



The Tarborough Press,

BY GEORGE HOWARD,

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POLITICAL.

Remarks of Mr. Strange.

Remarks of the Hon. Robert Strange on the Bill, making appropriations for the prevention and suppression of Indian hostilities, for 1838, and for the payment of arrearages in 1837.

MR. STRANGE said he was unwilling to prolong the debate, but, from the course it had taken, he did not feel satisfied to remain silent. Gentlemen on the other side had not announced any purpose to vote against the bill, but, as they said, were desirous to call public attention to the ruinous amount which had been, and was about to be, expended in the Florida war; and he was, on his part, desirous to call public attention to the course taken in this debate. Why did gentlemen wish to call public attention to the large amount expended in the Florida war? Was it with the expectation it would thereby be ascertained that the amount was greater than necessary? Will any portion of the public be more competent than the gentlemen themselves to discover and point out this excess, if it exist? They do not, they cannot, think so. And have they pointed out any single item, and shown it to be excessive? Not one. Their design, then, is obvious enough. They are aware of the startling effect upon the public mind of the expenditure of large sums. They know that the people are naturally and justly jealous upon this subject; and they hope, by merely throwing before them this large amount, accompanied with their own expressions of doubt and suspicion—unaccompanied by specification or calculation—may excite prejudices against the Administration, and especially if those insinuations and doubts are silently listened to by its friends. So well convinced was the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. Webster] of the necessity of the appropriation proposed, that he does not attempt an argument against it. He had too much sagacity to place himself in the attitude of direct opposition to it. But true to the principle (almost instinctive) of the Opposition, of never yielding a hearty approval to any thing coming from the Administration, he could not forbear giving the bill a side blow as it passes, although his own vote must ultimately be given in its favor. But he dare go no further than adopt this masterly stroke of Opposition tactics, of merely remarking upon the largeness of the sum, and the importance of public attention being directed to it. The warm imagination of the Senator from South Carolina, [Mr. Preston] however, perceives a great many other circumstances which may be thrown in, greatly to thicken the cloud of prejudice against the Administration, and, with less caution than the Senator from Massachusetts, fully discloses the impulse under which they act. With his characteristic ardor he brings before us mere pictures of the fancy, and forces us to contemplate them as living realities, deeply affecting the question under consideration. He presents to us Oseola as a noble aboriginal chief, doing battle in some glorious cause, and suddenly transferred, by the basest treachery, to a desert island, where he is left to perish of starvation. But, sir, the whole picture is one of fancy, and finds no original in historic truth. Oseola was not a noble savage battling for rights, but a miserable half-breed, a traitor, and violator of every thing held sacred among all races of men, whether civilized or savage. His heart was warmed in equal proportions by the blood of the white men and the red. His ties were as strong by nature to those whom he butchered and assassinated, as to those whom he lead on to murder and spoliation. His quarrel was unjust, and he prosecuted it in violation of every principle of honor and humanity. We see, then, sir, in whose behalf this effort has been made to excite our indignation. And against whom is it sought to direct it?—Against the brave and the patriotic of our own land—against those who have staked life and reputation in the cause of our

country? No one has said, however, either here or elsewhere, that treachery or injustice is to be tolerated towards even this heartless and unprincipled savage; and if any have been guilty of it, let them answer it in the proper place, at the proper time, and in the proper manner. But this is neither that time, place nor manner. Let it be conceded that all that has been said by the Senator from South Carolina is, in sober seriousness, nothing but substantial truth, and borrows none of its tints from the pencil of imagination—does it follow that we shall fold our arms, and suffer our country to be overrun, and our citizens butchered by the compatriots of Oseola? What has the fate of Oseola to do with the question, whether we will tamely submit to savage aggression—whether we will give up a portion of our country to the most ruthless of foes? As little to the purpose, it seemed to him, was another subject adverted to by the Senator from South Carolina, and which had given rise to a long and animated discussion between him and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. Lumpkin.] These topics could only have been introduced for the reason before stated, of rousing and nourishing in the public mind prejudices against the Administration. In the bill under consideration, there is an additional appropriation proposed on account of the Cherokee treaty. Now no one, I believe, is opposed to this appropriation, but it is made the pretext for inflicting upon the Administration a severe castigation for some supposed improprieties in relation to the execution of this treaty. A message sent to the Senate and House of Representatives, a few days ago, upon that subject furnishes the main, perhaps the only, subject of complaint. Now, as this subject had been introduced, he felt bound to contribute his mite towards placing the Administration upon what he conceived to be the proper ground, and the more so, as he might have conducted, in some slight degree, to the present misapprehension. Let us inquire, then, in the first place, what are the complaints against the Administration growing out of his message. They are,

First. A design to procrastinate the execution of the treaty.
Secondly. Holding out to the Cherokees false hopes of procrastination, and thereby producing ruinous mischiefs.
Thirdly. Indirectly condemning the treaty, and censuring those who voted for it.

