HENRY CLAY'S SPEECH AT LEWISBURG, VIRGINIA.

We have already stated that a dinner was given to Mr. Clay, at Lewisburg, Va. a short time since, at which the following was the 7th regular toast.

"Our distinguished Guest, Henry Clay, the statesman, orator, patriot and philanthropist, his splendid talents shed lustre on his native state, his eloquence is an ornament to his country."

When this toast was drunk, Mr. Clay rose and addressed the company in a speech, which occupied nearly an hour in the delivery, and of which the Lewisburg Palladium furnishes the following sketch.

Mr. CLAY said, that he had never before felt so intensely the want of those powers of eloquence which had been just erroneously ascribed to him. He hoped, however, that in his plain and unaffected language he might be allowed without violating any established usage which prevails here, to express his grateful sensibility, excited by the sentiment with which he had been honored, and for the kind and respectful consideration of him manifested on the occasion which has brought us together. In passing through my native state, towards which I have ever borne, and shall continue, in all vicissitudes, to cherish the greatest respect and affection, I expected to be treated with its accustomed courtesy and private hospitality. But I did not anticipate that I should be the object of such public, distinguished and cordial manifestations of regard. In offering you the poor and inadequate return of my warm and respectful thanks, I pray you to believe that I shall treasure up these testimonies among the most gratifying reminiscences of my life. The public service which I have rendered my Country, your too favorable opinion of which has promoted you to exhibit these demonstrations of your esteem, has fallen far below the measure of usefulness which I should have been happy to have filled. I claim for it only the humble merit of pure and patriotic intention. Such as it has been I have not always been fortunate enough to give satisfaction to every section and to all the great interests of our country.

When an attempt was made to impose upon a new State, about to be admitted into the Union, restrictions incompatible as I thought with her co-equal sovereign power, I was charged in the North with being too partial to the South, and as being friendly to that unfortunate condition of Slavery, of the evils of which none are more sensible than I am.

At another period, when I believed that the industry of this Country required some protection against the selfish & contracted legislation of foreign powers, and to constitute it a certain and safe source of supply, in all exigencies; the charge against me was transposed, and I was converted into a foe of Southern & an infatuated friend of Northern and Western interests.

There were not wanting persons, in every section of the Union, in another stage of our history, to accuse me with rashly contributing to the support of a war, the only alternative left to our honor by the persevering injustice of a foreign nation. These contradictory charges and perverted views gave me no concern, because I was confident that time and truth would prevail over all misconceptions; and because they did not impeach my public integrity. But I confess I was not prepared to expect the aspersions which I have experienced on account of a more recent discharge of public duty. My situation on the occasion to which I refer was most peculiar and extraordinary, unlike that of any other American citizen. One of the three candidates for the Presidency, presented to the choice of the House of Representatives, was out of the question for notorious reasons now admitted by all. Limited as the competition was to the other two, I had to choose between a Statesman long experienced at home and abroad in numerous civil situations, and a Soldier brave, gallant and successful, but a mere Soldier, who altho' he had filled several civil offices, had quickly resigned them all, frankly acknowledging, in some instances, his incompetency to discharge the duties.

It has been said that I had some differences with the present Chief Magistrate at Ghent. It is true, that we did not agree on one of the many important questions which arose during the negociations in that city, but the difference equally applied to our present minister at London and to the lamented Bayard between whom and myself, although we belonged to opposite political parties, there existed a warm friendship to the hour of his death. It was a difference of opinion on a point of expediency, and did not relate to any constitutional or fundamental principle. But with respect to the conduct of the distinguished citizen of Tennessee I had solemnly expressed, under the highest obligations, opinions which, whether right or wrong, were sincerely and honestly entertained, and are still held. These opinions related to a military exercise of power believed to be arbitrary and unconstitutional. I should have justly subjected myself to the grossest inconsistency, if I had given him my suffrage. I thought that if he were elected, the Sword and the Constitution, bad companions, would be brought too near together. I could not have foreseen that, fully justified as I have been by those very Constituents, in virtue of whose authority, I exerted the right of free suffrage, I should nevertheless be charged with a breach of duty and corruption by strangers to them, standing in no relation to them but that of being citizens of other States, members of the confederacy. It is in vain that these revilers have been called upon for their proofs; have been defied and are again invited to enter upon any mode of fair investigation and trial—shrinking from every impartial examination, they persevere with increased zeal, in the propagation of calumny, under the hope of supplying by the frequency and boldness of asseveration, the want of truth & the deficiency of evidence—until we have seen the spectacle exhibited of converting the hall of the first Legislative Assembly upon earth, on the occason of discussions which above all others should have been characterized by dignity, calmness and temperance, into a theatre for spreading suspicions & groundless imputations against an absent and innocent individual.

