

# The Middlebury People's Press.

In this Paper are published the Public Orders, Resolutions, Laws, Public Treaties, Bankrupt Notices Etc. of the United States, By Authority.

H. BELL, Editor and Proprietor.

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

From the World of Fashion.

### THE MINISTER'S DINNER.

BY LYDIA JANE PIERSON.

The Reverend Mr. N— was a man of excellent temper, generous feelings, and well cultivated mind, but he was eccentric even to oddity. He was a powerful preacher, and his ministrations were best to the reformation of many in his parish. At the age of thirty-four, he became enamored of a beautiful, light-hearted girl of seventeen, daughter of one of the richest parishioners, and who imagined that to refuse the hand of the minister would be a sin bordering hard upon the unpardonable—Well, the marriage was consummated, the bride's fat portion paid; and the husband, as husbands in their first love are apt to do, gave into the humor of his wife, and accompanied her to several festive parties given by his wealthy neighbors, in honor of his marriage.

The happy couple were sitting together in their comfortable parlor, one evening towards spring, the reverend gentleman studying the venerable Bede, and his wife equally intent upon a plate of the latest fashions, when she suddenly looked up with an expression between hope and fear, and thus addressed her companion.

"My dear husband, I have a request to make," said Nancy, "any thing consistent."

"You do not imagine that I would make an inconsistent request, surely?"

"No—not a request that you considered inconsistent. But come, what is it?"

"Why, my dear sir, and her voice trembled a little, "we have been to several parties among the neighboring gentry, and now I think that to maintain our position in society, we should make a party too." The minister looked blank.

"What sort of a party, Nancy?" he said at length.

"Why," she replied, "such a party as those who have attended. We must make an elegant dinner, and have dancing after it."

"Dancing in a ministers house!" ejaculated Mr. N—

"Why, yes, certainly," replied his wife, coaxingly. "You will not dance, the party will be mine; and then we have been to similar parties all winter."

"True, true," he muttered with a perplexed air, and sat silent for some time as if considering. At length he spoke. "Yes, Nancy, you may make a party, give a dinner, and if you desire it, you may dance."

"Thank you, love," she cried, putting her arms around his neck.

"But I have some stipulations to make about it," he said; "I must select and invite the guests, and you must allow me to place some of my favorite dishes upon the table."

"As you please, love," she answered delightfully, "but when shall it be?"

"Next Wednesday, if you please."

"But our furniture and window draperies are very old-fashioned. It is now time we had new!"

"Should I think it hardly necessary to furnish our rooms, Nancy. All our furniture is excellent of its kind."

"But our smooth carpets, white draperies and cane chairs have such a cold look, do consent to have the rooms new fitted, we can move these things to the unfurnished chambers."

"And of what use will they be in these rooms which we never occupy? Besides, it is near spring, and to fit up now for winter, is superfluous."

"Well, I would not care," she persisted, "only people will call us parsimonious and ungentle."

"Oh, if that is all," he said gaily, "I will promise to expend a thousand dollars on the evening of the party, not in furniture, but in a manner which will be far more grateful to our guests, and profitable to ourselves, and which shall exonerate us from all imputation of parsimony; and you may expend in dress, eatables and dessert, just what sum you please, and do not forget the wines." And so the colloquy ended. He resumed his studies, and she gave her mind to the consideration of the dress which would be most becoming, and the viands that were most expensive. The next day she went busily about her preparations, wondering all the time how her husband would expend his thousand dollars, but as she had discovered something of the eccentricity of his character, she doubted not that he meant to give her an agreeable surprise, and her curiosity grew so great, that she could hardly sleep during the interval.

At length the momentous day arrived. The arrangements were all complete, and Mrs. N— retired to perform the all-important business of arraying her fine person in fine attire. She lingered long at the toilette, relying on the fashionable unpunctuality of fashionable people, and when the hour struck, left her chamber, arrayed like Judith of old, glistening, to allure the eyes of all who should look upon her, and full of sweet smiles and graces, notwithstanding the uncomfortable pinching of her shoes and corsets. Her husband met her in the hall.

