John Eaton

EASTON GAZETTE.

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CONGRESS.

In the Senate but little of importance has been transacted during the last week—many memorials, &c. have been presented and disposed of. Mr. Preston has urged speedy and energetic action, by the House, in making some positive and definite financial arrangement. There seems to be a go-ahead and working spirit aroused in both Houses at last.

In the House, Mr. Fillmore, (Chairman of Committee of Ways and Means.) under the direction of his committee moved an amendment to the bill "for the extension of the loan of 1841 and for an addition of five millions of dollars thereto" the following as section 5.

And be it further enacted, That the moneys arising from duties on goods, wares and merchandise which may be imported into the United States be, and the same are hereby, pledged for the payment and redemption of stock hereafter to be issued under and by virtue of this act and the act of July 21, 1841, hereby amended, and so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the interest on said stock, and redeem the same when due, is hereby appropriated to that object, to be applied by the Secretary of the Treasury to such payment and redemption.

Which said amendment Mr. Wise had moved to amend, by adding there to the following proviso:

Provided, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, if said stock hereby directed to be issued shall at any time, and as soon as it shall, depreciate below par, to purchase and redeem the same.

And the question being on the adoption of said amendment to the amendment.

Mr. W. said this in his opinion, would be a better security for obtaining the loan at par than the pledge of any thing. It was unnecessary, if this provision was adopted, to pledge any specific fund, whether from duties or from the lands.—If they would back the stock with the Government credit, with the Government means, and say the Secretary of the Treasury shall purchase it upon the moment it begins to depreciate, it would give capitalists the security which is necessary. He only wished to make it obligatory on the Government to pledge its own credit to prevent the depreciation Without a proviso of this sort, he considered the amendment of the gentleman from New York nothing. If they could make it imperative by law on Government, the moment the shavers held its paper, to redeem that paper at the very first inception of its depreciation, they made the stock solid, the loan easily negotiated; they based it on the soundest credit, and made it an imperative duty to raise funds for the Government.—If this amendment was not adopted, he would raise the point of order on the amendment of the gentlemen from New York.

Mr. Fillmore was a little surprised at such an amendment coming from the gentleman from Virginia. It was but a few days since that he had censured the Committee of Ways and Means for implying that the stock might be below par. What was the proposition? That if we should force a loan, and hereafter it might become below par, we should go into market and buy it up—shave our own money; and that too without any means to buy it. He had nothing to say of this amendment. It amounted to nothing, except to compel the Secretary of the Treasury to go into market in competition with the brokers, if ever the stock should go below par.

Mr. Wise would leave it to any gentleman acquainted with finances to say whether this was not a proposition declaring that the stock should not fall below par. That was the amount of it.—It would be impossible for the stock to fall below par if it was backed by the credit of Government. The proposition brought in the other day, and that by the peculiar enemies to the Administration, was a proposition that he said never could have come from a committee of friends, or "peculiar friends; a proposition which came from those who at one moment cried, when an Executive communication was quoted, that an Executive communication was worth nothing, but the moment an Executive communication came in to that committee—not one of whom was a peculiar friend of the Administration, (and it was the first time that this had been the case with reference to the Committee of Ways and Means)—the moment it was thought it would be considered unpopular and unwise, the "peculiar" enemies of the Administration were very anxious that it was an Executive recommendation. But they would bring it in, and he doubted whether the honorable gentleman himself approved of it when he brought it in; but he brought it in; and under pretence that it was an Executive recommendation when he and others were crying against Executive recommendations.

And what was the proposition as contrasted with this one? Did it provide that the stock should not fall below par—that it should not depreciate? No; but it was a provision that the stock should be hawked under par, for what it should bring. Let him tell the gentleman that the country would hold him responsible, and those on the committee, as well as the Secretary of the Treasury, responsible for it; and the gentleman could not assimilate a proposition to back up the stock with one of his proposing its depreciation. What said the gentleman now—this chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means—this gentleman Fairplay—for he belonged to the Fairplay family? With all the smoothness in the world he told them it was an Executive recommendation. This "peculiar" enemy of the Administration, who had sought an occasion, and the first one he could grab at, to show a weakness of the Administration, what did he tell them now? What was it he asked now, and the other "peculiar" enemies of the Administration on this floor? "Will you say (they say) that the Secretary of the Treasury shall keep these bonds from depreciating by providing for them out of his own pocket?", What did the gentleman mean? He agreed with him if he meant to say that his own amendment would not provide the means for paying his own stock. He would ask him then what he brought it in for? To say that his own measure, that he now proposed, would not provide the ways and means? Was he going to stultify himself and his committee? If his amendment contained any thing at all, it provided the ways and means. Did the gentleman think it would provide the ways and means? He had caught himself—had exposed himself He did not think that this fifth section, although none other could be its object, would provide for the redemption of this stock principal and interest. He had exposed the fact that he had brought in a measure in which [illegible] confidence—a proposition pledging a revenue, which is not adequate to support the current expenses of Government alone, to pay $15 000 000 of debt—pledging nothing but the faith of Government, which is now discredited and dishonored.

