

## Congressional.

### MASSACHUSETTS CLAIM.

The following eloquent extract is from the speech of Mr. SPRAGUE, of Maine, delivered in the House of Representatives, on the bill allowing compensation to the State of Massachusetts for Militia services, performed during the late War—

All the errors of Massachusetts have been portrayed in sombre colors, while her merits have been passed over in silence. Even her early sufferings, without which some of those who are now ready to reproach her, would never have breathed the air, or lipped the accents of freedom, seem to be almost forgotten. It is not for me to delineate her character; it belongs to other hands. But since all who were citizens of Massachusetts during the late war, have been visited by indiscriminate denunciations, I trust I may be indulged in saying a few words for that part which now constitutes my own State.

Maine, sir, under all her sufferings, has been at all times the firm and unflinching supporter of the cause of our country. Although a great portion of her citizens were dependent upon commerce for their very subsistence, yet during embargo, restrictions and war, she beheld her commerce annihilated, her wharves and her shores desolate, her ships, her produce and her store-houses rotting together; her merchants ruined; her mechanics and sailors reduced from competence to beggary; and misery and want spread through her land; and all without a murmur! She never flinched for a moment, but remained the fearless and unwavering friend of the national government.

During the war—bordering for more than three hundred miles upon the territories of the enemy, and with nearly the same extent of maritime frontier, indented with innumerable bays and inlets, studded with towns and villages, with millions of shipping in her harbors, when the enemy, after the pacification in Europe, was enabled to bring his immense forces upon her shores, and was waging a barbarous warfare, ravaging and making incursions into her territory—when dismay went before him, and desolation followed in his train, she was compelled to meet and stay the enemy alone and unaided. You sent not a soldier to her relief; nay, her own hardy sons who had volunteered in your service, were not permitted to remain to defend their own homes and their own families, but marched away to the frontiers of New-York, to fight the battles of Chippewa and Niagara! Yes, sir, the battles of Chippewa and Niagara—

Who composed the Ninth Regiment, which has just been mentioned by the gentleman from Massachusetts, (Mr. Dwight,) and which there fought successfully against twice their number of British veterans, whilst one-half of their own number had fallen on the field? That regiment was unequalled except by the Twenty-first. Yes, the Twenty-first, in which fought those whom Ripley first led from the stubborn soil of Maine; which, when the fate of the battle of Niagara stood suspended, or rather, when it was almost decided against you, turned the tide of war, by a movement so desperate, that the commanding general had not even thought of proposing it to any. But Ripley knew his men, and by his order, under the gallant Miller, they ascended an eminence commanded by all the enemy's artillery, and in the full blaze of their cannon, continued to advance until they cut down the artillery, and their pieces, and drove the infantry from the position. The British commander, stung to madness by this unexpected defeat, brought in three successive charges, fresh and reloaded forces to retake the ground. The conflict was man to man, and bayonet to bayonet; the combatants were commingled; the enemy was beaten. It was a contest, which, for obstinate and desperate valor, was unequalled upon land, during the whole war; and the Twenty-first regiment stands unrivalled. And what return has Maine received? Neglect them, and contempt now. At the close of the war, all the officers and soldiers from Maine and Massachusetts were coldly turned out of your service. Those who had been "first in the fight" found no room "at the feast." While clouds lowered around us, and the tempest raged, you called upon them to protect you from its fury; but when peace had returned, and all was fair, and calm and safe, the stern and warlike virtues could be dispensed with. Others found more favor in your eyes; perhaps of more supple form and pryer plumage. I could proceed further in this course of remark, but I am unwilling to do so. It is gratifying to my feelings to be compelled to speak of my own State; and I should not have done it, had not indiscriminate censure been thrown on a people whose fidelity and patriotism, have been always conspicuous, in spite of privation, and danger, and neglect, and injury. Maine has done her duty to the utmost; but she has not, like some others, trumpeted her merits. She seeks no rewards. She asks no favors. She demands only equal and impartial justice. And I am confident that justice will not be withheld. His exercise is enjoined upon you, by every consideration of moral right and political expediency. Whilst despoils are laboring and combining to prop up their iron thrones, it is our high duty to strengthen and perpetuate our own institutions, as the best service we can render to ourselves, and to mankind. To this end, we must, on all occasions, seek to cement our union, to bind together all the parts in the bonds of mutual affection. One deliberate act of palpable injustice to a State, may chill the warm current of patriotism, and engender distrust and resentment. To adopt the principles which have been advanced in this debate; to punish, stigmatize and degrade a State for errors of opinion, must be felt not only as an injury, but as an insult. The wounded spirit will ravage from generation to generation. If you compel the fathers to eat sour grapes, the children's teeth will be set on edge.—Reject, then, this mode, this alarming doctrine. Plant not a root of bitterness which may spring up, and rise, and expand, until it covers and darkens all this fair land.

