NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

DEATH OF MR. CALHOUN.

Died, on Sunday morning, at his lodgings in this city, the Honorable JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN.

It is known to all of our readers that this distinguished Senator and citizen has been suffering during the whole winter under a menacing pulmonic affection, which, during the last eight or ten weeks, has, with only a few brief intervals, confined him to his room. Thus gradually sinking, he expired on Sunday morning between 7 and 8 o'clock.

Mr. CALHOUN was born the 18th of March, 1782, and was therefore just turned of 68 years of age. More than forty years of his life were spent in public service, and nearly the whole of that long period in the Legislative or Executive Departments of the General Government. With ample materials before us, we yet deny ourselves the satisfaction of entering into the particulars of his long and brilliant career, and eminent character, as that grateful duty has been performed more fitly on the floor of Congress, by hands more worthy of the task. Without trenching on that privilege, we may be permitted to say of the deceased, that few of our public men, since those of the revolutionary era, have filled a larger space in the public eye; few have acted a more important part on the stage of American politics; few have left a larger void in the public councils, and not one has descended to the tomb with a deeper devotion on the part of personal friends, or with a larger share of public admiration, than this illustrious Carolinian.

PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS ON MONDAY.

IN SENATE.

On the motion of Mr. KING, the reading of the Journal of the last day's sitting was dispensed with.

Mr. BUTLER rose and said: Mr. President, I rise to discharge a mournful duty, and one which involves in it considerations well calculated to arrest the attention of this body. It is to announce the death of my late colleague, the Hon. JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN. He died at his lodgings, in this city, on yesterday morning, at half-past seven o'clock. He was conscious of his approaching end, and met death with fortitude and uncommon serenity. He had many admonitions of its approach, and without doubt he had not been indifferent to them. With his usual aversion to profession, he said little for effect on the world, and his last hours were an exemplification of his life and character, truth and simplicity.

Mr. CALHOUN, for some years past, had been suffering under a pulmonary complaint, and under its effects could not have reckoned on a long existence. Such was his own conviction. The immediate cause of his death was an affection of the heart. A few hours before he expired he became sensible of his situation; and when he was unable to speak, his eye and look evinced recognition and intelligence of what was passing. One of the last directions he gave was to a dutiful son, who had been attending him, to put away some manuscripts which had been written a short time before under his dictation.

Mr. CALHOUN was the least despondent man I ever knew; and he had in an eminent degree the self-sustaining power of intellect. His last days and his last remarks are exemplifications of what I have just said. Mental determination sustained him, when all others were in despair. We saw him a few days ago, in the seat near me which he so long occupied; we saw the struggle of a great mind exerting itself to sustain and overcome the weakness and infirmities of a sinking body. It was the exhibition of a wounded eagle, with his eyes turned to the heavens in which he had soared, but into which his wings could never carry him again.

Mr. President, Mr. CALHOUN has lived in an eventful period of our Republic, and has acted a distinguished part. I surely do not venture too much when I say that his reputation forms a striking part of a glorious history. Since 1811 until this time, he has been responsibly connected with the Federal Government. As Representative, Senator, Cabinet Minister, and Vice President, he has been identified with the greatest events in the political history of our country. And I hope I may be permitted to say that he has been equal to all the duties which were devolved upon him in the many critical junctures in which he was placed. Having to act a responsible part, he always acted a decided part. It would not become me to venture upon the judgment which awaits his memory. That will be formed by posterity before the impartial tribunal of history. It may be that he will have had the fate, and will have given to him the judgment that has been awarded to Chatham.

I should do the memory of my friend injustice were I not to speak of his life in the spirit of history. The dignity of his whole character would rebuke any tone of remark which truth and judgment would not sanction.

