The Cambridge Chronicle.

"UNCOMPROMISING HOSTILITY TO THE RE-ELECTION OF MARTIN VAN BUREN."

NEW SERIES—VOL. 3. CAMBRIDGE, MD.—SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1, 1840. NUMBER 17.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY
E. RICHARDSON HOOPER.

TERMS.

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TWENTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.
FIRST SESSION.

IN SENATE.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1840.

The VICE PRESIDENT communicated a report of the Secretary of War, in obedience to a resolution asking whether Rock Island was abandoned as a military post by the United States.

Secretary said in his report that it had not been abandoned, but would be retained as a post for the defence of Iowa.

ABNLITION OF IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

In pursuance of notice, Mr. Norvell asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill supplementary to the act to abolish imprisonment for debt in certain cases. It would, he said, be remembered that, at the last session, a bill was passed by Congress into an act making the federal law on the subject of imprisonment for debt conform to the laws of the several States. *He* had understood that, by a recent decision in one of the courts of Michigan, our act was not considered as applicable to any State which, after its passage, had abolished imprisonment for debt. He was not disposed to question the correctness of this decision.—But every Senator present at the time must know that the bill was intended to embrace all the States, as well those which had then abolished imprisonment for debt, as those which might subsequently do so. It was the object of the supplement which he had introduced, to explain the meaning of the original act, and to render it applicable to all the States of this Union, whether they had before or subsequently to its passage, or shall hereafter pass laws abolishing imprisonment for debt. *He* called the special attention of the Judiciary Committee to this subject, with the hope that they would make an early and favorable report in regard to it.

The bill was read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE SUB-TREASURY.

The Vice President having announced as the special order the bill to provide for the collection, safe-keeping, and transfer of the public money—

Mr. Clay of Kentucky said: I rise, Mr. President, to make a suggestion to the honorable chairman of the Committee on Finance. The importance of this bill no one will contest; the great extent of its consequences no one can doubt. In addition to the occurrence in this body yesterday, (the resignation of Mr. White,) the Senate is now wanting five of its members. This, I believe, is without example in the history of this Government. Five legislative bodies have not elected and returned their members to this *House*. And we know enough to know that in no instance has it been the fault of the People, and in every instance it has been because the legislative bodies of the States, who were charged with the election of Senators, have been unable to agree as to the election of Senators. Of these States, three are among the most important in the Union, and one of them so important as to obtain the denomination of the Empire State, which last will send a Senator fresh from the People, and expressing the wishes of the People of that State, and we hope it will be so from the others who will send members here.

These, sir, are the facts; and the want of Senators from five of the States, the importance of the measure itself, the necessity of a full consultation, and the benefit to be derived from those counsels, those lights on the subject which are all-important to portions of this body, seem to recommend that the bill should not be considered at this time, even if we did not know that the other House is in a condition which imposes no necessity of action here on an important measure. If this bill should be passed to-morrow here, it would be weeks before it could be taken up in the other House,—Taking all these circumstances into view, I trust that the honorable chairman of the Committee on Finance, and the Senate generally, will acquiesce in the postponement of this measure.

Sir, I am quite sure the Senator from New York must be most desirous that his colleague may be with him on this occasion, that he may have the aid and counsel of his colleague, coming as he does from the people which they both represent: I trust, therefore, he will not now press the consideration of this measure. There are three or four of the States which, there is a high degree of probability, will in eight or ten days have elected their Senators, and they will be on their way here. Indeed, that event to which I have alluded as likely to give great pleasure to the chairman of the committee will doubtless take place this week, or early in the next. At all events, I hope I shall have the concurrence of the chairman and of others in the suggestion, for I will not now make the motion, that the consideration of this bill be postponed to Monday week.

