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CHOICE EXTRACTS.

Lights and Shades.

The gloomiest day hath gleams of light,
The darkest eve hath bright from near;
And twinkles o'er the clouded night
Some solitary star to cheer it.

The gloomiest soul is not all gloom;
The saddest heart is not all sadness;
And sweetly o'er the darkest gloom,
There shines some lingering beam of gladness.

Despair is never quite despair;
Nor horror death the future gloom;
And round the shadowy brow of care
Will Hope and Fancy twine their roses.

Genius and Confidence.

He who first laid down the hackneyed maxim, that diffidence is the companion of genius knew very little of the workings of the human heart.—True, there may have been a few such instances, and it is probable that in this maxim, as in most, the exception made the rule. But what could ever reconcile genius to its sufferings, its sacrifices, its fevered inquietudes, the intense labor which can alone procure what the shallow world deems the giant offspring of a momentary inspiration; what could ever reconcile it to these but the haughty and unquenchable consciousness of internal power; the hope which has the fullness of certainty that in proportion to the toil is the reward; the sanguine and impetuous anticipation of glory, which burst the boundaries of time and space and ranges with a prophet's rapture the immeasurable regions of immortality? Rob genius of its confidence, of its lofty self-esteem and you clip the wings of the eagle; you domesticate it, it tames, the wanderer you could not hitherto comprehend, in the narrow bounds of your household affections; you abase and tame it more to the level of your ordinary judgments—the walled in and petty circumference of your little and common-place moralities—but you take from it the power to soar; the hardihood which was content to brave the thunder cloud and built its eyrie on the rock, for the proud triumph of rising above its kind, and contemplating with a close eye the majesty of heaven.—*Bulwer.*

To young Ladies.

Young maiden, who hast merely gone botanizing into the land of romance, and there picked up thy knowledge of men and the world; who on thy entrance into society anticipates with a fearful pleasure, that the men will busy themselves about thee, either as the butterfly about the rose, or the spider about the fly—a word to thee. Be at rest, the world is not fearful. The men have too much to do with themselves. Thou wilt not experience that they will inquire no more after thee than after the moon, and sometimes even less. Thou art not to resist the storm of life; ah! thou wilt probably come to have more to do with its unction. But let not thy courage fail, there are life and love in the world in richest abundance, not often in the form of which they for the most part are exhibited in romances. The romancer distills life; he makes a day out of ten years, and out of a hundred grains of corn draws one drop of spirit; it is in his trade. The reality proceeds in another manner. Rarely come the great events, the powerful scenes of passion. They belong, in every day life, not to the rule, but to the exceptions. On that account, thou good creature! sit not and wait, or thou wilt suffer tedious. Seek not the affluence of life without thee; create it in thy own bosom. Love, heaven, nature, wisdom, all that is good around thee, and thy life will become rich, the sails of its air ship will fill with the fresh wind, and so gradually soar up to the native regions of light and love.—*Miss Bremer.*

A Beautiful Reflection.

It cannot be that earth is man's abiding place.—It cannot be that our life is cast up by the ocean of eternity to float a moment upon its waves and sink into nothingness. Else why is it, that the high and glorious aspirations which leap like angels from the temple of our heart, are forever wandering about unsatisfied? Why is it that the rainbow and the cloud come over us with a beauty that is not of earth, and then pass off and leave us to muse upon our faded loveliness. Why is it that the stars, which hold their "festival around the midnight throne," are set above the grasp of our limited faculties; forever mocking us with their unapproachable glory? And, finally, why is it that bright forms of human beauty are presented to our views and then taken from us? leaving the thousand streams of our affections to flow back in Alpine torrents upon our heart? We are born for a higher destiny than that of earth; there is a realm where the rainbow never fades; where the stars will be spread out before us, like islands that slumber on the ocean; and where the beautiful beings which here pass before us like shadows, will stay in our presence forever.—*Bulwer.*

A SISTER.

He who has never known a sister's kind administrations, nor felt his heart warming beneath the endearing smile and love beaming eye, has been unfortunate indeed. It is not to be wondered if the fountains of pure feeling flow in his bosom but sluggishly, or if the gentler emotions of his nature be lost in the sterner attributes of manhood.

"That man has grown up among kind and affectionate sisters," I once heard a lady of much observation and experience remark.

