely told by gentlemen, that to pass this resolution would imply censure on our own conduct. Sir, for one, I am willing to risk it. If public servants fail to do their master's will, they deserve punishment. He wondered that gentlemen, in the scope of their extraordinary imaginations, had not thought of another censure, the fatal and pernicious consequences of which, in his opinion, was as much to be dreaded as the one before mentioned. It is this: there is an old adage, which said "Touch a galled

horse and he will flinch." Now, Sir, said he, what will be the imaginations of our constituents, when they come to hear that there is so much sensitiveness exercised about reducing the pay of members. Why, Sir, they will suppose, that, indeed, with us, the public good is a matter but of secondary consideration; and the opinion will at least be as natural to suppose that we came here for pecuniary considerations, as that the adoption of this resolution implies a censure on our conduct. Sir, it is true as gospel, that none are so apt to feel the lash of censure as those who are guilty. Sir, far be it from me to impute dishonorable motives to any member of this House. I am only speaking of the effect the course of gentlemen truly sorry that gentlemen have thought proper to oppose this resolution with such violence. The opinions of Mr. Jefferson have been quoted by the gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Smyth.) It is said that he recommended long sessions and short speeches. Mr. S. said he thought the gentleman from Virginia was amongst the last who should complain of long speeches. When the Register of Debates for this session shall be published, the gentleman will not be behind in size or number. The fact was, this session, it had been long speeches and short session, and so it would continue to be unless something was done to check the evil; for if we are to judge from the former conduct evinced in the debates, this is to be a speaking session. On account of some strange fatality or other, we are doomed to do nothing this session. Sir, my honest opinion is, that unless some such measure as the one proposed by the resolution or amendment is adopted, we shall always labor under the difficulty we do now. Gentlemen had railed out against the original resolution, because it would deprive them of a month to stay here. Why, Sir, if the amendment of the gentleman from Massachusetts, (Mr. Everett,) should be adopted, in the two years we should stay as long as we do now. The amendment proposes to limit the long session to four months, and that the short session shall commence the 1st of November; thus allowing, in the two years, eight months for legislation—one third of our time—and I have no hesitation in saying that that is two months more than we should, in justice to the country, appropriate. Sir, my own for each session, and will afford ample time for the legislation of this country. Considerable had been said during this debate about the compensation. Sir, I am of the same opinion now that I was when this subject was before the House in the fore part of the session. Six dollars per day is enough for any man to receive for his services. But he had not understood that this was the object of the gentleman from South Carolina, but to shorten the session; and if we staid longer than the time presented in the resolution, to reduce it to two dollars per day. Now, Sir, suppose the long session to last six months: why, by the alteration proposed, each member would receive six dollars per day on an average, which, in his opinion would be sufficient to compensate any man for his services. He was sorry to hear one objection which was raised to the passage of the resolution. It was this: that the effect would strike at the root of the great plans of internal improvement and the protection of home industry. In conclusion, he would answer that by saying, that recent demonstrations of sentiment in this House had evinced, that whatever was left undone, the tariff and appropriations would be attended to—any proposition which takes money out of the treasury, will be attended to.

THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.

We confess that we have not looked as indifferent spectators upon the controversy on this subject between the U. S. Telegraph and the New York Courier and Enquirer. We have witnessed it, we say so frankly but respectfully, with regret. And the more so, as those journals rank as mutual and efficient co-operators in the promotion of the prominent friends of Gen. Jackson and of his Administration. Collisions, struck out by a remark, uttered in haste or in warmth, may have produced a temporary alienation of feeling between them; but we are persuaded, that with both, a desire to promote the general interests of the country and to maintain the ascendancy of the Republican Party of the Union, is paramount to all personal considerations; and that we shall see them engaged, hereafter as heretofore, rather in a praise-worthy and zealous emulation to sustain the National Administration, than in personal altercations that can serve only to gratify and strengthen its enemies.

