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BY W. B. GULICK.

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Speech of

HON. R. McCLELLAND, OF MICHIGAN.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1848,
On the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill.

Mr. McCLELLAND said: Mr. Chairman: During five years of service in this House, I have never yet made a strictly party speech upon any question, and would not trespass now upon the rule I prescribed for myself, had not the character of a distinguished citizen of my own State been most violently attacked and traduced. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, [Mr. Stewart], a few days ago, made many charges of a grave character against General Cass, and although they are very loose, and some of them exceedingly trifling, yet I propose to occupy a short time in discussing them and similar ones made elsewhere. If my hour is not wholly consumed in this way, I may notice other remarks made by him and other gentlemen on this floor.

The most prominent charge against General Cass is, that whilst Governor of the Territory of Michigan, he drew, besides his salary as Governor, enormous amounts of extra compensation—some making it, in the aggregate, \$100,568 94; but the gentleman from Pennsylvania, with every disposition to increase it, has been obliged, by some regard to truth, to reduce it to \$60,412. I propose to examine this charge, and believe it is susceptible of the most satisfactory explanation. One great error committed by those who have endeavored to distort this matter is, in assuming that each of the three documents (No. 6, 27th Congress, 3d session, and Nos. 112 and 244, 25th Congress, 3d session) usually referred to, and which contain all the necessary information on the subject, relates to and embraces different and distinct classes of allowances; and they are figured out and adroitly woven together so as to make up the sum arrived at; while the slightest glance and most cursory examination will show, clearly and unequivocally, that the documents are reports from the Secretary of War, in answer to three separate calls of Congress for nearly the same information, and that they embrace, with slight variations, precisely the same allowances, except that of the amount contained in document No. 6, \$12,612 is left out of the other two documents. Thus the whole of the allowances in document No. 244, and all in document No. 6 except the sum of \$12,712, are set forth and contained in document No. 112.

General Cass was Governor of the Territory of Michigan, and *ex officio* superintendent of Indian affairs in and for this Territory. As *ex officio* superintendent of Indian Affairs, he discharged his duties within the limits established by the Territorial organization, which embraced and included only the Indians and agencies within the peninsula of Michigan and the agency at Green Bay, on the western shore of Lake Michigan. In document No. 112, the accounting officers say, "that as superintendent of Indian Affairs, Governor Cass was paid no salary by the Treasury Department; but an allowance of fifteen hundred dollars per annum was made to him by the Secretary of War, and paid by the Treasury Department, during his superintendency, to cover his expenses of office rent, clerk hire, fuel, stationery, &c., &c., besides this, ten rations per day, equal to \$730 per year, were allowed to him from the date of his appointment, in 1813, till the end of 1821." They then go on to show the circumstances under which these allowances were made, quoting for that purpose a letter to Congress upon the subject from Mr. Calhoun, the Secretary of War, and by whom they were made, in which the facts and circumstances are fully set forth. It appears, from this letter that General Cass not only performed his appropriate duties of superintendent, but, in addition, actually executed those of agent for several tribes which were without agents, both within and without his superintendency. In reference to the allowance, Mr. Calhoun states, (Doc. No. 112, page 2.) that shortly after General Cass received his appointment, "he made application for a specific sum to cover the various personal expenses to which he was liable in the performance of his duty as superintendent." Without objecting to the amount which he thought necessary for the purpose, he was informed that a specific amount could not be allowed; but at the same time it was stated, that on presenting his account, what was reasonable would be allowed. The claim, from its nature, could only be adjusted on equitable principles, it being impossible to state the items of expense to which, situated as he was, he was exposed from his intercourse with the Indians.