Mr. CALHOUN was a native of South Carolina, and was born in Abbeville district, on the 18th March, 1782. He was of an Irish family. His father, Patrick Calhoun, was born in Ireland, and at an early age came to Pennsylvania, thence moved to the western part of Virginia, and after Braddock's defeat moved to South Carolina, in 1756. He and his family gave a name to what is known as the Calhoun settlement in Abbeville district. The mother of my colleague was a Miss Caldwell, born in Charlotte county, Virginia. The character of his parents had no doubt a sensible influence on the destiny of their distinguished son. His father had energy and enterprise, combined with perseverance and great mental determination. His mother belonged to a family of revolutionary heroes. Two of her brothers were distinguished in the revolution. Their names and achievements are not left to tradition, but constitute a part of the history of the times.

Mr. CALHOUN was born in the revolution, and in his childhood felt the influence of its exciting traditions. He derived from the paternal stock intellect and self-reliance, and from the Caldwell's enthusiasm and impulse. The traditions of the revolution had a sensible influence on his temper and character.

Mr. CALHOUN in his childhood had but limited advantages of what is termed a literary tuition. His parents lived in a newly-settled country, and among a sparse population. This population had but a slight connexion with the lower country of South Carolina, and were sustained by emigrants from Virginia and Pennsylvania. There was of course but limited means of instruction to children. They imbibed most of their lessons from the conversation of their parents. Mr. CALHOUN has always expressed himself deeply sensible of that influence. At the age of thirteen he was put under the charge of his brother-in-law, Dr. Waddel, in Columbia county, Georgia. Scarcely had he commenced his literary course before his father and sister died. His brother-in-law, Dr. Waddel, devoted himself about this time to his clerical duties, and was a great deal absent from home.

On his second marriage he resumed the duties of his academy; and in his nineteenth year Mr. CALHOUN put himself under the charge of this distinguished teacher. It must not be supposed that his mind before this had been unemployed. He had availed himself of the advantages of a small library, and had been deeply inspired by his reading of history. It was under such influences that he entered the academy of his preceptor. His progress was rapid. He looked forward to a higher arena with eagerness and purpose.

He became a student in Yale College in 1802, and graduated two years afterwards with distinction—as a young man of great ability, and with the respect and confidence of his preceptors and fellows. What they have said and thought of him would have given any man a high reputation. It is the pure fountain of a clear reputation. If the stream has met with obstructions, they were such as have only shown its beauty and majesty.

After he had graduated, Mr. CALHOUN studied law, and for a few years practised in the courts of South Carolina, with a reputation that has descended to the profession. He was then remarkable for some traits that have since characterized him. He was clear in his propositions and candid in his intercourse with his brethren. The truth and justice of the law inculcated themselves on his mind, and when armed with these, he was a great advocate.

His forensic career was, however, too limited to make a prominent part in the history of his life. He served for some years in the Legislature of his native State; and his great mind made an impression on her statutes, some of which have had a great practical operation on the concerns of society. From the Legislature of his own State he was transferred to Congress; and from this time his career has been a part of the history of the Federal Government.

Mr. CALHOUN came into Congress at a time of deep and exciting interest—at a crisis of great magnitude. It was a crisis of peril to those who had to act in it, but of subsequent glory to the actors and the common history of the country. The invincibility of Great Britain had become a proverbial expression, and a war with her was full of terrific issues. Mr. CALHOUN found himself at once in a situation of high responsibility—one that required more than speaking qualities and eloquence to fulfil it. The spirit of the people required direction; the energy and ardor of youth were to be employed in affairs requiring the maturer qualities of a statesman. The part which Mr. CALHOUN acted at this time has been approved and applauded by contemporaries, and now forms a part of the glorious history of those times.

The names of CLAY, CALHOUN, CHEVES, and LOWNDES, GRUNDY, PORTER, and others, carried associations with them that reached the *heart of the nation*. Their clarion notes penetrated the army; they animated the people, and sustained the Administration of the Government. With such actors, and in such scenes—the most eventful of our history—to say that Mr. CALHOUN did not play a second part is no common praise. In debate he was equal with Randolph, and in council he commanded the respect and confidence of Madison. At this period of his life he had the quality of Themistocles—*to inspire confidence*—which, after all, is the highest of earthly qualities: it is a mystical something which is felt, but cannot be described. The events of the war were brilliant and honorable to both statesmen and soldiers; and their history may be read with enthusiasm and delight. The war terminated with honor; but the measures which had to be taken in a transition to a peace establishment were full of difficulty and embarrassment. Mr. CALHOUN, with his usual intrepidity, did not hesitate to take a responsible part. Under the influence of a broad patriotism, he acted with an uncalculating liberality to all the interests that were involved, and which were brought under review of Congress. His personal adversary at this time, in his admiration for his genius, paid Mr. CALHOUN a beautiful compliment for his noble and national sentiments.