"Our guests have all arrived," he said, and spend the door of the reviewing room. Wonderful! wonderful! What a strange assembly. There were congregated the cripple, the maim-

ed, and the blind; the palsied, the extreme aged, and a group of children from the almshouse, who regarded the fine lady, some with wide open mouths, others with both hands in their hair, while some peeped from behind furniture, to the covert of which they had retreated from her dazzling presence. She was petrified with astonishment, then a displeasure crossed her face, till having ran her eyes over the grotesque assembly, she met the comically grave expression of her husband's countenance, when she burst into a violent fit of laughter, during the paroxysms of which the bursting of her corset laces could be distinctly heard by company.

"Nancy!" at length said her husband sternly. "He suppressed her mirth, stammered an excuse, and added,

"You will forgive me, and believe yourselves welcome."

"That is well done," whispered Mr. N—, then my friends, he said "as my wife is not acquainted with you, I will make a few presentations." Then leading her toward an emaciated creature, whose distorted limbs were unable to support his body, he said, "This gentleman, Nancy, is the Reverend Mr. Niles who in his youth travelled and endured much in the cause of our common Master. A violent rheumatism, induced by colds, contracted among the new settlements of the west, where he was employed in preaching the gospel to the poor, has reduced him to his present condition. This lady, his wife, has piously sustained him, and by her own labor, procured a maintenance for herself and him. But she is old and feeble now as you see."

Then turning to a group with silver locks and threadbare coats, he continued, "These are soldiers of the revolution. They were all sons of rich men. They went out in their young strength to defend their oppressed country—They endured hardships, toils, and such as we hardly deem it possible for men to endure and live; they return home at the close of the war, maimed in their limbs, and with broken constitutions, to find their patrioisms destroyed by fire, or the chances of war, or their property otherwise fleeced and wrested from them. And these worthy men live in poverty and neglect in the land for the prosperity of which they sacrificed their all. These venerable ladies are wives of these patriots, and widows of others who have gone to their reward. They could tell you tales that would thrill your heart, and make it better. This is the celebrated and learned Dr. B—, who saved hundreds of lives during the spotted epidemic. But his great success roused the animosity of his medical brethren, who succeeded in ruining his practice, and when blindness came upon him, he was forgotten by those whom he had delivered from death. This lovely creature is his only child, and she is motherless. She leads him daily by the hand, and earns the food she eats before him. Yet her loving and accomplished sisters are wonderful, and she is the author of those exquisite poems which appear occasionally in the Magazine. These children were orphaned in infancy by the Asiatic cholera, and their sad hearts have seldom been cheered by a smile, or their palates regaled by delicious food. Now dry your eyes, love, and lead on to the dining room."

She obeyed, and notwithstanding her emotion, the thumping of coarse shoes, and rattling of sticks, crutches and wooden legs behind her, weigh threw her into another indecorous laugh.

To divert her attention she glanced over the table. There stood the dishes for which her husband had stipulated, in the shape of two enormous, homely looking meat pies, and two enormous platters of baked meats and vegetables, looking like mighty mountains among the delicate viands she had prepared for the refined company which she expected. She took her place and prepared to do the table honors, but her husband, after a short thanksgiving to the Bountiful God, addressed the company with "Now, my brethren, help yourselves and one another, to whatever you deem preferable. I will wait upon the children."

A hearty and jovial meal was made, the minister setting the example, and as the hearts of the old soldiers were warmed with wine, they became garrulous and each recounted some wonderful or thrilling adventure of the revolutionary war; and the old ladies told their tales of privation and suffering, and interwove with them the histories of fathers, brothers, or lovers, who died for liberty.

Mrs. N— was sobbing convulsively when her husband came round and touching her shoulder, whispered,

"My love, shall we have dancing? That whorl with ludicrous associations, fairly threw her into hysterics, and she laughed and wept at once.

