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THOMAS HART BENTON—THE MYSTERIOUS LETTERS.

In our affair with Mr. Benton, we would have our correspondents respectfully to understand that we do not desire to make use of any extraneous aid. We state this, because innumerable charges, of a nature altogether different from the matter under consideration, from anonymous sources, are daily pouring in upon us.

On Monday, Mr. Benton offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be instructed to inquire in what manner the Madisonian newspaper obtained a knowledge of certain papers supposed to be filed in the General Post Office Department, in relation to the appointment of Mr. Watson as Deputy Postmaster at St. Louis, viz: a letter from Mr. Benton to Mr. Van Buren, and another to the Postmaster General; and also in what manner the editor of that paper became possessed of certain information, that there was no other recommendation for Mr. Watson, and that his appointment was made on the sole recommendation of Mr. Benton.

This resolution has reference to an editorial article in the Madisonian of the 6th inst.—That article was called forth in consequence of the publication of certain letters by Mr. Benton—a publication which involved a violation of pledged secrecy—of confidence—of the honorable and dignified practice of Senators. They were published for the purpose of inflicting a gratuitous blow on a co-ordinate branch of the Government, and at a time when the Executive was rapidly advancing in the affections of the People, and threatened by its accumulating popularity and power speedily to overthrow every partisan leader in America.

In our article, we established the fact that neither the President nor the Postmaster General ever read the letters which Mr. Benton published. They were received by them, and as usual, filed with the application of Col. Churchill. They were sent to the Senate with the nomination. They were borrowed by Mr. Benton merely for "examination," as he stated. They were published by him, without the knowledge or consent of the committee from whom he obtained them.

Well, the copies, thus surreptitiously obtained, were despatched to the printer. The casket was re-sealed and handed back to Mr. McRoberts. He received back the trust without dreaming its purity had been sullied. He thought not of "gun powder plots," nor the "days of Queen Anne," nor of the resuscitation of "Walpolean schemes." He knew not how well Mr. Benton was versed in English history, or how adroitly he could avail himself of this knowledge in every transaction, private and public.

But the letters were published, because Colonel Churchill was recommended by some of his friends on account of "his party services." Let it not be forgotten that neither the President nor the Postmaster General ever read the letters setting up these partisan claims. But Mr. Benton cared not for that. If he could fix the charge upon them, it mattered not whether they were guilty or innocent. He would reap the advantage of the blow, and why should he care if it fell upon the innocent? But, after all, what politician has not recommended applicants on the same grounds?

In our article we called upon the Missouri Senator to say if he had not recommended Mr. Watson on account of his "party services." Here is what we wrote, and we reiterate it: "What recommended Mr. Watson, and who recommended him? We do not wish to incriminate Mr. Watson. We know nothing of him for good or evil, save what we learn from the papers. He, too, may have been 'capable and honest.' But Mr. Benton will not deny that while Mr. Watson conducted Mr. Benton's special Locofoco organ, the Argus, he (Mr. Benton) frequently promised him his reward. He will not deny that he (Mr. Benton) wrote to Mr. Watson on more than one occasion to be patient—not to despair—that all his losses and sacrifices for 'the party' should be compensated. He (Mr. Benton) will not deny that he addressed President Van Buren in Mr. Watson's behalf, and urged his appointment on account of his 'party services.' He (Mr. Benton) will not deny that he then addressed a letter to the Postmaster General, demanding the appointment of Mr. Watson on the ground of his sacrifices in connection with the Argus, and that the appointment was absolutely made under these circumstances, inasmuch as no other person recommended him."

