# EASTON GAZETTE.

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RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all.

VOL. XIV. EASTON, MD. SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 10, 1831 NO. 37.

PRINTED & PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY EVENING
BY
ALEXANDER GRAHAM.

TERMS

TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS Per Annum, payable half yearly in advance.

*ADVERTISEMENTS*

Not exceeding a square inserted three times for ONE DOLLAR; and TWENTY FIVE CENTS for every subsequent insertion.


## SPEECH
### OF THE
## Hon. E. F. Chambers.

*Concluded.*

Thus much I have felt bound to say, in the spirit of justice on the one hand and defence on the other. Mr. President, one subject more. Praise has been claimed to the present administration, for the reduction of duties on coffee and tea. I have been asked for a history of the transaction. Now, sir I am entirely content to concede to Gen. Jackson's administration, all the merit it can claim. In my judgment, half the sins properly chargeable to its account should drive the American people to look for a successor. I do not desire to impute one, for which it is not properly responsible. It is true, that this reduction of duty has been effected by a law passed since his accession to the government. But it is well enough to bear in recollection the fact, that the particular sum to which the duty on coffee is now reduced, was fixed on the motion of my excellent, personal and political friend, Dr. Semmes, of Prince Georges, a well known and justly honored son of Maryland, who moved to lessen the duty after the 31st of December next to one half the amount proposed by the bill, as then depending before the House of Representatives, and who was sustained by a large majority of both parties.

Mr. Chambers here read from the Journal of the House of Representatives of the 20th April, 1830, page 552, as follows:

"A motion was made by Mr Semmes to amend the amendment which fixes the rate of duty on coffee at two and a half cents per pound, by striking out the words 'two and a half' so as to leave the amount blank to be established by a separate vote, and on the question to agree to this amendment, it was decided in the negative; and then on motion of Mr Taylor.

The amendment of the committee of the whole house was amended by striking out 'and a half' before the word 'cents'

The amendments of the committee of the whole house to the said bill, were then concurred in by the house and thus amended when,

A motion was made by Mr. Semmes, further to amend the said bill by inserting therein the following clause:

'That from and after the 31st day of December, 1831, the duty on coffee shall be one cent per pound and no more.'

And the question being put,

It passed in the affirmative, yeas 108, nays 70."

Sir, the gradual approach to the extinguishment of the public debt, which the ordinary financial operations of the government will effect as certainly as that we escape war or other occasion for most extraordinary expenditures must lead to such results. Other necessaries or comforts of life not produced in the country, and therefore not requiring the protection of government, to enable their growers or manufacturers to compete with those abroad must be the first objects to feel the ability we shall have to dispense with a part of our revenue. A just regard to the various interests of the nation and a generous conciliation to their wants, and as far as principle will allow to their prejudices may yet, I hope, lead to a compromise on this subject, that, shall furnish a due encouragement to the industry of our people, & secure the prosperity of our domestic manufactures, while it may subdue the violent excitement, to which our southern brethren have so lamentably yielded themselves. An excitement that has hurried them into an extreme of difficulty, to extricate them from which they are now floundering amid the mazes of nullification.

This excitement, it would seem however had not been confined to South Carolina. The Governor of that state in a late speech tells us that the President "is in favour of nullification in the *abstract* and sometimes in the *concrete*." His illustrations seem very apt, particularly that of the repeal of the 25th section of the judiciary act, which the Governor very appropriately says, "would have provided for a standing nullification." The repeal would not it is true in *terms* authorise resistance by the states to the laws and constitution of the union, but it would destroy the means by which that resistance was judicially corrected, and leave those who were the victims of the nullifying doctrines in the state courts to suffer without legal remedy.

The constitution has erected the Supreme Court of the U. S. as the Supreme arbiter in the numerous and conflicting claims to power under the General and State Governments. Its independence and purity, its dignity and elevated standing, confirmed by the exalted personal character and virtue of its members, had acquired for it the highest respect and the deep toned confidence of the people This respect was a powerful moral lever, effecting, by its influence on the intelligence and veneration of the community, a security for the faithful obedience to its decrees through the omnipotent power of public opinion. The enforcement of its sentence in any case of opposition, is confided by the constitution to the executive officer, who, in the character of commander of the army and navy directs the military arm of the government. It is his peculiar duty to execute the laws, as it is the peculiar duty of the court to expound and declare them.

