

MR. CLINGMAN, OF N. CAROLINA.

On the 6th inst. Mr. Clingman delivered a speech in the House of Representatives, on the late Presidential Election, in which he details the causes which contributed to produce the result exhibited with extraordinary conciseness and force.

We cannot occupy two or three columns this week with matter more useful to the public than some extracts from this speech.

He opens with a review of the course of "the chivalry" on the repeal of the 25th rule. The independent—the courageous—the right stand which Mr. Clingman took in relation to this subject at the last session, and the bombastic denunciations showered upon his head, every one remembers.

At the last session, when a proposition to repeal the 25th rule was under consideration, it will be remembered that the debate was prolonged for nearly twelve months, and as each speech was concluded, more than twenty chivalric gentlemen sprang to their feet and struggled for an opportunity to manifest their ardor in behalf of Southern rights.

On the first day of the present session, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Adams) gave notice that he would on to-morrow introduce a proposition to abolish the rule. Thereupon the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Dromgoole) likewise gave notice that he would object to the reception of the resolution, because it would be out of order.

There sat my colleague, (Mr. Saunders,) who went off on this matter with a force that sent him during the past summer over the entire State of North Carolina, declaring against the reception of abolition petitions.

How are we, Mr. Speaker, to account for the extraordinary change in the conduct of gentlemen since the Presidential election? And I may also ask, why is it that Leavitt, the abolition editor, who was refused last year a seat among the reporters of the House, is now the occupant of one of the best positions in the Hall?

It is due to the Speaker to state that he declared absolutely that he had not assigned to Mr. Leavitt, the Abolition Reporter, any seat in the Hall, but inasmuch as there were a great number of applicants for reporter's seats, he had not yet completed the arrangements and notified the writs against them; and until his assignment had been completed, his orders had been not to prevent any reporter from entering the Hall, and occupying temporarily one of the seats.

its authors. Will gentlemen come out frankly and admit that all their parade at the last session was a mere bluff—one of the most barefaced political frauds ever attempted to be played off for party purposes?—If they will not admit this—if they still insist that the rule is of any value, why did they give it up without a struggle? Was it done as compensation to their abolition allies in the North, by whose aid they carried the great States of New York and Pennsylvania, and thereby elected Mr. Polk? I do not wish gentlemen to evade this matter by their silence.

Al! I beg pardon, Mr. Speaker; there is still a third mode by which a part of these gentlemen may get out of this difficulty. Some of them may perhaps excuse themselves by saying, if they had grumbled about this matter they might have been expelled from the Democratic party, and thus lost all share of the spoils to be distributed from and after the fourth of March next. Taking this view of the case, sir, I frankly admit that these gentlemen deserve the sympathy of this House and of the country.

[Mr. Clingman proceeds to expose the double dealing of the Democracy on the subject of the Tariff, and goes into an examination of various other causes of their success, not neglecting the valuable aid of Mr. Birney and the Abolitionists. He thus notices that notorious society in New York auxiliary to the Democracy, styled the Empire Club, which operated under the auspices of Captain Rynders and other infamous scoundrels, taken for the time to the bosom of the big Democrats of the land.]

But the principal frauds were practised by what is called double voting. The city of New York was the great theatre where this was consummated. As the Empire Club bore such a prominent part in these transactions, I must devote a remark or two to it. It was organized in July last, and it consisted of gamblers, pick pockets, droppers, burners, thimble-riggers, and the like, and its association seems to have been mainly for the purpose of carrying on successfully those and similar trades.

As I have had occasion to allude to John C. Calhoun, I take it upon myself to say, that, looking at his course for more than twelve years, with the exception of a few years after 1837, when he hoped from his new connexion with the Democratic party that he might become President of all the United States—I say, sir, that his course, whether considered with reference to the tariff and nullification, to agitation on the subject of abolition and slavery, or to his mode of managing the Texas question, is precisely that which a man of ordinary sagacity would take who designed to effect a dissolution of the Union.

I am here reminded, sir, that some of those gentlemen have expressed strong hopes that they will be able to overrun and carry off with them the old North State; and I learn that a great effort is to be made by the combined energies of the party for that purpose.

This Empire Club, constituted as I have related, for some time devoted its energies to the prosecution of the laudable objects for which it had been originally organized. Several weeks, however, before the election, the Democratic leaders thought that it could be effectively employed in the political canvass, and they thereupon took its members into pay.