We purposely refrained from publishing the notes taken by our reporter on Monday. We were resolved to deal fairly with Mr. Benton. We shall refer exclusively to the reports in the Globe and Intelligencer. We find in the Globe the following notes, which Mr. Benton produced for the occasion:

"SENATE CHAMBER, June 4, 1840. Sir: The Missouri delegation wish to be informed whether Mr. Thomas Watson, formerly deputy postmaster at Newbern, North Carolina, is in default to the Department; and how long he was postmaster there; and whether, as such, he gave general satisfaction to the Department? Our reasons for the inquiry are, that he is among those respectfully recommended to us for an appointment in St. Louis, where he now resides. And we would wish to know whether his conduct heretofore furnishes any objection to him. Yours, respectfully, THOMAS H. BENTON. Hon. Mr. NILES, Postmaster General."

"WASHINGTON CITY, June 12, 1840. Sir: We recommend to you Thomas Watson, of St. Louis, Missouri, for the place of deputy postmaster at that place, to succeed Mr. Hunt, whose term will expire early in July. THOMAS H. BENTON. LEWIS F. LINN.

To the POSTMASTER GENERAL. And Mr. Benton thus comments on them: "Mr. B. said that the copies of these two letters were very material to him. They were found since the Madisonian article was written, and falsified it in several particulars. They were good far as they went, and showed Mr. Watson's fitness for the office."

As far as they went, they falsified the Madisonian article. But they did not reach all that was said in that article, and which assumed to speak of papers not yet found. Now we will comment on them. The first has nothing to do with the matter under consideration. Of Mr. Watson we said nothing. We did not wish him to be a fellow in crime with Mr. Benton or any one else. But we might speak of his long defalcation. He was long in arrears to the Department. This had to be paid up before Mr. Benton could get him appointed. Why did not Mr. Benton publish the reply to his note of June 4th, 1840? We dare him to do it! Will Mr. Benton challenge us to give the mode resorted to, to settle Mr. Watson's long standing accounts with the Department? He will not do it.

But the three lines recommending Mr. Watson, signed by Mr. Benton and Mr. Linn, what do they amount to? Mr. Benton had previously arranged the whole affair. This was a mere form—intended for publication if necessary, for the purpose of screening Mr. Benton. Mr. Linn very naturally joined him in the "three lines" note of recommendation. But Mr. Linn was no party to the dark and hidden transaction we allude to. Will any man believe that these "three lines" alone, got Mr. Watson the office? Will Mr. Benton deny the existence of his letter to Mr. Niles? Does he challenge its publication? Does he deny that he procured Mr. Watson's appointment because he had made sacrifices in conducting the Argus, Mr. Benton's own special organ? Does he challenge us to the proof? Does Mr. Benton deny the existence of several other letters from his pen, of the same nature, in relation to other appointments? Does he challenge the publication of them? He does not, and will not. He lives in a glass house.

But how do his notes in the Globe falsify our article? Has he given publicity to the letter? or did he put the copy in his pocket, and burn it afterwards? But now for the letter written by Mr. Benton to President Van Buren. We quote from the report in the Intelligencer:

Mr. Benton admitted that he did write to President Van Buren in behalf of Mr. Watson, and urged his claims on the ground of sacrifices made in party services. These letters were in existence they should be on the files of the Department. They were blazoned forth to the public in the Madisonian, and public sentences had been marked in inverted commas, as though they were precisely quoted; and with a view to fasten particular attention upon particular portions of the letter, they were italicized.

"Let the world judge between us." And this is the man who surreptitiously copied confidential letters, and published them for the purpose of showing to the public that the present Executive appointed men to office as a reward for "party services." And the letters were never read by the Executive! Let Mr. Benton assure himself of this fact. Let him send for "papers and persons," and "examine" them "on oath." But in his estimation, it was "a base procedure," the official patronage was "basely" bestowed, for "base" purposes! Is not Mr. Benton himself nailed to the counter by his own admission?

But Mr. Benton supposes that his unfortunate epistles should be filed in the Department. They may be, for what we know. We never saw any of them there. Where we did see them, or from whom our copies were obtained, is what he desires to learn. We think we will reserve our answer till we confront the inquisitor himself, in the dark room, when the torture is prepared. But the days of witchcraft are over. We will escape burning and drowning.

