EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted is the Great Engine by which Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown—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."

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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A STRANGE SYSTEM OF KEEPING ACCOUNTS.

A barber named Linton was brought before a London police court, charged with having customers in his house after midnight.

The barber—'It is the fault of this person Merlon, who is in the Court, as he has not time to get shaved until late at night.'

The President—'You ought not at all events, to disturb the public peace There were cries issuing from your house as if you had been committing murder.'

Merlon—'He was shaving; that's almost the same thing.'

The President—'Was it you, then, Merlon, who was crying out as if you were being flayed?'

Merlon—'Yes, in fact he was flaying me (a general laughter)—he has cut me horribly.'

The barber—'It is true, but I made a mistake.

Merlon—'Did you not mean then to cut me?

The barber—'I did not say that. (Prolonged laughter.) I certainly did not mean to cut so deep.' (Loud and continued laughter.)

The President—'Did you then, cut him on purpose.

The barber—'Indeed, I did, in the spirit of my order, you understand one does not like to be below his business.'

The President and Merlon together—'And why?'

The barber—The whole affair is this: M Merlon is not to be trusted as he does not pay ready money; he used to cheat me in the number of shaves for which he owed me, when he had twelve he used to say he had only six so that I lost both my razors, my soap and my time; at last, I devised a mode of keeping a reckoning not to be disputed.

The President—'How was that?'

him I make a notch in his cheek, (general laughter; when we count up I look at his cheek, and so many notches so many shaves, (renewed laughter) but the other day the razor turning in my hands, I made the figure too large, and it was this that made him cry out and disturb the neighborhood.'

Amidst the general laughter the barber was compelled to pay the full penalty, and the President advised him to renounce, in future, *his new system of keeping accounts.*

HARD TIMES.—A lot of ready made Coffins and Cooling boards were disposed of on the 27th inst. at auction to satisfy a distraint for rent. The former brought 15 cents a piece, and the latter 1 cent. It is a strange world this that we live in.—Balt. Pat.

TREATY OF FIVE NATIONS AGAINST THE SLAVE TRADE.—The London Spectator of a late date says: "An important historical event occurred in London on Monday week, when the representatives of France, Austria, Prussia and Russia, signed a treaty with Great Britain, in which the four Foreign Powers agreed to adopt the English laws against the Slave trade. Those laws declare the actual engagement in the trade to be piracy, and the embarking of capital in it to be felony. All the powers mutually grant to each other the right of search into vessels bearing their flag."

AN AGED CRIMINAL.—On Friday, an individual named Vandam, aged 75 years, was sentenced to the Penitentiary by the Philadelphia Court of General Sessions, for one year, on a charge of counterfeiting. He has served more than twenty years, at different periods, in prison.

THE FORGERS CAUGHT IN ENGLAND.

We learn from the Philadelphia Chronicle of yesterday that Maurice and Geo. Augustus Pitcher, the two brothers, who committed extensive forgeries on several of the Banks in that city, some time since, in the name of Eyre & Massey, have been arrested in England. They embarked for Europe, under assumed names, and were caught at the instance of the American Consul, on the 31st ult Maurice, the eldest, soon after their arrival, went off to London to get cash for a bill of £1023, which he had purchased with some of the produce of his forgeries in New York, and which was drawn upon James Bult & Son, bullion dealers, in Cheapside, London The younger remained behind in order to take up the luggage to town, where he was to meet his brother, and they were to make rapid preparations for, and settling in, Germany Their plans were, however, frustrated. Maurice Pitcher, upon calling at Messrs. Bult's to get the bill accepted found himself most awkwardly situated a police officer named Forrester having made preparations for his reception—Forrester subsequently apprehended George Augustus Pitcher in bed with a bandage round his waist, containing American bank notes to the amount of $6800, and some golden eagles The property with which Maurice Pitcher absconded, amounts to £2900 The American Consul expected full instructions by the Acadia. In the meantime the prisoners were remanded.