Let me not be misunderstood. In nothing that I have said do I mean any thing like a threat. I despise gasconading every where, and especially on this floor. I know the strong attachment which Maine and Massachusetts cherish towards the National Government, and that they will bear and forbear, as long as endurance can be a virtue. I mean only to prevent the disastrous consequences which must flow from the dangerous principles which have been advanced, whenever they shall be adopted, and wherever practically applied.

As we gave in our last, that part of Mr. McDuffie's speech, on amending the Constitution, which occasioned the scene of violence in the House of Representatives, we herewith annex an extract from the reply made to him, by Mr. Trimble of Kentucky, which produced the rejoinder of Mr. McDuffie, in which he stigmatized Messrs. Trimble and Vance as *understrappers* and *tools* of Mr. Secretary Clay. The publication of the offensive matter on both sides, is necessary to a correct understanding of the whole. The first emotion, we are confident, which strikes the reader on perusing these extracts, will be one of astonishment, that the Chairman of the committee of the Whole, should have suffered from an extraordinary departure from parliamentary decorum.

Perhaps it was right in gentlemen to raise the charge of combination, and corruption, and intrigue, against the President and the late Speaker of the House. It had diverted our attention from the real danger and the real culprit. The real danger to the constitution, the real sources of corruption, would be found in the premature ambition of Vice-Presidents elect. A plan to shield the House against corruption from that quarter, would deserve attention. It was foreseen by the friends of the Constitution that the Vice-President would be often in the way of strong temptations. The constitution itself, in one instance, distrusts his moral and political integrity, in a case where he would have to act on oath, if he had been allowed to act at all. When the President is impeached and on his trial in the Senate, the Constitution declares that the Chief-Justice shall preside. And why? Because in the event of a constitutional tie, the Vice-President might be tempted to vote for a conviction. The office, in that case, would devolve upon himself, and thus the success of his ambition would depend upon his own *impartial* vote. The temptation would be strong in such a case; and so it would in any case before the House, so long as he can get the office by a failure. We have had solemn warnings in the course of the debate, to put far from us the danger of political seduction. "Lead us not into temptation." "Eve, in her innocence in Paradise, was tempted." So spoke the gentleman's quotations. Satan, the tempter, came into the garden, with a conspiracy against the human family.—And who and what was he? An Arch-Angel—Vice-President elect of the Senate of Arch-Angels—*one step only from the throne eternal*—"Aspiring to the gods the Angels fell"—and Satan did aspire; and he fell to rise no more—drawing after him one-third of Heaven's Senatorial Angels. But fallen Angels and disappointed office-hunters are alike in this. They have a common deadly hatred against all those who fill the places which they wish to fill themselves: And so it was, that Satan straightway called a caucus of his chiefs and followers in Pandemonium; and there in high debate, planned out a scheme of opposition to the lawful government of Heaven, resolving to divide the kingdom of the King of Kings, and wear a crown in spite of the Eternal, and his high behests. And Aaron Burr held his midnight caucus, in or near this city—called his disappointed factious chiefs together—the choice spirits of the day—men who despised the dull pursuits of civil life—and drank his toast—"the union of all honest men"—*factions* to be understood, though not expressed; instead of honest, a union of all honest men; and there, in Pandemonium council, planned and organized his scheme of opposition to the government, and union of these States in federation—hoping and intending to divide the country and assume a crown at Orleans, or at Mexico. They say the People's choice, before this House, will stand upon his dignity, and refuse to talk with any body—and so he should, and so did all the candidates at the last election—and so did Thomas Jefferson at his election—but that proves nothing either way: for Aaron Burr stood also on his dignity at the same time, and refused to give pledges or make promises, or talk with any one; and no man after that should take merit to his favorite candidate, and boastfully applaud him for refusing to do the very thing which Aaron Burr refused to do, because it was beneath his dignity.

