debt; that I did not perceive any urgency for paying off the three per cent by the precise day suggested; and that there was no necessity according to the plans of the Treasury, assuming them to be expedient and proper, to postpone the repeal of the duties on unprotected articles. The gentleman from Maryland imputed to me ignorance of the act of the 24th April, 1830, according to which, in his opinion the Secretary was obliged to purchase the 3 per cent. On what ground the Senator supposed I was ignorant of that act, he has not stated. Although, when it passed, I was at Ashland, I assure him that I was not there altogether uninformed of what was passing in the world. I regularly received the Register of my excellent friend (Mr. Niles) published in Baltimore; the National Intelligencer, and other papers. There are two errors to which gentlemen are sometimes liable; one is to magnify the amount of knowledge which they possess themselves, and the second is to depreciate that which others have acquired. And will the gentleman from Maryland excuse me for thinking that no man is more prone to commit both errors than himself? I will not say that he is ignorant of the true meaning of the act of 1830, but I certainly place a different construction upon it from what he does. It does not oblige the Secretary of the treasury or rather the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, to apply the surplus of any year to the purchase of the three per cent stock particularly, but leaves them at liberty "to apply such surplus to the purchase of any portion of the public debt, at such rates as, in their opinion, may be advantageous to the United States" This vests a discretionary authority, to be exercised under official responsibility. And if any Secretary of the Treasury, when he had the option of purchasing a portion of the debt, bearing a higher rate of interest at par, or about par were to execute the act by purchasing the 3 per cent., at its present price, he would merit impeachment. Undoubtedly a state of fact may exist, such as there being no public debt remaining to be paid but the three per cent. stock, with a surplus in the Treasury, idle and unproductive, in which it might be expedient to apply that surplus to the reimbursement of the three per cents. But, whilst the interest of money is at a greater rate than three per cent. it would not, I think, be wise to produce an accumulation of public treasure for such a purpose. The postponement of any reduction of the amount of the revenue, at this session, must however give rise to that very accumulation; and it is, therefore, that I cannot perceive the utility of the postponement.

We are told by the gentleman from Maryland that offers have been made to the Secretary of the Treasury to exchange three per cents at their market price of 96 per cent for the bank stock of the Government at its market price, which is about 126; and he thinks it would be wise to accept them. If the charter of the bank is renewed, the stock will be probably worth much more than its present price; if not renewed, much less. Would it be fair in Government whilst the question is pending and undecided, to make such an exchange?—The difference in value between a stock bearing three per cent and one bearing seven per cent must be really much greater than the difference between 96 and 126 per cent. Supposing them to be perpetual annuities, the one would be worth more than twice the value of the other. But my objection to the Treasury plan is that it is not necessary to execute it—to continue these duties as the Secretary proposes. The Secretary has a debt of twenty four millions to pay, he has, from the accruing receipts of this year, fourteen millions and we are now told by the Senator from Maryland, that this sum of fourteen millions is exclusive of any duties accruing this year. He proposes to raise eight millions by a sale of the bank stock and to anticipate, from the revenues receivable next year two millions more. These three items, then, of fourteen millions, eight millions and two millions, make up the sum required, of twenty four millions, without the aid of the duties to which the resolution relates.

The gentleman from Maryland insists that the General Government has been liberal towards the West in its appropriations of public land for internal improvements; and, as to fortifications he contends that the expenditures near the mouth of the Mississippi are for its especial benefit The appropriations of land to the States of Ohio, Indiana Illinois and Alabama have been liberal; but it is not to be overlooked, that the General Government is itself the greatest proprietor of land and that a tendency of the improvements which these appropriations were to effect, is to increase the value of the unsold public domain. The erection of the fortifications for the defence of Louisiana was highly proper; but the gentleman might as well place to the account of the West, the disbursements for the fortifications intended to defend Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York to all which capitals Western produce is sent, and in the security of all of which the Western People feel a lively interest They do not object to expenditures for the army for the navy, for fortifications, or for any other defensive or commercial object on the Atlantic but they do think that their condition ought also to receive friendly attention from the General Government. With respect to the state of Kentucky not one cent of money, or one acre of land has been applied to any object of internal improvement within her limits.—The subscription to the stock of the canal at Louisville was for an object in which many States were interested The Senator from Maryland complains that he has been unable to obtain any aid for the rail road which the enterprise of Baltimore has projected and in part executed. That was a great work, the conception of which was bold and highly honorable, and it deserves national encouragement. But how has the Committee of Roads and Canals at this session been constituted? The Senator from Maryland possessed a brief authority to organize it and, if I am not misinformed a majority of the members composing it, appointed by him, are opposed both to the constitutionality of the power and the expediency of exercising it.