REMARKS OF HENRY CLAY ON THE VETO POWER.

The following is a synopsis of the remarks made by Mr. Clay of Ky., in the U. S Senate, on the introduction of his Three Joint Resolutions, amendatory of the Constitution, Jan 24 1842.

Mr. Clay spoke in defence of his Resolutions. He said, that in introducing them he had acted in the conscientious discharge of a public duty. He regretted that some abler and more skilful Senator had not moved in this matter, but as no one seemed likely to do so he had thought proper to bring the subject before the Senate. He had not been prompted to act upon this subject by recent events, though recent events certainly had manifested no change to call for a neglect of action in reference to this great object.

Seven years since, Mr. C. continued, a lamented friend of his, now no more, but then representing the State of Maryland, had moved in this matter, and in conjunction and co-operation with him. In his Hanover speech, before the change of Administration, he had argued that one of the first acts of the government should be a circumscribing of the Executive Power in general, and of the Veto Power in particular. He was therefore, but redeeming a pledge of his when acting thus

Mr Clay then said that in all truth and sincerity he was in favor of seeing any party coming into power redeeming all its pleages, & opposed to allowing any party to abandon their principles by their precepts. The Veto Power which was begun by Augustin was abolished said Mr. Clay in the reign of Constantine, and beginning here he glanced rapidly at its exercise from time to time in the different governments of the Old World. Its exercises by the Colonial Power was also referred to as being in the form of a double veto, a veto by the Governer and was warmly discussed at this time. The reason of its insertion among the arucles of the Constitution was discussed briefly, as well as the relative power of the States and of the General Government.

It was contended that the States had made more encroachments upon the General Government than the Government had upon them. It was not so with the action of Congress. In reference to the treaty-making power there could be no doubt that the framers of the Constitution designed that the Senate should be consulted in all the initiatory steps of a treaty. Yet this was not done, and how often was it that the Senate assented to treaties to which it would never have assented had it had the framing of them. So of removals from office. The officer held his office not upon Executive and Senatorial tenure, but upon the will and breath of one man.

The assumption of the purse, Mr. C. said by the Executive was an exercise of this interference upon the rights of Congress and the people. The removal of the Deposites was cited as a high handed example which had placed the purse of the nation at the foot of the Executive Secretaries of Treasury had been removed from office by the Executive of the United States, and countless officers had gone with them for refusing to obey the will of one man. The Executive had imposed his arm, as in the case of the Florida Sedentary Volunteers, even when Congress had refused to grant his requests. He would tell gentlemen who were now engaged in devising some plan for the safe custody of the public money, that they would fail in any effort to separate the Executive power from the Treasury except by an amendment to the Constitution.

Mr. Clay then went back to the design of the framers of the Constitution in the establishment of a form of Government which separated it into the Judicial, Legislative and Executive branches of the Government. Why should the Executive have the exercise of the Veto power? Why was it not as necessary to the Judiciary as to the Executive? Why should there be apprehension that there would be hasty legislation?

Mr. Clay then referred to the State Constitutions to show the exercise of the Veto Power among them. Nine of them had the Veto Power with a power as under the constitution of the United States to overcome it by a vote of two-thirds of the Legislature. Eight of them had the Veto power as he proposed in his resolution, to be resisted and finally overcome by a majority of the Legislature. Nine of them did not have the Veto Power incorporated with their Constitution, and if there had been any evil resulting from this, we should have heard of it.

Under the two-third principle, said Mr. Clay, a President had a power equal to nine Senators and forty Representatives. Six of our Presidents have had seats in this body and by transferring them to the other end of the Avenue you [illegible] each of them a power equal to nine [illegible] and forty Representatives. Was it not enough that the President was surrounded with the glitter and power of the office without adding this to the many powers which he otherwise possessed.

Mr. Clay said that he would ask if it was right and proper that an Executive coming from one state, as he did and feeling as he always would, a predilection for his own State, should have this power? So long as human nature was what it was, this feeling would be the controlling one. Mr. Clay contended, too, that the Veto Power under the requisition of two-thirds to overcome it was tantamount to absolute Veto Power.