Driven from every other hold, they have seized on the only plank left within their grasp, that of my acceptance of the office of Secretary of State, which has been asserted to be the consummation of a previous corrupt arrangement.—What can I oppose to such an assertion, but positive, peremptory and unqualified denial, and a repetition of the demand for proof and trial? The office to which I have been appointed is that of the country, created by it, and administered for its benefit. In deciding whether I should accept it or not, I did not take counsel from those who, foreseeing the probability of my designation for it, sought to deter me from its acceptance by fabricating anticipated charges, which would have been preferred with the same zeal and alacrity, however I might have decided I took counsel from my friends, from my duty, from my conscious innocence of unworthy and false imputations. I was not left at liberty by either my enemies or my friends to decline the office. I would willingly have declined it from an unaffected distrust of my ability to perform its high duties, if I could have honorably declined it. I hope the uniform tenor of my whole public life will protect me against the supposition of any unreasonable avidity for public employment. During the administration of that illustrious man, to whose civil services more than to those of any other American patriot, living or dead, this country is indebted for the blessings of its present Constitution, now more than ten years ago, the mission to Russia and a place in his Cabinet were successively offered me. A place in his Cabinet, at that period of my life was more than equivalent to any place under any Administration, at my present more advanced age. His immediate successor tendered me the same place in his Cabinet, which he anxiously urged me to accept, and the mission to England. Gentlemen, I hope you will believe that far from being impelled, by any vain or boastful spirit, to mention these things, I do it with humiliation and mortification.

If I had refused the Department of State, the same individuals whonow, in the absence of all proof, against all probability, & in utter disregard of all truth, proclaim the existence of a corrupt previous arrangement would have propagated the same charge with the same affected confidence which the now unblushingly assume. And it woud have been said, with at least much plausibility, that I had contributed to the election of a Chief Magistrate, of whom I thought so unfavorably, that I would not accept that place in his Cabinet which is generally regarded as the first. I thought it my duty, unawed by their denunciations, to proceed in the office assigned me by the President and Senate, to render to the Country the best service of which my poor abilities are capable. If this Administration should shew itself unfriendly to American liberty and to free and liberal institutions, if it should be conducted upon a system adverse to those principles of public policy, which I have ever endeavored to sustain, and I should be found still clinging to office, then nothing which could be said by those who are inimical to me, would be undeserved.

But the President ought not to have appointed one who had voted for him.—Mr. Jefferson did not think so, who called to his cabinet a gentleman who had voted for him, in the most warmly contested election that has ever occurred in the House of Representatives, and who appointed to other highly important offices other members of the same house who voted for him. Mr. Madison did not think so, who did not feel himself restrained from sending me on a foreign service, because I had supported his election. Mr. Monroe did not think so, who appointed to his cabinet a gentleman, now filling the second office in the government, who attended the Caucus that nominated him and warmly and efficiently espoused his election. But suppose the President acted upon the most disinterested doctrine which is now contended for, by those who opposed his election, and were to appoint to public office from *their* ranks only to the entire exclusion of those who voted for him, would he then escape their censure? No! we have seen him charged, for that equal distribution of the public service among every class of citizens which has hitherto characterized his Administration, with the nefarious purpose of buying up portions of the community. A spirit of denunciation is abroad. With some, condemnation, right or wrong, is the order of the day. No matter what prudence & wisdom may stamp the measures of the Administration, no matter how much the prosperity of the country may be advanced, or what public evils may be averted, under its guidance, there are persons who would make general, indiscriminate and interminable opposition. This is not a fit occasion, nor perhaps am I a fit person, to enter upon a vindication of its measures.—But I hope I shall be excused for asking what measure of domestic policy has been proposed or recommended by the present executive, which has not its prototype in previous acts or recommendations of Administrations at the head of which was a citizen of Virginia? Can the liberal and highminded people of this state, condemn measures emanating from a citizen of Massachusetts which when proposed by a Virginian commanded their express assent or silent acquiescence, or to which, if in any instance they made opposition, it was respectful, limited and dignified? The present Administration desires only to be judged by its measures, and invites the strictest scrutiny and the most watchful vigilance on the part of the public.

