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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS

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Letters to the Editor must be post-paid.

Address of S. S. Prentiss to the People of the State of Mississippi.

Fellow Citizens—In November last you elected me one of your representatives to the 25th Congress; by much the largest vote ever polled for that office in the State. The election was held, as you well know, at the time, places, and in the manner prescribed by your laws, which laws were enacted by your Legislature, under the express authority of the Constitution of the United States. Immediately after ascertaining the result of that election, I received from the Governor credentials, in pursuance of law, and repaired, with all convenient speed, to the Federal city. I presented my credentials to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and demanded to be sworn in as a member. The Speaker refused; and I was told that the seats belonging to the State of Mississippi were already filled. On examination I found them occupied by Messrs. Claiborne and Gholson. You probably recollect that, in July last, you elected those gentlemen to serve you until superseded by such persons as you might select, at the general election in November. On presenting my power of attorney from you, dispensing with their further service, and substituting myself and colleague in their places, they utterly refused to obey, and set your mandate at open defiance. Indeed, they had previously asserted, upon the floor of the House, that you had elected them for the whole of the 25th Congress; that they had been candidates for the whole term, and that you so understood it. They demanded and obtained, at the special session, by a resolution introduced by themselves, a decision that they were duly elected to the whole of the 25th Congress; and, relying upon this decision, they objected, both before the committee and the House, to any examination into the question whether you did, in reality, intend to elect them for a longer period than the special session; thus basing their claim to seats, not upon your will, but upon a decision of the House of Representatives, procured at their own instigation, upon an *ex parte* examination of the case, and without the production of any legal credentials or certificate of election whatever. Finding the attitude in which the matter stood, I proceeded at once to attack the decision of the House, as unconstitutional, *ex parte*, and founded upon palpable mistake. I took the ground that, whatever might be the validity of the July election, it was not intended to supersede, nor could it constitutionally supersede, the regular election in November; and that the constitutional rights of the people of Mississippi were beyond the control, and above the jurisdiction of the House of Representatives. I denied the power of one branch of the Federal Legislature to nullify the admitted constitutional law of the State of Mississippi, fixing the time for the election of her representatives to Congress. I openly denied, on your behalf, any intention of surrendering your constitutional right of choosing your representatives at the time, place, and in the manner prescribed by your laws.

After a most severe and memorable contest, in which every art and effort was exhausted for the purpose of sustaining Messrs. Claiborne and Gholson in their usurped places, the House at length solemnly decided that they were not entitled to seats, as the representatives of the State of Mississippi, on the express ground that the July election was unconstitutional and void. This decision was predicated upon the obvious principle that the Constitution of the United States expressly delegates to the State Legislatures the power of designating the time, place, and manner of election, uncontrolled, except by law of Congress; and that the Legislature of Mississippi having, in the legitimate exercise of this power, fixed the first Monday, and day following, of November, as the time for the election of her representatives to the 25th Congress, the Governor had no authority to change the time so designated.

So far the House of Representatives honorably rectified an acknowledged error into which they had fallen, and sustained you against the attack of Messrs. Claiborne and Gholson upon your most sacred constitutional rights, and these gentlemen were justly turned out of the seats to which they had clung with such desperate tenacity. I would, for the honor of the American nation, I could stop here. No sooner, however, than the House decided that the

July election was void, because November was the only time at which an election could be valid, than they turned around and again decided that the November election was valid, because of the error into which the House had fallen; and this decision was made upon the avowed and monstrous doctrine that you could not exercise your admitted constitutional right of choosing representatives, so long as the blunder of the House in relation to it remained unacknowledged.

The highest political right which appertains to you was suspended, and the State of Mississippi totally disfranchised, not by any fault of her own, but through the acknowledged ignorance of the House. While the House was in error, you could not exercise your rights; and a simple resolution of the Federal House of Representatives, by its decision, is sufficient, at any time, not to modify but to destroy the right of representation of any or every State in the Union. No one denied that, in pursuance of the law and the constitution, you had elected me your representative. It was your right to elect any body that was denied. It was decided that your election in July was void, on account of the November election, and that the November election was void, on account of the erroneous decision of the House in favor of the July election. Thus, at a period when, of all others, your interests most require attention, and questions of vital importance are agitating the country, you are juggled out of your whole right of representation in the popular branch of the National Legislature, and the reason assigned is, that the blunders of the House of Representatives are constitutional laws, and paramount to the admitted constitutional laws of the States, and of force sufficient to annul the same. Doctrines so federal were never before advanced in this Government; and, if they be correct, then is the House of Representatives a despot, and the rights of the States exist only in imagination. If such doctrines are correct, what prevents Congress from declaring itself perpetual—a rump Parliament—and then asserting, as they have in the present instance, that, so long as that decision remains unrescinded, the constitutional power of the States to hold their regular elections is suspended, and their laws nullified?