Now the statement of these charges, and the proof of them, are two very different things; but such is the frailty of the human mind, that it is as much prone, according to the circumstances in which it may be placed, to believe things without proof, as to reject those which rest upon the strongest testimony. But it surely behooves a grave legislative body not to send forth, with the currency which its sanction gives, imputations against the Executive not only without being proven, but the whole testimony is directly the other way. Now, sir, said Mr. S. I venture to say, in sending the message, (of which I, among others, complained, hearing it in the imperfect manner which we always do such things from the Clerk's desk,) the Executive not only did nothing wrong, but could not with propriety have acted otherwise, under all the circumstances. This is the opinion to which he had come after that deliberate perusal of which, having it in a printed form, had afforded him an opportunity. It is true a treaty was made with the Indians in 1835, which they were bound to fulfil, and of which the Government might have enforced the fulfilment. But in the very fact of entering into treaty with them, we had treated the Indians as a quasi independent power, upon whom we could not act individually, but collectively. If then, they did not choose to execute the treaty, we had no mode of enforcing it but by making war upon them. A high responsibility rests upon every Government in its dealings with independent powers, which there is no eluding. The eyes of the world are upon them, and there are two sets of public opinions, against neither of which can they with safety or propriety act. Their acts must not only be based upon principles of abstract justice, but they must be such as will be recognised as being applicable to the particular case by public opinion at home, and public opinion abroad. Now, sir, in our dealings as a nation with aboriginal tribes, we are forced to look back upon the past history of our intercourse with them. We must not forget that they were the early possessors of every foot of soil we now occupy, and that in establishing their possession, our forefathers were forced to make might the standard of right. A change of circumstances has produced great changes in the conduct of their successors; but a heavy debt to humanity has been transmitted by them

to us, which we can never hope to pay; but it imposes upon us the obligation of manifesting in our dealings with the Indians not only the most rigid justice, but the most enlarged liberality; not only abstinence from unprovoked outrage, but great forbearance under even aggravated wrongs. Such is public opinion, both at home and abroad. In this state of things, a treaty has been made with the Cherokee Indians, which so far as I am informed and believe, is quite as formal and obligatory as treaties with savages can usually be made; but yet its validity is doubted by great numbers of both nations; and a very large portion of the weaker power complains that it has been overreached; that if the treaty must be enforced, humanity demands that they shall be allowed more time in relinquishing the homes of their fathers, and that such additional pecuniary provision should be made, as that, all private claims being paid off, and the expense of removal discharged, the sum originally contemplated, to wit, five millions of dollars, should be left to them, to recommence their national existence in their new home beyond the Mississippi. Under all these circumstances, how did it behoove the Government to treat these applications? Suppose the Secretary at War had stopped his ears, and turned his back upon their complaints; or having listened to them, suppose he had stoically told them, "here is the bond—this is the treaty—it must be literally fulfilled. What is your distress to the people of the United States? You have made your bargain, and you must abide by it. Ruin may overtake you individually and collectively; but your Great Father, as you have been wont to call him, cares not for it; it touches not the hearts of your white brethren. Literal execution of the treaty or extermination is alternative. What would have been the verdict of public opinion? A tumultuous roar of disapproval would have resounded through all lands; and the welkin might have rung with the shout of triumph which the Opposition would have sent up."—"This weak, ruthless, tyrannical Government, it would have been said, would have been too cowardly to have made war upon the strong; but see how it crushes the weak into the dust! Behold how needlessly the blood of our own citizens has been shed, and the most civilized of the savage tribes annihilated, that its purposes may be accomplished!" A response, then, was necessary, and that response must be dictated by kindness and humanity, and it must meet distinctly the several suggestions of the suppliants. The first is, as to time. And upon that point, the reply is, this Government possesses no power to act. We have not the language of the suppliants before us, but there is no doubt they represent, in the most glowing colors, the miseries impending over them if their flight must be sudden; and this picture was presented in all the seeming sincerity of anticipated distress. To such an appeal, how could a feeling man return the cold response, "I have no power to help you," without throwing in some word of consolation, without pointing to the only remaining hope, however faint and distant it might be? If, said the Secretary, you cannot remove within less than two years, I know the generous hearts with whom you have to deal; and if the ruinous consequences which you depict are likely to follow from an earlier removal, I know they will relieve you. And could not any citizen in this country have ventured to give the same assurance? might he not with confidence have said, There is no State in this Union which will not suffer some temporary inconvenience to its citizens, rather than thousands of fellow-creatures shall be involved in irredeemable distress and ruin? But the Secretary believed in his conscience, as every other man who knows any thing upon the subject believes, that the story was an artful appeal, intended for effect; and that there would be no necessity for this exercise of liberality on the part of the States concerned. But he was not at liberty to say so. A tale of sorrow falls upon a benevolent mind, and whether true or false, its first effect is touching, and the answer is according; and it is left to experience and reason to test its truth.