The duties which Governor Cass performed as superintendent being similar to those of Governor Clark, (Governor and superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Missouri Territory,) "but more extensive, and in their performance attended with greater expense, he was had to the allowance which had been made to the latter, making such additional allowance as the difference in the two cases and a regard to equity required." Among the reasons given by Mr. Calhoun for the allowance was "the expense necessarily attending the intercourse with the Indians at Detroit, and where, from the neighborhood of the adjoining provinces of Canada, it is necessary to extend to them greater liberality and attention than at any other place." The case, then, (Mr. Madison,) who expressed the opinion that General Cass "should be remunerated for these additional expenses." Notwithstanding all this, the gentleman from Pennsylvania intimates that these claims were followed by Mr. Calhoun six years after he was out of office. "What he means I cannot conceive, unless it be to charge Mr. Calhoun with gross dereliction of duty. But the assertion is so devoid of all reasonableness and plausibility, (without taking into consideration the purity of that distinguished man's character,) that it must be ascribed to the gentleman's distempered imagination, as no

man in his propensities would make so unwarrantable and disingenuous an imputation.

[Mr. Burt said, by the permission of my friend from Michigan, I wish to add a word to the explanation he has already made. I speak as to the item of extra allowance made by the Secretary of War during Mr. Monroe's administration, and of that alone. I am authorized to say, that this item was allowed during that administration, and thus the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Stewart] is utterly mistaken in supposing that it was allowed subsequently. The allowance was to remunerate Gen. Cass, as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, for subsistence actually furnished Indians from a distance, who visited him on official business. These demands upon him became very heavy and very frequent. It was an expense which he was under no duty to bear, and his salary was inadequate to sustain it. From the very nature of the expenditure, specific vouchers could not be added or obtained. This sum was allowed, because it was supposed no more than was sufficient to cover the actual expenditures, which Mr. Calhoun was satisfied had been made by General Cass in the course of his official and important duties. Sir, I undertake to say, it was a charge as just on the part of General Cass, as its allowance was honorable and proper on the part of Mr. Calhoun. His reasons are assigned on the account, and fully vindicate the propriety of the allowance.]

But, sir, to the narration. The accounting officer states, that "Governor Clark was allowed by law a salary, as superintendent, of \$1,500 per annum. And on reference to his accounts, it appears that the sum paid to him to cover his expenses for office rent, clerk hire, fuel, stationery, &c., was about \$2,000 per annum; which greatly exceeds the allowance to General Cass for those objects, excepting for the first seven or eight years of his superintendency." Thus the allowance of \$2,230 from October 9th, 1813, to May 29th, 1822, when it was reduced to \$1,500, and of 1822, when it was reduced to July 31, 1821, made by Mr. Calhoun, and sanctioned by President Madison, for expenses and expenditures to which Gen. Cass was actually subjected in the performance of his official duties as superintendent of Indian Affairs and of his unrequited assiduous and defamers, and his amounting to \$33,325, is by some and some unscrupulous assailants and defamers, only run out for the whole period at \$2,230 per annum as an "extra allowance for services incident to the office of Governor," but by their peculiar facility at figures, is taken up from another document and made to amount to a much larger sum than that of the gentleman from Pennsylvania. He must be surprised, and admire their fertility of invention, when he finds it surpasses his own.

The next item of allowance, as shown by the documents, is \$1,500 per annum from 1822 to July 31, 1831, inclusive, amounting to \$14,375. This is the item in regard to which the most infamous and groundless charge has been made, that Mr. Calhoun refused to allow it, and that General Cass allowed it to himself when he became Secretary of War. It has already been seen from the quotations from Mr. Calhoun's letter that General Cass actually performed, besides the duties within his territorial limits, those of agent for Indians for which no agents were provided, as well without as within the boundaries of his appropriate superintendency. He could not legally be required to attend to other duties than those strictly pertaining to his legitimate superintendency, and within its limits; but so great was his activity, efficiency, and success in the management of Indians, that, under peculiar circumstances of difficulty and embarrassment in conducting our Indian relations in that quarter at that time, he was selected to take charge of numerous other tribes far beyond his superintendency, in Ohio, Illinois, and what is now Wisconsin. Many of those Indians it was difficult to manage, being disaffected towards our Government and citizens, from having been employed against us during the last war with Great Britain, and in consequence of the intrigues of the agents of the British Government and the Hudson's Bay Company, who made them large presents annually, and taught them to look to their Government and citizens as friends and protectors, and to ours as enemies and foes, from whom they had nothing to expect but injustice and wrong. It was only by the most energetic measures and firm and determined personal conduct, that on frequent occasions they were prevented from breaking out into open hostilities and deluging an extensive frontier with the blood of our scattered and defenceless citizens. On one occasion the Indians abruptly withdrew from the council with threatening words and gestures, and had drawn up in battle array and hoisted the British flag in defence, when General Cass, at the imminent peril of his life, accompanied only by an interpreter, went directly among them, tore down the flag and trampled it under his feet, and told them that no such emblem of foreign power should wave over territory of the United States in his presence. This chivalric act so astounded the Indians and excited their admiration for his daring and courage, as to change completely the whole tone of their feelings, and they soon submitted, and entered into friendly council and satisfactorily arranged their difficulties. This is only one of the many instances in which General Cass subjected himself to similar risk and danger with the same promptness and determination and with like auspicious results. He was subjected to great and various inconveniences, and his difficulties and embarrassments were greatly increased by his being compelled to take with him large amounts of money which, had to collect and transport to Detroit with much danger and risk. Any one who will take the trouble to consult the documents referred to, will acknowledge the almost insurmountable difficulties he had to encounter, and wonder how he ever succeeded so well in the discharge of his duties. It was customary at the time to allow two and a half