To see the chief Executive officer of the law and of the nation, presented by a distinguished individual, his personal and political friend, in an attitude of hostility to the highest judicial tribunal in the country is certainly a novel and no very pleasing spectacle. The country is not quite so destitute of talent or patriotism, as to compel us to select a chief magistrate, who, instead of executing the law, is disposed, according to the testimony of his friends, to nullify the law. Be it our business to nullify the whole concern, and put into the presidential chair, a man, whose opinions on all subjects are openly and manfully avowed; and in terms which all can comprehend, because intended to be understood—one who never waits to watch the current before he puts himself in motion—one who, amongst numerous other distinctions that will hand down his name to posterity, will be recorded as the earliest patron of the American System, the fast friend of the Supreme Court and of the Bank, and the devoted advocate of Internal Improvement—whose well defined principles are fearlessly proclaimed and universally known—in fine, one whose whole energies of body and soul have been devoted to the interests of his country and the cause of civil liberty—who, in peace and in war—at home and abroad—in the various and important stations confided to him, has redeemed the highest expectations of his friends, and whose enemies, unable to assail his acts, have been driven to impeach his motives. While thousands of honest & honorable men are admitted to have voted for Mr. Adams in preference to Gen. Jackson from the purest convictions, Mr. Clay is singled out and for the same act is denounced—an act in itself certainly consistent with the character of distinguished intelligence and pure patriotism. Sir, it is high praise to have lived so long and so actively in public life as he has done, and yet to have driven his enemies to the necessity of a gratuitous imputation of secret motive which they presume first to divine and then to censure.

Sir, (said Mr. Chambers, pointing to a portrait of Mr. Clay, suspended against the wall) every act of that man's life, every feature in his character, as plainly as every feature in his face, beams with demonstration that honest candour and a fearless declaration of purpose are his abiding habits—no dark design lurks on that generous countenance—no wicked intrigue broods in the heart which gives it animation.

Mr. President, I am here led to a word of communion and counsel, with a class of our fellow-citizens for whom we must all feel the most sincere respect. It is composed of those (and there are doubtless very many) who opposed to us for the last few years are now convinced of the total failure of the present administration, and its inability to fulfil the expectations, that influenced them to support it. Many of them avow their disappointment, but yet they express an unwillingness to unite with us, because we design to support *Mr.* Clay. Sir, let me beseech these persons to consider how unwisely they act, how fairly we are disposed to meet and unite with them, and how irreconcileable is the further support of the present incumbent with their convictions and their duty to the country.

In an angry hour of high political excitement, they have been betrayed into the expression, some of them into the belief, that Mr. Clay was listening to the suggestions of his ambition, rather than his judgment, when he voted for Mr. Adams—Now sir, ought not such persons to feel the strongest desire to do justice to an injured man by retracting this declaration? Do they not now perceive the total unfitness of Gen. Jackson, to fill the high station, to which they assisted to elevate him, and is it not an occasion of much praise instead of censure to Mr. Clay, that knowing Gen. Jackson as he did then, and as we do now, having observed his political course and his character, and having applied to their consideration the powers of his vigorous and experienced intelligence, he was enabled to measure him most accurately, to form the most correct estimate of the future, by a knowledge of the past, and from the history of his whole life, and his inefficiency in every other but the military department to pronounce him, as he did, a military chieftain unfitted for civil rule? This, I say should advance the claims of Mr. Clay to the regard of such persons, that thus arriving at the unerring conclusion, to which his honest and vigorous mind conducted him, he dared encounter all the peril and all the odium which he predicted would await him.

But sir, these persons deceive themselves, if they consider us only in the character of a Clay party. Our principles are best defined by the designation we adopt. As the great "National Republican" family, we claim to be united in the pursuit of principles. Highly as we appreciate Mr. Clay, ardently as we desire to see him the chief magistrate, his elevation in itself is but amongst the least of the benefits we propose. In view of the great principles we wish to vindicate, the great mischiefs we wish to avert and the great interests we desire to cultivate, the fate of any one man is utterly unimportant. To preserve the purity of our noble institutions, to guard from impending peril and threatened destruction, the fabric raised by the toils and consecrated by the blood of our ancestors, to obey the solemn duties on which the liberty and happiness of unborn millions are staked, to preserve our children from the chains of despotism and to repair and preserve the last and now tottering habitation of rational freedom, these sir, are the designs which we aim to accomplish. Should accident or death occur to Mr Clay, it will cause but a momentary vacancy in the spot he occupied. Any one of the hundreds who are marching in the same line, pursuing the same objects, with the same motives will fill that vacant spot. Like an organized army the removal of one soldier but makes room for another, the temporary difficulties and privation is matter of deep regret to all, but if animated by the justness of their pretensions, if engaged in defending their wives, their little ones and their domestic altars, they will go on "conquering and to conquer."