And now sir, I would address a few words to the friends of the American System in the Senate. The revenue must, ought to be reduced The country will not after, by the payment of the public debt, ten or twelve millions of dollars become unnecessary, bear such an annual surplus Its distribution would form a subject of perpetual contention. Some of the opponents of the system understand the stratagem by which to attack it, and are shaping their course accordingly. It is to crush the system by the accumulation of revenue, and by the effort to persuade the People that they are unnecessarily taxed whilst those would really tax them who break up the native sources of supply and render them dependent upon the foreign. But the revenue ought to be reduced so as to accommodate it to the fact of the payment of the public debt. And the alternative is or may be to preserve the protecting system and repeal the duties on the unprotected articles, or to preserve the duties on unprotected articles and endanger, if not destroy the system. Let us then adopt the measure before us which will benefit all classes: the farmer the professional man, the merchant, the manufacturer the mechanic—and the cotton planter more than all A few months ago there was no diversity of opinion as to the expediency of this measure. All, then, seemed to unite in the selection of these objects, for a repeal of duties which were not produced within the country Such a repeal did not touch our domestic industry, violated no principle, offended no prejudice

Can we not all, whatever may be our favorite theories cordially unite on this neutral ground? When that is occupied, let us look beyond it, and see if anything can be done in the field of protection, to modify, to improve it, or to satisfy those who are opposed to the system. Our southern brethren believe that it is injurious to them and ask its repeal. We believe that its abandonment will be prejudicial to them and ruinous to every other section of the Union. However strong their convictions may be, they are not stronger than ours. Between the points of the preservation of the System and its absolute repeal there is no principle of Union If it can be shown to operate immoderately on any quarter, if the measure of protection to any article can be demonstrated to be undue and inordinate it would be the duty of Congress to interpose and apply a remedy And none will co-operate more heartily than I shall, in the performance of that duty. It is quite probable that beneficial modifications of the system may be made without impairing its efficacy. But, to make it fulfil the purposes of its institution, the measure of protection ought to be adequate If it be not, all interests will be injuriously affected The manufacturer, crippled in his exertions, will produce less perfect and dearer fabrics, and the consumer will feel the consequence. This is the spirit and these are the principles only on which, it seems to me, that a settlement of this great question can be made, satisfactorily to all parts of our Union.

The National Intelligencer of Monday contains an interesting account of the dinner at Washington, on the 22d ult. at which Mr. Webster presided. The speeches of most of the speakers are reported at length, and their toasts given. We give the following, the close of Mr. Webster's remarks upon the character of Washington, and his attachment to the union.

"Washington, therefore, could regard and did regard, nothing as of paramount political interest, but the integrity of the union itself. With a united government well administered, he saw we had nothing to fear, and without it, nothing to hope. The sentiment is just, and its momentous truth should solemnly impress the whole country. If we might regard our country as personated in the spirit of Washington; if we might consider him as representing her, in her past renown her present prosperity, and her future career, and as in that character demanding of us all, to account for our conduct, as political men, or as private citizens, how should he answer him, who has ventured to talk of disunion and dismemberment? Or, how should he answer him, who dwells perpetually on local interest, and fans every kindling flame of local prejudice? How should he answer him, who would array state against state, interest against interest, and party against party, careless of the continuance of that *unity of government which constitutes us one people?*

Gentlemen, the political prosperity which this country has attained, and which it now enjoys, it has acquired mainly through the instrumentality of the present Government. While this agent continues, the capacity of attaining a still higher degree of prosperity exists also. We have, while this lasts, a political life, capable of beneficial exertion, with power to resist or overcome misfortunes, to sustain us against the ordinary accidents, of human affairs, and to promote, by active efforts, every public interest. But dismemberment strikes at the very being which preserves these faculties; it would lay its rude and ruthless hand on this great agent itself. It would sweep away, not only what we possess, but all power of regaining lost, or acquiring new, possessions. It would leave the country, not only bereft of its prosperity & happiness, but without limbs, or organs, or faculties, by which to exert itself, hereafter, in the pursuit of that prosperity and happiness.