per cent. on all moneys disbursed under similar circumstances; and though some \$400,000 passed through his hands, (most of which he had at his own cost and expense to transport from the interior of Ohio through an unsettled country of about two hundred miles,) he never was allowed one cent for it, except in what the gentleman from Pennsylvania calls extra allowances.

Under these circumstances, he considered that some reasonable allowances should be made to him for the extra labor and heavy expenses to which, in various ways, he was subjected, and for disbursing this large amount of money, none of which duties legitimately belonged to him. Accordingly, in the year 1828, he submitted an account for these extra and extraordinary services, for the seven years ending with 1828, amounting to \$14,375 55, being at the same rate as has been allowed to his predecessor [Governor Hull] for similar services. Without questioning the justice of the claim, the Secretary of War, General P. B. Porter, submitted it to the Attorney General, the upright and eminent Mr. Wirt, for his opinion, and Mr. Wirt deciding it favorably, said:

"I understand the facts stated in Governor Cass's letter of the 26th November to be admitted, and if so, I can perceive no ground upon which his claim can properly be resisted. His salary as governor is compensation for governor, but the services for which he claims do not belong to his duty as governor of the Michigan Territory, and having been employed by Government to perform these services, he has a fair claim for them on the principles of a quantum meruit. The facts conceded, his right is undeniable."

Thereupon the Secretary of War allowed General Cass \$10,500, being at the rate of \$1,500 per annum for the period embraced in the account; and that sum was accordingly paid some time prior to his becoming Secretary of War, and Mr. Calhoun never had the claim under consideration, [so far as I can ascertain,] and therefore could not have rejected it.

When General Cass entered upon his duties as Secretary of War, there was due to him the same allowance for the balance of his term as superintendent, namely, from 1829 to July 31st, 1831, inclusive, amounting to \$3,875. This allowance being based on the same principles as the case decided by Mr. Wirt, there would have been no impropriety in the accounting officer's acting on the account, and paying him the amount; but governed by the most scrupulous delicacy, and the nicest sense of propriety, he endorsed upon the account the following:

"In the peculiar position in which I now stand in relation to the department, although the charge is not only unexceptionable in itself, but supported by a previous decision of the War Department, yet I am willing it should remain suspended and not acted on until it can with propriety be decided."

It accordingly remained suspended until November, 1837, a year after he had left the country for France, when it was taken up and allowed, as a matter of course.

Another item of the issue of misrepresentations, that in addition to the other allowances noticed, Gen. Cass was paid \$27,087 for extra services as commissioner in negotiating treaties with various tribes of Indians, &c. This item is taken from document No. 6, and \$14,375 of the amount is a repetition of the same sum contained in document 112, being the allowance before noticed, for labor and expenses in superintending Indians and making disbursements not within his superintendency, granted under the opinion of Mr. Wirt. Thus, instead of being the amount falsely stated, it was only \$12,712; and even of this sum the document shows that a considerable portion was for expenses. The items have been critically analyzed and the expense calculated by a gentleman of long experience, and perfectly conversant with such matters, who was with General Cass on many of the occasions for which the allowances were made, and who states that the actual and unavoidable expenses could not have been less than \$5,442, leaving for compensation only \$6,270—a small compensation for prolonged absences from his family, thro' a period of seventeen years; great exposure, risk, and danger, and a travel of over ten thousand miles, in birch-bark canoes, along the lakes and rivers, on horseback and on foot—all involving great toil and discomfort.

