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Duty must be Discharged.

Daniel Webster, in the closing passage of his great argument, in 1833 demonstrating that the Constitution is not a compact between the States—the same speech of which Mr. Madison wrote to him, "it crushes nullification, and must hasten the abandonment of secession"—held this solemn, deliberate language:— "Disorder and confusion may indeed arise; scenes of commotion and contest are threatened, and perhaps may come—With my whole heart I pray for the continuance of the domestic peace and quiet of the country. I desire most ardently the restoration of affection and harmony to all its parts. I desire that every citizen of the whole country may look to this government with no other sentiment but those of grateful respect and attachment. But I cannot yield, even to kind feelings, the cause of the Constitution, the true glory of the country, and the great trust which we hold in our hands for succeeding ages. If the Constitution cannot be maintained without meeting these scenes of commotion and contest, however unwelcome, they must come. We cannot, we must not, we dare not, omit to do that which, in our judgment, the safety of the Union requires. Not regardless of consequences, we must yet meet consequences; seeing the hazards which surround the discharge of public duty, it must yet be discharged.

The Inauguration of Lincoln.

The President elect will be escorted to Washington by the Springfield (Ill.) Zouaves, in spite of threats coming from any source. This company is composed of young men who have for some months past been under the instruction of Colonel Ellsworth, and in drill they are said to be fully equal to the genuine original Zouaves. They number sixty men, and they have resolved to witness the inauguration of the Rail-splitter at all hazards. We have no idea, however, that any attempt will be made to prevent the inauguration of "Old Abe" in the usual manner. Chief Justice Taney, who is as true as steel to the Union, is prepared to do his duty in any emergency, and has declared that if his life is spared, he intended to administer the Presidential oath to Abraham Lincoln at the Capital of the nation; but should any interruption take place he will still administer to him the oath, even if he should be required to go to Illinois to do it. President Buchanan, in reply to the suggestion of apprehended difficulty at the inauguration of his successor, emphatically declared—"I live till the 4th of March I will ride to the Capitol with Old Abe, whether I am assassinated or not."

A Prayer for Major Anderson.

An Indianapolis paper says that on last Sunday, in that city, at the closing exercises of a meeting at one of the Methodist Episcopal Churches, Bishop Ames, a man of strong Douglas Democratic sympathies, though a patriot still, astonished and thrilled the congregation by the following prayer:—"We thank thee, O God, that while treason stalks abroad in high places, there is one man who loves his country;—one man who will defend his country's flag! God bless and protect the gallant Major Anderson and his noble band!" The "amens" which came up from the brethren around, were loud and enthusiastic, and when the congregation arose from their knees, smiles and tears were seen struggling in many a countenance.

An Englishman dining in a Chinese village, was greatly enjoying a savory dish, and would have expressed his pleasure to the waiter, who, however, understood nothing of English nor could our friend utter a word of Chinese. The smacking of lips indicated satisfaction, and then came the question, ingeniously put. Pointing at the portion of meat in the dish, and which he supposed to be duck, the Englishman, with an inquiring look, said—"Queck, queck, queck?" The waiter, gravely shaking his head, as much as to say, "No," replied "Bow, wow!"

The Cleveland Plaindealer, comparing the staple products of the South and West, says:—"Cotton is a convenience, to be sure, but Corn is a necessity. A man can live without a shirt, but what can he do without whiskey?"

A significant caricature is exhibited in the shop windows of Savannah, Ga. It represents the Constitution as a cow, with South Carolina pulling at the tail, the animal threatening to kick that State into the Atlantic ocean if it does not stop; while Georgia, meantime, is coolly clinging to the udders.

PATRIOTIC SPEECH

OF THE
Hon. Mr. ETRIDGE, of Tennessee.
Delivered in the House of Representatives,
January 23, 1861.