A story is told, by Paulding, I think, of an individual who applied to Mr. Van Buren for the office of Secretary of State, but was told that it had already been promised to another. He then continued asking for various offices, in a descending scale, until he came to the lowest, and was told that the office in each instance had been already promised to some one else.

members of the Democratic party, perfected the most extensive system of fraudulent voting ever known. Sir, in what I am now about to state, I speak from information derived in part from public sources, but mainly from private ones; sources, however, on which I fully rely. I have taken pains to get accurate information. If there be error in any of my statements, which I am not prepared to admit, I desire to be contradicted. One of my objects is to provoke investigation into this matter.

But it was not in the city alone that these things were done. Similar frauds were practised at Albany, by voters some of whom were even carried from Philadelphia, it is said. Even in the interior, there are facts which furnish strong evidence of illegal voting. I should like for the gentleman (Mr. Preston King) who represents the district in which is St. Lawrence, (Mr. Wright's county, I think,) to inform us how it happened that that county gave sixteen hundred and twenty-seven votes more than it did at any preceding election? The Whig vote is stronger than it was when we carried the county, and yet we are beaten by about fifteen hundred. How comes it that that county has given nearly two thousand more votes than some others with about the same population?

[The following, we are pained to believe is a most truthful view of the courts of that intellectual but dangerous Man of the South, who has so long wrought to dissever our sacred bond of union:]

As I have had occasion to allude to John C. Calhoun, I take it upon myself to say, that, looking at his course for more than twelve years, with the exception of a few years after 1837, when he hoped from his new connexion with the Democratic party that he might become President of all the United States—I say, sir, that his course, whether considered with reference to the tariff and nullification, to agitation on the subject of abolition and slavery, or to his mode of managing the Texas question, is precisely that which a man of ordinary sagacity would take who designed to effect a dissolution of the Union.

I am here reminded, sir, that some of those gentlemen have expressed strong hopes that they will be able to overrun and carry off with them the old North State; and I learn that a great effort is to be made by the combined energies of the party for that purpose. But I can tell those gentlemen that J. C. Calhoun, and his clique have never had the ear of North Carolina. In 1832, with great unanimity, she took ground against them and for the Union, and she is still for it. She is also a genuine Whig State. She was in 1775, when she made the first declaration of Independence, and her sons, still in their hearts cherish and will maintain the principles of their fathers.

of straw, and so unknown that he might be run on opposite principles in different sections. In thus demonstrating the availability of such a man, they have done all in their power to discourage statesmanlike eminence and patriotism. Our candidate was defeated because he was too honest, too open, and too manly to conceal his opinions. Gentlemen on the other side of the House may exult in the event, but they know that he was overthrown in no fair or manly contest. It was the Hector of Shakespeare, surrounded and impaled by myrmidons—

Instead of the dark cypress there will wave over him the bright green laurels of glory, and they will become greener and brighter as centuries roll on. But we shall often want his sagacious head, his eloquent tongue, and heart of fire.— Since he came on the stage of action, in every crisis,

Sir, it is not talent alone that makes the great statesman. There must be added to high intellect a paramount devotion to our country, a determination to sacrifice every thing of self to promote its advancement. Sir, no statesman, no man ever felt this principle in a greater degree than Henry Clay. And, till life shall fade, he will stand erect with a spirit unbroken, in the front rank of those who rally around the Constitution and the Union.

FATAL STEAMBOAT DISASTER. On Saturday night, the 28th ult., about 11 o'clock, the steamboat Capitol, bound from Pittsburgh to St. Louis, was destroyed by fire at St. Mary's Landing, about seventy miles below St. Louis. The fire originated about midway of the boilers, and spread with astonishing rapidity.

The alarm was instantly given, and the passengers, most of whom were asleep, with the exception of three, succeeded in making their escape. The flames spread upwards and through the cabin, so swiftly that several of those in the cabin effected their escape by letting themselves down on the after guards. The wind was blowing a strong breeze from the bow to the stern, which drove the flames aft.

A Mr. Dalrymple, his wife, and son, (Master Joseph D.) and daughter, a young lady, were passengers on board. The father and son occupied a state room in the gentleman's cabin—the mother and daughter a room in the ladies' cabin. From the best accounts we can gather, it is most probable Mr. Dalrymple and his son perished in their state room. They had been awakened by the Captain, and this is the last that is certainly known of them.— Mrs. D. and her daughter reached the cabin, when the mother fainted and fell—the flames rushing in, the daughter had barely time to save her life, by letting herself down on the after guard. Thus, the father, mother and son, it is believed, perished in the flames. Mr. D. was from Lynn, Mass., and was moving to a farm in the vicinity of Carlinville, Ill. He had on board a large amount of valuable property, all of which was lost.