The effects of this Power were next considered. It drew after it the legislation of the country. It arrested the legislation in its career. It submitted legislation to the Executive. It kept the Legislature in doubt as to the action of the Executive. How was it when a distinguished President now in private life was in office?—How often was it said while Bills were in transitu between the two Houses of Congress that the veto power had been threatened and exercised?

Mr. Clay argued that the events of the last six months gave such evidence that the initiatory steps of legislation follow in the wake of the Executive Power Congress could not be free while the Executive had the power to control Congress. If it was not restrained the effect would be disastrous to us and ruinous to the Administrations to come.

The arguments in opposition to the Veto Power were next considered. An opinion prevailed that it was not safe to trust majorities. The majority would govern because they were the majority, and it was not in the spirit of the principles of the Government to govern the majority. For any good purpose there was no use in the Veto Power. If the worst comes to the worst relief would be found in a higher principle than the exercise of this Veto Power.

Mr Clay said that we are told that the Constitution should not be amended by one Congress, and it could not without great difficulty be adopted. This should be no reason for refusing to discuss the principle or for withholding an effort. He thought it extremely doubtful whether such an amendment could be procured. There had been but one amendment since the adoption of the Constitution, the eight articles adopted immediately after the Constitution, and it was doubtful whether there was many present who would live to see another amendment.

Mr. Clay said that we were called up on by the highest considerations of Patriotism to limit this power. The unpretending title of "President of the United States" afforded no security. The title was nothing nor the duration of the official term. Whether it was Emperor, King, Sultan, Liberator, Protector, Dictator, or President the powers were the same. We must look to the quantity of power conferred upon the officer. The question was whether we should have a Despotic and Absolute Power in the Executive or whether we should restrain this power?

The other amendments proposed by Mr Clay were then referred to They were in relation to the holding of office by members of Congress, and the election of the Secretary of the Treasury by Congress.

MESSRS. MARSHALL & ADAMS.

A few days ago the Hon. J. Q. Adams presented a petition to Congress for the dissolution of the Union; upon which Mr. Gilmer of Virginia, brought in a resolution to censure the represen'a'ive from Massachusetts.

Mr Marshall of Ky., then rose and desired leave to read, in his place, a modification, or rather substitute for the resolution, of the gentleman of Virginia.—Leave having been granted, Mr. M. read a long and solemnly worded resolution, reciting the magnitude of the offence committed by Mr. Adams, and charging that he had, by the very act of presenting a petition for the dissolution of the Union, proposed to each member here to commit *perjury*, and that he had been guilty of a crime little less than high treason; that if the House did not expel the gentleman, it was an act of great mercy and forbearance on their part and that in the course he had taken, he had justly drawn upon himself the highest censure of this assembly.

Mr. Marshall then eloquently and nobly supported his resolution. He was actuated by no feelings of personal malignity to the gentleman from Massachusetts, far otherwize; he appealed to his past course to show that he had uniformly been kind and respectful to him.—Among the earliest efforts of my youth said Mr. M., were those I made in support of that gentleman's elevation to the highest office in the republic; his family and mine have been long associated; the names of each is to be found, side by side, in the annals of the country.

If this petition had been presented by any other gentleman it might not excite the same intensity of feeling which it must coming from the source it did; that a proposition to pull down this glorious temple should come from him who had ministered as the very high priest at the alter—this it was that gave to it a character of the deepest solemnity. Mr. Mar- [illegible] the course he had taken [illegible] ed ill after deep and pain- [illegible] but, if he knew his heart, [illegible] have done as he had, if his [illegible] had been the person who [illegible] grievous a wound upon the [illegible] safety of this nation.

After M. had finished his remarks (of which [illegible] have endeavored to give you [illegible] substance) there was a pause [illegible] gate, and some gentleman [illegible] Speaker said that courtesy [illegible] the gentleman from Massachusetts [illegible] ould take the floor if he saw proper.