When she became quiescent, Mr. N— thus addressed the company:

"I fear my friends that you will think my wife a frivolous, inconsistent creature, and I must therefore apologise for her. We were married only last fall, and have attended several gay parties, which our rich neighbors gave in honor of our nuptials, and my wife thought it would be genteel to give a dinner in return. I consented on conditions, one of which was that I should invite the guests. So being a professed minister of him who was made so lowly in heart, I followed to the word of command. But when thou makest a feast for the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind—you recollect the passage, Mrs. N— not knowing who her guests were, was highly delighted with the rise I have provided; and I do not believe there has been so noble and honorable a company assembled this winter. My wife desired new furniture, lest we should be deemed parsimonious, I pledged myself to expend one thousand dollars in a manner more pleasing to our guests, and which should obviate any such imputation."

Then addressing the children, he said,

"You will each be removed to-morrow to excellent places, and if you continue to be industrious, and perfectly honest in word and deed, you will become respectable members of society. To you, Dr. B—, under God, I owe my life. I did not know your locality, neither had I heard of your misfortunes until a few days since. I can never repay the debt I owe you, but if you and your daughters will accept the neat furnished house adjoining mine, I will see that you never want again.

To you, patriot fathers, and these nursing mothers of our country I present the one thousand dollars to each soldier's widow. It is a mere trifle. No thanks my friends. You, Mr. Niles, are my father in the Lord. Under your preaching I first became convinced of sin, and it was your voice that brought me the words of salvation. You will remain in my house. I have a room prepared for you, and a pious servant to attend you. It is time you were at peace, and your excellent lady relieved of her heavy burden." The crippled preacher fell prostrate on the carpet, and poured out such thanksgiving and prayer, as found way to the heart of Mrs. N—, who ultimately became a meek and pious woman, a fit help mate for a devoted gospel minister.

For the People's Press.

### THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE IN BRISTOL.

MR. EDITOR.—It is gratifying to the benevolent and philanthropic to witness the rapid progress which the cause of temperance are making through the bustle and turmoil of a great metropolis, and from its good influences also, yet we think that not the least of the wonders wrought in our land, by voluntary abstinence from intoxicating drinks, has been witnessed in this place. Very little had been done here in behalf of temperance for several years, till the 14th of January last, when, according to previous notice, one of the reformed came and addressed a respectable audience, and 80 names were obtained to a tea-total pledge, and the encouraging fact was afterwards ascertained, that a number of others began from that evening to abstain from their accustomed beverage. An adjourned meeting the next week, a constitution was adopted, and the number of members then reported was 150. The society thus formed has held meetings in the several school districts throughout the town. On the 10th of Feb. the number of members was upwards of 300, of whom several had recently reformed. At that time it was manifest that there were strong objections to the long constitution of the society, and to the course which had been adopted, of admitting the names of females, and little children to the pledge. With such excuses, some refused to join the society and others spoke of withdrawing. The friends of the cause seeing division and dissatisfaction threaten to weaken their efforts, hardly knew what course would be most judicious and safe. At that crisis, several gentlemen who had never lent their influence to the promotion of temperance, while in conversation on the subject, agreed with one of the reformed, who had joined the society, that if he would draw up a short tea-total pledge, they would sign it and present it to others for signature. A new short tea-total pledge was drawn up the next morning, Feb. 17. Moderate drinkers, hard drinkers and inebriates pressed around to sign this pledge, as a kind of life-belt offered for their safety, and that day, thirty men signed it—all of whom had been in the frequent use of the now interdicted drinks. In four days, the names on this pledge numbered 73; in seven days, about 100; and in eleven days, 130—nearly or quite all of whom had used intoxicating drinks within a few months, and some signed the pledge while under their influence; but it is believed by those best acquainted, that the pledge has not been violated. Many had severe struggles with themselves before they could put their names to the pledge. One came three times to the store where the pledge then was, read it over and the names attached to it, walked the room, seeming to be in deep agitation and agony of mind before he could sign his name, and when, at length, he had mastered sufficient fortitude, and had written his name, he said, with much meaning, "Here, I feel much better." Another having signed, said, "Now I am a free man." Before signing the pledge, another said, "It's like a funeral-like burying my best friend; but it must be done." Another learning that one of the reformed had been at his house with the pledge while he was absent, came up to the village the next morning, in high resentment, and talked in no very pleasant mood to him who was at his house, and to others respecting the pledge and those who had signed it. After spending the day in this manner, he watched his opportunity just at night, and when no one was noticing, put his name upon the pledge, and immediately returned for home. About a week after the new pledge was formed, Mr. Vrandenburg, keeper of one of the hotels in the village, coming voluntarily forward, signed the pledge, and immediately removed all intoxicating liquors from his bar, and now keeps a good temperance house.