Mr. ETRIDGE, (S. Am., Tenn.) said, that in a contest like this which now agitates the country, he must not be found taking sides against his country. But, unfortunately for all, it mattered not now upon what side a man arrayed himself, the crime of treason was sure to be charged against him. He would declare, nevertheless, in advance, that in whatever he might say, he would avoid no responsibility of that sort. He would speak openly and frankly, seeking neither to avoid censure or to elicit commendation. In whatever he said he would be guided, he hoped, by a strict regard to truth, and only utter such sentiments as were sanctioned by his own judgment, and approved by his own heart; and as far as he could be alluded to facts, would advance nothing but what was strengthened by truth. If a jury of twelve honest men, sworn to well and truly, try the issues joined between the two sections—a jury which belonged to no political party, having no motives to subvert but the interests of the country—if such a jury was found to try the pending issues, he would submit the whole case to them without one word of argument, and he would have, he felt convinced, a prompt and unanimous verdict on all the questions. But unfortunately, they would not get a disinterested jury in that House; and, more unfortunately, the people themselves were silly enough to trust their cause and to appeal to the justice of this tribunal for the settlement of this question of the gravest importance to the nation, and to posterity, hoping that they would give repose to a distracted people. For the last six weeks, the eyes of every man, woman and child in the country had been resting upon this body, in hopes that something would be done. But if the people could only see them as they were—if they could mark their deliberations as they had been, and what little hope there was of redress or settlement at their hands—the knowledge thus acquired would have at once been used to arrest the tide of revolution, and would have been successfully directed to the salvation of the country. The interests of thirty millions of people were involved in this quarrel; and here they had 236 members, some of whom had reached their places on this floor by accident, but among whom there was not a man who did not represent an equal if not a superior body of statesmen among his constituents, and yet they were told, in this precipitate age, that they could not or would not interfere to stay this tide of revolution and that, therefore there was no hope for the free people. That it came to this, that these gentlemen whom he saw around him could not meet the question in a spirit of patriotism! If their constituents could see them, before they had thrown off their oaths of a morning, fresh from the inspirations drawn from a perusal of *The N. Y. Herald* and *The Tribune*, and see them afterward come into that hall, with a stiffening of the backbone, ready to compromise nothing or concede nothing—could they be seen with all their hopes and fears—could they scorn the hazard of intruding in such hands their glorious and priceless treasures of liberty and peace. They were told that they, forsooth, held the destinies of the country in their hands. As well might 300 hackmen of New York city, in Convention assembled, say that they held the destinies of the country in their hands. They were sworn to support the Constitution, and yet they were upheld with an unusual confidence, or torn with jealousies that men were wicked and corrupt, and that was the reason they were sworn to observe and uphold the principles of the Constitution. Even the Father of his Country was compelled to swear to support the Constitution which he had helped to raise, and the reason that had induced the authors of the Constitution to make short the term of office was that people who elected men to rule over them might have an opportunity of removing them and electing better men in their places. And it was said now that if they did not decide the issues which distracted the country, the country must go to ruin, and public liberty would be overthrown. He protested against such an idea. He demanded delay for the men, women and children of the country. In their name he demanded an adjournment of this quarrel from jealous and assiduous politicians. If they did not adjourn the quarrel to the people, on that floor it could never be settled, and they would be responsible for whatever evils might follow. What right had they to assume that they alone could settle the question of peace? Not that alone, but the question involving the existence of the Government. They had not the right to assume it; and, therefore, he there announced in his place, that if the two houses of Congress should fail to come to a proper settlement of the question, before he should see them overturn the temple of liberty, and crush out the last hopes of the people, and burying them beneath the ruins, he would move an adjournment of the quarrel from them to the people of the country. But he would address them on the assumption that they were an honest Jury, and that they would look on the question with the eye of reason, and deal with it by the light

