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CONDITIONS.

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From The Western Herald.

SKETCH OF MR. CLAY'S SPEECH.

The following sketch of Mr. Clay's speech in Congress, on Monday the 29th January, on the subject of the ways and means has been handed to us by a friend; and not having seen it reported in any of the papers, we are induced to give it to our readers. Mr. Clay being one of the negotiators of the British treaty of peace, had the best means of justifying his signature to an instrument, which secured our best interests, preserved the integrity of the union, and gave us peace:

Mr. CLAY, observed, that in respect to the reduction of the army, he was decidedly against reducing it to less than ten thousand men. In 1802, in Mr. Jefferson's administration, the army was reduced to four thousand men, afterwards under the same administration 6000, more were voted to the peace establishment to cover several posts on the frontiers. He noticed the particular situation of Europe—that the legitimate sovereigns or despots of Europe had commenced to destroy self-government; and that the battle of Waterloo had decided the fate of the liberty of Europe. Respecting measures of defence and peace establishment, if he had the care of our national affairs, he would have had fifteen thousand men to guard our frontiers—he would have had steam batteries at New-Orleans, at New-York, at Baltimore, and at Boston, to protect our coast and be ready to meet the enemy at all points. An illusion had been made to the late demands of the Spanish minister—he considered them frivolous: the territory in dispute had been fairly purchased and ceded to us, and finally ceded to by the Spanish authorities, and as to the government interfering with individuals embarking in the cause of the Spanish patriots in South America, he would be frank and explicit on that subject. If he had the direction of the affairs of this nation, he would enforce the cause of the republicans on Spanish soil. It was his interest to do so; it was our duty; and it would be sound national policy, for self preservation, to form a bond of union with them to resist the legitimate claims of the despots of Europe on our rights and our national sovereignty.—The allied sovereigns might well, and probably will, extend their legitimate claims here. On this subject the treaty, Mr. C. said that the commissioners had not surrendered an inch of territory. Respecting the islands in the Massachusetts, one of them was in possession of the British forces which we claimed; and the other in our possession which they claimed; and both subject to adjustment by the provisions of the treaty and to be given up to either party, as the justice of the case required. But it will be observed that the treaty on that subject was prospective; the islands were to remain in the possession of the captors at the time of the ratification of the treaty in America—and the reason the commissioners contended for a prospective operation on that part of the treaty was, that they did expect that the great and powerful state of Massachusetts would highly extol during the revolutionary contest, would have been roused to a sense of duty, and would have given the enemy from them, or that the national government would. But both these expectations they were disappointed.

Respecting the fisheries—it is true provision was made for future privileges for our fishing craft to dry their fish on the British shores—but it will also be remembered that in the present treaty the British have been refused the privileges in the Mississippi which were granted to them by treaty in 1783. There could be no comparison in these important privileges; for this part he never would put his hand to a treaty giving to the British any privileges in the Mississippi, a majestic river that is destined to be the greatest source of wealth to the

union; and, with the improvement of steam boat navigation, is destined to make N. Orleans the great emporium of western commerce. He would ever contend that the British should have no more right to navigate the Mississippi than the Potomac of any other of our navigable rivers; and he never would put such a privilege in competition with the right to dry fish on the British shores of Newfoundland. Gentlemen had triumphantly asked, what have we gained by the war? He would answer them—we had gained national glory—our navy was victorious against the boasted ships and fleets of England—our armies were victorious against their veteran troops—our independence placed by the war on a more solid foundation—our character as a people stood higher with foreign nations. This was what he called national glory, and he was proud to boast of it; it might be enthusiasm; it was grateful to his feelings, and he was proud to own it. Gentlemen say we have abandoned sailors' rights, because there was no stipulation for the protection in the treaty. The cause of war had subsided by the war in Europe having been at an end, but the rights of our seamen were not abandoned by the silence of the treaty; & he was willing to declare that he was again ready to make war on England to avenge the first infringement of the rights of American seamen.

AMERICAN CHARACTER.