Sir, we are not so pledged to Mr. Clay as to forbid to these persons, when received into our communion, the fair weight and influence due to their numbers and opinions. The convention to be held in Baltimore, in December next, will be composed of representatives, elected by the joint vote of all who oppose the re-election of Gen. Jackson, and who can unite in the leading principles of the National Republican party. Those who have proposed it, desire it so to be understood. If those of us, who believe Mr. Clay to be the favorite of a very large proportion of that party are mistaken in this belief, and that fact shall appear by the selection of delegates to this convention, who will present some other individual of our principles more likely to concentrate public sentiment, then must we all yield obedience to that republican maxim, 'let the majority rule.' We now invite our brethren who have seen the prostration of their hopes, and the reality of their worst fears, to sacrifice their pride, and their prejudices, on the altar of public good and public duty, unite with us not as a Clay party, but as a party cemented by a common faith in a sound political creed, take their fair and equal share in selecting a candidate urge their opinions with all the reason and argument they can command, enforce the pretentions of their friend by all the motives they may think proper, and if they have not the fortune to see their first favorite selected, let them, in the true spirit of republican members of a republican family, unite in executing the fairly expressed will of a majority. They ought not and will not ask more than the influence which belongs to their numerical force. This much they secure by a prompt and decisive movement, abandoning a party with which they can no longer have alliance and uniting with those whose leading objects they desire to see accomplished.

Let their decision be as it may, Mr. President, our course is a plain one.—Maryland stands erect and will so continue. There is good hope that on this day* a sister State will prove the prediction of a "prophet's receiving no honor in his own country" not to have respect to political men. But should our hopes in this respect not be fully realized, should the pressure of power and patronage and the lateness of the offensive exhibitions have the effect still to keep together the distorted fragments of the adversary party, who there have personal enmity to whet the edge of political opposition, we will still say in the temper of the faithful servant of old, "let others do as they may we and our house will still do our duty."

The number and character of our fellow-citizens who have braved the storm† to unite in the objects of our meeting, afford a sure presage of the zeal which in a good cause cannot fail of success.

Again, I thank them, most heartily thank them, for their flattering notice, and in the sincerest feeling and grateful sensibility, I ask permission to present the following sentiment as a merited tribute of respect—

*The Citizens of Dorchester County*—Distinguished for their elegant hospitality, their refined taste and cultivated intelligence—unfaithful or incompotent rulers hold their power by a short tenure when a nation is composed of such materials.

*The last day of the election in Kentucky.

†A most violent storm of wind and rain had raged for the preceding two days and until the morning of the day of meeting, yet nearly 4 0 persons attended.

## MR. BRANCH'S EXPOSITION.

*From the Roanoke Advocate.*

ENFIELD, Aug. 22, 1831.