The ghosts of these violated and surreptitiously copied confidential letters will haunt Mr. Benton, till he makes a "clean breast" of it. Phantoms will trouble his slumbers. He will nightly start from his sleep, exclaiming, "for God's sake, Jones, don't publish any more of my letters!" He will think of the long epistle he wrote to General Jackson from the Senate Chamber. He will think of the sharp billet-doux passes he once had with Mr. Van Buren. He will think of all he has said and written about Calhoun, Buchanan, King and Johnson—"and despair!"

We have been in Missouri more than once. We have stood upon the "mounds" and confronted the frame of the "Great Missourium." As the Rhode Islanders say, "We have resolved not to be frightened." If Mr. Benton shall call us a coward, we are determined not to say, "Mr. Speaker, I am aware of that." But we will never, of course, stand before Mr. Benton's pistol. He shot General Jackson. Mr. Bots never, of course, acted wisely. Arnold's "declined" fighting about his celebrated letter, and he may have acted wisely. Arnold's "peace party" is the best, and God knows it is our sincere desire to live in peace with all men.

THE STATE OF THE CASE.

It is somewhat wonderful that the ultras of the Whig Party should be so stultified as to place the whole issue of the present controversy between themselves and the Executive upon so slender a foundation as that upon which it rests. For, if we sift it down to its source, they cannot deny that the very head and front, may the whole body of his offending in its earliest stage was that he would not consent to give his sanction to a Bank of the United States upon the plan proposed by Mr. Clay, or what was called an old fashioned Bank of the United States. He was willing to have a Bank with the consent of each State in which it was to act. So that the whole controversy has grown out, not of a Bank of the United States, but of the specific Bank of the United States—a regular Biddle Bank.

Is it not, as we have said, wonderful that the great Whig party should consent to go down to the People with such an issue as Henry Clay for the next Presidency and a regular Biddle Bank? But is it so? Are the Whig party content to place themselves in so ridiculous an attitude? We say no, they are not. The party which produced the reform of 1840 in the election of the lamented Harrison, never were a Bank party. This has been fully proven by every election which has taken place since the controversy has assumed its present shape. We know it is the slang of the ultra Whigs to say that their friends stay away from the polls in disgust, because they have been disappointed, and they thus attempt to get rid of the defeat they every where sustain. We do not mean to be understood to say, that there is not a Bank, a Biddle Bank party in the country, or to deny that Mr. Clay is the head of that very party. We too well know that the aristocracy, as they are proud to call themselves in this country, as in all others, are in favor of large moneyed institutions. They may be honest in their opinions, and no doubt many of them are honest in the belief that a moneyed oligarchy is the best form of government. They have no confidence in the virtue and intelligence of the People, because they never meet them to mingle with them—hence they imbibe the opinion that universal suffrage is unsafe; the mass are not fit to govern, is with them a favorite maxim. Yes! there is a Bank, a Biddle Bank party, in the country, and this party it is that are determined to thrust Henry Clay down the throats of the People, *volens volens*, for the next President.

We end then as we commenced, and again assert that it is somewhat wonderful that the ultra leaders of this Clay Bank party should be so stultified as to believe that they can force the free and independent voters of this Union at this time, of all others, to pledge themselves three years in advance for Henry Clay and a regular Biddle Bank.

For this gentleman we have a considerable degree of respect. The decent conduct of his public life, and the urbanity, ease and propriety of manner distinguishing his private relations, create an esteem which we take pleasure in publicly expressing. There are some things, however, about Mr. Buchanan as a politician, which we cannot admire. He is too much in the habit of endeavoring to produce political effects, by party appliances. He is too much in the habit of descending from the Senatorial platform, and toiling amid the dust of the melee for a partisan victory. In other words, the Senator from Pennsylvania not only makes strictly electioneering speeches, but what is worse, he seems to do so.