Mr. *Wright* said: I have no personal desire to press the action on this bill, but, as a public duty, I must disagree to its postponement. As a member of the committee, my action on the bill is already discharged; and it is now for the Senate to decide for itself, according to the sense of what members are here, on the measure under consideration. But I am not at liberty to act in favor of any postponement. This is the fourth session of the Senate, regular and extraordinary, since this subject was first introduced; and I cannot forget that the bill on two occasions passed this body, and both times it failed of consideration in the other body. There is a peculiar state of things at the commencement of this session, and all legislative business is nearly a month back from its usual advancement at this period of the session.—I then leave it to the Senate when they will consider this great measure. I have not calculated the comparative strength of the measure here at this time and when the Senate will be full; but, from the enumeration of the Senator himself, I think there would be little change in that strength if the Senate should be full. And I believe that, before three days will have passed, I shall have the consolation, and it will be a consolation, to have my colleague here with me, and in that case he will represent truly, and in regard to this measure, what he believes to be the views and feelings of those he represents; and it would relieve me if he were here at this moment. We shall then have made no great progress in the consideration of the bill if we proceed to it now, and till that vacancy at least will be filled. I was instructed to move the consideration of it yesterday, from which I was prevented, and I gave a weak's notice of that intention.

Mr. Clay. It gives me great pleasure to bear testimony to the fairness of the course of the chairman of the committee, and it is every way worthy of him, and highly reputable to him as chairman of the Committee on Finance. I now understand him to say that, without the possibility of his concurring in the postponement, he now submits it to the Senate, as suggested by me, and he adds nothing that can seriously oppose the proposition for delay. Five of the States, and three of them most important, are now unrepresented here, and this fact is unprecedented, as far as my knowledge extends in the history of the country. It is very true, as the Senator says, that this bill has not been fully discussed; and it is very true, also, as stated by him, that the usual business of Congress is back by one month. Still the considerations remain which I first brought up; and no urgency here can accelerate the movement of the bill in the other House.

And while I am up, I will make another suggestion. In the course of two years past there has been a reversal—a change—a very great change—and not an unimportant one, as it respects the origination of important measures. Prior to that time all such measures originated in the House of the People, and they ought to do so, for the election of that House by the People ought to be a restriction on us, and we ought to aim at augmenting and strengthening the power of that body, and that peculiar power which belongs to the People, or ought to belong to them, and would, if the Government were duly administered, of guarding the public Treasury. We ought, I think, to see the propriety of such bills originating with them. But if we now delay the consideration of this measure, I believe it will be for the benefit of the whole States, five of whom are now not fully represented; and I trust the Senate, to whom the chairman of the committee has, with so much propriety, referred the question, will concur in the motion which I now make, though only suggested before, that the consideration of this bill be postponed till Monday week. I am happy that the chairman of the committee will enjoy the company of his colleague earlier than I anticipated, and I hope the two other great States will be represented on this floor, and the Senator from Michigan may be here before passing the bill, if it should be postponed till that time.

I have one remark in reply to the honorable. It is not essential only that his colleague, as well as other Senators, should be here simply to record his yea or nay on the passage of the bill, but he ought to be here during the whole discussion and the consideration of the amendments. In this I trust the Senate will concur with me,

Mr. Wright. I have nothing more to say in reference to the time when the bill is to be brought under consideration. But I will reply to one remark of the honorable Senator in reference to the introduction of the bill into this body. I am bound to say that I concur fully with him in the change, the great change, which has taken place in the last ten years in the legislation of the two Houses of Congress, and I agree with him that this change is to be regretted. But, after all, I do not think that the Committee on Finance on this occasion are to be charged with its authorship and introduction. This is not even an appropriation for carrying it into effect, but not touching in any way the raising of revenue. But, at the first session I was here, and it was a short session, two most important bills were passed, one for the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, and the other the so-called compromise bill; one of them with an appropriation most important, and the other came at least very close on a bill to raise revenue. Both these bills were introduced here by the Senator from Kentucky, and I believe that was one great step to the change of which he complains. I do not say this in the way of censure, but to defend the committee, and remind him of the circumstances.

Mr. Clay. In the first place, the honorable chairman is inaccurate, though he did not intend it, in regard to the character of this bill. If I am not mistaken, the first section of it makes an appropriation to an indefinite amount.

Mr. Wright. There are two or three appropriations to carry the bill into effect.

Mr. Clay. But I am extremely indebted to him for this opportunity to show the origin of those two measures, so important to the country—the land bill and the compromise bill. Sir, how did that land bill originate? Has the Senator forgotten how it was thrown upon a committee, and the motives under which it was thrown—on a committee of which I was a member?

Mr. Wright. That was before I was here.

