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By George Howard,

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Congress of the U S.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, Feb. 3.

The Speaker (Mr. Clay) rose from his place, and requested the indulgence of the House for a few moments, whilst he asked its attention to a subject, in which he felt himself deeply concerned. A note had appeared this morning, in the National Intelligencer, under the name, and with the authority, as he presumed, of a member of this House from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Kremer) which adopted, as his own, a previous letter, published in another print, containing serious & injurious imputations against him, and which the author avowed his readiness to substantiate by proof. These charges implicated his conduct, in regard to the pending Presidential election; and the respectability of the station which the member holds, who thus openly prefers them, and that of the people whom he represents, entitled them to grave attention. It might be, indeed, worthy of consideration whether the character & dignity of the House itself did not require a full investigation of them, & an impartial decision on their truth. For if they were true, if he was capable, and base enough, to betray the solemn trust which the Constitution had confided to him; if yielding to personal views and considerations, he could compromise the highest interests of his country, the House would be scandalized by his continuing to occupy the chair with which he had been so long honored in presiding at its deliberations, & he merited instantaneous expulsion.—Without, however presuming to indicate what the House might conceive it ought to do, on account of its own purity and honor, he hoped that he should be allowed respectfully to solicit, in behalf of himself, an inquiry into the truth of the charges to which he had referred. Standing in the relations to the House, which both the member from Pennsylvania and himself did it appeared to him that here was the proper place to institute the enquiry, in order that, if guilty, here the proper punishment might be applied, and, if innocent, that here his character and conduct may be vindicated. He anxiously hoped, therefore, that the House would be pleased to direct an investigation to be made into the truth of the charges. Emanating from the source which they did, this was the *only* notice which he could take of them. If the House should think proper to raise a Committee, he trusted that some other than the ordinary mode pursued by the practice and rules of the House would be

adopted to appoint the Committee.

The Speaker having concluded his observations, and called Mr. Taylor to the chair, in his place—

Mr. Forsyth, of Ga. rose, and said, he hoped that the address of the Speaker would be entered on the Journal, and that the document, to which he had referred, should be laid on the table; and that the address and the document would be referred to a committee of nine members, to be chosen by ballot.

Mr. Kremer of Pennsylvania, rose, and said, if, upon an investigation being instituted, it should appear that he had not sufficient reason to justify the statements he had made, he trusted he should receive the marked reprobation which had been suggested by the Speaker. Let it fall where it will, Mr K. said, he was willing to meet the inquiry, and abide the result. Mr. K. moved, that the "card" of the honorable Speaker, referred to in "another card," should also be referred to the committee and entered on the Journal of the House.

On the suggestion of the Acting Speaker, Mr. Kremer withdrew his motion to refer the "card," the proposition not being before the House to refer "another card."

Mr. Livermore, of N. H. observed, that he did not see how it was possible to enter the communication of the Speaker on the Journal, since it was merely verbal; and he moved to lay the motion of the gentleman from Georgia, (Mr. Forsyth,) on the table, until the House should be in possession of that communication in a written form.

The question on Mr. Livermore's motion was put, and negatived.

After some observations by Messrs. Forsyth, Livermore, Foot, Lincoln, &c.

Mr. Cook, of Illinois, said he took it for granted, that the Speaker had presented to the House as specifically as he could, the nature of the charges which he had asked the House to investigate. It was not the address of the Speaker, but the letter which contained the charges against him, that was to be the subject of investigation. The inquiry which was asked by the Speaker was proper, in relation to the character of this House, and the interest of the country. The letter referred to in the Speaker's address, did not operate, in its accusatory property, on the Speaker alone, but on a portion of the other members of this House. Let gentlemen turn to that letter, and they would find that it contained charges as peniculous to the character of this House and of the nation generally, as to the Speaker.

Mr. Webster here interposed, he said, with great reluctance, to call his friend from Illinois to order. He submitted to him whether, on a motion to refer the letter, &c. it was proper to enter into an investigation of the nature of the charges contained in it, &c.

Mr. Cook disclaimed any design to violate order in his observations, and desisted.

The question was loudly cal-

led for, and was taken on ordering the address of the Speaker to be entered on the Journal, and decided in the affirmative.

Mr. Condict, of New Jersey, moved to postpone the further consideration of the remaining proposition (for the appointment of a committee, &c.) until to-morrow.

Which motion was agreed to, and the subject postponed until to-morrow.

Friday, Feb. 4.

On motion of Mr. Condict, of N. J. the House resumed the consideration of the motion of Mr. Forsyth to refer the communication of the Speaker to a select committee, on which there arose an animated debate, which occupied the House till half past four o'clock; but was finally adopted—ayes 125, nays 69.

The committee was ordered to consist of seven, and to be appointed by ballot.

The following extract from the Speech of Mr. MACON, on the motion of Mr. Tazewell to strike out the third section from the bill for the suppression of piracy, is full of sound sense, however homely the style.—*Norfolk Herald*.

Mr. Macon, after some observations expressive of his dissent from the opinion of his friend from Virginia, last up, (Mr. Barbour) in relation to the question of order, remarked, that there was something or other in the bill that he did not understand. The Secretary of the Navy had told us that insurance could be obtained, on vessels going through the Gulf of Mexico, for one and a half per cent; and how this could be so low, when there were so many piracies, he did not understand! He did not understand, either, how the necessity of the case gave us a right to make a breach in the public law, and contended that national character was like individual character; that it ought to be so pure as to command respect. He thought it would be a curious question, to decide upon the condition of a vessel that had been taken for attempting to go into any of the ports which were blockaded by our vessels, and brought in for condemnation. It was as evident as day, to him, that it was in the power of our Navy to extirpate piracy; at least our agent, Mr. Randall, had told us so, and when it could be effected in this way, he was opposed to using any other means, that were of a doubtful and dangerous character.