of authority. Revolution was threatening to subvert the institutions of the country—a revolution the most unauthorized, the most unjustifiable and unpardonable that the world had ever looked on—a revolution of the most fearful consequences to the whole country. And yet they calmly looked on at the impending ruin the precipitators threatened. He would meet the issue raised by these precipitators, fairly and frankly, and show the madness and folly of attempting to subvert this Government under which the people of both sections had derived so many blessings. It was a remarkable fact that this revolution was not carried out with reference to anything in the past, but was solely carried on with reference to some dangers to be apprehended in the future. He would make one exception—the Personal Liberty bills which existed in some of the Northern States; and in dealing with them he would challenge any man who was in favor of disunion to controvert what he said. There was a Personal Liberty bill. That was one cause of complaint. There was opposition to the execution of the Fugitive Slave law. That was another. They charged that it was intended to exclude African Slavery from the Territories. That was another. That the respective sections were not homogeneous, and hated one another, and that some of the Northern States were for negro equality. These charges constituted all the allegations in the bill of indictment which they had filled. As to the first, he confessed that Personal Liberty bills did exist, without extenuation and without excess. But it was due to truth to say that these obnoxious bills would soon be swept off all the statute books of the Free States. That was the only charge that could be sustained. The balance of the allegations they made out were all with reference to things which never happened, and which never could have happened had the seceding States remained in the Union, and had their representatives not stayed at home. And now as to the Personal Liberty bills, the only charge on which they had to rely.—He was assured that the Personal Liberty bills had been struck from the statute books of all border Free States—from Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. To be sure, they were still retained in Vermont, where, he was assured, a fugitive slave had not been seen for forty years, and which was as accessible to a slave as was the kingdom of South Carolina to him at that moment. Now, he lived within a day's ride of three Free States, and he had never known of a slave to have been stolen from his district and retained. He had known of one escaping and passing through the district represented by his friend from Kentucky, who made his way into Illinois, where he was arrested by the people and returned to his owner. But had the South ever appealed to the North to repeal their Personal Liberty bills? They had done so such thing. But they said that the North would not execute the Fugitive Slave law. But what was the fact? The present Executive, in his late message, used this language:—"That the Fugitive Slave law had been executed in every concerted case that had arisen." They knew it was so. Every attempted rescue had become a matter of public notoriety; but it was not so sedulously made known that fugitive slaves were arrested every day in the Free States, and carried back to their masters. But the Harper's Ferry riot, and account of rescues of slaves, was the food which revolution riot in and grows fat upon. But if it was ever all true, would they be an excuse for dissolving the Union? Would they respect the law and order, would they respect the Constitution, and live in feeling of brotherhood with their fellow-countrymen? They would do nothing of the kind. Tennessee and Kentucky were border States, and they would have to bear the burden of the battle and the heat of the day to protect to States all down to the Gulf, whence a slave in escaping would have to travel over six hundred miles of slave territory before he could find a sanctuary in the Free States. Precipitate us, will you? No; he would prefer any other kind of precipitate to that. Then there was no fault to be found with the Fugitive Slave law. A United States Commissioner, appointed to carry out that law, a resident of the present Kingdom of South Carolina, had assured him that the law was as stringent as human ingenuity could make it. And would you dissolve the Union for that cause? He knew that the Northern people were opposed to the slave trade. They always had been, and always would be. The Northern men, born and educated in the Free States, knew nothing whatever of Slavery except what they heard of it from Garrison and others. But the strongest Pro-Slavery man South was the Yankee who went down there and married a widow with a plantation well stocked with negroes. But they could no more hope to make the Northern people Pro Slavery than they could hope to make a hungry politician run away from a fat office.—[Laughter.] These precipitators say that the Northern people, in some time to come, intend to abolish slavery in the States. He did not believe one word of it; and standing there in his place, before that crowded audience, he avowed that there was not a man in the House who desired to abolish slavery in the States, or who imagines they have the right to attempt it. [Cries from Republican bench