Suppose a case in which the Speaker, or a member of this House had been a candidate before the People, but not one of the three highest on the list, what would be his situation here? What ought to be his course in the election? And what the course of the members from the States that voted for him? He would stand here indifferent between the other candidates. His friends having lost their first choice, would stand indifferent also. His position in the House, and their also, would be peculiar to themselves. They would fill the place of umpires between contending parties. Events would force them to be arbiters and umpires. They would have high duties to perform, and their responsibility would be higher than that of other members, because circumstances would have left them free from all the jarring interests, and the hopes and fears of all the others. Their first duty would be the Constitution; the next, its prosperity and happiness. They would feel themselves called upon by all the sacred duties they could owe to the constitution, and the country, to select the man best qualified to fill the station, and (if possible) finish the election at a single ballot, and give a splendid triumph to our system of government, over all other systems. Such a man as the late Speaker would foresee, as perhaps he did, that disappointed office-hunters would form factions, and assail him; but still he would feel himself impelled to do his duty, fearless, and regardless of the calumnies of wicked and corrupt defamers.

The gentleman from S. C. (Mr. McDuffie) is right about his mobs and factious men, whose prospects of political promotion, depending upon the order in which the favorites of the nation are selected to the Presidential office, will, from necessity, be often disappointed; and I when defeated in their mercenary schemes, will always stand ready for some desperate adventure to repair their losses. The reason of this is obvious enough: It is a matter of self-interest—of personal ambition—and that is the reason of this extraordinary excitement here. The People

have no such motives, and they are satisfied they look only to the interests and glory of the country, and they are satisfied; they are contented with the late election, and, therefore, the factious must "galvanize" them with false rumors of corruption. The history of ambition proves that, whoever frustrate office-hunters in their plots & schemes for power, will always find a mercenary faction at its heels, engaged in the work of defamation to revenge the disappointment. And is there no shield for honest men against political defamers? no check upon political calumniators? no punishment for slanderers? no thunderbolts for Judas's infatuated opposition?

"Tell us, ye Spirits of the mighty dead, "Ye, who at Marathon and Leuctra bled!"—  
Ye, who at Brandywine and Yorktown bled—have ye no hidden thunder in your cloud-capped hills? no thunderbolt, red with unconquered wrath, to smite the foul defamers ere they execute their fell intents, and save their victims from the fury of revenge? Nay—hold—immortal spirits—hold! Launch not thunderbolts upon such vile calumniators; the death would be too glorious for their deeds of defamation. Let the hangman lead them to the gallows and the gibbet, and let the ravens of the forest feed and fatten on their flesh, until they pick each tainted carcass from its bones.

Appeals have been made, said he, in this debate, to history, and posterity, and the judgments of the world to come. And what is history? The memory of things gone by. A painting, large as life, of nations as they were.—A vast mirror, in which we see, upon the instant, at a single glance, the progress of all human things.—The rise and fall of empires, and free States; armies, sieges, battles; Kingdoms and Republics lost and won; rebellion, treasons, factions; all in their order, seen in bold relief, like promontories, jutting far into the sea of Time, to teach the coming nations how and where to navigate with safety. And there, in every age and nation, we shall see dimly, as if half-concealed, a tribe of false defamers, skulking and dodging from the face of day, and fabricating calumnies against successful rivals, and plotting schemes of opposition to the measures of the men they envy. Posterity—they are right in that. He who appeals to posterity for justice, admits that the judgment of his own time is against him; and that is the fact precisely in the case before us. And they appeal to the judgment of the world to come, and they shall have it. I also, said Mr. T. will give pinions to my fancy. I grant them their appeal. I mount with them the winged horses of the air, course it head and head with them into the boundless world unknown. Yes, said he, there should be, and there is, a Hell for traitors, and conspirators, and foul calumniators. There should be, and there is, a day of final judgment, followed with rewards and punishments, & there, for aught we know, the pure spirit of our immortal Washington, may sit in judgment over our political transgressions. There let our fancies meet: for there we shall surely stand, before our Mediator and Redeemer, each to answer for himself; and there to be redeemed or suffer for our sins. There we shall wear no mask to hide our malice or conceal our motives. There we shall have no midnight darkness, no caves to hide us from detection. There we shall stand in the full blaze of day, and there the Searcher of all hearts will have our secret crimes laid open to our view. There innocence will fear no scrutiny: for there the false accuser and defamer will be known, and there, if not redeemed, will there be handed out to Heaven's hangman, with a final mandate to lash the rascal round the horizon of the infinite celestial world, through endless, everlasting ages of eternity.

And here, he said, he would leave the accusation and defence, hoping that this debate would close forever the tasteless and disgusting practice of making criminations and recriminations, in that House, upon public or private character.