The results of this movement are most happy. It is believed that there are 361 men residing in this village (of about 500 inhabitants) who have not signed the pledge, and that only three of them drink any thing that can intoxicate. The same spirit and influence has gone through the town, but few persevere in refusing to sign the pledge.

The plan has been adopted of having three societies—for the men, for the ladies, and for the children, respectively. The whole number in town that have signed the pledges, is about 600. The number of men upwards of 16 years of age, is 260; of boys in the juvenile society there are 82; total males, 342—inhabitants in town, 1240.

Some tell us that we are going too fast and too far; that we are driving this matter too hard. We only reply, that we feel it our duty and privilege to present the pledge to every man, and kindly ask him to sign it. If he signs it, we think it well, and still we treat him kindly if he refuse, and then if on a second thought he returns and asks for the pledge, that he may put his name to it, it is not in our hearts to refuse him. There has been but very little urging here to induce men to sign the pledge. Many of the most inveterate drinkers have made up their minds, and come forward unolicited and asked the privilege of signing the pledge. The work is of God, and to him let us ascribe the glory.

To review our work, encourage the hearts of others, and rejoice over a glorious result, we had on the 17th ult. a temperance festival. The friends of the cause assembled at 2 o'clock P. M. in the Baptist Meeting House, and H. Needham, Esq. was called to the chair. The assembly was then addressed by P. C. Tucker, Esq. of Vergennes, who spoke for an hour and three quarters, holding the audience in delightful attention. The nature and effects of alcohol, as drawn by his pen, and also the duty of abstaining from all that can intoxicate, will not soon be forgotten by those who heard him on that occasion. From the meeting-house, the society adjourned to Vrandenburg's Temperance House, where a good temperance dinner was served up to about 100 volunteers in the service of Gen. Abstinence. Before leaving the table, we listened to remarks from Mr. Tucker, Dr. D. Warner, and other gentlemen, touching personal influence and responsibility, and the duty of personal effort in this good cause. The day was fine, and the greatest harmony and good feeling pervaded the whole assembly. The work is still progressing with a fair prospect, that, at no distant day, intoxicating drinks will find no purchasers in Bristol.

WILLIAM GAIGE, Secretary.  
CALVIN BUTLER, } Committee  
HORATIO NEEDHAM, } of the  
NOAH EDWARDS, } Society.

THE LAKE FISHERIES.—The Detroit Advertiser contains an interesting statement of the amount of business in the fisheries on the Lakes. It is not until within a few years that the fish of the Lakes have been made an article of export, and since that time the business has rapidly increased. In 1836 the number of barrels taken was 8,000 and in 1840 it reached 32,005. The average weight of some of the fish taken is as follows: Surgeon 70 lbs.; Trout 10 to 20; Muskegon 10 to 15; Pickerel 5 to 6; Cat Fish 10 to 20; Bill fish 6 to 8; Sisquotte 8 to 10; Mullet 3 to 6. A canal was at one time projected at the Sault S. Marie, but it has been suspended. Yankee enterprise, however, has surmounted this difficulty and within two years two vessels have passed falls by slides, rollers, &c. The average price per barrel is \$3 and the total value of the business in 1840 was \$256,940. The amount exported at all the ports in 1836, was 12,200 lbs; in 1837, 14,100; and in 1840, 32,005.