With respect to the Panama mission, it is true that it was not recommended by any preceding administration, because the circumstances of the world were not then such as to present it as a subject for discussion. But, during that of Mr. Monroe it has been seen that it was a matter of consideration. And there is every reason to believe, if he were now at the head of affairs his determination would correspond with that of his successor. Let me suppose that it was the resolution of this country, under no circumstances, to contract with foreign powers intimate public engagements, and to remain altogether unbound by any treaties of alliance, what should have been the course taken with the very respectful invitation which was given to the United States to be represented at Panama? Haughtily folding your arms, would you have given a cold and abrupt refusal? Or would you not rather accept, send ministers and in a friendly and respectful manner endeavor to satisfy those who are looking to us for counsel and example, and imitating our free institutions, that there is no necessity for such an alliance; that the dangers which alone could in the opinion of any one, have justified it have vanished, and that it is not good for them or for us?

What may be the nature of the instructions, with which our ministers may be charged, it is not proper that I should state; but all candid and reflecting men must admit, that we have great interests in connection with the Southern Republics, independent of any compacts of alliance. Those Republics, now containing a population of upwards of twenty millions, duplicating their numbers probably in periods still shorter than we do, comprising within their limits the most abundant sources of the precious metals, offer to our commerce, our manufactures, and to our navigation; so many advantages that none can doubt the expediency of cultivating the most friendly relations with them. If treaties of commerce and friendship, and liberal stipulations in respect to neutral and belligerent rights, could be negociated with each of them at its separate seat of Government, there is no doubt that much greater facilities for the conclusion of such treaties present themselves at a point where all being represented the way may be smoothed and all obstacles removed by a disclosure of the views and wishes of all, and by mutual and friendly explanations. There was one consideration which had weight with the Executive, in the decision to accept the mission; and that was the interest which this country has, and especially the Southern States, in the fate and fortunes of the Island of Cuba. No subject of our foreign relations has created with the Executive Government more anxious concern, than that of the condition of that Island and the possibility of prejudice to the Southern States, from the convulsions to which it might be exposed. It was believed and it is yet believed, that the dangers which, in certain contingencies might threaten our quiet and safety, may be more successfully averted at a place at which all the American powers should be represented than any where else.—And I have no hesitation in expressing the firm conviction that, if there be one section of this Union more than all others interested in the Panama Mission and the benefits which may flow from it, that section is the south. It was therefore, with great and unaffected surprise that I witnessed the obliquity of those political views which led some gentlemen from that quarter to regard the measure, as it might operate on the South'n States in an unfavourable light: Whatever may be the result of the mission, its moral effect in Europe will be considerable, and it cannot fail to make the most friendly impressions upon our southern neighbors. It is one of which it is difficult, in sober imagination, to conceive any mischievous consequences, and which the executive could not have declined, in my opinion without culpable neglect of the interests of this country, and without giving dissatisfaction to nations whose friendship we are called upon by every dictate of policy to conciliate.