"And why do you think so?" said I.

Because of the rich development of all the tender and more refined feeling of the heart, which are so apparent in every word."

A sister's influence is felt, even in manhood's later years; and the heart of him who has grown cold in its chilling contact with the world, will warm and thrill with pure enjoyment, as some incident awakes with him the soft tones and glad melodies of his sister's voice. And he will turn from purposes which a warped and false philosophy has reasoned into expediency, and even weep for the gentler influences which moved him in his earlier years.

CEMETERY OF THE HERMITAGE.—In a retired but lovely portion of the gardens of the Hermitage, says the Baltimore Argus, may be seen the family cemetery of ex-President Jackson. The simplicity of the sepulchre is no less impressive, than the appearance of an empty tomb, close by the side of the honored and confided partner of his life. That tomb now waits a tenant—is waiting until the light which still warms with patriotic fire an aged frame, worn down with the toils and struggles of an arduous but glorious career, shall have ceased to burn. The old hero's sojourn on earth cannot be long.

SPEECH

OF
MR. DUNCAN, OF OHIO.

In the House of Representatives, March 6, 1844.—On the bill introduced by him to regulate the election of electors for President and Vice-President and members of Congress throughout the United States.

(Concluded.)

I have no time to trace up the histories of republics, or fee governments, and expose the fatal effects of that word *change*. If I had, I could refer you to the word *change*, which was never out of the mouth of Hannu, by which he embarrassed the correct action of the senate of Carthage, and poisoned the minds of the people; and by which he embarrassed the movements of Hannibal, at the very time he was shaking the walls of Rome; and by which he succeeded in effecting the recall of Hannibal, and with his recall, the destruction of the last hope of ever conquering Rome; and by which, too, he and his kindred spirits succeeded in overthrowing the republic of Carthage, and making her the prey to Roman conquest.

I could, also, refer to the demagogues and corrupt and bribed politicians of Greece, who, with their pockets full of Persian gold, and their mouths filled with *change*, laid the foundation for the overthrow of her republics. It was the same fatal word, in the brawling mouths of corrupt politicians, that subverted the Roman republic; and the same word, after the overthrow of the republic, placed one vile despot after another on the throne, each vile despot viler and more despotic than his predecessor, until the people of Rome, from being the freest people on earth, became the greatest slaves on earth, and until, too, it was finally overthrown. The overthrow of all those republics was brought about by the word *change* in the mouths of corrupt politicians, hired demagogues, and pensioned liars, precisely such as overspread our country in 1840, and by whose means the democracy were overthrown.

Yes, sir, overthrown by pensioned liars, hired demagogues, corrupt and bribed politicians, whose incessant cry was *change! change! change!* The word *change* was never permitted to die on the ear. Well, the change was effected. The democratic party was overthrown. A democratic candidate for the presidency was defeated in his re-election—one who had administered the government on as pure principles as it ever had been administered or ever will be administered—one who had sustained our free institutions, the constitution, and the nation's honor, with an ability and a wisdom which never has been surpassed since the formation of our government—a man who was and is alike distinguished for the purity of his morals as for his talents as a statesman; distinguished alike for his firmness as for his attachment to democratic principles; and the support of democratic institutions; alike distinguished for the qualities of his head as for the goodness of his heart; with a moral reputation which even the sycophantic breath of slander dare not approach. Such was the man whose election was defeated by that potent word *change*, and its accompanying means; I must have something to say about the accompanying means, in connection with the word *change*. And what were they? Ah! sir, could they be blotted from the recollection of man, and could the history—what man or patriot, jealous of the honor, and the reputation of his country and the American character, would wish to revive their recollection? But to the disgrace of this people, and to the dishonor of our republican institutions, here and elsewhere, they live in history, and will live after all who now live will have returned to dust. They will live when time shall have crumbled the marble columns that support the dome of this hall; even then, the drunken orgies which disgraced the elections of 1840 will be classed with the drunken orgies which disgraced all Greece in the worship of Bacchus; fresh, then, will the disgraceful scenes of 1840 be in history, as the bacchanalian feasts are now. So we cannot hide them; knowing them as we do, and known as they are, we may better serve our country by exposing them.