Upon the point of a further provision in money, the answer of the Secretary finds an echo in every bosom, and has met the concurrence of the appropriate committees in the two Houses of Congress. This branch of the subject must necessarily be laid before Congress, and the question is, whether he ought to have kept back from it what he had said in relation to removal? If he had done so, we can well imagine, what charges of fraud, cowardice, duplicity would have been brought against him. He did right in laying the whole document before Congress, and would have done wrong had he suppressed any part of it. He

gave no assurance that time for removal would be allowed, and disclaimed all authority to do so. He promised to recommend further appropriations of money; he has made that recommendation. It has received the sanction of both committees and of one House of Congress, and will doubtless receive that of the other.

But the Senator from South Carolina, with a warmth and indignation which seemed to him to be entirely out of place, says this message is a condemnation of the treaty, and a censure upon those who ratified it. No such condemnation or censure could, he thought be found any where but in the imagination of the Senator himself. The message proposes no annulment of the treaty; but on the contrary, insists upon its fulfilment; and for reasons therein stated, proposes a donation of a further sum for the preservation of peace, and insuring the fulfilment of the very treaty of which condemnation is imputed. He regretted having dwelt so long upon this topic, but having hastily misconceived the drift of the message, and having become convinced of his error, this explanation was due. But none of these things have ought to do with the subject. All agree the further appropriation for the Cherokees to be right. And with respect to the appropriation for the Florida war, the matter was as simple as could be, and it was mainly to disencumber the subject of foreign and exciting matters, which had been improperly complicated with it, that he had risen. Is any one here prepared to give up the war, and surrender the peninsula of Florida to the Indians and negroes now in possession of it? If there be any one, he may, of course, consistently vote against the appropriation. But he, for one, was not so disposed. He would never consent to see this Government withdraw its protection from any portion of its citizens. Gentlemen had said that Florida had cost much more to defend than it had to acquire it. Be it so.—

There was a time when the cry rang through this nation, "Millions for defence—not a cent for tribute." He hoped that would always be the cry; and he, for one, would never consent to yield to force one foot of our soil; though it might take millions to defend it. The object of the appropriation, then, is legitimate, is indispensable? Is the appropriation proposed too large? We raise committees in both Houses upon the respective subjects of legislation, that they may give to them their particular attention, and advise the whole body as to the result of their investigations. This subject has been under the consideration of the Committee of Ways and Means in the other House, and the Committee of Finance in this, and the sum proposed has met their approbation. If gentlemen think themselves more competent to decide, better informed upon the subject, let them show themselves so, and it will be well. Let them show us by figures (for they are bound to figure as well as we) that a less sum will answer, and they will deserve well of their country. But no attempt is made to show the sum too large; and he would feel himself safe in following the guidance of the appropriate committees.

But gentlemen ask for a new datum.—They ask us to count the number of the Seminoles, and then, I suppose, to ascertain how much it will take per head to get rid of them, and thus find the proper amount of appropriation. "Hic labor, hoc opus est." This is the very difficulty. Let the gentlemen count the flight of birds passing above them. To count the savages we must catch them; and if caught, the necessity for counting would be over.