The only object of this fifth section was, hereafter, when others should demand in a separate bill that the public lands shall be pledged, that they shall have it in their power to turn to this fifth section, and say, there is no necessity to pledge the public lands, because we have already pledged the revenue from customs. That was the only object on the face of the earth that he could see in this fifth section, unless it did provide the ways and means to redeem the stock. If so, why did the gentleman ask, Will you require the Secretary of the Treasury to prevent these bonds from depreciating, whilst you have not provided the ways and means? Such "peculiar" enemies to an Administration he had never seen. These were tests of a gentleman's professions. He knew that to commit this Administration to his hands was giving the lamb to the wolf.

Mr. Fillmore had hoped, in mercy, after all that was said by the other "peculiar" friends of the Administration the other day, that these "peculiar friends" would think the Committee of Ways and Means had been sufficiently torn on this matter. But it seemed not; and they were now charged with being the "peculiar" enemies of this Administration.—And on what was that opinion based?—Where was the act to which the gentleman referred as evidence either that the committee or the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means was a "peculiar" enemy of this Administration? What act was it that the gentleman had referred to? Was it that the Committee of Ways and Means had seen fit to lay before this House and before the country the statement from the Secretary of the Treasury that showed that the Treasury was bankrupt, and that asked from the hands of the Representatives of the People a law that should authorize him to supply its wants? This, then, was the "peculiar" crime of the "peculiar" enemies of this Administration. And he believed this was the only crime, at all events, that had been stated. But he was willing—and in this he would speak for a majority of the Committee of Ways and Means—that their conduct should be compared with the conduct of the honorable gentleman from Virginia.

What had been the course of the committee of Ways and Means in reference to this Administration that should call down on them denunciations from that gentleman? Where had they been found wanting in not only attempting to sustain this Administration so far as it was right, but to sustain the honor and credit of our common country?

When the first communication was made to the Committee of Ways and Means from the Secretary of the Treasury stating that the Treasury was empty, what did that committee do? Did they delay action on the subject—did they put it off, either in committee or in the House? No. On the contrary, with the utmost despatch, at their very first meeting after this communication they reported a bill for supplying the wants of the Treasury. They were then informed that a loan would not supply the present exigencies of the Treasury—that the loan could not be negotiated in this country, and that it was then necessary, to supply the pressing wants of the Treasury, to issue Treasury notes, to which it was well known a majority of the committee were opposed. Did the committee refuse to comply with this urgent demand of the Treasury of this Administration, of which they were charged with being the "peculiar" enemies? Within twenty-four hours they reported a bill authorizing the issue of Treasury notes that was demanded by this Administration. And what was the first movement of the "peculiar" friends of this Administration in aid of that project? He need not say to those now here that when this bill came up for consideration the very first move was to tack to it a proposition to repeal the land bill, and thereby to drag into discussion a question which could not and ought not to be settled without long discussion, whilst the Treasury and this Administration was sinking in bankruptcy and infamy.

That was the difference in the course the gentleman from Virginia had pursued in sustaining this Administration and the credit and honor of the country, and the course of the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Clay's Farewell Speech.

INTERESTING.

From the National Intelligencer, April 1st.

IN SENATE.

After several reports from committees on private claims and ordering two or three private bills to be engrossed—

Mr. CLAY said (as imperfectly heard in the Reporters' galleries) that, before proceeding to make the motion for which he had risen, he begged leave to submit, on the only occasion afforded him, an observation or two on a different subject. He had stated, on a former day, some resolutions going to propose certain amendments in the Constitution of the United States; they had undergone some discussion, and he had been desirous of obtaining an expression of the sense of the Senate upon their adoption; but owing to the infirm state of his health, to the pressure of business in the Senate, and especially to the absence at this moment of several of his friends, he had concluded this to be unnecessary; nor should he deem himself called upon to reply to the arguments of such gentlemen as had considered it their duty to oppose the resolution. He should commit the subject, therefore, to the hands of the Senate, to be disposed of as their judgment should dictate; concluding what he had to say in relation to them with the remark, that the convictions he had before entertained in regard to the several amendments, he still deliberately held, after all that he had heard upon the subjects of them

And now, said Mr C., allow me to announce, formally and officially, my retirement from the Senate of the United States, and to present the last motion I shall ever make in this body. But, before I make that motion, I trust I shall be pardoned if I avail myself of the occasion to make a few observations which are suggested to my mind by the present occasion.