Mr. Clay. The history of it was this: The Committee on Manufactures, in which interest I now take and have ever taken a most lively concern, was raised; and some gentlemen entertained the extraordinary notion that the sale of the public domain was a tax, and, being so, was a subject appropriate to the Committee on Manufactures, and should be referred to that Committee. Against this I expostulated, protested, and implored that they would not send it to that committee, of which I was a member. And what was the result? The political friends of the honorable chairman, uniting to a man, and apparently with a view to my personal embarrassment, threw the subject on the Committee on Manufactures. I then said, gentlemen, since you have thrown this matter on me, I will off coat and go to work; and so I did, and the bill to distribute the proceeds of the public lands was the result. That was not a measure voluntarily assumed, and it was not in violation of that spirit of the Constitution which I am happy to find the Senator regards as myself.—The measure was thrown, literary forced upon me, and it was passed by this *House*, and by a majority of more than two-thirds of the other House, sent to the President, and (said Mr. C, striking repeatedly on his pocket) you know what became of it afterwards.

In regard to the other, the compromise bill, look at the state of the country at that time. A civil war was then threatening the country, and every measure had failed of accomodating the unhappy difficulty in which it was involved. The House of Representatives was at a stand, in a perfect balk, incapable of motion. In that state of things I proposed the compromise bill. But was it a revenue bill? Was it to raise or augment the tariff No; but to reduce, to cut it down. But I waive this point. A majority of the Senate decided that it was not a revenue bill, such as must originate in the other House. But to trace that bill in its progress and final passage, while we were disputing it here, the House brought it up as an original bill on their part, in its very words, passed it by acclamation, and when I first heard of it I was here upon my feet. It was then concurred in by the Senate, approved by the President, and became a law of the land. Such is the simple history of the land bill and compromise bill, and if the Senator can make any thing out of it affecting the argument or course which I now adopt, he is welcome to the whole benefit.

Mr. Wright. The Senator seems to consider what I said as a matter of charge against him.

Mr. Clay. Not at all.

Mr. Wright. I spoke of these as a matter of reference, and though they refer to the other body of Congress, the only time that I was ever called to order in my life was by the Senator from Kentucky for referring to that body. If it is now proper so to refer to it, the Senator will agree with me that in its business progress it was never more effectually tied up than now. (This had reference to Mr. Clay's apology for introducing the compromise bill, that the House was balked and incapable of motion.)

Mr. Walker here rose and expressed his surprise that now for the first, a motion had been made to delay action on an important measure, because the States were not fully represented, and denied the possibility of a Senator being returned in time from Tennessee. He insisted that the final vote would not be effected by this delay, that more than two thirds of the States had already declared in favor of the Sub-Treasury; that the Senate was as much the House of the People as the other House; that the land bill, if forced at first, was afterwards voluntary on the part of Mr Clay, and that it contained the largest appropriation ever made; and that by the compromise bill, which was a revenue bill, the spirit of the Constitution, if not violated, was strained to the very uttermost.

The question was now put on Mr. Clay's motion to postpone the bill to Monday week, and decided in the negative by yeas and nays as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Betts. Clay, (of Ky.) Clayton, Crittenden, Davis, Dixon, Henderson, Merrick, Phelps, Prentiss, Preston, Robinson Ruggles, Smith (of Ind) Southard, White, (of Ind.)—16.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Benton, Brown, Buchanan, Calhoun, Clay, (of Ala.) Fulton, Grundy, Hubbard, King, Linn, Lumpkin, Mouton, Nicholas, Norvell, Pierce, Roane, Sevier, Smith, (of Conn.) Strange, Tappan, Walker, Wall, Williams, Wright, Young—26.

So the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. Wright explained and advocated the bill briefly and statistically.

Various amendmendments offered by the committee were considered and adopted.

Mr. Benton having urged with much earnetsness that the officers engaged under this bill ought to be men of family and respectibility, entirely free from the vexations and temptations of other worldly concrens, and supported by Government in so full and liberal a way as to take from them the motive of the mere love of gain, and of obtaining necessary support, moved to increase the salaries of the Receiver General at New York from $3,000 to $4,000, and of the other Receivers General from $2,500 to $3,000.

Mr. Wright made a few remarks on the high living in New York, and in favor of the $4,000.

Mr. Davis said he hoped these salaries would not be enlarged. He believed that $3,000 or $3,500 was as great a compensation as any of the State officers in New York received, except the Governor. He had urged on a former occasion that this Government ought not to make its salaries greater than those of the State Governments under similar circumstances.