At the termination of Mr. Madison's administration Mr. CALHOUN had acquired a commanding reputation; he was regarded as one of the sages of the Republic. In 1817 Mr. Monroe invited him to a place in his cabinet; Mr. CALHOUN's friends doubted the propriety of his accepting it, and some of them thought he would put a high reputation at hazard in this new sphere of action. Perhaps these suggestions fired his high and gifted intellect; he accepted the place, and went into the War Department, under circumstances that might have appalled other men. His success has been acknowledged—what was complex and confused he reduced to simplicity and order. His organization of the War Department, and his administration of its undefined duties, have made the impression of an *author*, having the interest of originality and the sanction of trial.

To applicants for office Mr. CALHOUN made few promises, and hence he was not accused of delusion and deception. When a public trust was involved he would not compromise with duplicity or temporary expediency.

At the expiration of Mr. Monroe's administration Mr. CALHOUN's name became connected with the Presidency; and, from that time to his death, he had to share the fate of all others who occupy prominent situations.

The remarkable canvass for the President to succeed Mr. Monroe terminated in returning three distinguished men to the House of Representatives, from whom one was to be elected. Mr. CALHOUN was elected Vice President by a large majority. He took his seat in the Senate as Vice President on the 4th of March, 1825, having remained in the War Department over seven years.

Whilst he was Vice President, he was placed in some of the most trying scenes of any man's life. I do not now choose to refer to any thing that can have the elements of controversy; but I hope I may be permitted to speak of my friend and colleague in a character in which all will join in paying him sincere respect. As a presiding officer of this body he had the undivided respect of its members. He was punctual, methodical, and accurate, and had a high regard for the dignity of the Senate, which, as a presiding officer, he endeavored to preserve and maintain. He looked upon debate as an honorable contest of intellect for truth. Such a strife has its incidents and its trials; but Mr. CALHOUN had, in an eminent degree, a regard for parliamentary dignity and propriety.

Upon General Hayne's leaving the Senate to become Governor of South Carolina, Mr. CALHOUN resigned the Vice Presidency, and was elected in his place. All will now agree that such a position was environed with difficulties and dangers. His own State was under the ban, and he was in the national Senate to do her justice under his constitutional obligations. That part of his life posterity will review, and will do justice to it.

After his senatorial term had expired, he went into retirement by his own consent. The death of Mr. Upshur—so full of melancholy association—made a vacancy in the State Department; and it was by the common consent of all parties that Mr. CALHOUN was called to fill it. This was a tribute of which any public man might well be proud. It was a tribute to truth, ability, and experience. Under Mr. CALHOUN's counsels, Texas was brought into the Union. His name is associated with one of the most remarkable events of history—that of one republic being annexed to another by the voluntary consent of both. Mr. CALHOUN was but the agent to bring about this fraternal association. It is a conjunction under the sanction of his name, and by an influence exerted through his great and intrepid mind. Mr. CALHOUN's connexion with the Executive Department of the Government terminated with Mr. Tyler's administration. As a Secretary of State, he won the confidence and respect of foreign ambassadors, and his despatches were characterized by clearness, sagacity, and boldness.