There are persons who would impress on the Southern States the belief that they have just cause of apprehending danger to a certain portion of their property from the present Administration. It is not difficult to comprehend the object and the motive of these idle alarms. What measure of the present Administration gives any just occasion for the smallest apprehension to the tenure by which that species of property is held?—However much the President and the members of his Administration may deprecate the existence of Slavery among us as the greatest evil, with which we are afflicted, there is not one of them that does not believe that the Constitution of the General Government, confers no authority to interpose between the master and his slave, none to apply an adequate remedy, if indeed there be any remedy within the scope of human power. Suppose an object of these alarmists were accomplished, and the Slaveholding States were united in the sentiment that the policy of this Government in all times to come should be regulated on the basis of the fact of slavery, would not union on the one side lead to union on the other? And would not such a fatal division of the people and States of this Confederacy produce perpetual mutual irritation and exasperation, and ultimately disunion itself? The Slaveholding States cannot forget that they are now in a minority which is in a constant relative diminution, and should certainly not be the first to put forth a principle of public action by which they would be the greatest losers.

I am but too sensible of the unreasonable trespass on your time which I have committed, and of the egotism of which my discourse has partaken. I must depend for my apology upon the character of the times, on the venom of the attacks which have been made upon my character and conduct, and upon the generous sympathy of the gentlemen here assembled. During this very journey, a paper has been put into my hands, in which a member of the House of Representatives is represented to have said that the distinguished individual at the head of the Government and myself have been indicted by the people. If that is the case, I presume some defence is lawful. Bye the bye, if the honorable member is to have the sole prosecution, without the aid of other counsel, I think that it is not difficult to predict that his clients will be non-suited, and that they will be driven out of court with the usual judgment pronounced in such cases.

In conclusion, I beg leave to offer a Toast which if you are as dry as I am, will, I hope, be acceptable for the sake of the wine, if not the sentiment.

The continuation of the Turnpike road which passes through Lewisburg, & success to the cause of Internal Improvement under every auspices.

He then took his seat amid the repeated cheers of the whole Company.

From the Kentucky Public Advertiser.

JOHN ADAMS.—In conversation a day or two since, with an intelligent & respectable citizen of Kentucky, it was mentioned as a rare and curious anecdote, of the late President Adams, that in consequence of his firmness and patriotism in resisting the claim of the British Commissioners in '83, that the western foot of the Alleghany mountains, should be the western limit of the United States; which claim, it is understood was brought forward at the suggestion of the Count De Vergennes, to answer some views of his own government, and to which claim, Dr. Franklin, & perhaps, some others of the American Commissioners, had, in an unguarded moment, expressed their willingness to subscribe; the first Legislature of Kentucky passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Adams singly, for his firmness and successful resistance to the claim, & as the person to whom pre-eminently was due the praise of securing the western boundary, as it was finally adopted in the treaty of '83. We give this as we have heard it, and mainly with the view of ascertaining the fact. We have not heard whether the vote is matter of record; but we have heard that it is well recollected by several respectable gentlemen, who were at the time residing in the State. If it be true, it is worth preservation, as an event alike honorable to the deceased patriot and the Legislature of Kentucky.

The last Milledgevlle Recorder, in speaking of Gov. Troup's intention to survey the ceded lands, on the 1st inst. says, "that the surveys ordered will extend only to the Chatahoochie—not embracing all the country ceded by either Treaty, but that portion only which is undoubtedly ceded by both, and is consequently in strict conformity to each."

[It is not the extent, but the time of commencing the surveys that is objected to. The old treaty authorized the taking possession of the lands on the 1st Sept and it is under that treaty that the survey is commenced. But the old treaty was annulled by the new one made in Washington last winter, and the time of taking possession, was extended to January next; therefore, whether Governor Troup, surveys a small part or the whole of the land, is quite immaterial, and equally a violation of the laws of the land.]—*Balt. Pat.*

Prosperity.—The New York Statesman informs us, that "In New York are building—a Merchant's Exchange, with marble front; a Phenix Bank, do. a Stone College, (Episcopal) four stories high, on the Bank of the Hudson, three miles from the City Hall; the New York Theatre, of brick, with ornamental front; a Public School House, of the large dimensions of the six already erected; a Masonic Hall; the Arcade; a brick Unitarian Church; a Presbyterian do. and several others commenced &c.

[The same paper might have added, with truth, (says the New York Gazette) that at least 1800 houses and stores, are also going up in this city, most of which will be ready for tenants [about the] of November]

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

The reader will doubtless bear in mi the circumstance of a worthy present ing been prepared, here, by G. W. Custis, Esq. to be presented through medium of Gen La Fayette, to the Libera Bolivar. The reception of this prese (a ring enclosing a lock of the hair, an miniature portrait, of the Father of Country) has given rise to the interesti Correspondence, a copy of which we a permitted to present to our readers as fo lows:—*Nat. Intel.*

(Translation.)