Other misfortunes may be borne, or their effects overcome. If disastrous war sweep our commerce from the ocean, another generation may renew it; if it exhaust our treasury, future industry may replenish it; if it desolate and lay waste our fields, still, under a new cultivation they will grow green again, and ripen to future harvests. It were but a trifle, even if the walls of yonder Capitol were to crumble, if its lofty pillars should fall and its gorgeous decorations be all covered by the dust of the valley. All these might be rebuilt. But who shall reconstruct the fabric of demolished Government? Who shall rear again the well proportioned columns of Constitutional Liberty?—Who shall frame together the skilful architecture which unites national sovereignty with State rights, individual security, and public prosperity? No, gentlemen, if these columns fall, they will be raised not again. Like the Colloseum and the Parthenon, they will be destined to a mournful, a melancholy immortality. More bitter tears, however, will flow over them, than were ever shed over the monuments, of Roman or Grecian Art; for they will be the remnants of a more glorious edifice than Greece or Rome ever saw—the edifice of Constitutional American Liberty.

But, gentlemen, let us hope for better things. Let us trust in that Gracious Being who has hitherto held our country as in the hollow of his hand. Let us trust to the virtue and the intelligence of the people, and to the efficacy of religious obligation. Let us trust to the influence of Washington's example. Let us hope that the fear of Heaven, which expels all other fear, and that regard to duty, which transcends all other regards may influence public men and private citizens, and lead our country still onward in her happy career. Full of these gratifying anticipations and hopes, let us look forward to the end of that century which is now commenced. A hundred years hence, other disciples of Washington will celebrate his birth, with no less of sincere admiration than we now commemorate it. When they shall meet, as we now meet, to do themselves and him that honor, so surely as they shall see the blue summits of his native mountains rise in the horizon; so surely as they shall behold the river on whose banks he lived, and on whose banks he rests, still flowing to the sea; so surely may they see, as we now see, the flags of the Union floating on the top of the Capitol—and then, as now, may the sun in his course visit no land more free, more happy, more lovely, than this our own country.

Gentlemen, I propose—

"*The memory of George Washington.*"

From the N. Y. Com. of March 17.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE FLOODS.—The steam boat Constitution arrived this morning from Hudson. She could proceed no further up, in consequence of the obstruction by the ice, caused by the severely cold weather of Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The Albany papers of Thursday and Friday were brought by the boat, but the two mails are still due.

The details which we publish this afternoon of the destruction occasioned by the breaking up of the ice, and the freshets in the Hudson and its tributaries, are of a melancholy character. The damage to property, and loss of lives, probably exceed those sustained by the freshets in the west.

Since the above was written, we have been informed that it is probable the boats will not be able to reach Albany for some days, in consequence of the immense quantity of wrecks of buildings, rafts, timbers, &c.' which is piled up, to a great length, across the River at Four Mile Point.

From the Kinderhook Columbia Sent. Mar 15.

Melancholy Occurrence.—On Tuesday at 12 o'clock, A. M. the ice in the Hudson river at Stuyvesant landing began to give way. The river had at that time risen to an unusual height, the water being twelve feet above low water mark covering the docks to the depth of four feet, and making an entrance into most of the store houses on the wharves. Serious and well-grounded apprehensions were entertained that every building along the margin of the river would be swept away; but happily these fears were not realized, the buildings having sustained only a trifling damage. The ice continued to move for about two hours, and apparently in one solid mass several miles in extent. During this interval, a most distressing scene was witnessed at the sight of the upper Light House, situate a mile and a half above the landing. This was a stone building, 20 by 34 and 2 stories high, on a mole surrounding it, four feet in height. The water had risen to the top of the mole before the ice began to move, which rendered the situation of the inmates truly alarming. Soon the immense field of ice above was seen to swing from its moorings, and coming down with irresistible force, struck the Light House, which in a moment was made a heap of ruins. There were, at the time, ten individuals in the building, four of whom, melancholy to relate, were buried under the crumbling walls. Mr. Volkert Witbeck, the keeper of the Light House, his wife, the daughter of Mrs. Van Hoesen, and three other individuals, escaped from the falling edifice, barely in time to save their lives. Those who perished were two daughters of Mr. Witbeck aged 15 and 13 years, and a son of Mrs. Van Hoesen, aged 14, and her infant child. All must inevitably have found a premature death, but for the intrepid exertions of Mr. Charles M. Beecher, to whose praise worthy efforts the rescue of the survivors is mainly attributed. Mr. Beecher put off in a small boat from the shore to relieve Mr. Witbeck and his family from their perilous situation, but, owing to some delay in arranging the furniture, &c. they were not prepared to leave the building until it began to fall, and then too late for some of the unfortunate inmates.

From the Schenectady Cabinet, Mar. 14.