Mr. A[illegible] rose slowly, and said he was surpr[illegible]d that the gentleman who had just taken his seat had taken the views he had expressed in relation to this matter. What had taken possession of that gentleman's judgment? How did he get at the idea that he (Mr. A.) had been guilty of high treason in presenting a petition from the people?

Mr. A[illegible] then called for the reading of the Declaration of Independence, and the first portion of that instrument having been read.—There, said Mr. A. is the ground upon which these petitions stand; the right of the people to "alter and destroy and reform of government when it becomes ruinous and oppressive.' Mr. A. then went on to pourtray the oppression under which the Northern people had labored for years past in being deprived the right of petition; and warned the members of that House, that the feeling of the petitioners were spreading far and wide, and that his object had been in moving the reference of the petition which he introduced, to have these petitioners answered by reasons emanating from this body; but it was not yet time to press the question of a dissolution of this Union.

Mr. A[illegible] made some bitter remarks upon what he termed the condition which had existed for some time between Northern Democrats and Southern slaveholders, which he warned the House would, if persisted in, inevitably lead to a result which the gentleman from Kentucky had so feelingly deprecated.

Mr A[illegible] said that now was not the proper time to go into the merits of this case, but he hoped to be able, when the time did arrive, to prove the truth of what he alledged.

Mr. B[illegible]tt next rose, and after alluding to the magnitude of the question which had just been so suddenly presented [illegible] House, and the necessity for [illegible] action, he moved the printing of the resolution, and the postponement of the whole subject until Monday next.

Mr. Wise rose and began by saying that he did not intend to say one word upon this subject, but he wished to call up before the House, a voice from the tombs—the voice of the father of his country - George Washington.

Mr. W. then sent to the clerk's table the "Farewell Address" of Washington, and desired the marked portions might be read. When the clerk came to that portion which speaks of 'indignantly frowning upon the first attempt to alienate any one portion of this country from another."—Mr. W. called for the reading of this portion again and again. He then took the floor and launched into a bitter personal attack upon Mr. Adams, whom he represented as a vampire rioting upon the grave of his father and his father's dearest friends.'

Mr. Marshall's resolution of censure is as follows:

Whereas the Federal Constitution is a permanent form of Government and of perpetual obligation, until altered or modified in the mode pointed out by that instrument, and the members of this House deriving their political character and powers from the same, are sworn to support it, and the dissolution of the Union necessarily implies the destruction of that instrument, the overthrow of the American Republic, and the extinction of our national existence: A proposition, therefore, to the Representatives of the people, to dissolve the organic law framed by their constituents, and to support which they are commanded by those constituents to be sworn, before they can enter upon the execution of the political powers created by it, and intrusted to them, is a high breach of privilege, a contempt offered to this House, a direct proposition to the Legislature and each member of it, to commit perjury; and involves, necessarily, in its execution and its consequences, the destruction of our country and the crime of high treason.

Resolved, therefore, That the Hon. John Q Adams, a member from Massachusetts, in presenting for the consideration of the House of Representatives of the United States, a petition praying the dissolution of the Union, has offered the deepest indignity to the House of which he is a member; an insult to the people of the United States, of which that House is the Legislative organ; and will, if this outrage be permitted to pass unrebuked and unpunished, have degraded his country, through their Representatives, in the eyes of the whole world.

Resolved, further, That the aforesaid John Q. Adams for this insult, the first of the kind ever offered to the Government, and for the wound which he has permitted to be struck, through his instrumentality, at the Constitution and existence of his country, the peace, the security, the liberty of the people of these States, [illegible] be [illegible] ex- [illegible] pulsion from the national councils, and the House deem it an act of grace and mercy, when they only inflict upon him their severest censure for conduct so utterly unworthy of his past relations to the State, and his present position. This they hereby do for the maintenance of their own purity and dignity; for the rest they turn him over to his own conscience and the indignation of all true *American* citizens.