MR. BUCHANAN.

On the day before yesterday, for instance, in the course of a long party speech in the Senate, he undertook to draw the lines of party, by which he very modestly arrogated to himself a bona fide Jeffersonianism, while John Tyler, now President of the United States, was made, if not by direct charge, at least by insinuation, no better than one of the ungodly. In truth, Mr. Tyler was reckoned in a light little better than a Federalist. Now, all this is excessively farcical, and we invite Mr. Buchanan to try his powers in a three act farce, to be entitled "A Burlesque on Republicanism," in which he shall make himself play the part of a converted Jeffersonian. We have no doubt, in addition, he would attempt to make the President perform the part of a mock Federalist, but he cannot succeed in making him do this, even in jest, so he had better leave him out of his play altogether. But we have no doubt the Senator from Pennsylvania would act the part of a "converted Republican" as well any where else as he does in the Senate chamber.

But to be more serious; is it not approaching on the confines of the absurd for James Buchanan, the wool-dyed Federalist up to a late period, and the author of the "low wages" system, a system so exceedingly Democratic, should, by direct charge, or by inference, endeavor to create an impression in the country that he is a Republican, and that John Tyler is none? One scarcely knows whether to laugh, as he would at some dexterous touch in a melodrama, or to get downright angry, and to thunder out indignation against the arrogance of such a contrast. If there is a man whose memory the President, as a politician, does idolize, it is that of Jefferson; and the difference between Mr. Tyler and Mr. Buchanan in this respect is just this: While Mr. Tyler uses Jefferson's name, and dwells on his memory, and calls to recollection his sage political precepts with admiration and reverence for the revolutionary patriot, Mr. Buchanan writes the name upon a piece of paper, pins it to his coat, or sticks it on his forehead, and thus labelled, fancies that the public cannot appreciate the difference between a feeling and a trick. Not so, Mr. Buchanan, as time will show.

Mr. Tyler has been in public life, in responsible stations, for nearly thirty years. Before you accuse him, Mr. Buchanan, of Federalism, point to any act, during his political career, which is not strictly Jeffersonian.

THE DESTRUCTIVES.

If we recollect right, there was no name given to the ultra Locofoco party, which they more stoutly denied, as being in any degree applicable to them than the name of "the Destructives."

They would do nothing, it was urged, to benefit the country, and were therefore called Destructives. The Whig presses throughout the whole country were filled with denunciations against the Van Buren party, because that party did nothing for the country, and, more particularly, nothing to regulate the currency. Who are the Destructives now?

Does any man doubt what is the true answer to this question? We venture to say no. No man doubts that Henry Clay and his rabid partisans are the men who prevent the immediate adoption, by Congress, of an Exchequer that would furnish a sound circulating medium throughout the Union, restore confidence, and, without any inflation of the currency, furnish a means of remittance, that would greatly facilitate the exchange of commodities from one end of our wide-extended territory to the other.

Ask any of the moderate men of the Whig party, both in and out of Congress, who are the men that oppose that measure, and the answer is,—We are willing to go for it, but—ay, that but!!! not THE WEST will not agree to it. Ask the moderate men of the other party, the real Democrats—not the ultras—and they feel half inclined to go for such a measure, but—they fear to be denounced by their party. So we tell the good People of the United States, what we have often said before, and shall, over and over again, repeat to them—nothing but your will, expressed in language not to be misunderstood, can remedy the evils under which the country now groans. Ground as it is between the upper and the nether millstone of Mr. Clay, and his ultras, on one side, and the ultra Locofoco on the other. Would that the true Democracy would come out from among these unwholesome combinations, and unite with the Administration—then would the husbandman rejoice in his fields, the artist in his workshop, and then would our surplus be wafted into every sea by our hardy and jolly tars, and peace and plenty become the handmaids of liberty to bless the political and moral honesty of an industrious People.