He was not allowed to remain in retirement long. For the last five years he has been a member of this body, and has been engaged in discussions that have deeply excited and agitated the country. He has died amidst them. I had never had any particular association with Mr. CALHOUN until I became his colleague in this body. I had looked on his fame as others had done, and had admired his character. There are those here who know more of him than I do. I shall not pronounce any such judgment as may be subject to a controversial criticism. But I will say, as a matter of justice, from my own personal knowledge, that I never knew a fairer man in argument or a juster man in purpose. His intensity allowed of little compromise. Whilst he did not qualify his own positions to suit the temper of the times, he appreciated the unmasked propositions of others. As a Senator, he commanded the respect of the ablest men of the body of which he was a member; and I believe I may say that where there was no political bias to influence the judgment, he had the confidence of his brethren. As a statesman, Mr. CALHOUN's reputation belongs to the history of the country, and I commit it to his countrymen and posterity.

In my opinion, Mr. CALHOUN deserves to occupy the first rank as a parliamentary speaker. He had always before him the dignity of purpose, and he spoke to an end. From a full mind he expressed his ideas with clearness, simplicity, and force, and in language that seemed to be the vehicle of his thoughts and emotions. His thoughts leaped from his mind like arrows from a well-drawn bow. They had both the aim and force of a skilful archer. He seemed to have had little regard for ornament; and when he used figures of speech, they were only for illustration. His manner and countenance were his best language; and in these there was an exemplification of what is meant by action in that term of the great Athenian orator and statesman. They served to exhibit the moral elevation of the man.

In speaking of Mr. CALHOUN as a man and a neighbor, I hope I may speak of him in a sphere in which all will like to contemplate him. Whilst he was a gentleman of striking deportment, he was a man of primitive tastes and simple manners. He had the hardy virtues and simple tastes of a republican citizen. No one disliked ostentation and exhibition more than he did. When I say he was a *good neighbor*, I imply more than I have expressed. It is summed up under the word *justice*. I will venture to say that no one in his private relations could ever say that Mr. CALHOUN treated him with injustice, or that he deceived him by professions. His private character was characterized by a beautiful propriety, and was the exemplification of truth, justice, temperance, and fidelity to his engagements.

I will venture another remark: Mr. CALHOUN was fierce in his contests with political adversaries. He did not stop in the fight to count losses or bestow favors. But he forgot resentments and forgave injuries inflicted by rivals with signal magnanimity. Whilst he spoke freely of their faults, he could with justice appreciate the merits of all the public men of whom I have heard him speak. He was sincerely attached to the institutions of this country, and desired to preserve them pure and make them perpetual.

In the death of Mr. CALHOUN, one of the brightest luminaries has been extinguished from the political firmament. It is an event which will produce a deep sensation throughout this broad land.

I have forebore to speak of his domestic relations. They make a sacred circle, and I will not invade it.

Mr. BUTLER then offered the following resolutions:

Resolved unanimously, That a committee be appointed by the Vice President to take order for superintending the funeral of the Hon. JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN, which will take place to-morrow, at 12 o'clock meridian, and that the Senate will attend the same.

Resolved unanimously, That the members of the Senate, from a sincere desire of showing every mark of respect due to the memory of the Hon. JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN, deceased, late a member thereof, will go into mourning for him for one month, by the usual mode of wearing crape on the left arm.

Resolved unanimously, That, as an additional mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate do now adjourn.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. President, prompted by my own feelings of profound regret, and requested at the same time by some highly-esteemed friends, I wish, in rising to second the resolutions which have been offered, and which have just been read, to add a few words to what has been so well and so justly said by the surviving colleague of the illustrious deceased.

My personal acquaintance with him, Mr. President, commenced upwards of thirty-eight years ago. We entered at the same time, together, the House of Representatives at the other end of this building. The Congress of which we thus became members was that amongst whose deliberations and acts was the declaration of war against the most powerful nation, as it respects us, in the world. During the preliminary discussions which arose in the preparation for that great event, as well as during those which took place when the resolution was finally adopted, no member displayed a more lively and patriotic sensibility to the wrongs which led to that momentous event than the deceased whose death we all now so much deplore. Ever active, ardent, able, no one was in advance of him in advocating the cause of his country, and denouncing the foreign injustice which compelled us to appeal to arms. Of all the Congresses with which I have had any acquaintance since my entry into the service of the Federal Government, in none, in my humble opinion, has been assembled such a galaxy of eminent and able men as were in the House of Representatives of that Congress which declared the war, and in that immediately following the peace; and amongst that splendid assemblage none shone more bright and brilliant than the star which is now set.