Many of our readers will be pleased with the following sketch of the American character, by a writer in *Cobbett's Register*:

There is a strange notion prevailing in England; that society, in America, is yet in a rude state, that the American is, and must be for some time, an unpolished nation; that, when they become polished, and when great riches are accumulated by individuals, they will have as much pauperism and as many crimes as we have; and that ours has only been the unavoidable progress of civilization and refinement. If this were true, it would be impossible to deny, that, during this king's reign, we have made a most wonderful progress in the sublime arts of polishing and refining, seeing that since 1760, the paupers have increased a hundred fold. But, sir, I look back to the days of Pops, I do not perceive that there is much proof of an increase of the quantity of the highest talent.—If, by *polish and refinement*, are meant *hypocrisy* in all its various branches, we have certainly arrived at the pinnacle. But, as to the Americans being in a rude state, on what is the notion founded? Their dress, their amusements, their manner of eating & drinking, are so much like ours, that, were it not for the absence of beggary, misery and filthy streets, a man dropped down in an American town would imagine himself still in England. There is no science, no art, known in England, which is not studied and practised in America, and, in numerous instances, with greater success than in England. Their courts of justice have the same forms; law is administered in the same manner; in many cases it is the same law. In matters of commerce and navigation, the Americans almost equal us, and are in a fair way of surpassing us; and, as to the affairs of war, whether by land or sea, they have made us feel, and they have convinced all the world, that they want no lesson from any body.

Where, then, are we to look for these marks of comparative rudeness? Not in the speeches made in the congress; nor in the notes and other papers of their diplomatic ministers; for, as to these latter, it makes one blush for one's country to view their vast superiority. Is it in their friendly and dignified deportment towards foreign nations; in the wisdom and gentleness of their government and laws; in the peaceable behaviour of their citizens; in the absence of crimes, and in the want of rotten boroughs and a "new drop;" is it in any, or in all of these things, that we are to look for proofs of this alleged rudeness?

So far, Sir, from its being true, that the Americans are in a mass, compared to us, in a rude state, the very contrary is the truth. In America there are none of those brogues, or dialects which distinguish Scotch, and Irish, and English, and Yorkshire, and Wiltshire, and Cockneys, from each other. These cease with the emigrant, whose children speak good and correct English. In America, reading and writing, and something beyond merely these, are universal. The American farmer has other charms under his roof, besides those of attending to his hospitality.—He can converse with you upon almost every subject. The Bible alone does not form his library. He comes in from the heat or the sun,

stripped to his shirt, takes down a volume of his Encyclopedia, or some book of science, travel, history, law, politics, or poetry. When he has rested himself, he returns to his fields or his yard. There is no law of his country, no regulations which he does not understand; no rights that he possesses that he does not know how to go to work to defend, a public question in which he does not feel a lively interest, and as to which he is not able to express his opinion. I must be understood, of course, to speak with exception only. I speak only in all countries. But, as a general description, I pledge myself for the truth of what I have here said, with the expectation that in less than four months this letter will find its way to every part of the country of which I am speaking, and with very powerful reasons not to be looked upon, in that country, as a dealer in falsehoods, and more especially as a flatterer.

Well, then, sir, if what I have here stated be true, will not you, with all your still unshaken attachment to Old England (and which, after all, I cannot refrain from participating with you;) with all the sorrow that you must feel at seeing distant regions carry off the fruits of the talents, the labors, and the sufferings of Sidney and of Tooke, will not your rising envy be stifled by that generosity which will make you exclaim—"Blasted be the man who would destroy the harmony and freedom of such a people!"

As to the effect of great individual fortunes on the liberties and moral state of the Americans, such fortunes already exist, and have long existed. There are men in America worth half a million sterling each. But as these riches have not been derived from taxes, they have not impoverished and degraded any part of the community in accumulation; and as it is impossible that they should be employed in the purchase of boroughs, they do not appear to be dangerous to public liberty. The Edinburgh Reviewers flatter themselves, that these rich merchants will, in time, become the lords of the country; and they will tell us, that our government ought to capitulate their friendship beforehand. These wise critics know, or appear to know, very little about the matter. They seem very uneasy at the existence of a great democracy. They are anxious to see it converted into a "more dignified" state, with "a great body of aristocracy, able to protect the people against the throne, and the throne against the people." In short they itch all over, to see a list of "royal boroughs" in America. I dare say, the Americans will be much obliged to them for their anxiety; but, I am very sure, that they will think themselves better protected by their power of choosing their own public servants, than they would be by any "great body of nobles," even if imported from Scotland, and if Mr. Jeffrey himself were to go out as king. No, sir, I do not believe that the Americans will be very likely to fall upon the scheme of rearing a throne for the purpose of wanting "a body of great nobles," to protect them against that throne.—Such brilliant schemes they will leave, with all humility, to the polished and refined nations of Europe.