Collections were taken up in the churches at St. Louis, on the 29th ult. for the relief of the sufferers, to be placed in the hands of the Mayor for distribution. The following is a list of persons on board the Capitol so far as the editors of the St. Louis Republican were able to obtain their names:

Our position with regard to Mexico is one of a very delicate kind. She is weak, and we are strong; she is distracted by internal dissensions; if her claim of sovereignty over Texas were full and clear, she is in no condition to enforce it. It is not evident that, under such circumstances, to free ourselves from all suspicion of a design to take advantage of her weakness, we should be very scrupulous as to our actions towards her? There is no danger, says Mr. INGERSOLL, of a rupture with Mexico in consequence of annexation. Why? Has Mexico acknowledged the independence of Texas? Has she signified her willingness to assent to annexation? No; but "there was a sinew of war, the best of all sinews, namely, money, which would heal all our breaches with that Power." Such is the declaration of the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The thing resolves itself into this: Do we recognise the right of Mexico to refuse or to allow annexation? Has she any claims which are to be regarded in the matter? The President of the United States says she has none: he counts at the idea. The Secretary of State says she has them, and goes so far as to assert, or bid Mr. Shannon assert, that Texas never occupied towards Mexico the position of a revolted province. Yet, in the face of these declarations, Mr. Tyler sends a special agent to Mexico to offer a pecuniary consideration to induce her to yield her claims upon Texas; and Mr. Shannon, speaking as he was ordered, intimates to the Mexican Minister that if he did not keep a better tongue in his head, the United States would not pay the money which might be given if Mexico behaved well for the surrender of all Mexican claims over the territory of Texas.

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THE WATCHMAN.

Salisbury, N. C., January 28, 1845.

The Public Lands—The Old States.

Never within our recollection, has the screws of party been so strongly applied, or so rigidly adhered to than in relation to the Distribution of the Proceeds of the Public Lands among the several States in this Union—a claim which the Old States have an undisputed right to, but which some of their Representatives, (we mean those calling themselves "Democrats,") seem determined to let the new States take, just for the sake of party. With the best evidence in the world before them of the determination of new States to secure this vast treasure—and which we of the original Thirteen stand greatly in need of,—these "Democratic" Representatives—these protectors of the rights of the dear People,—pertinaciously refuse to unite with the WHIG PARTY in Congress in settling this great question in the only manner which will benefit all interested in it, that of Distribution: and thus carrying out the intention of those who bequeathed the Public Lands to the General Government.

We observe from the proceedings in the House of Representatives, that a proposition is now before that body to reduce the price of all lands which have been in market over twenty years, to twenty-five cents per acre! This liberal and equitable measure on the part of the Locofocos, (for the iniquitous motion originated with that immaculate party,) if successful, will unquestionably affect the value of the whole Public Domain very seriously! And will the injury done stop at this? No. For, beyond doubt, the temptation to a large number of the inhabitants of the Old States, to remove west in search of cheap but rich lands thrown into market by the Federal Government, will drain them of a large portion of their population, and considerably lessen the value of their lands. Do the People of the old States desire to witness such a deplorable state of things? if they do not,—let them speak to their servants in the Congress of the United States in such language, as will force them to respect their rights.

The debate on this unjust and illiberal proposition, has called forth sentiments from Representatives of the Western States, which we think, should arouse the People of the old States to a true sense of the danger of longer permitting this question to remain unadjusted, and cause them before it is too late, to use the power which they now have in securing at least a part of this fund which of right belongs to them.

For ourselves, we do not see what the Representatives of the old States mean by setting quietly by, without resisting to the utmost these ungenerous attempts of the West to secure to themselves the proceeds of this land, by graduation and donation. If we had no just claim to an equal share of this money, we would not think so much of the extravagant attempts of the new States. But they battled not for seven long years to secure this vast domain: It was the OLD STATES, and of course they have a stronger claim to these lands.

We know of no other plan to be pursued by the People of the old States than to put their veto upon all men presenting themselves as candidates for Congress, who are opposed to an equitable distribution of this fund among the different States. And not till this course is rigidly carried out will we have justice done us. We hope that both parties, and especially the Whig party, will make this important question a test question, at the approaching Congressional elections throughout the country.

The subjoined paragraph is from the speech of Mr. McCLERNAND, of Illinois, delivered in the House of Representatives:

"Mr. McC. viewed the present as an auspicious time for the adjustment of this principle. It has been contended in a late debate that the principle of annexation has been decided by the People in the late Presidential election. They in the west hold the same thing in relation to this question of graduation also. On this important question Mr. Clay and Mr. Polk had been openly at issue.—Mr. Clay going for distribution, Mr. Polk for graduation and reduction. The two plans had been before the country, and the people had chosen Mr. Polk, and had thus given their verdict between the systems. This, he repeated it, was the auspicious, the accepted time to settle this question by an equitable compromise. If gentlemen from the old States were well advised of facts—if they knew where they stood, they would see upon it with avidity. Let them lift up their eyes and look around them—could they not see the influence of the new States was augmenting every hour, while that of the old was decreasing in the same ratio? Adjust this matter now, or in 1850 they would find the advocates of the West entrenched where they could not reach them, on the strong battlements of Western rights.