I entered the Senate of the United States in December, 1806. I regarded that body then, and still contemplate it, as a body which may compare without disadvantage, with any legislative assembly, either in ancient or modern times, whether I look to its dignity, the extent and importance of its powers, or the ability by which its individual members have been distinguished, or its constitution.—If compared in any of these respects with the Senates either of France or of England, that of the United States will sustain no derogation. With respect to the mode of its constitution, of those bodies I may observe that in the House of Peers in England, with the exceptions but of Ireland and of Scotland—and in that of France, with no exception whatever—the members hold their places under no delegated authority, but derive them from the grant of the Crown, transmitted by descent, or expressed in new patents of nobility; while here we have the proud title of Representatives of sovereign States, of distinct and independent Commonwealths.

If we look again at the powers exercised by the Senates of France and England, and by the Senate of the United States, we shall find that the aggregate of power is much greater here. In all the members possess the legislative power. In the foreign Senates, as in this, the judicial power is invested, although there it exists in a larger degree than here. But, on the other hand, that vast, undefined, and undefinable power involved in the right to co-operate with the Executive in the formation and ratification of treaties, is enjoyed in all its magnitude and weight by this body, while it is possessed by neither of theirs: besides which, there is another of very great practical importance—that of sharing with the Executive branch in distributing the vast patronage of this Government. In both these latter respects, we stand on grounds different from the House of Peers either in England or France. And then as to the dignity and decorum of its proceedings, and ordinarily as to the ability of its members, I can with great truth declare that, during the whole long period of my knowledge of this Senate, it can, without arrogance or presumption, sustain no disadvantageous comparison with any public body in ancient or modern times.

Full of attraction, however, as a seat in this Senate is, sufficient as it is to fill the aspirations of the most ambitious heart, I have long determined to forego it, and to seek that repose which can be enjoyed only in the shade of private life, and amid the calm pleasures which belong to that beloved word "home."

It was my purpose to terminate my connexion with this body in November, 1840, after the memorable and glorious political struggle which distinguished that year: but I learned soon after, what indeed I had for some time anticipated from the result of my own reflections, that an extra session of Congress would be called; and I felt desirous to co-operate with my political and personal friends in restoring, if it could be effected, the prosperity of the country by the best measures which their united counsels might be able to devise; and I therefore attended the extra session. It was called, as all know, by the lamented Harrison, but his death and the consequent accession of his successor, produced an entirely new aspect of public affairs. However he lived, I have not one particle of doubt that every important measure for which the country had hoped with so confident an expectation would have been consummated by the co-operation of the Executive branch of the Government. And here allow me to say, only, in regard to that so much reproached extra session of Congress, that I believe if any of those who, through the influence of party spirit or the bias of political prejudice, have loudly censured the measures then adopted, will look at them in a spirit of candor and of justice, their censure will, and that of the country generally, be found that if there exists any just ground of complaint, it is to be found not in what was done, but in what was left unfinished.

Had President Harrison lived, and the measures devised at that session been fully carried out, it was my intention then to have resigned my seat. But, the hope (I feared it might prove a vain hope) that at the regular session the measures which we had left undone might even then be perfected, or the same object attained in an equivalent form, induced me to postpone the determination; and events which arose after the extra session, resulting from the failure of those measures which had been proposed at that session, and which appeared to throw on our political friends a temporary show of defeat, confirmed me in the resolution to attend the present session also, and whether in prosperity or adversity to share the fortune of my friends. But I resolved at the same time to retire as soon as I could do so with propriety and decency.