I desire to tax your time a few moments while I make a few comments on truth—for I regard it as the highest virtue of any people, whether in a national, or in an individual point of view. In the language of another, truth is a light from on high. It is almost the only thing on earth which is worth the research and care of man. It is the light of our mind; it should be the rule and the guide of our heart, as it is the foundation of our hopes, and the comfort of our fears. It is the elevating balm of our evils, and the true remedy of all our troubles and misfortunes. It is the source of good, and the horror of bad conscience; it is the secret punisher of vice, and the everlasting reward of virtue. It immortalizes those who practice it; it dignifies the chains, and makes supportable the dark and gloomy dungeon of those who suffer for it; and it brings and perpetuates public praise and public honors upon the memories of those who have been its defenders and its martyrs. It makes respectable the humility, and the poverty of those who have sacrificed all in its pursuit and its support. It inspires magnanimity of thought, and forms heroic souls, of which this world is unworthy. It has made every age and every hero that the world has ever produced worthy of the name. How unfortunate that it was not better known and more highly appreciated by the whigs at all times, but more especially in the political campaign of 1840! But, to form a true estimate of its exalted merits, we must contrast it with its antagonist principle—falsehood; which, of all vices, is the most degraded and degraded. It sinks those who practice it, in the estimation of God and the virtuous world, below the brute; and confirms the end, the ruin, and the disgrace, it is sought to avoid. All these principles and effects, whether of truth or falsehood, may be applied in an individual and private sense; but how much more estimable is truth when applied in a national sense? and how much

more disgusting and horrible is falsehood when viewed in a national sense, or used to deceive a nation? A falsehood is a misrepresentation of a fact, or things, for the purpose of deception. A falsehood works two evils—a crime on the part of him who attempts to deceive, and an injury on the part of him who is deceived. If an individual makes a misrepresentation, not knowing it to be such, he is guilty of no falsehood in the moral sense, and is guilty of no wrong except the injury to him who is deceived. So, too, if an individual relate a falsehood, and it fails to deceive the individual intended to be deceived, either from the improbability of the thing intended to be deceived, or from the known character of the misrepresentor as a liar,—in that case, the misrepresentation fails of its object, and no injury is done; but the moral turpitude of the falsehood is undiminished. The failure to accomplish a crime, does not diminish the crime involved in the intention and effort to commit it. So, too, is a falsehood criminal in proportion to the injury which its misrepresentation may effect. If it deceives a nation, it is criminal in its effects and design, in proportion to the magnitude of the nation and the extent of the evil. Now, sir, I charge falsehood as one of the means used by the federal party in 1840 to overthrow the democracy, and to defeat the election of Mr. Van Buren, and every democratic candidate that was defeated. But when falsehood is substituted for truth to effect an object, every other means—however criminal, however mean, however detestable, and however degrading—are sure to be called in as auxiliaries. So it was in the election of 1840—to falsehood as a means, slander, detraction, perjury, bribery, and treason were called in; and the whole, united, constituted a part of the means by which the federalists were to be successful. But, in addition to falsehood and all its vile and unworthy associates, there were other means used, equally degrading to the American character, and the American nation; all of which I shall treat in their order. And first of the falsehoods—wholesale falsehoods I deal in—wholesale and general whig falsehoods I begin with No. 1. It is said the administration of Mr. Van Buren was an extravagant, a wasteful, and a corrupt administration. To put a direct contradiction upon this triple falsehood, I will submit statistics; and in order that I may be read with greater ease, I will make them as brief as possible; and in order to illustrate, I will compare figures with the expenditures of this administration that promised such reform.

The appropriations which supplied the first year of Mr. Van Buren's administration, were made under the last year of Gen. Jackson's administration; and of them I will say nothing. The amount expended in the first year of Mr. Van Buren's administration, which was the year 1837, was \$31,610,000

Second year, 1838, - - - 31,544,306
Third year, 1839, - - - 25,443,816
Fourth year, 1840, - - - 22,389,356