Of all the posts of Governors of Territories, that of General Cass was, perhaps, the most important and responsible. His salary as Governor was \$2,000 per annum; whilst that allowed to the Governor of the Territory of Orleans, who had no superintendency of Indian Affairs, was \$5,000 per annum; and the strong probability is, that the duties of the one as Governor were more arduous than those of the other.

To recapitulate the allowances, as shown by a correct analysis of the documents which have been so frequently referred to, were as follows:

1. The allowances made by Mr. Calhoun, November 2, 1821, and sanctioned by President Madison, and continued to him by subsequent Secretaries of War, [one for rations, from October 9, 1813, to May 26, 1822—10 rations per day, at 20 cents each—for supporting the Indians, \$6,610; and the other being for office rent, clerk hire, fuel, stationery, &c., from October 9, 1813, to July 31, 1831, \$26,715. See Doc. No. 112, p. 2, and Doc. No. 244, p. 2.] \$33,325 00
2. The allowances made under the opinion of Mr. Wirt, by the Secretary of War, during Mr. Adams's administration, and subsequently, [one for services in superintending the agencies of Piqua in Ohio, Fort Wayne in Indiana, Chicago in Illinois, &c., at \$1,500 per annum, for the years 1822-'23-'24-'25-'26-'27 and 28, \$10,500; and another, for similar services, same agencies, for 1829, 1830, and the first seven months of 1831, at \$1,500 per annum, as allowed for previous years—being amounts received for actual services and expenses, as superintendent, in travelling, attending councils, and disbursing some \$400,000, for which others were allowed 2-1/2 per cent.—See Doc. No. 6, p. 13, and Doc. No. 112, p. 9.] 14,375 00

3. The other allowances, viz.—

For a per diem of \$8 per day, for fifty-five days extra services, as commissioner at the treaty of Greenville in 1814, and St. Mary's in 1818, and concluding arrangements with the Wyandots in 1817 and 1818 business, \$260; attendance and travelling allowance at Fort Meigs in 1817, \$200; travelling and other expenses incident to the treaty of St. Mary's, in September and October, 1818, \$600; travelling and other expenses incident to the treaty of Saginaw, in 1819, \$240; travelling and other expenses incident to the treaty of Sault de Ste. Marie, in 1820, \$336; and subsequent to the aforesaid treaties, in preparing for and carrying into effect the several stipulations thereof, \$400.

Services as commissioner at treaty of Chicago, 52 days, at \$8 per day, between June and November, 1821, \$416; and mileage for 350 miles, at \$8 for every 20 miles, \$280.

Attendance at seat of Government, by order of the Secretary of War, on settlement of his accounts, from October 31, 1821, to May 29, 1822, 208 days, at 10 rations (at 20 cents each) per day, \$416; and allowance for expenses travelling to and from Washington, and whilst there, \$1,022.

Services as commissioner to treat with Indians at Wapahong-Konetta, and his travelling allowance from 4th to 30th May, 1825, \$256.

Also for similar services at Prairie du Chien, from 4th June to 7th October, 1825, including travelling allowance and attendance in taking the treaty to Washington, \$2,092.

Similar services, holding treaties in Indiana, in September and October, 1826, 46 days, at \$8 per day, \$368; and his travelling allowance, \$184.

Similar services at Fond du Lac, 65 days, between the 10th June and 10th September, 1826, at \$8 per day, \$520; and travelling allowance for 2,100 miles, at 40 cents per mile, \$840.

Similar services at Butte des Morts, in June, July, and August, 1827, 60 days, at \$8 per day, \$480; and 15 days in preparations and arrangements for the treaties and closing their concerns, \$120; and travelling allowance for 1,460 miles at 40 cents per mile, \$584.