It was my happiness, sir, during a large part of the life of the departed, to concur with him on all great questions of national policy. And, at a later period, when it was my fortune to differ from him as to measures of domestic policy, I had the happiness to agree with him generally as to those which concerned our foreign relations, and especially as to the preservation of the peace of the country. During the long session at which the war was declared, we were messmates, as were other distinguished members of Congress from his own patriotic State. I was afforded, by the intercourse which resulted from that fact, as well as the subsequent intimacy and intercourse which arose between us, an opportunity to form an estimate, not merely of his public, but of his private life; and no man with whom I have ever been acquainted, exceeded him in habits of temperance and regularity, and in all the freedom, frankness, and affability of social intercourse, and in all the tenderness and respect and affection which he manifested towards that lady who now mourns more than any other the sad event which has just occurred. Such, Mr. President, was the high estimate I formed of his transcendent talents, that, if at the end of his service in the executive department under Mr. Monroe's administration, he had been called to the highest office in the Government, I should have felt perfectly assured that under his auspices, the honor, the prosperity, and the glory of our country would have been safely placed.

Sir, he has gone! No more shall we witness from yonder seat the flashes of that keen and penetrating eye of his, darting through this chamber. No more shall we behold that torrent of clear, concise, compact logic, poured out from his lips, which, if it did not always carry conviction to our judgment, commanded our great admiration. Those eyes and those lips are closed forever!

And when, Mr. President, will that great vacancy which has been created by the event to which we are now alluding, when will it be filled by an equal amount of ability, patriotism, and devotion, to what he conceived to be the best interests of his country?

Sir, this is not the appropriate occasion, nor would I be the appropriate person to attempt a delineation of his character, or the powers of his enlightened mind. I will only say, in a few words, that he possessed an elevated genius of the highest order; that in felicity of generalization of the subjects of which his mind treated, I have seen him surpassed by no one; and the charm and captivating influence of his colloquial powers have been felt by all who have conversed with him. I was his senior, Mr. President, in years—in nothing else. According to the course of nature, I ought to have preceded him. It has been decreed otherwise; but I know that I shall linger here only a short time and shall soon follow him.

And how brief, how short is the period of human existence allotted even to the youngest amongst us! Sir, ought we not to profit by the contemplation of this melancholy occasion? Ought we not to draw from it the conclusion how unwise it is to indulge in the acerbity of unbridled debate? how unwise to yield ourselves to the sway of the animosities of party feeling? how wrong it is to indulge in those unhappy and hot strifes which too often exasperate our feelings and mislead our judgments in the discharge of the high and responsible duties which we are called to perform? How unbecoming if not presumptuous, it is in us, who are the tenants of an hour in this earthly abode, to wrestle and struggle together with a violence which would not be justifiable if it were our perpetual home!

In conclusion, sir, while I beg leave to express my cordial sympathies and sentiments of the deepest condolence towards all who stand in near relation to him, I trust we shall be instructed by the eminent virtues and merits of his exalted character, and be taught by his bright example to fulfil our great public duties by the lights of our own judgment and the dictates of our own consciences, as he did, according to his honest and best conceptions of those duties, faithfully and to the last.

Mr. WEBSTER. I hope the Senate will indulge me in adding a very few words to what has been said. My apology for this presumption is the very long acquaintance which has subsisted between Mr. CALHOUN and myself. We are of the same age. I made my first entrance into the House of Representatives in May, 1813. I there found Mr. CALHOUN. He had already been a member of that body for two or three years. I found him then an active and efficient member of the assembly to which he belonged, taking a decided part and exercising a decided influence in all its deliberations.

From that day to the day of his death, amidst all the strifes of party and politics, there has subsisted between us, always, and without interruption, a great degree of personal kindness.

Differing widely on many great questions respecting the institutions and government of the country, those differences never interrupted our personal and social intercourse. I have been present at most of the distinguished instances of the exhibition of his talents in debate. I have always heard him with pleasure, often with much instruction, not unfrequently with the highest degree of admiration.