Division of Virginia. The recent census develops the fact that a majority of the white population in Virginia lie west of the Blue Ridge, in the free labor part of the state. Yet the eastern counties have nearly three fourths of the political power, by the amended constitution of 1832. For six months past, Western Virginia has been agitated by a demand for a change in the constitution which will equalize the political power in the two sections, and extend the right of suffrage, now limited to freeholders of property to a considerable amount, to all free males of a suitable age. It is really, to a considerable extent, a struggle between slavery and freedom. The subject is now before the Legislature, and the Richmond Whig advises the Western Virginians to demand either concession to their demands, or the formation of a new state, bounded east by the Blue Ridge.

RHODE ISLAND.—The struggle for and against the adoption of the regular or Landholders' Constitution has terminated, and the Constitution is defeated. We have not the full vote, but it is nearly 7,500 for, and 8,500 against the Constitution—so it is rejected. This Constitution conceded to the non-freeholders the right of voting after a residence of two years in the State and one in the county, except those not born in the United States who are required to be naturalized and to own \$134 worth of Real Estate in the State or \$500 worth of taxable personal property. This discrimination was deemed invidious by the non-freeholders, and they have therefore voted down the Constitution.

A fearful crisis now impends. The Freeholders go back to the old Charter, and say they have offered a most liberal compromise, which has been rejected, and they shall now cling to and maintain the form of Government handed down to them by their fathers. The non-freeholders maintain that the "People's Constitution," formed by the Free Suffrage Convention, assembled by popular requisition without any legislative authority, has been adopted by a majority of the adult male residents of the state, and is now its paramount law. They have nominated their ticket of state officers, will elect it, and thus bring the two Governments in and, for forcible collision. Such a course must lead to painful consequences? Yet how is it to be avoided? A reference to the arbitration of the Supreme Court is talked of, but we see not how that tribunal is to be reached, at least until after actual collision has taken place. The controversy wears a most gloomy aspect.—N. Y. Tribune.

The following is the Card of Hon. Mr. SLADE, to which we referred a few days since:

TO THE EDITORS: GENTLEMEN: In asking permission to say through your paper, that I was debarred from the House yesterday, and lost the privilege of voting upon the resolution of censure of Mr. GIDDINGS, by continued indisposition, I take the occasion to add, that I read the proceedings which resulted in that censure, with a surprise and an indignation which I can find no language to express—surprise at the infatuation which continues to characterize the movements of slavery in the popular branch of the National Legislature, and indignation at the outrage which has thus been perpetrated upon the just freedom of action of the People's Representatives, and by necessary consequence, upon the People themselves, in a Hall once consecrated to freedom, but now desecrated to purposes of the most high handed and insupportable oppression.

I feel it due to Mr. GIDDINGS to say that I approve the resolutions, whose presentation by him have formed the ground of this extraordinary proceeding, and stand ready, here and every where, now and for ever, to maintain and defend them. Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM SLADE.

March 23, 1842.

From the N. Y. Express.

### MR. CLAY'S VALEDICTORY.

The letter of our correspondent filled this morning. From the proceedings of Congress it will be seen that Mr. Clay closed up his Senatorial labors and took his leave of the Senate on Thursday. The Globe in noticing the valedictory says "the address of Mr. Clay was for the most part appropriate, graceful, well tempered, and it was well received. His acknowledgment of obligation to his friends, and particularly the sensibility with which he recurred to his early history and the kindness with which he had been adopted by Kentucky—its long continued favor, and the load of honors it had conferred upon him, seemed to come from the heart, and had the expression of true eloquence."