Upon the question of the validity of the November election, the vote stood at a tie, and the Speaker had the glorious infamy of deciding against you. A single representative from another State exercised the power of denying your right to any representation; and the still small voice of James K. Polk, deprived you of that which a hundred thousand bayonets could not have forced from you.

I wish you distinctly to understand that your right of election, either in July or November, has been solemnly denied and repudiated. I told the House that you would not submit quietly to have your elective franchise trodden beneath the iron heel of federal despotism, and that there was no possession you would not sooner part with than your right of representation, that great legacy of the revolution. Was I right or was I wrong in thus speaking for you? Whether right or wrong, I spoke my own sentiments when I denounced, as I did, the action of the House as a plain and palpable violation of the Constitution; a foul, high handed, and tyrannical usurpation. I looked with scorn and derision upon the juggling and hypocritical pretence of sending the election back for the purpose of ascertaining your wishes, when you had spoken, through all your legal and constitutional forms, in a voice which an idiot could not fail to have understood. The House has decided that both your elections, in July and November, are void; and yet they permit the Representative from Arkansas to hold his seat under two elections precisely parallel.

I tell you candidly and honestly my opinion of the whole transaction, and I have been a close and attentive observer. I believe you have been basely defrauded of your elective franchise, simply because you did not choose, in exercising it, to consult the political taste and complexion of the majority in the House. It is for you to say whether you will bow in submission to the rod, and sacrifice your great and sacred rights at the shrine of party dictation, or whether you will assert your right, free and untrammelled, to elect whom you please as your representatives.

The true contest now is, whether you or the House of Representatives shall designate the individuals who shall serve you in that body. To the honorable and high-minded of all political parties I appeal, for a dignified and determined assertion of the right of election. Believing, as I do, before Heaven, that I am your constitutional Representative, in spite of the tyrannical and arbitrary action of the House; and believing, too, that the honor and character of the citizens of Mississippi are deeply involved in the action which they may take in relation to this matter, I have deemed it my duty to address to you some account of the result

of the high errand upon which you sent me. I regret that my task has been but half accomplished. The usurpers have been driven from the Capitol, but your representatives have been denied admittance. To the best of my humble ability I have obeyed your high behest. It now devolves upon you to assert, in such manner as honor and duty may dictate, your violated rights.

S. S. PRENTISS.

Washington City, Feb. 7, 1838.

P. S. I shall be in Mississippi in a few days, when I will be able to explain to you, more at large, the outrage which has been committed upon you.

S. S. P.

From the Huntsville (Ala.) Advocate.

HENRY CLAY.

We have observed in some quarters a malignant and insidious attempt to identify this distinguished statesman with the Abolition party. It has been the fate of Mr. Clay to encounter more of obloquy, than perhaps any public man of his day; and now that he has "lived down" the vile train of calumnies by which his path has been for years past beset, and the confidence of the country is concentrating, from all points, upon him, another party weapon of the slang-whanging partisans must be seized upon, dipped in the poisonous fountain of prejudice, and made to arrest the progress of his popularity. But it will not do; the force and consistency of Mr. Clay's political character are now, fortunately, too well established, to be shaken by such petty and impotent assaults.

Nothing can be more idle and absurd than the charge, that he is linked by a single sympathy to the Abolitionists. His late Colonization speech made at Washington, proves that he holds their characters and projects in no small share of contempt. He regards their whole scheme of action as no less futile and impracticable, than dangerous to the Union, and subversive of the rights of the South. It should be recollected that Mr. Clay voted, without exception, for those resolutions of Mr. Calhoun, which sustained the sovereign and independent character of the States; and the vote by which his own, as a substitute for Mr. Calhoun's fifth resolution, was carried, shows that he had the sagacity to perceive, (as evinced in so remarkable a degree heretofore,) the true point at which parties could be reconciled.