Total - - - 110,987,471

The aggregate amount of the expenditures of Mr. Van Buren's administration. I say aggregate amount; I mean by that the ordinary and extraordinary expenditures; the civil and diplomatic expenditures as well as the ordinary expenditures for the army and navy, Indian annuities, and interest on the funded or distinct debt—all of which are ordinary because they are of yearly occurrence, whether we are in peace or in war. They are incidental to the army, to the navy, and to our funded debts. I mean by the extraordinary expenditures, those which occurred in consequence of the border difficulties; the public buildings, the Creek Indian war, the Florida; the removal of Indians across the Mississippi, and their settlement in agriculture, &c.—all of which were extraordinary expenditures, nearly all of which had their beginning, and nearly all of which had their end, in Mr. Van Buren's administration. I will exhibit the amount of these extraordinary expenditures as well their several as their aggregate amount. I will separate them from the ordinary expenditures, and show the difference. I will then compare the ordinary expenditures of this whig reform economical administration, and exhibit the difference, and make it so plain that every democratic boy of Israel shall be able to overthrow any whig of Gath, or of the Philistine tribe, though he be as big as Goliath.

The amount expended for the Florida war within the term of Mr. Van Buren's administration, together Creek war, was, as reporters show \$38,000,000

The amount expended on behalf of all our border difficulties 500,000
Amount for removal of Indians across the Mississippi, and their settlement 3,261,315
Amount expended on the public buildings, viz: Amount on the treasury building 400,000 do do post office do 400,000 do do patent office do 400,000

The aggregate of which is 42,961,315
Deduct this aggregate from the expenditures for the entire administration of Mr. Van Buren 110,987,471
And we have the sum of \$68,026,156

This we find to be the entire amount expended in Mr. Van Buren's administration for its full term, for the ordinary support of the army, navy, and the government, civil and diplomatic.

I now exhibit the expenditures of the first two years of this Philistine whig administration,—whig in the Senate—whig in the House—whig all over, with the entire control of the government in their hands, so far as the appropriating power was concerned; and I have no expenditures to exhibit but those which I have called ordinary in Mr. Van Buren's administration; for there has been no Florida war, no Indians to remove, no border difficulties except what were settled by negotiation, nor any public buildings, except some small finishing expenditures; and what do you think they are, sir? I hold in my hand House document No. 62, prepared by a whig officer of this House; of course it is good authority against whig prodigality. Here is the document. It is a pamphlet; it is all covered with figures, and every figure counts tens, hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions, and tens of millions, such as no man can number or detail in a speech. I must describe by aggregates. I must lump the millions. Here they are. I expose them to the

honest people, the hard handed tax payers, who were promised reform, retrenchment, and relief from tax burdens, if they would unite with the federalists to overthrow the democracy.

While in power, the whigs held three sessions in one Congress. Here are the appropriations made each session:

For diplomatic and miscellaneous—
First session \$1,065,091
Second session 4,925,443
Third session 6,385,545

For naval service— \$12,646,070
First session 1,703,976
Second session 6,984,769
Third session 9,144,733

For military service, including all which belongs to the military department— 17,522,478
First session 2,274,637
Second session 8,737,864
Third session 9,088,997

Further appropriations for the naval department, second & third sessions, show 20,111,408

Thus, it seems that the ordinary expenses of the whig reform and retrenchment administration for two years, (not four,) shows the sum of fifty-eight million seven hundred and nineteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven dollars.

Now for the comparison. I have deducted the extraordinary expenditures under Mr. Van Buren's administration from the ordinary, and find that they were—
For the first year - - \$14,603,400
For the second year - - 14,537,870
For the third year - - 8,437,203
For the fourth year - - 5,382,843

Making in all 42,961,315
Which is the amount of the extraordinary expenditures. If we deduct this sum from the whole amount, (ordinary and extraordinary expenditures,) the balance will show the amount of ordinary expenditures through the whole four years of Mr. Van Buren's administration:

Aggregate amount of ordinary and extraordinary expenditures - \$110,987,471
From which deduct—
Extraordinary expenditures 42,961,315

68,026,156
This estimate shows that, through the four years of Mr. Van Buren's administration, the ordinary expenditures of the government were sixty-eight million thirty-six thousand one hundred and fifty-six dollars; while a federal con administration, in two years of its time, under a solemn pledge of reform and retrenchment, has expended fifty-eight million seven hundred and nineteen thousand and nine hundred dollars. Let us see the difference. Here it is:

Amount of all ordinary expenditures under Mr. Van Buren's administration (four years) 68,026,156
From which deduct—
Amount of all ordinary expenditures under the con administration (two years) 58,719,967