In the course of these animadversions, the supposed views of two gentlemen, standing high in the affections of the people and in the confidence of the Executive,—the Vice President and the Secretary of State,—have been brought under consideration; and although no imputations have been cast upon either, it is inferable that apprehensions are entertained that at least portions of the friends of those gentlemen are not unwilling at this early day to secure their respective claims to the succession. For ourselves, it has been our wish to put off the evil day when the temptations in-

cident to this subject should be entered upon; and we have believed that this could be done consistently with any duty and all interests that deserve to be consulted. Indeed it seemed to be due to the administration of Gen. Jackson, at least on the part of its friends, to avoid whatever might tend to interrupt or postpone the great objects of its creation, to weaken the practical and salutary effect of its measures; or to defeat an expression, in relation to it, of the unbiased judgment of the people. Under this conviction, we have carefully abstained from all comment or quotation tending to call out or continue examinations of this sort; and after what has been said, and in view of the known predisposition of considerable portions of the public to anticipate the disapprobation of that portion of it which, acting from the impulses of a defeated and rankling hostility to the General Administration, seeks to disseminate dissension among political friends; it has seemed to us desirable that all should be done, that can be done with propriety, by those who consult the general welfare and the harmony of the Democratic Party, to allay and prevent the farther agitation of this disturbing question. We are satisfied that the apprehensions to which we have referred, so far as they exist, are without foundation; and will in time yield before the acts of the parties, and such open and candid explanations as can from time to time be made.

In saying thus much, we do not profess to speak from a knowledge of the views of Mr. Calhoun, or of those of his immediate personal friends. But we have a sufficient guarantee of the justness of our anticipations, in the character of the Vice President. In his early devotion to the republican cause, his fearless co-operation with the democracy of the country in its day of peril, his efforts and his eloquence in its behalf, his distinguished services and high official standing, and his frank, honorable and elevated career, there are proofs enough that he will be found incapable of desiring, much less contributing to, any attempts to disturb the general tranquillity for the purpose of advancing his personal views.

With respect to the other gentleman whose name has been connected with these discussions, and who yields to no man in a generous and elevated devotion to the interests of his Country and its Democracy, we are in one respect, more fortunate. We know well Mr. Van Buren's sentiments on this subject. From the first indications of a disposition to agitate the public mind as to Gen. Jackson's successor, he has deprecated that course, not only as uncalculated and unnecessary, but as one which could not be otherwise than injurious to the public welfare. This opinion he has communicated freely; and it is within our personal knowledge, that he has embraced every fit occasion to discountenance any such attempts, and to dissuade his friends from the slightest participation in them.

Whilst we are upon this subject, we shall be allowed to add, that with the Republicans of New York, there is but one opinion in regard to the next election, and that is, that if General Jackson's life and health are spared, he ought to be continued in office for the same period as most of his illustrious predecessors.

We have no doubt, when the time to pass upon this question shall arrive, that the further service of Him who has on all occasions so signally obeyed the requisitions of his country, and so well fulfilled its expectations, will be required from Maine to Louisiana; and we are equally confident, however anxious he may be to retire from the cares of office and the responsibilities of public life, that he will not be found capable of consulting his personal happiness in contravention of the will of the people. This confidence is founded, not on particular information as to his sentiments and intentions; for that we have none; but from his known principles. We know full well, that there is no man in the Nation who would more heartily rejoice in such a result of the first term of Gen. Jackson's administration, than we should, more cordially and cheerfully.

Duelling.—The prompt removal of Lieutenant Edmund Byrne and Hampton Westcott, Passed Midshipmen Charles H. Duryee, and Midshipman Charles G. Hunter, from the Rolls of the Navy, for having been concerned in a duel at Philadelphia which resulted in the death of Wm. Miller, Jr. Esq. reflects the highest honor upon the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief Magistrate of the Nation. It is evident from the published correspondence between the parties, that Miller was dragged into the contest contrary to his wishes, his judgment, and the better feelings of his heart. He was an amiable man, and a man of generally correct principles; but unfortunately had not sufficient courage to endure the taunts of his honorable foe, whom nothing but his blood could satisfy. He yielded; and has exchanged the bloom and beauty of Spring for the land of silence and the shadow of death.