COMMUNICATED.

A GLANCE AT THE PRESENT CONDITION OF PARTIES.

The divisions which have marked the political parties of this country, and which particularly distinguish them at the present time, have been cited as an evidence of that violent spirit so much deprecated by the enemies of free governments. It is true there has been no outbreak of public sentiment as far as action is concerned; but there has existed, and continues to exist, a feeling of violent party animosity from which the worst may be feared if not speedily repressed.

Whatever might have been the divisions of the people previous to the change they made in the administration of the Government; and, however much they hoped for a repose from that contest which secured it, there is now a spirit at work of infinitely greater violence, and a disquietude more fearful than when engaged in the conflict for political ascendancy.

This spirit has not had its origin among the people generally. To a number who are confided with the legislation of the country it more particularly owes its birth. Indeed, the feeling we speak of as apprehending the worst from its continuance, is partially to be ascribed to the feeling of indignation aroused by legislative dereliction of duty. The People, beholding their representatives engaged in the heat of party conflict, partake of some of their fire, and even in the ardor to repress it may become more excited.

If there was ever a period at which unanimity of action was necessary for the faithful discharge of important public trusts, it is the present, inasmuch as there was never presented to an Executive of this Government such a variety of intricate and delicate questions, as are now submitted to his Administration. The indecision of the currency question; the Rhode Island controversy, with all the delicacy involved in it; a series of the most important questions which has ever agitated this country and Great Britain; the difficulty with which the imprisonment of some of our citizens, on the part of Mexico, has involved us with that country; and other questions of a local nature which daily occur. Add, to all of these, a degree of party bitterness which has marked the warfare against the Executive and the Administration, by the partisans of both parties, with the three-fold object of thwarting their speedy settlement, satisfying their own personal enmity, and, in the event of an unsuccessful adjustment of them all, to charge the President with imbecility. This is the sea of agitation through which the President has to steer; and the comparison which Gratian made, when Mirabeau was condemned by both of the great parties of France, when he said of him he was the isthmus between the sea of parties, lashed by the waves of the royalists on the one side, and beaten by the billows of the Jacobins on the other, might, with propriety, be applied to the President of the United States and the two great parties, in whose sea of agitation he is the isthmus, equally receiving the turbulence of both.

The People, if their general good sense is to be taken as an evidence of their determination, will never suffer their best interests and the welfare of their country to be jeopardized by men who would stop at no length to effect their own selfish ends.—They cannot fail to see between their welfare and the Administration, a connexion so close that the blow aimed to strike the one must inevitably injure the other.

The occasion which calls for combined action on the part of the friends of the Government to aid it in its present difficulties, is selected by its enemies to throw barriers in its way. There are times when blind partisan warfare is more justifiable than others. When there is nothing identified with the Government against which its hostility is directed, but the success of the principles upon which it is administered; when political ascendancy is the aim at which its measures are particularly directed, and no questions of vital interest effecting its immediate welfare is concerned, then an undue severity, even against the Government, may be tolerated.—But when difficulties which grow out of the state of affairs, unforeseen by the most sagacious foresight, and which no political prudence can avert, for a degree of hostility to be directed against it with a view to thwart their safe adjustment, is to strike the very country to whose success they are the life, and which to war against is to direct a blow with a view to its destruction.

To oppose an Administration under such circumstances may be the work of desperate partisans, and the sword they wield against it, whetted by personal asperity and wielded with political malignity, will be averted by the shield of public honor, sustained by the hand of a virtuous People.