\$10,316,189
Thus it appears from statistics, official and true as moral reason, that the ordinary expenditures of the two first years of this reform and retrenchment administration, have been but \$10,316,189 less than the entire four years of Mr. Van Buren's administration. But, I may be told that there were some extraordinary expenditures necessary under this administration; what were they? The Florida war was closed when they came into power; at least, so near so, that there were not four hundred Seminole warriors in Florida, and they were fast coming in and surrendering. The boundary difficulty was so far concluded, that nothing was left but negotiation, and that was concluded to our disadvantage, our dishonor, and the surrender of a vast territory. The Creek war was ended, the Creek and Cherokee Indians were removed, and the public buildings were nearly completed. But, if it is contended that there were extraordinary expenditures, I will offset them with some extraordinary expenditures of Mr. Van Buren's administration, which I have not classed as such. I mean the expenditures growing out of the extra session, in the summer of 1837, which was brought upon the people by the impolitic connexion of the government with the swindling banking institutions. And this, sir, is the end, as far as retrenchment and reform are concerned, which was to justify the corrupt means which were used to defeat the election of Mr. Van Buren, and overthrow the democratic party. The means, as I have stated—falsehood, and its infamous auxiliaries, corruption, bribery, treason, and perjury—were to be justified by the end; and the end is an increase of the expenditures nearly double, and consequently a double imposition of taxes, and double burdens on the people. So much for the corrupt means; so much for the unfortunate end, both worthy of each other, worthy of the party who used them, and worthy of the party who have brought them about. I say, then, that the promises which were made of reform and retrenchment were falsehoods; they were made for the purpose of deception, and have deceived; they involve the crime of falsehood, and the injury of deception. But the sweeping, unlimited, and reckless falsehoods of 1840 were not confined to false promises; they were fraught with slander, detraction, and libels both of men and measures. To enumerate the falsehoods and slanders would require volumes; to enumerate the slanders would be to embrace every prominent democrat in the country, and every measure of the then administration. It is not my purpose to enter into particulars, or to deal in personalities; but there is one case, and one person, that I must be permitted to speak of while on this branch of the subject. The case to which I allude was the speech of Mr. BUCHANAN of the Senate; and that person is honest John Davis of Massachusetts; Honest John! God save the mark! Mr. Buchanan, when supporting the independent treasury bill, said: "The chief object was to disconnect the government from all banks; to secure the people's money from the wreck of the banking system, and to have it always ready to promote the prosperity of the country in peace, and to defend it in war. Incidentally, however, it will do some good in

checking the extravagant spirit of speculation, which is the bane of society." Mr. B., throughout his speech, from which the above extract is taken, denied that the independent treasury system would or could have the effect to produce the disasters upon the community which its enemies attributed to it. The effects attributed were, that it would destroy the banks, break down the credit system, establish an exclusive metallic currency, reduce the value of property and the price of labor. He denied that the bill possessed the power to produce such effects; and (as all his speeches show) was opposed to an exclusive metallic currency in the then condition of the country, owing to the manner in which the commercial, mercantile, and general interests of the country were interwoven with banks, paper currency, and the credit system. No man trod more cautiously, or advanced with more precision, and, at the same time, with more firmness, in the reformations which were then in progress in relation to the currency, and to the control, management, and disbursement of the national revenue, than did Mr. B. The safety of the revenue, and its proper and secure management, without materially affecting the channels of trade and the general interests of the country, seemed to be his highest object—for the truth of which I can safely refer to all his speeches in support of the independent treasury plan, and all financial measures appertaining thereto. I speak knowingly; I speak from hearing his speeches when made, and reading them when printed; and yet, in the face of all who heard him, and all who read his speeches, John Davis puts this argument in his mouth, viz: "It (the independent treasury) contains the necessary corrective [for the evils] imputable to the pernicious influence of bank paper, as it will check importations of foreign goods, suppress what we call the credit system, and, by restoring a specie currency, reduce the wages of labor and the value of property!" And this argument, which Mr. Buchanan never conceived, (or, if he did, never expressed,) constituted a part of "honest John's" speech, and was heralded far and wide through the country, and was labelled and endorsed, and heralded back again, by every foul, filthy, false federal sheet in the land; and by every hired bank minion and corrupt demagogue in the shape of a stump speaker, from Daniel Webster down to the most contemptible whig whiff of federal mimicry. I take it on myself to say, and hold myself responsible, that a more meretricious falsehood never was invented—a baser and more groundless falsehood never entered the head or heart of any man. It was a falsehood worthy to be conceived by a vile, vitiated brain; worthy to be cherished by a corrupt heart; worthy to be given birth to by a polluted and foul mouth; and worthy to be promulgated by a poisoned pen; and worthy to be endorsed by a reckless, unprincipled, and corrupt party. I have noticed this falsehood, though at first personal; but it was told and spread to deceive a nation, and it did deceive a nation. It contained in its beginning the crime of a falsehood, and in effect and end the injury of a falsehood. I name it and expose it in connexion with others of a like character, that the individual community may guard themselves against the effects of such falsehoods in the coming contest, which will fall upon the country as leaves in autumn by the blight of frost.