From the Caledonian Mercury.

MIRACULOUS PRESERVATION

The following particulars of a late shipwreck, wherein the sufferings and privations of the survivors are almost without a parallel in the chequered details of the dangers to which seamen are exposed.

On the 4th of September, the brig Friendship, Capt. N.F. Carder, sailed from Maramich, N. Branswick, with a cargo of timber for Biddeford. On the morning of the 18th, she sprung a leak; and on the 22d, (the unremitting efforts of the crew at the pumps proving unavailing to keep her free) she was full of water. In this deplorable condition, without the possibility of getting below, and distant, by their calculation, about 347 leagues from the coast of Ireland, they kept the vessel before the wind under easy sail, in the forlorn hope of making the land; but unhappily on the 28th, (when, by supposition, they were about 70 leagues from Cape Clear,) a sudden squall coming on, she broached to, and overset? By this melancholy disaster, two poor souls were washed overboard and drowned, and the whole of the provisions and water they had collected on deck, with boats, and every moveable article, were swept away! The rest of the crew, consisting of the captain, mate, three men, and four boys, with difficulty supported themselves on the side of the ship; when, after remaining in this awful situation about 40 minutes; having in the meantime, carried away her mainmast,

bowsprit and main topmast, she righted. From the condition the vessel was in, however, she had gradually settled abaft, and from midships forward was the only part left above water, upon which the miserable survivors could obtain an insecure footing, every succeeding wave threatening to hurl them into the dreadful abyss. For six tedious days and nights did these devoted sufferers remain in this wretched and hopeless state, without a morsel of bread to sustain the cravings of nature, all of them very thinly clothed, without shoes, stockings or hats, and the few garments they wore constantly wet; owing to the rain that fell, and the sea that broke over them.

From the former, however, they fortunately derived some sustenance; for during rain, they suspended a bed quilt in the remnant of the rigging, and, when completely saturated, by carefully squeezing it, they obtained three pints of water on each trial; with this, and a small quantity of rum, (the only necessary saved, but so much impregnated with salt water, that captain Carder, to prevent its being used in a raw state, frequently threatened to throw it overboard) they made weak grog which was sparingly served out to them in the heel of an old shoe, the best substitute they could find for a glass. The ship had been much infested with rats; and after these vermin were driven from their lurking places below by the water, they took refuge on those parts which were left dry, and openly ran about among the people on the fore-castle. From this station the captain would not permit them to be driven, lest in the extremity of their distress, should no friendly sail appear in view, they might ultimately be compelled to have recourse to these troublesome guests, as a temporary respite to expiring nature! But the rats were a terrible annoyance to the almost exhausted sufferers; as the vermin fell a prey to, want, they devoured each other; nay, they even attacked the feet of the seamen whilst asleep, and when brushed away by their hands fastened on their fingers! With a view of keeping hope alive among his almost dying companions, the captain offered two dollars, which he found in his pocket, as a premium to the man who should first descry relief; but faith and vigilance at last, centered in himself alone and on the evening of the 6th day, (4th Oct. in lat. 50, 50, long. 14,) he providentially espied a sail, which he did not, however announce for ten minutes, lest the stranger should not steer in their course.