The friends of the administration were compelled, as upon former occasions, when Mr. Clay's profound judgment and influential aid were called for, to acknowledge the safety of his position.

The ground of this new imputation upon Mr. Clay's public character, is to be found in his increasing popularity; the truth is, he is too prominent; there is a daily beauty in his life, which makes some men ugly; and for this reason "every mousing owl (of party) hawks at him;" but they cannot bring him down from his imperial height; he will move onward to his destiny in spite of the noisy and ill-omened flock that flutter about his path.

Calumny and persecution we believe, have done their worst upon the great statesman of the west. There was a time when the South looked towards him with an eye of jealousy and distrust; but that day has passed. The wide and deep delusion which has so long prevailed, is losing its hold upon the public mind. It is one of the purest and most cheering consolations of our republic, that the people will, sooner or later, repair the injustice which they may do to the noblest benefactors. With us, "truth is mighty, and public justice certain." And it is our sincere conviction, that Mr. Clay will live to see the time when his talents and services, his broad national feelings, his uncompromising independence, his fearless honesty, his frank spirit, his simple and majestic character, will be appreciated by a very large majority of the American people.

A Compliment well deserved—and an example worthy of imitation.—We have already alluded to the many excellent impromptu sentiments produced at the Editorial Festival—and now express our regret that they were not gathered up for publication.—There is one, however, which deserves to be rescued from oblivion, as well for the just compliment which it pays to the memory an illustrious man, as for the good example which it inculcates.

Mr. T. W. White, of the Messenger, being prevented by recent domestic affliction from attending the festival, transmitted the following toast:

Chief Justice Marshall?—Justly revered for his many virtues, and unimpaired integrity. One trait in his character deserves never to be forgotten. He never suffered a self to be in arrears to the periodicals for which he subscribed. Richmond Whig.

Distressing Accident.—We learn that the eldest son of U. Diavolo Antonio, who has been performing in several towns in this State for a month or two past, was run over by a car on the Wilmington Rail Road, a few days ago, and so badly hurt that his life is endangered.—Fug. Obs.

DEFERRED ARTICLES.

Political History.—We find the following paragraph in a letter from "the Spy in Washington" to the Editors of the Courier and Enquirer dated January 24:

"Mr. Adams recently moved a call upon the Executive for the copy of a letter from President Jackson to the Secretary of Arkansas, dated also, in September, 1830, in relation to the scheme of Gen. Houston upon Texas at that early day. But it would seem from the answer made to the House, that no such letter is to be found on the files of the State Department.

"Now, I am warranted in saying that such a letter does exist, I am informed, and I believe correctly, that it is within the control of the author of Sketches of Eight Years in Washington. It may be presumed that it will make its appearance in that work. But here again is another mystery, if I have not been led into error. The letter is said to be honorable to Gen. Jackson, viewed in the abstract; and still more so, if he had carried his principles out. Why they were not carried out, and all that, we may hope to know hereafter. It is understood that the letter did pass, or was intended to have passed, through the Department of State. If suppressed, why was it suppressed? If not suppressed why were not the instructions, or directions that it contained, carried into full effect?—These are interesting questions."

Worthy of Imitation.—A few days since a young farmer from Pleasant Valley brought a load of wool into the village for sale, and while waiting for a purchaser, a poor woman came up and inquired the price. He told her, and she burst into tears. She said she had endeavored for a long time to find a load small enough to be purchased with the last money she had, but had been unsuccessful—the amount was so small. The generous heart of the young farmer was touched, and he gave the suffering child of poverty his load of wool. He no doubt returned home a happier man than if he had received \$10 for his wool. Such acts are sure of reward.—Poughkeepsie (N. Y.) Telegraph.

The Legislature of the State of Tennessee adjourned on Monday week. The following notice of one of its latest acts is copied from the Nashville Whig:

"The bill to suppress the sale and use of Bowie Knives deserves to be reckoned among the most salutary acts passed by the late General Assembly. Its provisions will effectually stay the use and sale of one of the most bloody instruments of death known to the present age, and every friend of humanity and good order must rejoice that the practice of wearing this barbarous weapon has been rendered a misdemeanor, and its use, in any way, a felony by legislative action of the State."

Boston, Jan. 27.