From 1806, the period of my entry on this noble theatre, with short intervals, to the present time, I have been engaged in the public councils, at home or abroad. Of the nature or value of the services rendered during that long and arduous period of my life, it does not become me to speak: history, if she deigns to notice me, and posterity, if the recollection of my humble actions shall be transmitted to posterity, are the best, the truest, and the most impartial judges. When death has closed the scene, their sentence will be pronounced, and to that I appeal and refer myself. My acts and public conduct are a fair subject for the criticism and judgment of my fellow-men; but the private motives by which they have been prompted are known only to the great Searcher of the human heart and to myself; and I trust I may be pardoned for repeating a declaration made some thirteen years ago, that, whatever errors—and doubtless there have been many—may be discovered in a review of my public service to the country, I can with unshaken confidence appeal to that Divine Arbiter for the truth of the declaration, that I have been influenced by no impure purpose, no personal motive—have sought no personal aggrandizement; but that in all my public acts I have had a sole and single eye, and a warm and devoted heart, directed and dedicated to what in my best judgment, I believed to be the true interests of my country.

During that long period, however, I have not escaped the fate of other public men, nor failed to incur censure and detraction of the bitterest, most unrelenting, and most malignant character; and though not always insensible to the pain it was meant to inflict, I have borne it in general with composure, and without disturbance here, [pointing to his breast,] waiting as I have done, in perfect and undoubting confidence, for the ultimate triumph of justice and of truth, and in the entire persuasion that time would, in the end, settle all things as they should be, and that whatever wrong or injustice I might experience at the hands of man, He to whom all hearts are open and fully known, would in the end, by the inscrutable dispensations of His providence, rectify all error, redress all wrong, and cause ample justice to be done.

But I have not meanwhile been unsustained. Everywhere throughout the extent of this great continent I have had cordial, warmhearted, and devoted friends, who have known me and justly appreciated my motives. To them, if language were susceptible of fully expressing my acknowledgments, I would now offer them as all the return I have now to make for their genuine, disinterested and persevering fidelity and devoted attachment. But if I fail in suitable language to express my gratitude to them for all the kindness they have shown me—what shall I say—what can I say at all commensurate with those feelings of gratitude which I owe to the State whose humble representative and servant I have been in this Chamber? [Here, Mr. C.'s feelings appeared to overpower him, and he proceeded with deep sensibility and with difficult utterance.]

I emigrated from Virginia to the State of Kentucky now nearly forty-five years ago; I went as an orphan who had not yet attained the age of majority—who had never recognised a father's smile nor felt his caresses—poor—penniless—without the favor of the great—with an imperfect and inadequate education, limited to the ordinary business and common pursuits of life; but scarce had I set my foot upon her generous soil, when I was seized and embraced with parental fondness, caressed as though I had been a favorite child, and patronized with liberal and unbounded munificence. From that period the highest honors of the State have been freely bestowed upon me; and afterwards, in the darkest hour of calumny and detraction, when I seemed to be forsaken by all the rest of the world, she threw her broad and impenetrable shield around me, and, bearing me up aloft in her courageous arms, repelled the poisoned shafts that were aimed at my destruction, and vindicated my good name from every false and unfounded assault.

But the ingenuity of my assailants is never exhausted, and it seems I have subjected myself to a new epithet; which I do not know whether it would be taken in honor or derogation: I am held up to the country as a "dictator." A dictator! The idea of a dictatorship is drawn from Roman institutions; and at the time the office was created the person who wielded the tremendous weight of authority it conferred concentrated in his own person an absolute power over the lives and property of all his fellow-citizens; he could raise armies; he could build and man navies: he could levy taxes at will, and raise any amount of revenue he might choose to demand; and life and death rested on his fiat If I had been a dictator, as I am said to have been, where is the power with which I was clothed? Had I any army? any navy? any revenue? any patronage? in a word, any power whatever? If I had been a dictator, I think that even those who have the most freely applied to me the appellation must be compelled to make two admissions: first, that my dictatorship has been distinguished by no cruel executions, stained by no blood, nor soiled by any act of dishonor: and in the second place, I think they must own (though I do not exactly know what date my commission of dictator bears—I imagine, however, it must have commenced with the extra session) that if I did usurp the power of a dictator—I at least voluntarily surrendered it within a shorter period than was allotted for the duration of the dictatorship of the Roman Commonwealth.

If to have sought, at the extra session and at the present, by the co-operation of my friends, to carry out the great measures intended by the popular majority of 1840, and to have desired that they should all have been adopted and executed; if to have anxiously desired to see a disordered currency regulated and restored, and irregular exchanges equalized and adjusted; if to have labored to replenish the empty coffers of the Treasury by suitable duties; if to have endeavored to extend relief to the unfortunate bankrupts of the country, who had been ruined in a great measure by the erroneous policy, as we believed, of this Government; if to seek to limit, circumscribe, and restrain Executive authority; if to retrench unnecessary expenditure and abolish useless offices & institutions; if, whilst the public honor is preserved untarnished by supplying a revenue adequate to meet the national engagements, incidental protection can be afforded to the national industry; if to entertain an ardent solicitude to redeem every pledge and execute every promise fairly made by my political friends with a view to the acquisition of power from the hands of an honest and confiding People; if these objects constitute a man a Dictator, why then, I suppose I must be content to bear, although I still only share with my friends, the odium or the honor of the epithet, as it may be considered on the one hand or the other.