Among the many things connected with the present position of parties, and which are not the least worthy of the consideration of the country, are the various statements made by their supporters with regard to the ground the President would now occupy had he been directed by their respective guides. Had he but followed the course of the one, he would have secured for himself its undivided support. Had he followed the other, he would have equally met their cordial welcome. If there was wanting any evidence stronger than what has already been given of an honest zeal in the cause of the country, in opposition to party, on the part of the President, it is this fearless path, which principle divested of its dangers in pursuing. Taking neither the side of the one, nor placing himself in the hands of the other, he was content to take what the factions of both rendered a middle course. Did personal interest prompt it? He had already the position which it was neither in their power to give nor withhold. Did the political success to which he might subsequently be indebted to them influence his action? He had presented to him on both sides the advantages which their support would secure. Did a want of courage or an absence of firmness intimidate him? He knew with what malignity he was to be assailed.

In connection with all these difficulties, much is said in justification of party; and no one will affirm that any Government can exist without it. Party, as a term of designation, must be applied to every set of men who undertake the establishment of any principle, or the advancement of any cause. But it is not a faction that can be tolerated, because parties must needs exist. It is not the voluntary acquiescence of men in the support of any cause which distinguishes faction; but the forcing them irresistibly into the compliance with its will. It is not a connexion formed to discharge duties which involve upon public men, but the combined influence of separate fractions of parties to promote some sinister purpose. It does not show itself in the clear light of public duty, but conceals itself in secret intrigue. This is a combination against which every friend of public honor will unite to oppose.

CASSIUS.

Extract of a Letter, dated "New York, May 7, 1842.

The "editorial genius" of a certain portion of the press in this quarter is sadly perplexed at finding a small supply of materials to work up into "articles," to "head Captain Tyler." The old stock is pretty well "used up," and "Captain Tyler" seems to manage his course so closely in conformity with the Constitution, that the whole "corps editorial" can now scarcely frame an "indignation article." "His Accidency"—"the Corporal's Guard"—and even the President's "nose," have all become worn out subjects—and they all sit round, watching for something new to catch up and bandy round. It is really painful to witness the editorial distress consequent upon the pertinacious quiet and Constitutional adherence of the President in the performance of his duties. If he persevere in this course, he will destroy the interest of the editorial columns of the locofoco portion of the Whig press. Can't we manage, some way or other, to get the President out in open opposition to some article of the Constitution—to address some out-of-the-way message to Congress—propose some unconstitutional scheme—refuse the performance of some duty?—Or, if he will not do either of these, then smoke a cigar and a pipe at one and the same time—order a new carriage, and direct a new liverly—turn the carpet of the "East Room," or order a new one; do something that may furnish materials for an editorial dash? If he does not, I don't know what will become of some of our editors, who see no hopes of advancement or office, unless they can put down the present Administration, and put up another, more friendly to their patriotic motives. I don't know a man who has been so regardless of party organization as our present President. He seems to have got a notion in his head that his constitutional duties are superior to the claims of party, and can't believe that it was the intention of our revolutionary

fathers that this Government was intended to serve a party, and not the whole people. So long as he holds this "old fashioned" notion, he may expect to get a sad scraping from the partisan press of the present day, which has imbibed the new doctrine that "the spoils of the vanquished belong to the victors."

The President seems to suppose that he is President of all these United States, and not exclusively the President of a party—although he has heard it announced in a high place and by high authority that it is a "sad spectacle," that "a President should be without a party, and a party without a President." Well, I don't know that I am right, but being myself more for my country than for any party in it, and being able to gain an honest living without an office, I am, for one, willing to have a President without a party, and a party without a President; so that we have a President for the country, and a country for a President.

TRIBUTE OF OFFICIAL RESPECT.

TO THE HONORABLE ELLIHA M. HUNTINGTON, Commissioner of the General Land Office, from his subordinates in office.