The example was pernicious, and the influence of it was was bad in every respect. The Senator from New York had mentioned representations in regard to the expense of living in New York city, which he had received from that quarter. But who was it that made them? Mr. D. conjectured that it was men who were interested in this matter, and wanted the greatest salary they could obtain. Mr. D. did not know any limit in this respect to the desires of those who were living on the public Treasury. If you desire them to be honest, said Mr. D., you cannot make them honest in this was. It is a false principle, condemned by all experience. I shall not interfere with this bill, the committee may make it as they wish. But if I am to record my yea or nay, I wish to have my opinion justified.

Mr. Wright said the Senator from Massachussetts was right. The highest salary in New York, except that of the Governor, was $2,500, and this was $500 less even than the salary of the Receiver General now in the bill. The Judges of the Supreme Court and Chancery had $2,000. But the consequence of it was, that the salary had driven from the bench several of the most valuable judges, because, with what property they had in connexion with their salaries, they could not live where they were situated; they had left the bench and taken to clerkships, which last offices were infinitely the best of the two. No judge did or could reside in the city of New York and support his family on his salary.

And then as to the source of Mr. W.'s. advice to which the Senator from Massachussetts had alluded Mr. W. was not surprised at his interference; but in this case he was quite mistaken. No man in Mr. W.'s recollection, had spoken of that subject here; and he did not recollect that any one had, but merchants in New York, of whose politics Mr. W. knew nothing, except the Attorney General there, (Mr Butler,) and he could not be induced to take this office of Receiver General at $4,000.

The question was now put on changing the salary of the Receiver General at New York from $3,000 to $4,000, and carried in the affirmative by yeas and nays as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Benton, Brown, Buchanan, Calhoun, Clay of Ala. Fulton, Grundy, Hubbard, King, Linn, Mouton, Nicholas, Norvell Preston, Roane, Sevier Smith,, of Conn., Strange Tappan, Walker, Wall, Wright—23.

Nays—Messrs. Clay of Ky., Clayton, Crittenden, Davis, Dickson, Henderson, Lumpkin, Merrick, Phelps, Pierce. Prentiss, Robineon, Rugles, Smith, of Inda., Southard, White, of Inda., williams, Young—19.

The question now rose on the other division of Mr. Benton's motion, viz. to change the salaries of the other Receivers-General, respectfully, from $2,500, to $3,000, or more.

Mr. Hubbard said the Judges of these States (South Carolina and Louisiana) received $3,000 or more.

Mr. Davis. I did not propose as a standard the salaries of the State Judges in particular; but of the State officers generally; and I would ask the Senator from New Hampshire how much the Judges of his own State receive.

Mr. Calhoun rose to say that the expenses of living for the Receiver-General at Charleston ought at least to be estimated at $3,000.

Mr. Allen said he should vote against an increase of the salaries of these officers, because it would increase the responsibility at these points.

The question was now put on the increase of the salaries of the Receivers-General at Charleston and New Orleans, from $2,500 to $3,000, and it was decided in the negative by yeas and nays as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Benton, Brown, Buchanan, Calhoun, Clay of Alabama, Fulton, Grundy, Hubbard, King, Linn, Mouton, Nicholas, Norvell, Preston, Roane, Sevier, Strange, Walker, Wall, Wright—20.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Betts, Clay of Kentucky, Clayton, Crittenden, Davis, Dixon, Henderson, Lumpkin, Merrick, Phelps, Pierce Prentiss, Robinson, Ruggles, Smith of Connecticut, Smith of Indiana, Sothard, Tappan, White, of Indianaf Williams, Young—22.

Mr. Buchanan now moved as an amendment that the salary of the Treasurer of the Mint at Philadelphia should be increased from $2,000, and that of the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New Orleans from $2,000 each respectfully to 2,500.

The Fedaral officers would be selected upon the principles laid down by Mr. Jefferson—"is he honest, is he capable?" Honest men would be brought into public employment, and the country would become prosperous, and the People happy. Sir, we must come back to the pure days of the republic. This inducement must be removed or you will have fixed upon you consilidated centralism, with an elective monarch, or President, which is the same thing; for, when the powers wielded are the same, names are nothing.

Mr. S. said he would notice an argument that had been used by Senators over the way, in support of the increase of these salaries, It had been said and repeated that these officers could not live at the salaries. That named in the bill is twenty-five hundred dollars a year, and it was proposed to increrse it to four thousand. Yes, sir, it was gravely said that these officers could not live at twenty-five hundred dollars, and the friends of this bill propose to give four thousand. This was economy with a vengeance. He would like Senators to answer, if these men could not live at these salaries, how did they live without them?—And how did it happen that they are so clamorous to get them?