Another Bank in Trouble.—Considerable excitement was created yesterday, by the refusal of the Associated Banks, or some of them, to take the bills of the American Bank, of this city. As near as we can learn, the American Bank, on Thursday, contrary to an understanding, or an implied promise to its associates, issued forty thousand dollars of its own bill, which of course, found their way into the other banks, and created some trouble. A meeting of the banks, committee was held last evening, the result of which, at the time of writing the paragraph, we have not heard.

It is reported in State street, that the Washington Bank has withdrawn from the association, but offers to receive the bills of all banks in good standing at par, and to redeem its own bills in Boston money, and pay one per cent. premium for them on presentation at his counter. We have heard that the directors of another bank in the city have been notified to attend a special meeting this morning for the purpose of passing a vote to the same effect.

If these reports are correct, the two banks last referred to show their own soundness and independence, and come nearer to a resumption of specie payment than any we have yet heard of in the country.—Courier.

Sudden Death.—The Harrisburgh Reporter of the 16th says:—We stop the press to announce the sudden death of Joseph M'Ilvaine, Esq., a Member of the House of Representatives from the city of Philadelphia. Mr. M'Ilvaine complained of bad health on his return from the city after the adjournment, and had been confined to his room for a week past, though not considered as seriously ill. This morning the servant going into his room he was found dead in his bed.

Honor To the Watt Clinton.—Mr. Denniston's bill is for appropriating \$5,000, to erect a suitable monument in Albany to the memory of Gen. Clinton.

From the Register.

Messrs Pillsbury.—For the benefit of the Public you may publish the following as a cure for Colic or Bots in Horses:

Take two table spoons full of common Salt and three of common Saler a quart of Water, dissolve the whole and drench.—Should this not relieve in half an hour, repeat the above, which I am sure will relieve. J. R. H.

The locomotive on the Fredericksburgh and Richmond rail road ran off the track a day or two since, 12 miles from Richmond, by which three of the cars were crushed to pieces, and the engineer so injured that his life is despaired of.

The Schlosser Affair.—The N. Y. Evening Star says:—We learn from an authentic source that Col. McNab is seriously and generally censured in Upper and Lower Canada for authorizing the attack on the Caroline and the violation of our territory, and that charges will be preferred against him for that act. The pacific disposition of our Government is perfectly satisfactory in Canada, and every desire of peace and good understanding manifested.

The Boston Medical Journal says:—Greece, with a million and a half of souls, has only eighty-five licensed practitioners of physic.—The town of Chicago, on Lake Champlain, with eight thousand inhabitants, has forty physicians.

DARLIAS.—It is little more than twenty years since the first dahlia was introduced into Europe, and already it has become the universal favorite of the florist. It is a native of the marshes of Peru, and was called after Dahl, the famous Swedish botanist. The number of known varieties is nearly five hundred.

We would inform the Editor of the "Nutricos de Aulas Muidas," that our exchange papers are mailed regularly. We receive "Mojoh Noah's Evening Star," once in three weeks, and yesterday received 5 numbers of the "Weekly Herald," which we supposed had been stopped, we are happy to receive Bennett's paper but he still commits the unpardonable sin, also writing letters to himself. What the devil is Amos Kendall about? He ought to take some of his Postmasters, clean them out with a dose of No. 6, and let them make steam boilers of them.—Etc. City Phoenix.

OSCEOLA.

FOUR MONTHS SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, near Charleston, S. C. January 24, 1838.

In Fort Moultrie are the Seminole prisoners of war—250 in number—chiefs, warriors, women and children in a motley and miserable group. Osceola, Micanopy, Cloud, Coahago, and King Philip, are the chiefs; and among a well as of several others, I richly embroidered blanket, or shawl, in the form of a Moorish band, which I shall bring to New York in a few days.

Mick-e-no-pah, who is the first chief of the nation, and was at the commencement of the war the owner of an hundred negroes; is a sturdy and dignified man, proud of his superior blood and flesh, and equally so of his title of "General," as he is familiarly called. This fat dignitary, and also Osceola, and several others, seem tolerably quiescent, and not disposed to grieve away their fat in their present confinement; but there is one restless spirit among them of a different cast—his name and broods over his nation's calamities with a broken heart, and pines and sickens in an agony which none but himself can know or feel. He is Osceola, (E-we) as he and all the other chiefs distinctly pronounce it. As-se-o-la.