es, "Not one, not one."] If there was such a man he desired to see him. Such a man would deserve the execration of his colleagues, and the execration of every man who respected the Constitution; and yet that declaration to abolish slavery was made by those precipitators in the teeth of the most solemn assurances that could be given by a political party. He asserted that no political party that had ever risen in the country had given such strong and solemn guarantees to respect slavery within the States. But this fact was suppressed by the politicians and newspapers of the country, and the opposite doctrine zealously inculcated into the public mind. What more had the Republican party done? That what no other party in the country had formally done—they had denounced, in the severest and strongest terms, that such raids as that of John Brown into Virginia would be the gravest of all crimes. They would not take the word of that party, and to appease them the Republicans expressed their readiness to vote for an amendment in the Constitution which would bind them never to interfere with slavery in the States. It would, in fact, be no amendment, but would merely declare what the Constitution now was; and no man believed for a moment in their power to interfere with Slavery under the Constitution as it was. They declared that the people in the respective sections were not homogeneous, and that they hated one another. That might be so, but that would pass away as they became better known.

But he asserted that they did not hate each other more than they had seen the old Whig and Democratic parties hate each other after each succeeding political contest. But would they love one another more after they were separated? That was the question. They were going to separate, were they? And where would be the boundary? The river Ohio, which, it was said, was dry one-half of the year and frozen over the other half, was the only barrier that would separate these hostile sections. If they hated each other now, would they be found in fraternal embrace when they had separated into rival and hostile confederacies? They hate each other? Not a bit of it. If their constituents could see how the Free-Soilers of the North and the radicals of the South lived here together, they would not believe a word of it.—They hate each other! No, only when the "ins" had to give way to the "outs" [Laughter]. Yes, when the army of officeholders were seen clearing out, bag and baggage, and making way for their triumphant successors. For his own part, if any sacrifice he could make would save the country, he would be glad to make it. But separation if they did separate, would breed that hate which would lead to feuds and contests as bloody and protracted as was the one between the houses of York and Lancaster. Separate, break up the Government, and let the central States be precipitated into this revolution against the will of the people, and ten years would not go by until the two sections would be harassed by rivalries leading to hostilities and finally to the subversion of the weaker party.—If this would not prove so, then all history and its teachings were a falsehood.—With regard to the fear excited in the Southern mind, with regard to a determination on the part of the North to give equality in every respect to the negro, he proceeded to show how unfounded the charge was, and noticed that in the State of New York at the last election, that issue had been submitted to the people, who refused, by a majority of twenty to one, to extend universal suffrage to the negro, and continued: It was charged against the North that it was from their midst that the John Brown raid came; but he would ask his seceding friends, that, in case of disunion, would South Carolina be better able to protect herself against raids than she had been in the past. Now, when every man was true to the Constitution, when every man was a judge and executioner of the law, and every convenient tree was a gallows upon which to hang every man who violated the Constitution in the manner John Brown and his followers had, who should teach every man that they had a code for the punishment of traitors, as stringent as it could be made. It was a matter of history that it was the men of Pennsylvania who were the first to vindicate the outraged laws, and to offer support and succor to Virginia against the attack of John Brown; and when the followers of that man had escaped from Virginia, it ought to be remembered that they were arrested in Pennsylvania, brought back to Virginia by their captors, and handed over to the authorities, by whom they were tried, and being adjudged guilty, paid the penalty of their invasion by their own death. The people of either section had been estranged and provoked by misrepresentations and calumnies, and thus pervasions and falsehoods had done their work. He would accept their charges in the most aggrieved form, and yet he would tell them that they were all false. He had said that he would make any sacrifice to save the country. He would even accept James Buchanan for another term, and allow the "old public functionary" to administer the Government for four years more. He hoped this was giving a sufficient evidence of his fidelity to the Constitution. He was ready to lend his sanction to anything that would heal those