NEW YORK, September 4, 1826.

My dear Sir,—In communicat which I have just received from Pe His Excellency the Liberator of Colom honors me with the commission, to p sent to you with the enclosed letter, t sincerest expressions of acknowled ments for the valuable presents, w one of the family of the illustrious Wa ington has been pleased to offer to hi I cannot better fulfil this commissi than by transcribing to you the v words of his Excellency:

"Since you have been the person w has had the goodness to transmit to so valuable a part of the inheritance the immortal Washington, be also medium, through whom I wish to expr the profound admiration, which I ha always professed for the memory of illustrious Hero, with my considera and respect for every thing belonging him, and my acknowledgement of honor with which I have just been dist guished."

It also affords me pleasure to comm nicate to you, that the Colombian Nat know how to value the merit of the he or you have conferred upon him, wh considered as the Father of the Count and the worthy imitator of Washingto

To the gratitude of General Boliv and the esteem of Colombia, permit me to add the sentiments of the greate consideration and cordial friendship, wi which I remain your obed ent servant, JOSE MARIA SALAZAR.

To the Honorable

GEORGE WASHINGTON P. CUSTIS, &c.

LETTER FROM THE LIBERATOR.

LIMA, May 25th, 1826.

SIR—Although I had learnt, by t public papers, the gift with which the s of the great Washington has been plea ed to honor me, I had not till this da received either the holy relic of this Fat er of Liberty, or the flattering letter his worthy descendant. This day I ha placed my hands upon this invaluab present, the image of the first benefacto of the continent of Colombia, presente through the citizen Hero, General L Fayette, and offered by the noble rem nant of that immortal family. It is a re compense worthy of the first and most lustrious character of the Universe.— Shall I be worthy of such an honor? No but I accept it with a pleasure and grati tude, which will be attached to the re mains of the venerable Father of Amer ca, to the most remote generations of m country, they ought to be the last remem brance of the New World.

Accept, sir, the most sincere and res pectful sentiments of my perfect consid eration. BOLIVAR.

From the Scoharie Republican.

The biter bit.—A travelling tin mer chant, while moving with his *portable* warehouse through an adjoining town called upon a very *shrewd* descendant of St. Crispin, or in other words, a pro ty "wide awake" Shoemaker, who having on hand a Plattsburgh dollar, thoug the present opportunity a very fine on for disposing of it—besides the immor tal honor he would acquire by having "sucked in a Pedlar," a consideration of no small importance, it being generally believed as a very difficult point to es tablish. He accordingly bought a tin *paste-horn*, and giving a knowing wink to the by-standers, offered his Plattsburg bill, and requested the change. The pedlar looked grave and shook his head —he did not like the bill, he said, for he had heard the bank was down. Crispin said, "there was no such thing—the re port was set afloat by brokers and spe culators, men not to be relied upon—the bills were perfectly good; as good as spe cie—and as to that matter a little better, because it was less trouble to carry it.— and all the spectators joined with him in recommending the bill to be a good bill and the bank that issued it, to be a bank of "exceeding good repute." The bill bei ing so highly recommended the *unsuspect ing* pedlar put it in his pocket, and hande ed out the change—the by-standers put on long faces—the shoemaker laughing behind his ears, and no one looked really honest but the pedlar. But trading will not stop here, Crispin, elated with his success, offered to sell the man of tin a lot of shoes, at a reduced price for cash. The pedlar bargained for them at $10—deposited the shoes in his cart-box—paid the amount in *Plattsburg* bills—and drove leisurely off, whistling the old tune of "*Catch a Weazle Asleep.*"

Cheap living—With an income of fif teen hundred francs, a person lives in Paris in the handsomest style. Formerly, house rent cost as much.

The bill for establishing an uniform system of Bank-rupt laws, as reported at the last session of Congress, has been published in a pamphlet form in Boston.

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