The Washington Correspondent of the Baltimore American says:

The senate chamber was full beyond all precedent this morning. The interior of the chamber was literally a jam, and before eleven o'clock, exit or entrance from any of the gal-

eries was impossible.—The ladies' gallery presented a brilliant appearance, hardly a gentleman being present, and the ladies numbering as many beautiful and well dressed persons as ever graced an assembly of the kind. The front row of seats was given to the ladies entirely, and nine tenths of the other portions of the gallery. The gentlemen fared hard. The straight gallery, better known here as the "black hole of Calcutta," was full also, and every man seemed to be wedged into a space just large enough to contain him. A thousand persons probably sought admittance who could not find it, and hours before Mr. Clay rose to speak every nook and corner in and about the chamber was full.

Terrible death of the Hon. Robert Potter.—From the Caldo Gazette of the 12th inst we learn the frightful death of Col. Btbt. Potter. He was beset in his house by an enemy named Rose. He sprang from his couch, seized his gun, and in his night clothes rushed from the house. For about two hundred yards his speed seemed to def. his pursuers, but getting entangled in a thicket, he was captured. Rose told him he intended to act a generous part and give him a chance for his life. He then told Potter he might run, and he should not be interrupted till he reached a certain distance.—Potter started at the word of command, and before a gun was fired he had reached the lake. His first impulse was to jump in the water and dive for it, which he did. Rose was close behind him, and formed his men on the bank ready to shoot him as he rose. In a few seconds he came up to breathe, and scarce had his head reached the surface of the water when it was completely riddled with their guns, and he sunk to rise no more.

[This Mr. Potter emigrated from North Carolina, and has for some years resided in Texas. He was either the actor in or the victim of some terrible work of vengeance in N. Carolina, several years ago, the details of which we remember very indistinctly. Of the quarrel between him and Rose we have no information.]

### CONGRESS.

#### RETIREMENT OF HENRY CLAY.

IN SENATE.—Tuesday, March 31.

MR. CLAY said 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. It would be remembered that he had offered 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, and the pressure of business in the Senate, and especially to the absence at this moment of several necessary members, he concluded this to be an unpromising subject, and he accordingly declined to reply to the arguments of such gentlemen as had considered it their duty to oppose the resolutions. 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 of 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 which have preceded it, I think it may be said that it is the most judiciously formed, 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 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 by neither of theirs; besides which there is another of very great practical importance in 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 of England or France. And then as to the dignity and decorum of its proceedings, I can with great truth declare that during the whole long period of my knowledge of this Senate, I never witnessed nor arrogate or presumption, or 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 shades of private life, and amid the calm pleasures which belong to that beloved word, "home."

It was my purpose to terminate my connection with this body in November, 1840, for the memorable and glorious 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, which 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. Had 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 cooperation 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 conclusion and that of the country generally, will be 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 and abroad. Of the nature or the value of the services rendered during that long and arduous period of my life it does not become me to speak—history it deigns to notice me, and posterity, if the recollections of my humble actions shall be transmitted to posterity, are the best, the truest, the most important 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 Arbitrator for the truth of the declaration that I have been influenced by no impure purposes, 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 judgment I believed to be the true interest 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 be the end, settle all things as they should be, and that whatever wrong or injustice I might experience at the hands of my men, He to whom all hearts are open and fully known, would in the end, by the inscrutable dispensation of His providence, rectify all error, redress all wrong, and cause ample justice to be done.

But I have not meanwhile been unsustained. Every where throughout the extent of this great continent I have had cordial, warm-hearted 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 returns I have now to make for their generous, 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—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 fifty years ago. I went as an orphan who had not yet attained the age of majority—who had never recognized a father's smile or felt his caresses—poor penniless, without the favor of the great—with imperfect and inadequate education, limited to the ordinary business and common pursuits of life; but scarce had I set my foot on 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 afterward, in the darkest hour of calamity 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, by being 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 should 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 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 money 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?