### Latest Congressional Proceedings.— SENATE.

Wednesday, May 3.  
The Judiciary bill was taken up, to act upon the amendment in which the two Houses disagree, in relation to the arrangement of the Circuits.

Mr. Van Buren moved that the Senate adhere to their amendment. On this motion considerable debate arose, in the course of which, Mr. Branch said, that he had understood that the friends of the Administration in the House of Representatives were opposed to this amendment, because it would prevent the appointment of a certain gentleman, who had been fixed on to occupy the place on the Supreme Bench.

Mr. Rowan stated in relation to the nomination of Robert Trimble to fill the place of Judge Todd, that he regretted the President had deemed it his duty to make the nomination while this bill was pending, and that it was made against the wishes of both himself and his colleague. He intimated a determination to oppose it whenever it should be called up.

The motion to adhere was carried—Ayes 29, Noes 12.

The bill making appropriations for carrying into effect the appointment of a mission to the Congress at Panama; was then read a third time, & passed, by the following vote:

YAYS.—Messrs. Barton, Bell, Boulogny, Chase, Clayton, Edwards, Harrison, Hendricks, Holmes, Johnson of Kent, Johnson of Lou. Knight, Lloyd, Marks, Noble, Reed, Robbins, Buggles, Stanford, Seymour, Smith, Thomas Willey.—23.  
NAYS.—Messrs. Benton, Berrien, Branch, Chandler, Dickerson, Eaton, Findlay, Harper, Hayne, Kane, King, Macon, Randolph, Rowan, Tazewell, Van Buren, White, Williams, Woodbury.—19.

The consideration of the Bankrupt bill was then resumed. Mr. Randolph moved its indefinite postponement; and delivered a speech of nearly six hours in length, in opposition to the bill.—Without taking the question, the Senate adjourned.

Thursday, May 4, 1826.

On motion of Mr. Hayne, the Senate considered the resolution of the House of Representatives, expressive of the sense of Congress of the gallant conduct of Lieut. S. Duncan, of the United States Navy; and ordered it to be passed to a third reading.

The bill to "aid certain Indians of the Creek nation, in their removal to the West of the Mississippi, was taken up, and passed to a third reading.

On motion of Mr. Macon, the Senate then proceeded to the consideration of Executive business, and half an hour was spent with closed doors.

Mr. Benton, from the Select Committee to whom was referred the subject of enquiring into the expediency of reducing the patronage of the Executive Government, made a report, which was read. The report was accompanied by the six following bills:

A bill to regulate the publication of the Laws of the United States, and the public advertisements;

A bill to secure in office the faithful collectors and disbursers of the revenue, and the displacement of defaulters;

A bill to regulate the appointment of Postmasters;

A bill to regulate the appointment of Cadets;

A bill to regulate the appointment of Midshipmen;

A bill to prevent military and naval officers from being dismissed the service at the pleasure of the President; which were severally read, and ordered to a second reading.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill "to establish a uniform system of Bankruptcy throughout the United States."

After a debate which lasted several hours, it was moved by Mr. Hayne that the bill should be laid on the table, and the motion was adopted by an unanimous vote.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, May 3.  
Mr. Jos. Johnson of Va. from the committee on the Public Buildings, reported a bill fixing the salary of the commissioner of the public buildings at \$2000, being an increase of 500; which bill was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Whipple of New-Hampshire, the committee on military pensions was instructed to enquire whether any, and if any, what further legal provisions are necessary to secure the more equitable operation of the several laws providing for persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States during the Revolutionary War.

The bill from the Senate, authorizing the subscription or purchase of stock, on the part of the United States, in the Louisville and Portland Canal Company, was read the third time and passed.

The House then went into committee of the whole, Mr. Buckner of Ken. in the chair, on the bill to compensate Mrs. Susan Decatur, widow and representative of Capt. Stephen Decatur, and others, for the destruction of the frigate Philadelphia. The blank in the bill was filled with 100,000 dollars, and some verbal amendments were made, when the committee rose and reported. The House immediately took up the bill, and spent some time in its consideration, but on motion of Mr. Mallory of Vermont, it was ultimately laid on the table, whence it will not be called this session.

Thursday, May 4, 1826.

Mr. Storrs made a report upon a resolution offered some time since, & referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and which directed them to enquire into the propriety of directing the removal of the remains of the late Captain Oliver H. Perry to the United States, asking to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject. The motion was agreed to—ayes, 77; noes, 30.

Mr. Peter of Maryland, laid the following on the table; Resolved, That it is proper to remove the remains of the late Commodore O. H. Perry from the place where they are deposited, to this country.