But falsehood and slander, and the base, criminal, and treasonable auxiliaries which were brought to co-operate with them, as I have said, were not the only resort of the federalists in 1840. There were other means, perhaps less criminal, but not less disgraceful, resorted to. I mean drunken orgies, empty displays; vulgar scenes; and exhibitions of coons, opossums, skunks, empty barrels, old gourds, and snapping turtles; profane sacrifices; Tippecanoe and Hartford banners. These disgraceful shows, senseless parades, and profane demonstrations, were as fatal to the good order of society, and the moral institutions of the country, as the change they effected was fatal to its political and pecuniary interests. Dignity of character, and morality of purpose, were alike sacrificed. All orders, all sexes, and all professions, of the entire federal family, were contaminated with the virus. Every institution, and every temple, however sacred, was polluted. The temple of justice and the temple of religion, the judge's seat and sacred desk, were prostituted to the use and the level of the dogery, and the haunts of debauchery and dissipation. Yes, sir; not only were the ornate and judgment-seat contaminated, but the sacred desk and the pulpit were polluted; and some of those who claim to be ministers of the gospel, ambassadors of our Saviour, and Heaven's bearers of despatches and glad tidings, standard-bearers of the holy cross, and those who administer the holy sacraments, prostrated themselves from their high and lofty station, to which none but apostles and ministers ordained by Heaven's sanction should presume to ascend,—even some of them, I say, prostrated themselves at the shrine of the corruptions and political iniquities of that time; and, in place of obeying the commands of their divine Master, in teaching the way of salvation to a dying world, were found playing the political missionary. In place of bearing witness to the truth of His holy religion, they were endorsing all the base, false, and infamous slanders and detraction which were propagated to overthrow the administration—slander and detraction worthy of the distempered brain of the reckless political desperado, the heart of corruption, and the tongue of poison.

I cheerfully recognize the right of every individual in the community to exercise the rights of a freeman; but while I hold sacred the names of Christian minister and apostle, I deem it a duty I owe to the holy religion, by which I hope for redemption and salvation in the world to come, to denounce the man who will abuse it, as unworthy to be its professional advocate. Yes, sir, some of them were found participating with, and mingling in, the drunken carousals that would have disgraced a bacchanalian feast, in the most degraded days of Greece. Such men are made for the tables of money-changers, not for casting out devils. They might grace a gambler's board, but they would pollute a temple. For the honor of the holy religion of our fathers, and the sacred names of minister and apostle, I hope there were not many who so disgraced themselves, their name, and the religion which it is their profession to teach. But there were some. They will be marked, and made the subjects of religious and moral condemnation while they live, and whenever they go. Such were the demoralizing effects of means used in 1840, and such the end which justified the means.

But, sir, other promises were made besides those of reform and retrenchment. We will examine them, and see how far they have been fulfilled. We were promised a sound currency, and plenty of it. How has that promise been fulfilled? It is useless for me to relate what everybody knows; and that is, that this administration has done nothing either to improve the currency, or to increase its quantity. So, under the general head of falsehoods, I place that to number 2.

The people were told that treasury notes were an unconstitutional currency, and were the offspring of the independent treasury. We were denounced and ridiculed as "Uncle Sam's shillings." The constitution was to be preserved, and there was to be no more of such shillings currency. The whigs had not been in power more than three months, before they authorized the issue of millions of dollars in treasury notes; and they have constituted a vast portion of the national currency from that day to this. That is general falsehood No. 3.