DEAR SIR:—Of the causes which led to the dissolution of the late Cabinet, I have never entertained a doubt. I will briefly state the reasons I have for my opinion, and leave you to judge of them as well or ill founded. Before the President had nominated Major Eaton for the War Department, and while the subject might be supposed to be under consideration, I took the liberty of stating to Gen Jackson candidly my reasons for believing the selection would be unpopular and unfortunate. I reminded the President that he knew I was the friend of Major Eaton and *personally* preferred him to either of the others proposed for his Cabinet, and of course, nothing I should say on the subject ought to be construed into an intention to injure him, (Major Eaton,) but on the contrary, to save him from infinite vexation and annoyance; which, it was too plain, were in store for him, if he took a seat in the cabinet under the circumstances in which he was placed. The President admitted that charges had been made against the character of Mrs. Eaton, but insisted on it they were slanders, and that he ought not to notice them. I did not perceive, at the time, that he was hurt by the frankness or nature of my communication, though I afterwards learned that he had become offended with, and had discarded from his acquaintance, several of his old and best friends who had used the like freedom of speech on this subject. My remonstrances, it is known, were without effect, and Major Eaton was soon after formally appointed Secretary of War—Before this was done, however, I made an appeal to Major Eaton himself, and without reserve disclosed my apprehensions to him, adding that I did not pretend to intimate that there was the least truth in these reports, but if utterly false, they would still have an effect on the President's peace and quiet, as he must know what use the opposition would make of it: that I believed it was impossible he could be willing to subject Gen. Jackson to such a state of things: that he could not have forgotten how much Gen. Jackson had been distressed by the calumnies and ill reports which had been formerly circulated against Mrs. Jackson: that since the death of that lady, those reports had subsided, and would soon be heard of no more: that Gen. Jackson knew the same kind of reports and imputations had prevailed with respect to Mrs. Eaton: that if he (Maj. Eaton) entered in the cabinet, the enemies of the President would not fail to make a handle of it, and thus revive, in the General's bosom, recollections which could not but be painful and distressing, and which could not fail to disturb the tranquillity and usefulness of his administration. My remarks were received apparently with the same kindness and courtesy which characterised my manner; but they no doubt laid the foundation of that *hostility* which afterwards became *active* and *unextinguishable*. From the moment of Major Eaton's appointment, Gen. Jackson began to use his utmost efforts to bring Mrs. Eaton into public favor and distinction. He frequently spoke of the neglect Mrs. Eaton received when she attempted to appear at public places. He did not fail to intimate that it would be a most acceptable service rendered him, if the members of his Cabinet would aid in promoting this object. I felt greatly embarrassed by such appeals to myself. It was impossible for me to comply with his wishes on this point, but it was nevertheless painful for me to say so. In any other matter [in] which I could, with a proper respect for myself and the feelings of my family, have complied with an intimation of his desire, no one would have done so more cheerfully than myself. By way of diverting his mind, I several times spoke of the difficulty he would experience in attempting to regulate the intercourse of the ladies; that they were, in matters of that kind, uncontrollable and omnipotent, that he would find less difficulty in fighting over again the battle of New Orleans. Soon after it was ascertained that Mrs. Eaton could not be received into the society of the families of the members of the Cabinet, Major Eaton's conduct to me discovered an evident change in his friendly feelings, and became cold, formal, and repulsive. I repeatedly threw myself into his company, and endeavoured to assure him that I still had the most sincere desire to be on friendly terms with him, and wished for opportunities to convince him of the sincerity of my professions. In this course there was no guile—no view but that which my words fairly imported. I most sincerely regretted the state of public feeling towards Mrs. Eaton, but it was not within my power to control or soften it. It was a sentiment resting in the breast of the female community of Washington City and the nation, which was not to be suppressed or obliterated. After this Major Eaton's enmity to myself became every day more and more apparent. I could hear frequently of declarations to this effect, and of his determination to be revenged. It is true these reports came to me circuitously and indirectly, but I could not, from circumstances, doubt their truth.

At length came the *mission by Col. Johnson*, the substance of which has already been given to the public by Messrs. Ingham and Berrien. I will only add to their statements, that I distinctly understood Col. Johnson to say, that he came to us from the President of the United States, authorized by him to hold the interview; and unless our difficulties in reference to Mrs Eaton could be adjusted that Mr Ingham, Judge Berrien, and myself, must expect to retire. When he closed his remarks, I well recollect rising from my seat, and with an earnestness of manner which the extraordinary character of the communication was so well calculated to produce, observed, among other things that no man had a right to dictate to me and my family in their domestic relations, and that I would submit to no control of the kind. The Colonel undertook to reason the matter with me by observing, that, although it might be impracticable to establish *intimate* and *social* relations between our families and Mrs. Eaton, he could see no reason why she should not be invited to our *large parties*, to which every body was usually invited, Tom, Dick, Harry, &c. With this concession, he said, the President would be satisfied. We protested against the interference of the President in any manner or form whatever, as it was a matter which did not belong to our official connexion with him. Soon after which, Col Johnson expressed his deep regret at the failure of his mission, and we separated.

I waited until Friday, a day having intervened, in expectation of hearing from the President, but, receiving no message, I walked over, in hopes that an opportunity would offer to put an end to my unpleasant state of feeling. I found the President alone. He received me with his wonted courtesy, though evidently but ill at ease. In a few minutes the all-absorbing subject was introduced.—Among other things he spoke in strong language of the purity of Mrs. Eaton's character and the baseness of her slanderers, and presently mentioned a rumor which he said had been in circulation, of a combination to exclude her from society. Several parties, he said, had been recently given, among others, three by Mr. Ingham, Judge Berrien, and myself, to which she had not been invited; and from this it was strongly inferred that we had combined to keep her out of society. I told him, that, so far as I was concerned, I believed my family were doing no more than the members of Congress, the citizens of Washington, and visiters to the seat of government, had a right to expect from me as a member of his cabinet. It was certainly in accordance with universal custom; and that, as to a *combination* I knew of none: that I could never acknowledge the right of any one to interfere in matters affecting the private and social arrangements of my family; and that, before I would be dictated to, or controlled, in such matters, *I would abandon his cabinet and was ready to do so whenever he desired it*, and added several other strong remarks of a similar character. He assured me, in reply, *that he did not desire it; that he was entirely satisfied with the manner in which I had discharged my official duty, and that he did not claim the right to dictate to us in our social relations*, but that he felt him-

(*Continued on fourth page.*)

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