Similar services at St. Joseph, in September 1827, 10 days, at \$8 per day, \$80; and mileage, 400 miles, at 40 cents per mile, \$160.

Services and expenses at seat of Government, 111 days, between 22d October, 1828, and 10th February, 1829, in preparing a code for the regulation of Indian affairs, in conformity to orders of the Secretary of War, at \$8 per day, \$880; and mileage for 1,600 miles, from Detroit to Washington city, and back, at \$8 for every 20 miles, \$640.

In all, 12,712 00

Total, \$60,421 00

The first, as has been shown, was for the actual and necessary expenses of his local office, as superintendent of Indian affairs, within the peninsula of Michigan, during a space of over eighteen-and-a-half years. It was, therefore, no emolument or compensation whatever. It was to cover the expenses of the office, and not the officer. And General Cass, when applying for it in 1821, says: "It may be readily presumed that, upon a frontier, and in such times, my expenses must have far exceeded the salary of my office. I can solemnly aver, that I expended much more than the whole sum received as salary, \$2,000 per annum; and refers to Colonel Hunt and General Macomb, and incidentally to General McArthur and Mr. Graham, all gentlemen distinguished for their varacity and integrity [See Doc. 112, pages 4 and 5.]

The second item was for services and expenses as superintendent and agent for numerous tribes of Indians not within his superintendency, which duties the law did not require him to perform, and for which, as decided by Mr. Wirt, he was clearly entitled to extra compensation. One half of this amount at least was for expenses.

Of the third item, it has already been shown that only \$6,270 was for compensation, the balance being for actual and necessary expenses. Thus, instead of his having received over \$100,500, or \$60,412, mainly as an extra compensation, the whole amount, he paid him, for extra services, did not exceed, beyond his salary as Governor, did not exceed, in eighteen-and-a-half years, \$13,457 50.—This is probably a far less sum than, on examination of the accounts of his distinguished opponent, would show during his career of an extra compensation, it is no disparagement service; which service, it is no disparagement to him to say, has, for the former part of his term, consisted of only the comparatively unimportant military duty, at a calculation of his regular and ordinary pay and allowances, in the several grades through which he has passed, will show that he has received (separate and apart from extra allowance) the large sum of \$127,000—will appear by a statement in my possession, and subject to any person's examination.

I do not desire to, and shall not, draw any invidious comparisons between these two men. My only design is, to show that General Taylor, as well as General Cass, at the same time I am candid enough to frankly admit my belief that he has deserved every farthing he received. General Cass has received nothing from the General Government that others have not received for similar services.

I will now devote a few moments to showing that it has been the invariable practice of the Government to make what the gentleman pleases to denominate *extra allowances*; and I do it with no malicious or improper spirit, but only for the purpose of relieving a distinguished man's character from a vile aspersion.

General Scott received the following, (see Doc. No. 6, p. 41.)

1. For a per diem of \$6, from Sept. 22, 1818, to 17th May, 1819, engaged in the completion of a military work for the army, by order of the War Department, \$1,428 00	
2. For a per diem of \$6, engaged in 1824 in revising infantry tactics, 1,104 00	540 00
3. Similar services in 1825, 540 00	
4. Compensation as author and compiler of the new system of discipline and tactics, and for superintending the printing the same, 5,000 00	
5. For a per diem of \$8, for one hundred and eighteen days' services as commissioner with Potawatomi Indians, and treating with the Winnebagoes, Sacs and Foxes, at Chicago, Prairie du Chien, and Rock Island, from 22d June to 17th October, 1832, \$914, and mileage from New York, by way of Chicago and Prairie du Chien, to Rock Island and back, 2,980 miles, at 40 cents per mile, \$1,192; but Gen. Scott not to charge for army transportation in his accounts as Major General, 2,136 00	
6. For a per diem of \$8 for two hundred and forty-four days' services as Commissioner to treat and make arrangements with the Cherokee Indians, from the 11th April to the 10th Dec. 1838, \$1,952, and his expenses during the time, \$358 71, 2,310 71	
Total, 12,518 71	

George B. Porter, late Governor of the Territory of Michigan, for services similar to those of Gen. Cass, (see Doc. No. 6, p. 38,) received during four years and five months, \$8,472 80

I might also refer to the cases of Governor Duval, of Florida, and Governors Miller, Izard, and Pope, of Arkansas, and others, in all the different departments of the Government; but to do so would be consuming your time to little purpose.