The sensation produced by this melancholy event, induced the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania to pass a resolution requesting the President of the United States "to strike from the rolls of the Navy the said Lieut. [Midshipman] Charles G.

Hunter." This request was ordered to be made "with a view to express their disapprobation of duelling, and the infractions of the laws of Pennsylvania." It would seem that the note of the Secretary of the Navy to the President, and the laconic decree of the latter, were penned before the resolution of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives came to hand, unless perhaps in an unofficial form through the newspapers. We have thus an expression of sentiment on the part of the legislative Assembly above mentioned, and also by the Executive of the nation, which cannot fail to be highly important in its results. "The greatness of its consequences," says the National Intelligencer, "lies in its being a precedent, which probably will settle the defiance to a duel, will be tolerated, on the part of officers of the Navy or Army, with persons in the private walk of life, under any circumstance whatever, between themselves."

It is a precedent which the American people are prepared to sustain; however some foolish jack-dan-ies may flounce, as if their rights were invaded. It will add a new laurel to the fame of Gen. Jackson, in the view of all peaceable, humane and reflecting men. Only make duelling disgraceful and it will cease, for of all men on earth, the duellist is least able to encounter the tide of public opinion. Insufferable vanity is usually at the bottom of his movements, united perhaps with no moderate portion of malignity, and the moment he feels the withering blast of contempt, he is cut adrift from all his resources, and finds himself shipwrecked upon the very rocks which he intended to avoid.

Were the principle adopted by General Jackson to be carried through; were all persons guilty of fighting or taking part in a duel, from and after a given date, to be made ineligible to any public office, either under the General or State Governments, confident we are that the recurrence of these barbarous scenes would be "few and far between."

P. S. Since the above was in type, we have received the U. S. Gazette of yesterday, from which we learn that a resolution approving the conduct of the President in striking from the rolls of the Navy the individuals above named, has passed both branches of the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Value of Time.—An Italian philosopher expressed in his motto, that "time was his estate; an estate which will indeed produce nothing without cultivation;" but which will always abundantly repay the labours of industry, and satisfy the most extensive desires, if no part of it be suffered to lie waste by negligence, to be overrun with noxious plants, or layed out for show, rather than use.

Names.—One would think that so cheap a thing as a name ought never to be uncouched. The poor man can name his children with as fanciful a cognomen as the richest and most purse proud aristocrat in the country. Towns may be named after the noblest and most glorious places of Greece and Italy, down to the dustiest spot in Christendom—from Athens and Rome down to Bœotia and Tipperary.—But as there is a free choice of good names, and enough of them, why will people therefore choose the bad? We are led to this notice from having seen in a certain paper an account of sundry religious associations and revivals in the southern states. Among sundry churches that had experienced times of refreshing, were to be found those of *Goose-Pond-Polecat* and *Catfish* churches! Touching the latter churches, it was asserted that they had a *sweet* season at the *Polecat* meeting and a great *ingathering* among the *Catfish* brethren. Now we are at a slight loss to conceive why such names are applied to places of worship. They must certainly combine burlesque ideas whenever they are mentioned—and they are so villainously *outré*, that they cannot but demand a smile. Local causes may, however, lead them to drop the title.

Steam Chronology.—The following information relating to Steam Engines, will probably be new to most of our readers. It is derived from Farey's Treatise on the Steam Engine, published in London in 1827. It was originally prepared for Williams' New York Annual Register, and being excluded by the press of other matter, has been handed us by the author of that work.—N. Y. Constellation.

1659—First real Steam Engine invented by Edward Somerset, Marquis of Worcester. Steam power was known (imperfectly) to the ancients—Hero of Alexandria, a Philosopher who lived 130 years before Christ, describes two instruments, moved by steam or heated air.

1769—Cast iron first used in Mill work, by Mr. Smeaton, at Corran in Scotland.