Mr. Peter supported this resolution in a speech of considerable length, and was proceeding to remark on the conduct of Massachusetts and the other Eastern States during the late war, when he was reminded by the Speaker that the entire course of his remarks was out of order as the report of the Naval Committee had not been taken from the table.

Mr. Peter then offered a motion to consider that report, which was negatived—ayes, 57—noes, 69.

The Senate's message, expressing the adherence of that body to its amendments of the Judiciary Bill was read, and the subject was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

From the National Intelligencer.

A very interesting report, accompanied by several documents, and introductory to a series of bills, was yesterday made in the Senate, by Mr. Benton, from a committee appointed to enquire into the expediency of reducing the patronage of the Executive Government

of the United States. The subject and the report together were deemed of sufficient importance by the Senate to order six thousand extra copies of the report and documents to be printed. The report and the bills will of course, be published in the newspapers as soon as they can. Meanwhile, the nature of the report may be understood, in part at least, from the following general statement of the objects of the several bills:

One of these bills proposes to provide that, from and after the 4th day of December next, the number of papers selected to publish the laws of the United States, and public advertisements, shall not be less than three in each State, and may be equal to half the representation of each State in Congress; in each Territory, one; and in the District of Columbia, three; the selection to be made by the Senators and Representatives from each State, and the Delegates from Territories; the papers in the District of Columbia to be selected by the Secretary of State, he giving the preference to those papers having the greatest number of actual subscribers.

Another of the bills provides for securing in office faithful collectors and disbursers of the revenue, and to displace defaulters, by requiring the President to lay before Congress, once in every four years, commencing with the first week in January next, a statement of the accounts of all the officers under the authority of the Executive Government, who hold offices charged with the collection or disbursement of public moneys, who shall have failed to account for such moneys before the 30th September preceding; their offices to be vacated, from the period of such information being communicated to Congress. It also provides, that, upon the nomination of officers to fill the vacancies occasioned by removals, the President shall state the reasons for such removals, and it repeals the act of May 15, 1820, limiting the term of office of certain officers.

A third of the bills provides, that no person shall receive the appointment of Postmaster, where the emoluments exceed a certain amount per annum, except upon a nomination of the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

A fourth of the bills provides, that the appointment of Cadets to the Military Academy, shall be apportioned among the several States according to the whole number of Senators and representatives in Congress from each State; the appointments to be so made, that one Cadet shall be taken from each electoral district; or from each Congressional district; and two from the State at large, if not divided into electoral districts; that one shall be appointed from each Territory; and one from the District of Columbia.

A fifth provides for the appointment of Midshipmen in the Navy, in a manner similar to the appointment of Cadets, as specified above; and directs that no person shall receive the appointment of Midshipman, unless he be over fourteen, and under twenty-one years of age.

The sixth and last bill provides, that the commissions of the officers of the Army and Navy, shall no longer be made out "to continue in force during the pleasure of the President," but "to continue in force during good behavior;" and that no officer shall hereafter be dismissed the service, but by sentence of a Court Martial, or upon an address to the President, by both Houses of Congress.

### Documents Wanted.

A GENTLEMAN who proposes to write a History of our Revolution, is in want of the following Documents, viz:

1. Journal of the First Provincial Convention of North-Carolina, held at Newbern Aug. 24th, 1774.
2. Journal of the Second Provincial Convention, held at Newbern, April 3d, 1775.
3. Journal of the First Provincial Congress, assembled at Hillsborough, August 20th, 1775.
4. Journal of the Second Provincial Congress, assembled at Halifax, April 4th, 1776.
5. Journal of the Third Provincial Congress, assembled at Halifax, December 18th, 1776. At this Congress the Bill of Rights and Constitution were framed and adopted.
6. Journals of the Commons House of Assembly for the years 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784.
7. Journals of the Senate for the years 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784. All the above, it is believed, were printed in a pamphlet form, and mostly in a small quarto size. A few are in small folio.
8. "Harman Husband's Account of the Regulators in North-Carolina."

Persons who may have any of the above Pamphlets in possession, and are willing to spare them, will please to transmit them to J. Gales & Son, Raleigh, who will allow them any reasonable price therefor, or accept of them gratuitously, in behalf of the Writer of the proposed History.

Raleigh, May 10, 1826.

### Neuse River.

THE Stockholders in the Neuse River Navigation Company are requested to meet at the Secretary of State's Office, on Monday morning next, the 15th inst. at 8 o'clock, on important business.

MARK COOKE, Secy.