When all doubt on so momentous a point was removed, he ordered the friendly bed-quilt, (which had before been so serviceable, and was the only signal they could then muster,) to be hoisted; and the harbinger of their joy proved to be the Sachem, capt. Howland, of Boston, from Liverpool, for America, who immediately on perceiving the wreck, bore down, and rescued the sufferers, at a moment when despair had apparently reduced nearly the whole of them to the last stage of existence. After being all safely removed from the wreck, capt. Howland, with genuine christian benevolence, treated them with the tenderness of a parent—administering to them simple food in limited quantities; and by similar judicious means their dormant faculties were soon reanimated, and they were all speedily restored to the use of their limbs. Two days afterwards, they fell in with the John, capt. Brasse, from Africa for Liverpool; to which vessel they were transferred, and after again experiencing the humane and feeling regard due to their pitiable state, were safely landed at Liverpool on the 15th October. Their deliverance was most providential, as a gale of wind and a heavy sea came on the following day, which must have swept every soul off the wreck. On the 11th, seven days after they were picked up, the vessel was fallen in with in lat. 50, 57, long. 12, 30, drifting at the mercy of the waves, by the William, arrived at Liverpool from New York. We have been careful to detail the particulars of this singular escape; having obtained, the information from one of the survivors; and were at the same time anxious to record so striking an example of the benefit to be derived, in similar circumstances, from that pious resignation, coolness and intrepidity, by which the conduct of capt. Carder was so eminently distinguished throughout the whole of this very trying and appalling scene.

The Edinburgh Review is interdicted in France.

The Englishmen who had been arrested at Paris for assisting Lavalette, have been liberated on giving bail.

Lavalette is said to have escaped to England.

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE—MARCH 21.

The bill from the House of Representatives, to abolish the present, and impose other duties on domestic distilled spirits, was read the second time, and referred to the committee on finance.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the United States, and to enforce the enactments contained in former laws provides that in cases of neglect or refusal of the governors or commanders in chief in each state, to call forth the militia, when legally required, the President of the United States shall be authorized to call upon any officer or officers having command in the militia, who shall forthwith comply with the requisition, & detach the men under their command.

After several unsuccessful motions to amend and postpone the bill indefinitely, Mr. Mason of Va. submitted amendments for consideration, and the bill was postponed until Monday next.

The bill in addition to the act regulating the post office establishment, was resumed as in committee of the whole.

On the question to strike out the third section, which gives to Members of Congress the right to frank letters and packets, during the whole Congressional term. It was decided in the affirmative—ayes 22, noes 11.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19.

TAX ON STILLS.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Breckenridge in the chair, on the bill to change the existing duties on distillation.

A great number of amendments, touching no principle, were proposed to the bill and discussed, in the course of the day—many of which it would be scarcely practicable, and perfectly uninteresting to state even summarily, much less in detail, and which are therefore not noticed. Some of the most important propositions are briefly stated below.

Mr. HARDIN, after adverting to the distance of many parts of the country from market, particularly the people of Kentucky, who were obliged generally to carry the product of their stills to Natchez and New-Orleans, and the considerable time which must consequently elapse before they could receive any returns to enable them to discharge the duties imposed on their manufacture—moved to extend to eight months the credit of six months, allowed by the bill to those whose license exceeds 20 dollars.

Mr. CLAY said, he was in favor of the motion. He avowed himself decidedly friendly to a duty on distillation, so long as any part of the existing public debt remained unpaid; but in imposing this duty he wished to see every proper indulgence extended to those on whom the tax was laid. To show the necessity of the proposed amendment, he adduced an instance in one of his own constituents, who had paid in duties to the government the sum of \$3000, before he had received a single cent in return, from the sale of his manufacture. The situation of the western distillers, he said, demanded an extension of the proposed credit—they were obliged to seek a market at Natchez or New-Orleans, and thence perhaps to ascend the Red and other rivers to Natchitoches or elsewhere. Sound policy and justice to those concerned, required, therefore, the alteration proposed by his colleague—from whom he differed only in the extension of the credit moved for. Mr. C. said he would prefer twelve months, believing that term necessary to meet the cases already stated. A credit of two years was allowed in the duties on the India trade, and the voyages performed by the western people in seeking a market almost equalled those to the Indies. Mr. C. then, (Mr. Hardin having previously withdrawn his motion) moved to insert twelve instead of six months.

Mr. SMITH of Md. concurred in the views of the gentleman who had supported the proposed alteration, but he would prefer nine months, conceiving that term sufficient for every fair purpose. He thought every facility and encouragement ought to be given to distillations, which he believed would, in time, become a very great source of revenue, as the farmers would find it more and more their interest to carry their surplus grain to the great distilleries and barter it for whiskey, &c. He wished also to encourage the manufacture of that article, because he believed it the least pernicious of the ardent spirits generally used.