But, after all, the gentleman from Pennsylvania has not, in his own legislative career, manifested any antipathy to these extra allowances. Only a few days ago, the bill to pay the widow of Joseph Nourse—which was for the payment of 2-1/2 per cent, for disbursing moneys whilst he was Register of the Treasury—amounting to \$23,582, 72, and whilst Mr. Nourse was, during most of the time, receiving a salary of \$2,400 and \$3,000 per annum—was under consideration, and its merits were fully discussed, and the gentleman could not have misunderstood it; and yet, when the yeas and nays were ordered, he voted for it. The gentleman's party also gave as a gratuity to Mrs. Harrison, widow of General Harrison, \$25,000. I do not give these instances for the purpose of showing my disapprobation of them—for of that I do not speak—but merely to exhibit the spirit and feelings of the man who has made many of these reckless charges.

I will now, Mr. Chairman, direct the attention of the committee to the manner in which the gentleman has stated these several items in his printed speech, in order to exhibit its unfairness, and the injustice done to General Cass. One of the charges in his account, which, up to 1822, was allowed by Mr. Calhoun, runs thus in the gentleman's speech:—"From October 9, 1813, to July 31, 1831, \$1,500 per annum, extra salary;" when, by referring to Doc. 112, we find, instead of being for "extra salary," it was "to cover his expenses for office rent, clerk hire, fuel, stationery, &c." In noting the item for making treaties, &c., at Greenville, Saginaw, and Sault Ste. Marie, &c., he closes with these words—"Fifty days preparing before and after treaty;" leaving it naked and unintelligible, and conveying the impression that General Cass had really put so much money into his pocket, without having performed any service to deserve it; when the language used in the document, 6, from which he copied, is this: "And for fifty days extra services, previous and subsequent to the aforesaid treaties, in preparing for and carrying into effect the several stipulations thereof," explaining this part of the item satisfactorily.

The rules of order will not permit me to state why he has resorted to the Procrustean system here, I leave it to you to determine what inference might be drawn from it. In his second statement, which appears to be general, he asserts that "fifteen hundred per annum extra salary" (the same to which I have before alluded,) from 1813 to 1831, nearly eighteen years, was "paid in 1831," which was years after the services were rendered. Now the documents and the accounts stated, show that the several amounts were paid in 1822, and thereafter whenever the accounts of General Cass were audited. There was no postponement or payment, and no extraordinary delay. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has inserted in his speech a particular and general statement of these items of account, and in his addition of one of his columns of figures, he has committed an error of more than four thousand dollars; and it will be seen, that if he had entered the items properly, and made his calculation correctly, it would have satisfied him that the imputation of General Cass's charging twice for the same item was without foundation.

Mr. Chairman, my time will not permit me longer to dwell on this portion of his speech, which, from the adroit manner in which it is drawn up, is calculated and perhaps designed to mislead and deceive the people. If such was not his purpose, why were not all the items of account set down as they appeared in official documents from which they purported to have been taken? Did he act upon the maxim that "all's fair in politics?" I should be glad to throw the mantle of charity over it, but all the circumstances are so strong, that I am in doubt whether it can be ascribed to anything else than a disposition to pervert the truth.

Thus, Mr. Chairman, I have endeavored, as briefly as the nature of the case would permit, to reply to this charge, and whether successfully or not, I submit most cheerfully to the candor and good sense of the committee.

I will now proceed to the examination of another accusation of the gentleman from Pennsylvania, [Mr. Stewart,] which will be equally groundless and unjustifiable. He says:

"General Cass was once a great lover of the volunteers. He was a volunteer himself, and was sometimes called the 'old volunteer.' But now it was on the records of Congress, and there was no escape from it, that on the 29th of December, General Cass introduced into the Senate a bill reducing the pay of volunteers, for commutation for clothing, one third." He knew it was said that Gen. Cass had sent the Adjutant General, and got him or the President to nullify by construction, or veto it *ex post facto*. He might have found it would not do to strip the volunteers of their clothing; hanging and burning in effigy might have been unpleasant."