GREAT FRESHET.—The mild weather for a few days past has caused a rise of water which in its results is unprecedented in the recollection of our oldest citizens. Yesterday morning about 2 o'clock, the alarm bell was rung, and our citizens aroused from their slumbers.—The cause of alarm was the imminent danger of those of our citizens who resided on the low grounds in the south west part of the city, by the rise of the water in the Mohawk river. It appears, from the best information we have been able to obtain, that the ice damed up the natural channel of the river, some distance above the Mohawk bridge, which caused the water to find a passage across the canal some distance above the city, on to the low lands on the south and east sides of the canal to the bank of the land on which the city stands—here it again found a passage across the canal, breaking through its banks in several places; and rushing with impetuous fury along the south bounds of the city, it demolished buildings, fences and out houses, and more or less injured every thing within its passage. Every citizen done all that was possible for the rescue of lives, and the safety of property from the fury of the element. About three o'clock, an attempt was made to bring several women and children from a partly demolished building to a place of safety, when the boat which contained them sunk—the scene of confusion was truly awful—the shrieks of the women, and cries of the children, together with the roaring of the water and the shouts of the men urging one another to assist the unfortunate, made the bye-standers horror struck, it was with the greatest exertion that no lives were lost by this accident. We are informed, however, that two small children of Mr. Goff, were drowned, it being impossible to save them.

When day light appeared, the sight was truly grand, as well as destructive. As far as the eye could reach, a broad sheet of water presented itself, bringing along with it the effects of its ruin—fences, sheds, trees, and huge masses of ice. The loss of property, in buildings, household furniture, and merchandize, must be very considerable. One individual, it is said, has lost from $1.500 to $2.000, and other individuals have lost their all, which must be severely felt. A number of poor families are without a shelter. Several boats lying in the canal in the neighborhood of this city, are carried off. The canal and rail road across the flats have sustained much injury. We tremble to learn further particulars, as the damage along the river must be immense.

DELAWARE AND HUDSON CANAL.

Serious damage it also appears has been done the Delaware and Hudson Canal, by the floods in the Rondout. The following we learn to be the actual state of things, from the Ulster Plebian of the 14th.

"Fears were entertained on Monday, that the stream would find its way through the embankment of the Delaware and Hudson Canal. On the night of that day, about 11 o'clock, the fears of the inhabitants were too fully realized. A small breach was first made. A number of hands actively engaged, could not again confine the water—and in a short time the whole body of water tore away the embankment, and rushed impetuously along deluging the village of Eddyville. A new channel has thus been formed by the Rondout, the closing of which if accomplished at all, must be done with vast expense. To calculate the amount of loss is out of the question. Suffice it to say, that in addition to the damage sustained by the canal company, which is very great, injuries not inconsiderable have also been occasioned to a great portion of the inhabitants of Eddyville, who were driven hastily, at a late hour of the night from their habitations, leaving their furniture and other effects exposed to destruction by the merciless element.

Eddyville is now an island. The Rondout, which before ran along the south side of that village, by the new channel has also obtained a passage on the north side. And the new channel appears as natural and as likely to retain the water as the old. Indeed many are of opinion that the water will be withdrawn from its old course. Should that be the case, the damage will be greatly increased, as a cotton factory, an oil mill, and a saw mill, will be left without water.

It is expected that the repairs of the Delaware and Hudson canal cannot be completed short of three or four months, perhaps longer. Independent of all other injuries, this long suspension of operations will be seriously felt by the inhabitants of a large portion of country, as well as of the Company.

From the Easton (Pa.) Whig, March 13.

THE FRESHET.—We have now a roaring freshet in the Delaware and Lehigh. The Delaware commenced rising the night before last. Yesterday evening it was up to the 18 feet mark on the pier of the bridge—this morning at 8 o'clock it was 21 feet. The water is now 8 feet over the Lehigh dam: until last evening the Lehigh was highest, during the night the water in the Lehigh fell and the Delaware got the ascendency. The low lands at South Easton, and the Philadelphia road, below the Lehigh bridge, are under water, and the Philadelphia Stage had to take the hill this morning. For some distance below this place, the water has covered the tow path of the Canal. What amount of damage, is done cannot be ascertained until the subsiding of the waters.

Considerable apprehensions were last night entertained about the Lehigh dam—many supposed a breach to some extent had occurred in it. How that is cannot now be ascertained.

New Orleans, Feb. 22.