They tell us further, that the war has been more expensive than it should have been, because at its commencement it was considered a very trivial affair; that the foe was contemptible and his conquest easy. This is probably the very secret of the difficulty. Had we not underrated the strength of our adversary, and put forth more force at once, we should probably have finished the war much sooner. England committed a similar mistake in her first assaults upon these colonies, and both England and ourselves were guilty of a like fault in the last war; and if gentlemen wish a prolongation of any war, they can adopt no plan more effectual than stinting or delaying the supplies of each successive year. It is reproachfully asked why the system which brought one officer to public examination, who did not terminate the war, has not been followed up, and his successor brought to examination also? Without going farther into the subject, an answer may be found in the result of that very examination. It resulted in the conviction that the foe was more formidable than had been supposed; that he had a pestiferous climate warring on his side, and was surrounded by natural defences and entrenchments impregnable to civilized man. But, sir, I institute no injudicious

comparisons among the brave officers of our army. I cannot, however, forbear remarking that the officer against whom I suppose this inquiry to be more personally levelled, has succeeded in capturing about two thousand savages. Others have doubtless done well; but whether as well, I will not undertake to decide.

Believing then, that the objects of these appropriations are just and proper, and their amounts do not exceed the dictates of prudence, the question seems to me to be answered whether the bills should be ordered to a third reading.

The Bill passed by a large majority.

[BY REQUEST]

From the Raleigh Register.

SNUFF DIPPING.

Messrs. Editors—I have lately heard, with surprise, that a few, even genteel, ladies in this State are addicted to the low, vulgar and filthy practice of using Snuff as a stimulant by chewing it. I cannot well describe how the intelligence shocked my feelings. Imagine a young and beautiful creature, drunk with this abominable narcotic, her mouth all bedaubed with the dirty stuff, and her eyes inflamed with the excitement. Methinks, she would resemble one of the Furies much more nearly than one of the Graces. I thank God I have never seen such a sight. I fear I never could feel any respect afterwards for a lady, whom I had seen at this disgusting work.

I have been led to inquire into some of the consequences of this odious custom. It changes the ivory whiteness of the teeth to the colour of old bone, and it soon changes the fairest complexion into a dingy yellow like smoked leather. But these are the least objectionable among the consequences. The intellect is impaired, the voice affected, and the constitution worn out.

At parties, ladies cannot keep up their vivacity, without retiring occasionally to "take a dip." They must be stimulated into an artificial cheerfulness or they will be languid and inanimate. Alas! that ladies of refinement and taste, in every thing else, should thus abandon the delicacy of their sex.

The practice sometimes makes it necessary for a lady to take her Mint Julep regularly every morning. This is bad enough, if it never goes any farther; but it must often go much farther. It may end in an old age of absolute drunkenness.—The picture is too revolting to contemplate without a shudder.

But why need we enumerate consequences, when the practice itself is more dire than any of its effects? Ladies cannot know what men think of this custom. All view it with aversion, but they are afraid to give utterance to their thoughts. Gentlemen who have heard of it from their infancy, do not view it with such horror and disgust. But there is no man of refined taste; none; none who has lived in good society, who has grown up before he heard of it, that does not agree with me in every sentiment I have uttered. Many, very many would consider this practice as a sufficient objection to marrying any woman on earth.

Will young ladies continue a habit which subjects them to such reflections by nine-tenths—aye, ninety-nine hundredths of the gentlemen in the United States! I hope not, but that they will rather leave it to their chamber maids, where it probably had its origin.

Messrs. Editors, if my name be discovered, I may draw down on my devoted head, the anger and hatred of many; but, if these few words of admonition shall deter one gentle female, I could die, thanking God that I had not lived in vain!

HOMO.

Louisburg, June 10, 1838.

Famous Wines.—The late sale by Mr. Thomas and Son, of wines belonging to the late Mr. T. Butler, was very numerously attended, and the prices paid were enormous. Among other transactions, were the following: Fifteen demijohns sold at \$155 each; one at \$150; seven at \$137; five at \$117.50; ten at \$110; seventeen at \$105; thirteen at \$102.50; four at \$101—and various other wines for lesser sums. One hundred and seventy demijohns were sold, the whole amount of which is upwards of \$15,000.

We have made a hurried estimate of the value of some of these wines, and find that the price, as paid at auction, is at least half a dollar per wine glass of the usual size.

Phil. Gaz.

—We understand that a murder was committed in the county of Chesterfield, on the 1st inst. by Isham Maile, upon the body of his cousin, Archer Maile. We have not heard the particulars. There is a reward of \$20 offered for his apprehension.

Pet. Int.