The people were told, among the thousand other falsehoods about the independent treasury, that it was a dangerous executive engine, and that it placed the purse in the hands of the President, and gave him a dangerous control of the national treasury; and, if they obtained possession of the government, that dangerous executive control should be abolished. So, one of the first acts of the federal con administration was to repeal the independent treasury, without making any provision for the safe-keeping and secure disbursement of the public revenue. The consequence was, that the President and his secretary, *ipso facto*, acquired the entire and uncontrolled possession and management of every dollar of the public revenue, and have so enjoyed it from that day to this. The violation of this promise I call falsehood No. 4.

It was urged that the administrations of General Jackson and Mr. Van Buren were proscriptive administrations; that they were administrations of a party, and not of the people; that no man was permitted to share in the discharge of official duties, except those who were partisans to the principles and supporters of their administrations; merit, worth, honesty, and talents, were no recommendation, &c. All this was false; for, throughout both the administrations of Gen. Jackson and Mr. Van Buren, there were more federalists who held office under the general government than democrats. But I have no time to detail single whig falsehoods; I must limit myself to generalities. It was said that such a system of unrelenting proscription was demoralizing, and was corrupting the morals and prostrating the patriotism of the nation; and, if the democracy could be overthrown, "proscription should be proscribed." "Proscription proscribed" was one of the federal con banners.

Here Mr. Duncan held up a whig banner, bearing this inscription:

PROSCRIPTION
TO BE
PROSCRIBED.

No man was to be turned out of office for opinion's sake. The only question was to be, "is he honest, is he capable?" All this, it was well known, was contemptible cant and miserable hypocrisy. For one month before the Presidential inauguration, this city was crowded with office-seekers, loafers, and loungers, lean, long, and lank, to the number (it was said) of more than thirty thousand. I know that every public and private house (and some houses that I shall not name) were full from garret to cellar; and filled as the houses were, it was impossible to walk ten steps at a time in the avenue, without being jostled by some staggering, hungry, federal loafer. They seemed to have flocked from every part and every longitude and every latitude, and every zone, torrid, temperate, and frigid, of this wide-spread Union, numerous as the locusts, the lice, and the fleas of Egypt, and more devouring and destructive. Old federalists, who have been driven into caves with the Adamses, where they had slept for forty years, walked up, and came forth in their moth-ridden, antiquated garbs, staggering on their worn-out staves, dragging their withered, emaciated carcasses, and shaking their gray locks;—such a gathering never before was seen; such a gathering never will again be seen, until the sea shall give up her dead at the summons of the last trump. Well, the inauguration came, and with it, as a first step, the dismissal of every chief democrat at the head of every department of the government; then commenced the guillotine. The axe was not permitted to dry, nor the executioner to sleep; each head in each department, vied with each other in the work of execution. But Granger and Ewing went ahead, and even surpassed Robespierre, their worthy master and patron. The trial was more summary than that of the victims of the trinitate. The inquiry to each victim was not, "is he capable, is he honest?" It was, "Are you a democrat? Do you belong to the democratic association, and are you a subscriber to the Extra Globe?" The answer being in the affirmative, off went his head. Being forward another; so it went. Such was the inquisition—such the guillotine—such the Robespierres, and such the fate of the victims.

Mr. Speaker, there were more men proscribed for opinion's sake the first six months of this administration, than there were from the first day of General Washington's administration, to the last day of Martin Van Buren's. So, I make "proscription proscribed" general falsehood No. 6.

One of the charges of extravagance against Mr. Van Buren's administration was the "princely manner" in which the President's house was furnished. That falsehood was negated by the appropriation of six thousand dollars, made to furnish the President's house at the commencement of this administration. That appropriation was properly made; the President's house required it; but the application of the money was not made as intended. I do not know what was done with all the money; I think I know what was done with a part of it. I am told that near twenty-five hundred dollars of it was laid out in wines to furnish the cellar—not in furniture to furnish the house. What will the honest, sober, tax-paying community say, when they learn that this *neo-be* economical and reform administration used twenty-five hundred dollars of their money to purchase wines for the loafing, lounge