He thought that a single cause produced all the evils that we had to deplore; and that, our carrying money from one island to the other. As to this following of pirates on land, said Mr. Macon, it is rather difficult. How will you know them on shore? They may swap clothes, and otherwise change their appearance. The true way is to catch them on the water; and when caught, hang them all, and have an end to them. Why do gentlemen want to go farther than is necessary? They seem as if they were afraid of not being thought willing to put down this banditti.—Mr. Macon went on to contend that

our Navy was sufficient to put a check to the evil in question, and that it was a strange doctrine, that all our vessels could not keep four or five hundred pirates off the water.

Spain, he asserted, was out of the question. He hated to scare one that could not take care of herself. And what, he asked, was now the situation of Spain? There were people there, but were kept down by the French troops.—In relation to the trade with the West Indies, he believed it was profitable, but he thought it was impossible for such a population to have existed since the days of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Washington City, (D. C.) February 8.—Mr. Cooper,

that veteran performer, had a Benefit last night, and we were gratified to observe that the audience was as respectable and distinguished as it was numerous. The President of the United States honored the Theatre with his presence on the occasion, as did Gen. Jackson, Mr. Secretary Crawford, Mr. Secretary Adams, and the Nation's Guest, Gen. Lafayette, together with a great number of other public men and many private citizens of the first standing.

The feelings of the Audience, in this instance, were manifested in a most unequivocal way in favor of the Hero of New Orleans.—On the entrance of the President and General Lafayette there was some clapping of hands, perhaps twice. When Mr. Adams entered there was a faint clapping, once: But when JACKSON was announced, he was received with three successive, general, loud, and hearty clappings of the hands, which, re-echoing, shewed at once who was the MAN OF THE PEOPLE. *Jackson's March* was then called for, and played, with cheering, until the performances of the stage commenced. In acknowledgement of so marked a compliment, Gen. JACKSON rose, and, in the most graceful manner, bowed to the audience all around.—The sentiment of esteem evinced for him was universal among those present...*Gaz.*

Gen. Jackson.—We are not in the habit of eulogising this distinguished man; he is not our choice as the president of these U. States—but his present deportment is so much commended in various letters from Washington, that it is but justice to notice it. The writer of a letter to Philadelphia states, that he was present when Gen. Jackson was informed of Mr. Clay's intention to support Mr. Adams. The General was unimpassioned; and coolly observed, that there two things of which Mr. Clay could not deprive him—one was the honor he had already received in the votes of the people; the other was the pleasure of spending his life on his own farm in Tennessee.

Another letter, now before us, states that Gen. J. advises his friends "to be calm and let the election result as the people's representatives choose to make it," declaring his determination to be defeated, rather than make

compromises, or coalitions of any kind whatever.

Another letter states, that when it was suggested to him by a friend to see Mr. Crawford, he replied that he thought it wrong at *this juncture of time*. This, we understand from unquestionable authority is Mr. Crawford's opinion.

Mr. Crawford's course, thro'out these trying times, has been precisely such as it ought to be—firm, high-minded, above the breath of suspicion itself. If any thing were wanting to raise him in our esteem, and to attach us to the interests of the man whom we have so ardently supported, it is the deportment which he now exhibits. He has declined all negotiations—he will make no bargains for office—he will accept no office under Adams or Jackson. We do not speak upon this subject at random—but most advisedly. Were we at liberty, to develop the facts, which have reached us from unquestionable sources, we should satisfy the people that *he was a man whom they would delight to honor*.—*Enquirer*.

Of Canals.—A town meeting was held in Philadelphia on Monday last, the principal business of which, the Freeman's Journal says, was the consideration of submitting to the citizens of Pennsylvania the project of a canal to unite the Alleghany and Delaware rivers. Mr. Ingersoll stated that in the great canal of Europe, "the mother of canals," a railway is erected to supercede the canal. He mentioned that in a letter lately received from London, his correspondent informed him that Mr. Huskisson, one of the most intelligent men in England in these matters, had stated to him his belief that in *twenty-five years there would not be a Canal in use in Europe*.

Mr. Sergeant in reply stated the fact that the railway from Mersey to Manchester cost upwards of fifty thousand dollars per mile—and that there had not been, in fact, sufficient experience in this new mode of conveyance to be enabled to determine on its adoption to the purposes spoken of. Ours is a canal country; and it would be Quixotic to attempt any expensive experiments.—*Alex. Her.*

Fire... On Saturday, the 15th inst. nearly a whole square of buildings in Columbia, the seat of government, (S. C.) was destroyed by fire. Among the sufferers, says the Charleston Courier, are Mr. Snowdon, his house burnt but his goods saved; Mr. John Black's house burnt; Mr. Hatier's goods nearly all lost.

Imprisonment for debt.... An unsuccessful attempt has been made in the Legislature of Ohio, to abolish imprisonment for debt. In the report of the committee, they frankly and clearly give it as their opinion, that the law is *unjust and impolitic*; but from its deep connexion with the whole system of civil jurisprudence, they consider that to expunge it, would require much labor, as it would become necessary to change nearly the whole code.