From the time I have spent with this Chief, and familiar interviews I have had with him in conversation, I have been able to form a pretty correct notion of the feelings and character, as well as history, of this extraordinary man. A Creek by birth, he left his own tribe whilst a boy, and sought an asylum amongst the Seminoles, where he has been cradled and where he has flourished since. His father was a white man, by the name of Powell, who abandoned him, and sent him a vagrant upon the world to cater for himself. He soon became a favorite amongst the Seminoles; and from his force of character and genius alone, he has risen to the highest honors of the nation.

At all the ball plays, and other manly sports, Powell was reputed first in the nation; and his name was changed to As-se-o-la, from the fact that he could drink a great quantity of the "black drink" (called as-se-o-la) which was prepared from some bitter and nauseating herbs, and drank preparatory to the last and feast of the green corn dance.

From such facts, it appears he is entirely a self-made man, and one of an extraordinary character, which is conclusively proved by the fact that he is acknowledged, and followed by all the chiefs of the nation, as their head war chief. Though he is

but a demi-savage in blood, yet he speaks not a word of English and in his actions and feelings is as perfectly Indian as any man I ever saw. In stature, he is about the middle size, and in his features there is no striking peculiarity to stamp them out of mediocrity, but a pleasing symmetry of proportions, upon which the lights and shadows of passion and feelings are seen to play with perfect effect. There is at times spread over his face the most benignant and expressive smiles, even to perfect effusiveness; and, at others, they are darkened with the sternness of a Brutus, or the agony a dying gladiator. In fact, he is the perfect beau ideal of an Indian prince—gracious in his movements, and mild, almost to childlikeness, in his intercourse with the world. His hand is small and delicate to the touch, as that of a female; and the loveliest of them are continually flocking to him in groups to feel its gentle grasp, and catch the languishing looks from his down-cast eye—to bestow upon him some beautiful tinsel or plume, and levy his ravin looks for a small and precious keepsake of Asi-cola.

I thought at first, like thousands of others who take but a glance at him, that he was effeminate and womanly; but on a little acquaintance and familiarity with him, I became fully convinced, that the character of this man is not to be learned by the transient visitor, who sees him but a moment's sojourn, withering under a broken spirit, endeavoring to raise a world who are flocking to see him. These smiles are soft and beautiful, and are many, but those who, like myself, have heard him pour forth his griefs in the soothing tears of actual children, and they instantly rally, and raise him as if into the indignant sternness of the warrior and hero, will easily see that those smiles are based upon an agony that regularly preys upon his substance. His face is certainly one of the most expressive kind I ever have seen—capable of the most vivid and striking exhibition of the human passions that can possibly be imagined, bearing upon its front the predominant characteristic impress of perseverance and resolute, and expressive perseverance in the pursuits of life.

His manner of dress and ornament is such as greatly to interfere with the full development of his true character. His hair is cut close to the head, except a superabundance, which is left on the forehead, flowing down to his eyes, and large to its production from his temples in front of his ears, and dropping down near to the clavicle, resembling, or rather in all probability originating (for Indian fashions never change) the present fashions which the gentlemen of New York are adopting, of cultivating locks over the ears, which might be properly styled Osceola, Micanopy, Cloud, Coahago, and King Philip. Back of this is passed a crown of his head, with great taste, and them, a well as of several others, I richly embroidered blanket, or shawl, in the form of a Moorish band, which I shall bring to New York in a few days.

The ancient and native form of dress he still adheres to; the tunic, or manta, the leggings, and moccasins; but the approximation of his tribe to civilization has substituted the material of "General," as he is familiarly called. This fat dignitary, and also Osceola, and several others, seem tolerably quiescent, and not disposed to grieve away their fat in their present confinement; but there is one restless spirit among them of a different cast—his name and broods over his nation's calamities with a broken heart, and pines and sickens in an agony which none but himself can know or feel. He is Osceola, (E-we) as he and all the other chiefs distinctly pronounce it. As-se-o-la.

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gazing world; but in his solitude, when he tells in confidence his tale of grief, though his eyes are spilling down, drops moisten his eyes at one moment, yet the burning hero rushes through their sockets at the next—his soul is jet over their balls of fire—his smiles

Ms. A. 9. 2. 24