difficulties. Various propositions had been offered, let them accept the rest.—He would go for the report of the Committee of Thirty-Three rather than go out of the Union; but, failing in all, he would go home, and would there meet disunion with a torch in one hand and a sword in the other; and, so help him God, so long as the stars and stripes floated over him and his State, he would never yield to disunion. [General applause from the densely crowded galleries.] He asserted, what was matter of history, that every solitary act of the Constitution was ordained after public discussion, and was voted for by statesmen of the South, and either passed by them or received the sanction and approval of their States; and the very policy under which Lincoln should be inaugurated was the very policy of the Democratic party of the South, and which they gave to the country, and demanded and received their approval.—The House knew that when the Government was organized, when the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed, that our Western boundary was the Mississippi River, and he asserted that from that very day, at the instance of the South, at the instance of slave-holders, the area of the Government had been enlarged and expanded. Every foot of soil that had been acquired at the instance of the South, had willingly yielded Florida and Louisiana had been thus purchased at the instance of the South. Florida had been purchased at a cost of \$5,000,000, and at a cost of \$50,000,000 more to remove the savages, millions more to build fortifications and towns along the deep to guard Southern commerce. And after all this, little Florida, with less than half the population he represented, goes out of the Union, with the fortifications, with the public lands, with untold millions, and, worse than all, carries with her the prestige of the unity of these States.—Little Florida secedes, which could not at this moment protect herself from the alligators without the aid of the Federal troops.—[Laughter.]—this very Florida, purchased at the instance of the South, with Northern money and Northern blood. He then noticed the annexation of Texas, also at the instance of the South, and paid an eulogy to Gov. Houston of that State. In 1850 the South demanded a Fugitive Slave law. They had got that. They first demanded the Missouri Compromise. They got it. They then demanded its repeal. They got that.—They had demanded nothing which they had not got. But now they demand that Slavery should be protected in every inch of the Territories of the United States.—But that question was decided against them, in a most unmistakable manner, at the ballot box; and even the Southern States themselves had pronounced against that demand. The Government had been in operation nearly eighty years, and up to this time no Member of Congress had even so much as introduced a bill to protect Slavery in the Territories. But now they proposed to dissolve the Union because a vast majority of the people had replied to their demand for protection of slaves in the Territories that all they should ever have was non-intervention.—And that was all they ever would obtain. One disunionist said that he wanted protection for Slavery for the purpose of expansion, that Slavery was increasing, and that in fifty years they would have twenty millions of negroes, and consequently they must have room to expand. But the truth was that they needed no expansion, and if they did even, they could not get it. But, as he said before, Congress should adjourn the quarrel to the people, and if they failed to do so, in less than eighteen months it will adjourn itself.—He, for one, was not afraid to trust the people, and that appeal must be made.—In answer to Mr. Vallandigham, he said that, so persistent had been the misrepresentations and misapprehensions of men throughout the Union, with regard to Northern men and the principles of the Republican party, that the people of the South were willing to believe a lie and be damned. It was a matter of history that a few weeks ago a gentleman (Col. Memminger) proclaimed from the steps of the Capitol of Milledgeville to gentlemen, lawyers, doctors, shortboys, and everybody that stood around, that Hannibal Hamlin, or, as he is called there, "Cannibal" Hamlin, was a mulatto; that the North had elected an Abolitionist to be president, and a mulatto to be Vice-President.

Union Meeting at Alton, Ill.
Six hundred workmen of Alton held a Union mass meeting on Saturday night last. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, and the sentiment expressed was that of entire and unconditional devotion to the Union. The mottoes were:—"The Constitution as the fathers made it."—"The Union must be preserved."—"Peaceably if we can; forcibly if we must."—"Enforce the laws."

A "bumptious" traveller, overtaking an old Presbyterian minister, whose bag was much fatigued, quizzed the old gentleman upon his "turn out."—"A nice horse, yours, doctor! very valuable beast, that—but what makes him wag his tail so, doctor?"—"Why, as you have asked me, I will tell you. It is for the same reason that your tongue wags so—a sort of natural weakness."

ASHES.—A gentleman writing to the *Ohio Farmer*, says: "Some farmers have a very foolish habit of selling their ashes for a dime or a shilling per bushel, when they are worth more than twice that amount to spread on their land. It don't pay, he says to sell ashes at this price, and they buy lime to manure our farms with."