To such as the gentleman from Pennsylvania to be burnt in effigy, might be very unpleasant, and I doubt not it would; but in the mind of a man of as high moral and intellectual character as Gen. Cass, it could cause not even a feeling of displeasure against the perpetrators of such an act. Now, I undertake to say, Mr. Chairman, that a paragraph more replete with willful errors was never, in so few words, uttered. The volunteer who first made the charge in Mexico had not access to the records, could not ascertain the facts, and therefore, on the impulse of the moment, and under undue excitement, and from false information, he did that which I doubt not he will deeply regret when he learns the truth. But what palliation of the offence can be found for the gentleman from Pennsylvania? All the facts were within his reach, many of the circumstances should have been within his own knowledge, and yet, to vilify a distinguished political opponent, he resorts to the most monstrous misrepresentations. That gentleman could not fail to remember the return of Colonel Baker, of Illinois, from Mexico to this Hall, on the 28th of December, 1846, for it was rendered memorable by many of the accompanying circumstances, and exhibited a scene which we all hope never to witness again. Colonel Baker claimed the privilege of addressing the House; and after some objections were obtained, preceded, and told some unpalatable truths. In his remarks, he said he had been deputed to come here to effect a change of the system for supplying clothing to the volunteers; and stated, that of the twenty-six regiments of volunteers who had been sent to Mexico, there were but two or three who were possessed of decent clothing for the campaign, and urged, in the most impressive and imploring manner, the adoption of a resolution he proposed for that purpose.

On the 26th July, 1847, Lieutenant McWilliams, Second Pennsylvania Volunteers, says, in a letter forwarded to the War Department: "As regards clothing, I would prefer the clothing instead of the commutation thereof."

On the 14th of August, 1847, Lieutenant Ankrum, First Pennsylvania Volunteers, in speaking of the want of clothing, says:—"The dissatisfaction has been on the increase for two weeks past, during which time several deserted, and others have manifested a disposition to follow their example."

And again, December 11, 1847:—"I cannot see the propriety of withholding clothing from our service."

Captain Scott, First Pennsylvania Volunteers, says, November 23, 1847:—"Some of the recruits come here in a truly destitute condition. One of those received this morning had but one shirt, and no shoes. When Congress meets, cannot provision be made to supply the volunteer recruits with clothing as the regulars are supplied?"

A joint application was also made by officers of the two Pennsylvania regiments of volunteers for the same allowance of clothing as regulars receive. I have also extracts from letters received at the War Department, and written by Lieutenant Ashley, Lieutenant Gardner, Lieutenant Ginney, and Captain Carrington, of the Virginia Volunteers, Colonel Walbach, commanding depot for Virginia volunteers, and Colonel Morgan, late superintendent of the recruiting service—all urging the department to press the matter through Congress as speedily as possible, as the volunteers were actually suffering, and the service, in consequence, was much injured.

In compliance with these solicitations, the Adjutant General, from the purest and noblest motives, suggested the measure to the War Department, and the Secretary of War recommended it in this strong language:

"I respectfully repeat the recommendation in my last annual report on the subject of clothing in kind for volunteers, in lieu of the money which is at present paid to them as a commutation. The experience of the past year has shown the necessity for this change. The clothing provided by the volunteer, themselves, both in kind and quality, is generally unsuited for the service, and often proves to be deficient in quality. Serving in an enemy's country, and at a distance from the ordinary sources of supply, it can seldom be replaced when lost or worn out, and always at an exorbitant price. Much of the suffering which has been experienced by these troops may be attributed to the want of proper clothing. If authority were given to supply the volunteers in the manner provided for the regular troops, it is believed they would be better clothed, and at less cost to themselves and to the government, than by the present mode. It is understood, that if such provision is made, the arrangements of the quartermaster's department are such, in relation to supplying clothing, that it can readily furnish a supply to the volunteers."—(See Ex. Doc. No. 1, p. 66.)

The War Department having adopted the suggestions made by the Adjutant General, prepared and sent to the Military Committee [See Fourth Page.]