Mr. CALHOUN was calculated to be a leader in whatsoever association of political friends he was thrown. He was a man of undoubted genius and of commanding talent. All the country and all the world admit that. His mind was both perceptive and vigorous. It was clear, quiet, and strong.

Sir, the eloquence of Mr. CALHOUN, or the manner of his exhibition of his sentiments in public bodies, was part of his intellectual character. It grew out of the qualities of his mind. It was plain, strong, terse, condensed, concise; sometimes impassioned—still always severe. Rejecting ornament, not often seeking far for illustration, his power consisted in the plainness of his propositions, in the closeness of his logic, and in the earnestnes and energy of his manner. These are the qualities, as I think, which have enabled him through such a long course of years to speak often, and yet always command attention. His demeanor as a Senator is known to us all—is appreciated, venerated by us all. No man was more respectful to others; no man carried himself with greater decorum, no man with superior dignity. I think there is not one of us but felt when he last addressed us from his seat in the Senate; his form still erect, with a voice by no means indicating such a degree of physical weakness as did in fact possess him; with clear tones and an impressive, and, I may say, an imposing manner, who did not feel that he might imagine that we saw before us a Senator of Rome, when Rome survived.

Sir, I have not in public nor in private life known a more assiduous person in the discharge of his appropriate duties. I have known no man who wasted less of life in what is called recreation, or employed less of it in any pursuits not connected with the immediate discharge of his duty. He seemed to have no recreation but the pleasure of conversation with his friends. Out of the chambers of Congress, he was either devoting himself to the acquisition of knowledge pertaining to the immediate subject of the duty before him, or else he was indulging in those social interviews in which he so much delighted.

My honorable friend from Kentucky has spoken in just terms of his colloquial talents. They certainly were singular and eminent. There was a charm in his conversation not often found. He delighted, especially, in conversation and intercourse with young men. I suppose that there has been no man among us who had more winning manners, in such an intercourse and such conversation, with men comparatively young, than Mr. CALHOUN. I believe one great power of his charater, in general, was his conversational talent. I believe it is that, as well as a consciousness of his high integrity and the greatest reverence for his talents and ability, that has made him so endeared an object to the people of the State to which he belonged.

Mr. President, he had the basis, the indispensable basis, of all high character; and that was, unspotted integrity—unimpeached honor and character. If he had aspirations, they were high, and honorable, and noble. There was nothing grovelling, or low, or meanly selfish, that came near the head or the heart of Mr. CALHOUN. Firm in his purpose, perfectly patriotic and honest, as I am sure he was, in the principles that he espoused, and in the measures that he defended, aside from that large regard for that species of distinction that conducted him to eminent stations for the benefit of the republic, I do not believe he had a selfish motive or selfish feeling. However, sir, he may have differed from others of us in his political opinions or his political principles, those principles and those opinions will now descend to posterity, under the sanction of a great name. He has lived long enough, he has done enough, and he has done it so well, so successfully, so honorably, as to connect himself for all time with the records of his country. He is now a historical character. Those of us who have known him here will find that he has left upon our minds and our hearts a strong and lasting impression of his person, his character, and his public performances, which while we live will never be obliterated. We shall hereafter, I am sure, indulge in it as a grateful recollection that we have lived in his age, that we have been his contemporaries, that we have seen him, and heard him, and known him. We shall delight to speak of him to those who are rising up to fill our places. And, when the time shall come that we ourselves shall go, one after another, in succession, to our graves, we shall carry with us a deep sense of his genius and character, his honor and integrity, his amiable deportment in private life, and the purity of his exalted patriotism.