THE RECENT SCENES AT WASHINGTON.

ELOQUENT AND STIRRING PASSAGES.

THE EX-PRESIDENT & MR. WISE.

We yesterday gave some of the most exciting passages of the skirmish which took place in the House on Wednesday, between Messrs. Adams and Wise.—Judging from those passages, the reader may well imagine that both gentlemen were occasionally violent and personal. The discussion arose out of the proposition submitted by Mr. Marshall, of Kentucky, to censure Mr. Adams in a very harsh manner, because of his having offered a proposition for the dissolution of the Union. In submitting the resolutions Mr. M. accompanied them with an eloquent and powerful speech, and at its close Mr. Adams rose in his own defence and addressed the House for some time. Mr. Wise attempted once or twice to bring the debate to a close, but finding it impossible, he determined to participate in it, and on Tuesday and Wednesday was engaged in an earnest effort to prove that Mr. Adams was endeavoring to produce a dissolution of this Union.—The debate, although occasionally characterized by strong personalities, was in many of its passages deeply interesting, and fraught with the highest order of eloquence The following extracts from the remarks of Mr. Wise, cannot but arrest attention.—Philad. Inquirer.

Mr. W. said further, that at the proper time he should ask to be excused from voting on the resolution of censure.—He had formerly excepted against the gentleman from Massachusetts as a judge when he sought a trial; and he should now decline voting as a judge on that gentleman. The gentleman had brought himself into his present situation; he had no one to blame for it but himself, if he had been the subject of animadversion either by Mr. W. or others. He it was who was the subject matter of this whole proceeding. Those who took part in it must be somewhat personal. Mr. W. could have wished to be spared the painful task of speaking of the gentleman either in praise or censure. Personally, Mr. W. had no censured him; politically he had. If he had used any severity, it had been directed exclusively against the gentleman's political course. If, in an assembly like this, some wild brute should be let loose, every one knew what their only course must be—either to kill or to cage him. If we heard of a phrenzied wretch *running a muck*, as it was called, striking at and destroying all he met, there was but one thing to be done—the unhappy being must be killed, even though his rage proceeded from mania. If an imbecile assaulted one, he might be handled *mollier manu*, and thus restrained. But should the offender be found wrapped in the panoply of age, of station, or even of imbecility itself, still, if he were capable of mischief, and purposed mischief, & was desperately & wickedly bent on mischief we forgot his age, & thought only of the interests to be endangered. If he were old and respectable and even venerable, and yet through monomania should be found administering poison or applying the torch of the incendiary, how old or how venerable soever he might be, he must be met, and the mischief, if possible, prevented.

It was in this light that Mr W. viewed the honorable gentleman from Massachusetts. He did not wish to be understood as comparing him with either of these supposed persons; he disclaimed it.—The gentleman was honored, time honored, hoary—but, he could not add, with wisdom. The gentleman had immense power, the power of learning, the power of station, the power of fame, the power of age, the power of eloquence, the power of the pen, and any man was greatly mistaken who should say or think that that gentleman was MAD. The gentleman might say with an Apostle, "I am not mad most noble Festus," though he could not add, "but speak forth the words of truth and soberness." All who knew him would say he was not mad. In a political, not in a personal sense, Mr. W. would say, and with entire sincerity of heart, the gentleman was far more wicked than weak. A mischief might be done by him; Mr. W. believed he was disposed to do it, and would wield his immense intellectual, moral and political power to effect it. That mischief was the dissolution of this Union, and the agent of that dissolution, should it ever be effected, Mr. W. did in his heart believe would be the gentleman from Massachusetts. Governed by his reputation, by his habits, by all considerations arising from the belief of personal wrongs, his passions were roused, and his resentment and his vengeance would be wreaked on the objects of his hatred if he could reach them. If this state of mind were monomania, then it was hereditary: no matter what might be its cause, it was dangerous—deadly. The gentleman was astute in design, combinate and zealous in power, and terrible in action, and an instrument well fitted to dissolve the Union. Although Mr. W. could not give a direct vote on the resolution, yet he believed it his duty to his constituents to express this as his sincere and deliberate opinion of that gentleman. Nor did he believe it was his own opinion alone, but the opinion of many others in this Hall, and of thousands out of it.