A little ragged child was heard to call from the window of a mean looking house to her opposite neighbor:—"Please, Mrs. Miller, mother's best compliment, and if it is fine weather, will you go a begging with her to-morrow?"

Hon. James Cooper.

This gentleman, formerly a citizen of Pennsylvania, for years a prominent member of the Legislature, and subsequently United States Senator, elected by the Whig party, is now a resident of Frederick, Maryland, in the practice of the law. We observe in a late number of the *Examiner*, of that city, a letter from Mr. Cooper, approving the course of the paper in upholding the Union and censuring the treasonable course of a portion of the Southern people. The letter breathes the true spirit of patriotism, and will be read with pleasure by Mr. Cooper's former friends and admirers in this State.—He concludes as follows:

"In this conjuncture, when treason has been bold enough to seize the property of the Union, to execute it is to abet it, and become *particeps criminis* with the traitors. You have denounced it. I thank you for it. I thank you for it in the name of the past; I thank you for it by our hopes of the future, which must consist in straining the monitor now, or yielding, at once and for all, to whim and caprice.—wherever whim and caprice may lead disappointed and bad men to raise their hands against our Union and our liberties,—for liberty and Union I consider inseparable. If all other journals, instead of equivocating or lending aid and comfort to treason, had acted as *The Examiner* has done, treason would not dare, as it now does, to walk abroad, undisciplined in open day, flaunting the ensigns of its crime and folly in the faces of good men and patriots. Again I thank you for your bold, national and conservative course, and subscribe myself, Sincerely and truly yours, JAMES COOPER.

F. SCHLEY, Esq., Editor Examiner.

What is Life.

The mere elapse of years is not life.—To eat, and drink, and sleep—to be exposed to darkness and the light—to pace round in the mill of habit, and turn thought into an implement of trade—this is not life. In this but a poor fraction of the conscientiousness of humanity is awakened, and the sensitive still slumber which make it worth while to be. Knowledge, truth, love, beauty, goodness, faith alone can give vitality to the mechanism of existence. The laugh of mirth that vibrates through the heart—the tear that trembles on the dry waters within—the music that brings childhood back, the prayer that calls the future near, the doubt which makes us meditate, the death which starts us with mystery, the hardship which forces not to struggle, the anxiety that ends in trust—are the true nourishment of natural being.

English Compliments to the Secessionists.
As Georgia and South Carolina are to send Commissioners to Great Britain, it is interesting to consider the probable result of their labors. In relation to this matter, the following extract from a late number of the *London News* is perfectly appropriate:—

It is not easy for us to conceive of the state of mind which grows up under such conditions as those of slaveholding life in a Republic in the nineteenth century, under a gagged press, a corrupted pulpit, a scanty and equalized literature, the pressure of general poverty, and the pervasiveness which grows out of a sense of exclusion from the sympathies of general society. It is the slaveholders' men of the world, and of enlightened reason, there would be no such quarrel as is now raging; but they are not; and hence the fluctuations which so embarrass the general judgment.

A greenhorn standing by a sewing machine at which a young lady was at work, looking alternately at the machine and at its fair operator, at length gave vent to his admiration with— "By golly, its purty, especially the part covered with calico."

The Rev. Dr. Mason stopped to read a theatrical placard which attracted his attention. Cooper, the tragedian, coming along said to him:—"Good morning, sir—do ministers of the gospel read such things?"—"Why not, sir?" said the doctor:—"ministers of the gospel have a right to know what the devil is about as well as other folks."

"Where are you going?" asked a little boy of another, who slipped down on the icy pavement. "Going to get up," was the blunt reply.

A little ragged child was heard to call from the window of a mean looking house to her opposite neighbor:—"Please, Mrs. Miller, mother's best compliment, and if it is fine weather, will you go a begging with her to-morrow?"

The man that was stuck up with pride has been taken down, and hangs on his own hook at present. In case the hook should give way, let him lean upon his own liabilities until he is prepared to sleep on a clear conscience.