Then, if not before, the doctrine of free trade would be proclaimed in tones of thunder to the people of the Eastern States."

INDIANA. The Locofocos in the Senate of this State have at last consummated the outrage so shamefully begun at the opening of the Legislature.

Resolutions proposing to go into the election of a Senator in Congress in place of Mr. WHITE have been indefinitely postponed by the casting vote of the Lieutenant Governor, the presiding Officer of the Senate—that body being equally divided. The Constitution of the State and of the United States, has thus been trampled under foot purely to accomplish the triumph of party, if possible, by these men, proposing to be Democrats—striving as they falsely say, to carry out the wishes of the people. The Whig majority on joint ballot in the Legislature is undisputed, being some eight or ten. But the Senate being equally divided, and the Lieut. Governor a ranting Locofoco, have resisted every attempt to elect a Senator, and made mockery of the solemnity of an oath, which each of them have taken to support the constitution and laws of the Country. We have never since we have been old enough to notice public affairs, for one moment expected any thing better of the party, falsely styling themselves Democrats, a party composed of none, upon the whole, but such as delight to violate and trample such as violate the laws of the land from the just punishment which they so richly merit. A party which receives into its embrace every kind of foreign agrarian, who, not being permitted to carry out their mischievous designs in their own native land, have come over to this country, and found dupes enough among us to follow them, to the great injury of our free institutions.

STATE AFFAIRS.

SILAS WRIGHT, Governor elect of New York, was inaugurated on the first instant. His message to the Legislature fills fourteen columns of the New York Tribune.

THOMAS G. PRATT, the first Whig Governor elected by the People of Maryland, took the oath of office on the 13th inst. at Annapolis. His address on the occasion is a well written paper, and devoted exclusively to State matters. He recommends the passage of a law requiring the names of the voters of the State to be registered, and confining the right to vote to those only who furnish evidence of citizenship, and record their names in accordance with the provisions of such a law.

REVERDY JOHNSON, has been elected a Senator in Congress, for six years from the fourth of March next, by the Legislature of Maryland. He is of course a true and genuine Whig.

HON. JOHN M. CLAYTON, was elected on the 14th inst., by the Legislature of Delaware, a member of the United States Senate, for six years from the fourth of March.

And the Hon. DANIEL WEBSTER, has also been chosen a Senator of the United States, for six years from the 4th March next, in place of Hon. R. CHASE, who declined a re-election. The vote in the House of Representatives stood, for Daniel Webster 186; Marcus Morton 64; scattering 17. In the Senate, the vote was unanimous for Mr. Webster.

The Senate once more begins to resume its appearance, and with such men as WEBSTER and CLAYTON and JOHNSON, it will rank as one of the most intelligent bodies on earth, and will want the presence and the voice of HENRY CLAY, to make it complete.

At a Whig meeting recently held in the City of Boston, Mr. MOREY read a letter from Mr. WEBSTER, in which Mr. W. distinctly asserts that in the last speech delivered by him in Faneuil Hall, upon the subject of Native Americanism, he did not suggest, and had no idea of suggesting the formation of a third party to carry out the principles there advocated by him, but on the other hand, it is his firm belief, that if any reform is made, it must be done by the Whig party.

The Legislature of Alabama has refused to receive the monies standing in the U. States Treasury to the credit of the State, the avails of the sales of the public Lands, which is a sum of between thirty and forty thousand dollars. At the same time her people are groaning under the weight of heavy taxes. Alabama is a Locofoco, and opposed to the distribution question, and makes this sacrifice on pretended principle.

CLINGMAN AND YANCEY.

The difficulty between these gentlemen, as mentioned in our last paper, has been settled. They went to the Delaware river, however, and exchanged shots with each other before it could be arranged. Neither of them was injured—Yancey shooting to low, and Clingman too high. They have returned to Washington to help each other make laws for the Country—their friends having been made a reconciliation of the quarrel, after the first shot.

The Senate of the United States has unanimously ratified the Treaty concluded by Hon. CALLE CUSHING, Minister from this Country to the Empire of China. This, we take it, to be quite a complimentary to Mr. CUSHING.

Shad were caught in the Savannah river some ten days or a fortnight ago.