That my nature is warm, my temper ardent, my disposition, especially, in relation to the public service, enthusiastic, I am fully ready to own; and those who suppose that I have been assuming the dictatorship have only mistaken for arrogance or assumption that fervent ardor and devotion which is natural to my constitution, and which I may have displayed with too little regard to cold, calculating, and cautious prudence, in sustaining and zealously supporting important national measures of policy which I have presented and proposed.

During a long and arduous career of service in the public councils of my country, especially during the last eleven years I have held a seat in the Senate, from the same ardor and enthusiasm of character, I have no doubt, in the heat of debate, and in an honest endeavor to maintain my opinions against adverse opinions equally honestly entertained, as to the best couse to be adopted for the public welfare, I may often inadvertently or unintentionally, in moments of excited debate, made use of language that has been offensive, and susceptible of injurious interpretation towards my brother Senators. If there be any here who retain wounded feelings of injury or dissatisfaction produced on such occasions, I beg to assure them that I now offer the amplest apology for any departure on my part from the established rules of parliamentary decorum and courtesy. On the other hand, I assure the Senators, one and all, without exception, and without reserve, that I retire from this Senate Chamber without carrying with me a single feeling of resentment or dissatisfaction to the Senate or to any one of its members.

I go from this place under the hope that we shall, mutually, consign to perpetual oblivion whatever personal collisions may at any time unfortunately have occurred between us; and that our recollections shall dwell in future only on those conflicts of mind with mind, those intellectual struggles, those noble exhibitions of the power of logic, argument, and eloquence, honorable to the Senate and to the country, in which each has sought and contended for what he deemed the best mode of accomplishing one common object, the greatest interest and the most happiness of our beloved country To those thrilling and delightful scenes it will be my pleasure and my pride to look back in my retirement.

And now, Mr. President, allow me to make the motion which it was my object to submit when I rose to address you.—I present the credentials of my [illegible] successor. If any void has been created by my own withdrawal from the Senate, it will be filled to overflowing by him; whose urbanity, whose gallant and gentlemanly bearing, whose steady adherence to principle, and whose rare and accomplished powers in debate, are known already in advance to the whole Senate and to the country. I move that his credentials be received, and that the oath of office be now administered to him.

In retiring as I am about to do, forever, from the Senate suffer me to express my heartfelt wishes that all the great and patriotic objects for which it was constituted by the wise framers of our Constitution may be fulfilled; that the high destiny designed for it may be fully answered; and that its deliberations, now and hereafter, may eventuate in restoring the prosperity of our beloved country, in maintaining its rights and honor abroad, and in securing and upholding its interests at home. I retire, I know it, at a period of infinite distress and embarrassment. I wish I could take my leave of you under more favorable auspices; but, without meaning at this time to say whether on any or on whom reproaches for the sad condition of the country should fall, I appeal to the Senate and to the world to bear testimony to my earnest and anxious exertions to avert it, and that no blame can justly rest at my door

May the blessing of Heaven rest upon the whole Senate and each member of it, and may the labors of every one redound to the benefit of the nation and the advancement of his own fame and renown. And when you shall retire to the bosom of your constituents, may you meet that most cheering and gratifying of all human rewards—their cordial greeting of "Well done, good and faithful servant."

And now, Messrs. President and Senators, I bid you all a long, a lasting and a friendly farewell.

Mr. Crittenden was then duly qualified and took his seat; when

Mr. Preston rose and said: What had just taken place was an epoch in their legislative history, and from the feeling which was evinced, he plainly saw that here was little disposition to attend to business. He would therefore move that the Senate adjourn; which motion was unanimously agreed to.

EASY WAY OF PAYING A DEBT.—An Irishman named Patrick Donallen, residing in Jefferson county, Missouri, was warranted by a widow lady, executrix for her deceased husband, and obtained judgment against him. Pat thought his way would be to settle the affair by marriage, and accordingly he commenced his suit. While the widow was under the influence of the tender passion, Mr. Donallen persuaded her to release him from the judgment she held, which she willingly and confidingly assented to, when she was told by her lover that he had determined to live a life of single blessedness.

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