1769—James Watt, of Glasgow in Scotland, obtained his first patent for a Steam Engine.

1783—First Steam Cotton Mill built in Manchester; by Arkwright and Simpson.

1785—Steam Mill first constructed in England, by Boulton and Watts, at the Al-

bion Mills, in London, for grinding wheat, two Engines worked twenty pair of stones.

1792—First do at Glasgow.

1793—First Steam Woolen Manufactory built at Leeds, in England, by Mr. Goss.

1793—Spinning Flax by steam at Leeds by Mr. Marshall about 1793.

The Naughty Place.—A Scotch pastor recognized one of his female parishioners sitting by the side of the road, a little laddled. "Will you just help me up with my bundle, gude, mon?" said she, as he stopped.—"Fie, fie, Janet," cried the pastor, "to see the like of you in sic a plight; do you know where all drunkards go?"—"Aye, sure," said Janet, "they just go whar a woman has her name."

Infamous Affair.—A woman was recently committed to jail in Providence for the pitiful sum of sixty eight cents. Her husband was killed two or three years since, while attempting to extinguish a fire in that town, and being deprived of his assistance, is the probable cause of her inability to pay the debt.—This inhuman creditor ought to suck a dry sponge, to obtain nourishment, for his brutality.

Northampton Courier.

When a true genius appears in the world, you may know him by this sign; that the dunces are all in a confederacy against him.

Swift.

- Jefferson's Decalogue of Canons for Observation in Practical Life.**—1 Never put off till to-morrow what you can do today.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
 3. Never spend your money before you have it.
 4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap; it will be dear to you.
 5. Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst, and cold.
 6. We never repeat of having eaten too little.
 7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
 8. How much pain have cost us the evils which have never happened.
 9. Take things away by the smooth handle.
 10. When angry, count ten before you speak.

THE DRAM SHOP.

"Oh! that wicked dram shop," said a widow almost in the agonies of despair, who was bewailing the intemperance and prodigality of her only son. "Oh! that cursed dram shop! It has ruined my boy—it has blasted all my hopes of earthly comfort and happiness, and will soon bring down my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave." The scene was painful in the extreme. The feelings of the mother were the most acute, and the desolations of the widow were, at that moment, the most deeply realized. An attempt to console, seemed almost if not entirely useless. The youth had progressed so far in his mad career, and had become so enchained by the force of habit, and the influence of his profligate companions, that little or no prospect of reform remained. The dram shop acted like a charm upon him—the call of his revelling associates he was unable to resist. It was therefore evident that, whilst the doors of this house stood open, and whilst the nightly call to assemble and quaff the intoxicating cup therein, was given, no hope of amendment could reasonably be indulged; and, according to all human probability, the widow and the mother must weep, until her tears are exhausted, or until death severs her ties, and bears her aloft to that place where the tear is wiped from the mourner's eye, where the wicked cease to trouble, and where the weary are permitted to rest.

After the contemplation of this scene, painful as it was, I was soon called to the consideration of another of a similar nature, my was extremely cold. The wife, and several small children, thinly clad, with emaciated countenances, sat huddled over a few coals of fire, which, at every little interval, they were raking together, to increase their heat,—well knowing that, when they ceased to burn, they must perish with the cold, or take refuge in the bed. The father and the husband was at the dram shop, which he had long and often frequented. He had gone to meet his companions, to revel out the day, and most probably a portion of the night, spending for naught that which would have rendered himself and his family happy. The children looked cold, hungry, wretched, and distressed. On the countenance of the wife, the agonies of despair began to be depicted; she looked in the most painful manner at her suffering children, and then heaving a heart-rending sigh, she looked wild and despairingly around the room. At every voice in the direction of the street or the door, she would start, her countenance, for the instant, would light up with the hope that her husband had returned to provide for their relief; and as she turned away disappointed, she wrung her hands, and exclaimed, "Oh! that cursed dram shop! it is murdering my husband—it is