But, sir, it may be laid down as a general rule, with but few if any exceptions, that the officer would always live up to his salary. If his salary is low, he will live accordingly, If high, he apes even royalty itself in his extravagance and luxuries. No matter what you give him, he conforms to it. It was expected that the head of a Department, at six thousand dollars, must give his parties, and expend the whole salary, or more, while the clerk in his department, equally as good a man, receiving his thousand dollars, is exempt from that custom, and, at the end of the year, has saved just as much or more money, and has lived and supported his family equally well It is said that our officers should live up to the style and fashion of the place where they may reside. This was the fashionable doctrine. But, sir, it was not the plain republican doctrien. It was to be feared, indeed, that our Government had taken leave of the character of which it was the pleasure of our ancestors to boast. It was apeing royalty. It was becoming too proud, too extravagant, too much like the Eastern nations of the earth.

A conversation now took place with very little emphasis by Messrs. Mouton, King, Wright, Smith, of Connecticut, and Smith, of Indiana.

Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Davis also made some further remarks, chiefly statistical, and to the same effect as before.

The subject was suspended by consent, and, after an executive session, the Senate adjourned.

OLD ROSIN THE BOW.

I have travelled this country all over,
And now to the other I'll go,
But I know that good quarters are waiting
To welcome Old Rosin the Bow.

The gay rounds of the world I have travelled,
Nor shall I behind leave a wo,
And whilst my companions are jovial,
They'll ne'er forget Rosin the Bow.

My life has now drawn to a closing,
And all will at last be so, so,—
And we'll take a full bumper at parting
To the name of Old Rosin the Bow.

When I am dead and laid out on the counter,
The people will all want to know,
They'll raise up the lid of my coffin,
And look at Old Rosin the Bow.

Then give to me some clever fellows,
And let them all stagger and go,
To dig a wide hole in the meadow,
And in it toss Rosin the Bow.

And when that my coffin is passing,
The children all wishing to know,
They'll all run to the doors and the windows,
Saying, "there goes Old Rosin the Bow."

Under the sod I'll have to be buried,
The ladies all anxious to know
They'll lift up the lid of my coffin,
Saying, "here lies Old Rosin the Bow."

Then shape me a couple of donicks,
Place one at the head and at the toe,
And do not forget to scratch on it
The name of Old Rosin the Bow.

Then let there be some clever fellows,
And standing around in a row,
And drink from the big bellied bottle,
Farewell to Old Rosin the Bow.

A CARD.

GEORGE EDWARD MUSE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,

OFFERS his professional services to the public. He can be found at his office, one door above the "Chronicle" Office.

August 31st, 1839. 3w

CHANCERY SALE.

PURSUANT to authority derived from the Honourable Theodorick Bland, Chancellor of Maryland, I will sell to the highest and best bidder on

Saturday 22nd of February next,

All the real estate of which Samuel H. Hodson died seized, lying and being in Dorchester county, about two miles distant from the town of Vienna. It consists of a tract of land called

Plain Sailing,

containing **173** acres, and a part of

Plain Dealing

containing **4** acres, making in all
ONE HUNDRED AND **77** ACRES.

About one hundred acres of this valuable little estate are HEAVILY TIMBERED; and convenient to navigable water; the arable land is productive and susceptible of high improvement.—To those engaged in the lumber business this sale is particularly inviting.

The terms of Sale, as prescribed by the decree, are one fourth cash, the balance in six and twelve months from the day of sale, all secured by bond and security approved by the trustee, bearing interest from the day of sale till paid.—The title is believed to be indisputable.

The sale will take place at the hour of 12 o'clock, M.; at the door of Major Leary's Hotel in the town of Vienna.

H. PAGE, Trustee.

Jan. 18, 1940. [tds]

THE MAILS
NEW ARRANGMENT.

IN future the mails from the East, West and South are required by contract to reach this place,—On Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays by 5 o'clock P. M. And will close, for departure at 8 o'clock P. M. Same days—it is desirable that the hour of closing, may be borne in mind by all who wish to avail themselves of this arrangment.

E. P. LECOMPTE, P. M.

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