State Legislature.—The bill amending the law of November last, for the introduction of Slaves passed the house yesday. Its provisions are: That no person can purchase slaves to be introduced into this state, by an agent, unless such agent shall be a freeholder, and have been entitled to a vote for five years previous to the 17th November 1831, in the Parish into which said slaves purchased by agency are to be introduced and even then, such agent cannot purchase more than five slaves for any individual, which cannot then be sold within the five years after their introduction.—Persons becoming heirs to slaves, which may be bequeathed to them by will in other states, are allowed to introduce the same, but are not permitted to sell them. Persons having plantations on the boundary line of this and any other state, are permitted to pass their slaves from one state to the other for the working of levees, &c. but are compelled after such slaves shall have finished the work required, to have them conducted out of the state; on failure of which they are subject to the fines and penalties of the law of November last.

Congress—On Thursday last, in the House of Representatives,

"Mr. Stanberry inquired of the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, whether the appropriation last year made for a mission to Russia had been expended. If it had not, and he was bound to presume it had not, inasmuch as the friends of the late Minister to that Court had expressly and repeatedly assured the House that he would not accept the money, then there could be no necessity for a new appropriation.

"Mr. M'Duffie replied that the Minister had received every cent of the appropriation.

"Mr. Carson observed, that if the gentleman alluded to him, he was mistaken; he had never said that the Minister would not receive the money. He should have considered him very foolish if he had refused it.

"Mr. Stanberry replied, that some of the gentleman's friends, had so declared, and among others the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, (Mr. Archer.)

"Mr. Archer said, that he had not been among the number, but, had he been called upon, he should, without hesitation, have expressed a confident expectation, that the Minister would not receive it.

The Maryland Penitentiary.—The joint committee appointed by the Legislature to visit this institution, have made a very favorable report of the management of its fiscal concerns, and of its regulation and discipline. In 1820, when those who chiefly composed the present board were placed in charge of the institution, it was insolvent and in bad credit Since then, its concerns have constantly improved, so as not only to pay its expenses, and the interest of certain loans, but to create a fund for the redemption of these. It is believed to be the only public prison which, through a series of years, has sustained itself without encumbering the Treasury. The committee approve the recommendation of the directors, to purchase additional ground and erect another building with separate cells, an increase and some alterations of the buildings being now required for the safe keeping and beneficial employment of criminals. In all the departments of the prison the committee discovered, not only no just ground of complaint, but on the contrary abundant appearance of judicious management.—The principles adopted for this end seem calculated to preserve all proper order and discipline. An increase is recommended of the annual allowance of the executive committee, not to exceed in the whole to both, the sum of 10 dollars.—*Amer.*

Maine—The Legislature of Maine closed its session on Friday last. The injunction of secrecy on the late proceedings with closed doors, has been removed. A resolution has been adopted by both branches of the legislature, on a communication made by the Governor, authorizing the Governor and Council to appoint three Commissioners to treat with a person to be appointed by the National Government, for a cession to Great Britain of the territory north of the St. John or in other words for the acceptance of the award of the King of the Netherlands on the payment to the State of an indemnity; the arrangement to be submitted for ratification to a future legislature. This resolution passed in the Senate by a vote of 18 to 6, and in the House by a vote of 80 to 60. It is proposed that the indemnity shall be ample, either in money or other territory.

On a motion made by Mr. Adams on Friday last to be excused from further service as chairman of the committee on manufactures, a long and interesting debate took place, in the course of which many compliments were paid to his diligence, integrity and intelligence—and Mr. Cambreleng and other members of the Jackson party, objected to his withdrawal from the committee, on the ground, that they believed him the only person who could save the Union. And yet these very gentlemen contributed all in their power to dismiss Mr. Adams from office, to make room for *Andrew Jackson.*

Balt. Chroniele.

The Bill, providing for the protection of "beds of oysters in the waters of the Eastern Shore," has passed the House of Delegates, and with some slight amendments, not affecting its principles, it has received the sanction of the Senate. The most important feature in it, is the provision, that any Magistrate of a county, upon information on oath, that persons are engaged in the Oyster fishery contrary to law, may issue his warrant to the Sheriff, commanding him to arrest the individuals so unlawfully employed, and in case the Sheriff apprehends resistence he is authorised to summon his posse, armed with fire arms, powder and ball.—If instruments, such as dredges, prohibited by the law, are found on board of any vessel in the Oyster trade, it is to be deemed sufficient evidence against the persons navigating said vessel.

Kent Inquirer.

From the Delaware Republican.

"Our sufferings is intolerable." *Van Buren.*

In 1829 Martin Van Buren left Albany for the *good* of the State. In 1831 he left Washington for the *harmony* of the party In 1832 he leaves England for the *honor* of the nation.

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc2940_scm11030-0233.jpg