That one should so have cast from his funeral that one who had served his country so long should almost cancel her debt of gratitude for all his many services! it was very grievous! it was grievous to be compelled to speak this of an old man—of one who had reached even a higher place in the honors of his country than his father—one who ought now to be the father of that country—against whom no one would or could utter a derogatory word—to whom the young should go to learn lessons of wisdom and patriotism—who should be teaching the precepts of the great father of his country—who had seen his glorious countenance and heard him speak. * * * * * Oh! the contrast! To think of the veneration, the honor, the reverence with which his person might have been loved and cherished—the weight that would have attached to every word he uttered, so that the moment he rose to speak, every breath should be hushed, and that vast Hall be silent as the tomb—to think how he would have been looked upon with awe approaching to dread, as the last link that bound this age to the Revolutionary Fathers. Let each member of the House endeavor to realize what that gentleman might thus have been—and then look at him to day—at the situation he now occupied in the legislative halls of his country! Should Mr. W. describe who it was that was the object of the present proceeding? and what he was? * * * * * * Oh! no, no, no, no. The gentleman from Massachusetts possessed a brighter imagination than Mr. W., let him paint to himself the contrast between what he might do and what he was now doing. All he could say was, to thank God that the gentleman, great as he was, neither had, nor was likely to have, sufficient influence to excite a spirit of dissension throughout the land. Mr. W.'s reliance was on the public virtue. They would learn the gentleman's object with a regret such as did not their country as did the People of this Union. The gentleman was politically dead; dead as Burr—dead as Arnold.—The People would look upon him with wonder; would shudder and retire.

Mr. Adams responded, and with his usual force and ability. We gave some of the strongest of his remarks yesterday—but the following will be read with interest. In a more immediate reply to Mr. Marshall, the Ex-President said;

I demand that the House shall not undertake to try me! Yesterday there was a considerable portion of this House ready to adopt the resolutions of the gentleman from Kentucky, (Mr. Marshall.) Where did the gentleman get his law? Assuredly not from his uncle—of whom he spoke in the manner in which every American citizen ought to speak of him. And when that gentleman referred to the relations which had existed between his uncle and my father, I did feel surprised that it did not disarm him from such a charge as he had made against me. I respect that gentleman and his talents—I hope that he will succeed in that effort at reform of which he has recently taken the pledge; and that when, in the compass of two or three years, he shall have redeemed that pledge, he will blush himself at the want of that temperance to which he has devoted himself, in the very measure before the House at this time. He has talents to make himself the ornament and the glory of his country; but if he means to do so, let him go home—let him go to some law-school, and learn a little of the rights of the citizens of these States and of the members of this House—let him learn that if there is a disgrace in this House it is the presentation of such resolutions as these which he has offered against one of its members, charging him with crimes ready, to admit them as proofs of crimes, and offering them as if the party implicated had been tried and found guilty. That is the foundation of his resolutions; nor can the House adopt them without deciding that the person is guilty of those crimes."

Further on, he remarked:

"I wish to speak of the slaveholders of this House and of the Union with respect. There are three classes of persons included in the slave interest as representatives here. As to the slaveholder, I have nothing to say against him, except that if I am to be tried by him, I shall not have an impartial trial. I challenge him for partiality—for pre-adjudication upon this question, as a question of contempt, which I repeat is the only charge on which I can be made to answer here. I say he is not impartial. Every slaveholder has not only an interest but the most sordid of all interests—a personal pecuniary interest—which will govern him. I come from a portion of the country where slavery is known only by name; I come from a soil that bears not the foot of a slave upon it. I represent here the descendants of Bradford, and Winslow, and Carver, and Allen—the first who slight-

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