At the moment when the official relations that subsist between us are about to be finally severed, we cannot fail to express, at the parting, the high sense of regard which we entertain for you, from the recollection of the urbanity of your official demeanor, and the indulgent kindness which have characterized these relations towards us. Nothing is more grateful to the feelings of subordinates in office, than a confidence that their superior is capable of appreciating their well-meant efforts in the public service, and esteeming that considerate regard for their individual comfort, which, always consistent with the character of a gentleman, is not found incompatible with the public interests of an office. The conviction that personally and officially, your feelings towards us have been of the kind and generous nature alluded to, has tended to sweeten our official labors in the past, and adds poignancy to the regret we experience in parting at the present, and we request that, with your retirement from office at the seat of Government, you will carry with you the assurance of our best wishes for your happiness and well-being for all the future. (Eighty signers.)

May 7th, 1842.

Reply.

WASHINGTON, May 9th 1842.

GENTLEMEN:—Your letter on the occasion of my retirement from the office of Commissioner of the General Land Office of the United States, has just been placed in my hands, and be assured that it is received with the most unaffected sensibility. If I have been enabled to discharge the duties of the office which I have just resigned, in an acceptable manner, I feel that it has been because of your own able support—a support the more efficient, because always cheerfully rendered. Although our relations, both personal and official, are about to terminate, I shall not cease to feel a deep interest in your prosperity and happiness. I shall ever recur to our intercourse with pleasure—marked as it has been by mutual kindness and mutual respect,—for aft- all, the toils and vexations of office, here or elsewhere, are only rendered tolerable when tempered by the courtesies of life. In assuming the new duties to which the kindness of my Government has called me, I experience but one regret, and that is in parting, perhaps forever, with those unwary regard, while here, has placed me under so many obligations. In the more quiet and less laborious post to which I am about to repair, I shall not forget you, and in my last hour I shall cherish, most gratefully, this last and most acceptable evidence of your friendship.

With warmest wishes for your individual happiness and prosperity,

I remain, most cordially, Your friend and obedient servant, E. M. HUNTINGTON.

To Jno. M. Moore, Esq., principal clerk, and others clerks in the General Land Office of the U. States.

CONGRESS.

On Tuesday, in the House, Mr. Brockway was, on his own motion, excused from the Committee on Post Offices on account of indisposition. On leave, Mr. Calhoun offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of War to furnish a schedule of the pay, under all its forms, to the officers of the Army above the grade of Lieutenant.

The Speaker then laid before the House two communications in relation to the New York Custom-House report; one from the President, enclosing a letter from B. F. Butler, late Attorney of the United States for New York and another from the Secretary. The main point of Mr. Butler's letter was a request that he might be put in possession of charges and proofs thereof, made against himself, if any. He had not seen the report, but had learned that he was implicated by criminalities contained in it.

A motion was made to print these communications. Objection being made, Mr. Everett called for the reading of them, and afterwards the motion for printing was carried. A communication was also laid before the House from the Secretary of the Treasury, stating the emoluments of the District Attorney and Clerk of Mississippi. It was ordered to be printed.

The Speaker also laid before the House papers in relation to the Florida election. This also was ordered to be printed. The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Thompson, of Indiana, in the chair, and took up the Civil Appropriation bill. The Senate amendment, increasing the appropriation for the Marine Hospital in Mobile to \$15,000, was concurred in. On the amendment and proviso, in relation to the Boston Custom-House, a protracted debate arose. Finally, the vote being taken with regard to the Senate amendment, it was found there was no quorum.

The committee rose and reported the fact, when a call of the House was ordered—125 members answering to their names. On the motion of Mr. Fillmore, further proceedings in the call were suspended, and the House again went into committee. The Committee of the Whole refused to concur in the amendment of the Senate granting \$100,000 to the custom house in Boston. The sum of \$50,000, originally ordered by the House, remained in the bill.

On the next Senate amendment, which appropriates \$28,000 for payment of sums now due for completing the custom house at New York, Mr. Proffitt made, in opposition to the amendment, an able speech, manifesting great industry of research. The principal point of his objection rested on the fact, that the money now called for had been already spent without the authority of Congress, and in the teeth of the refusal of Congress to appropriate the money. His speech opened the debate, and Mr. Fillmore followed in an elaborate reply.