Mr. RUSK. Mr. President: I hope it will not be considered inappropriate for me to say a word upon this solemn occasion. Being a native of the same State with the distinguished Senator whose death has cast such a gloom upon this Senate and the audience here assembled, I had the good fortune at an early period of my life to make his acquaintance. At that time he was just entering on that bright career which has now terminated. I was then a boy, with prospects any thing but flattering. To him at that period I was indebted for words of kindness and encouragement; and often since, in the most critical positions in which I have been placed, a recurrence to those words of encouragement has inspired me with resolution to meet difficulties that beset my path. Four years ago I had the pleasure of renewing that acquaintance, after an absence of some fifteen years; and this took place after he had taken an active part in the question of annexing Texas to the United States, adding a new sense of obligation to my feeling of gratitude.

In the stirring questions that have agitated the country it was my misfortune sometimes to differ from him, but it is a matter of heartfelt gratification for me to know that our personal relations remained unaltered. And, sir, it will be a source of pleasant though sad reflection to me throughout life to remember, that on the last day on which he occupied his seat in this chamber, his body worn down by disease, but his mind as vigorous as ever, we held a somewhat extended conversation on the exciting topics of the day, in which the same kind feelings which had so strongly impressed me in youth were still manifested toward me by the veteran statesman. But, sir, he is gone from among us; his voice will never again be heard in this chamber; his active and vigorous mind will participate no more in our councils; his spirit has left a world of trouble, care, and anxiety, to join the spirits of those patriots and statesmen who have preceded him to a brighter and better world. If, as many believe, the spirits of the departed hover around the places they have left, I earnestly pray that his may soon be permitted to look back upon our country, which he has left in excitement, confusion, and apprehension, restored to calmness, security, and fraternal feeling as broad as the bounds of our Union, and as fixed as the eternal principles of justice in which our Government has its foundation.

Mr. CLEMENS. I do not expect, Mr. President, to add any thing to what has already been said of the illustrious man whose death we all so deeply deplore; but silence upon an occasion like this would by no means meet the expectations of those whose representative I am. To borrow a figure from the Senator from Kentucky, the brightest star in the brilliant galaxy of the Union has gone out, and Alabama claims a place among the chief mourners over the event. Differing often from the great Southern statesman on questions of public policy, she has yet always accorded due homage to his genius, and still more to that blameless purity of life which entitles him to the highest and the noblest epitaph which can be graven upon a mortal tomb. For more than forty years an active participant in all the fierce struggles of party, surrounded by those corrupting influences to which the politician is so often subjected, his personal character remained not only untarnished but unsuspected. He walked through the flames, and even the hem of his garment was unscorched.

It is no part of my purpose to enter into a recital of the public acts of John C. Calhoun. It has already been partly done by his colleague; but even that, in my judgment, was unnecessary. Years after the celebrated battle of Thermopylæ, a traveller, on visiting the spot, found a monument with the simple inscription, "Stranger, go tell at Lacedæmon that we died in obedience to her laws." "Why is it," he asked, "that the names of those who fell here are not inscribed on the stone?" "Because," was the proud reply, "it is impossible that any Greek should ever forget them." Even so is it with him of whom I speak. His acts are graven on the hearts of his countrymen, and time has no power to obliterate the characters. Throughout this broad land "the meanest rill, the mightest river, rolls mingling with his fame forever." Living, sir, in an age distinguished above all others for its intelligence, surrounded throughout his whole career by men any one of whom would have marked an era in the world's history, and stamped the times in which he lived with immortality, Mr. Calhoun yet won an intellectual eminence, and commanded an admiration which was not only unsurpassed but unequalled, in all its parts, by any of his giant compeers. That great light is now extinguished; a place in this Senate is made vacant which cannot be filled. The tidings have been borne upon the lightning's wings to the remotest corners of the Republic, and millions of freeman are now mourning with us over all that is left of one who was scarcely "lower than the angels."

I may be permitted, Mr. President, to express my gratification at what we have heard and witnessed this day. Kentucky has been heard through the mouth of one who is not only her greatest statesman but the world's greatest living orator. The great expounder of the constitution, whose massive intellect seems to comprehend and give clearness to all things beneath the sun, has spoken for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. From every quarter the voice of mourning is mingled with notes of the highest admiration. These crowded galleries, the distinguished gentlemen who fill this floor, all indicate that here have—

"Bards, artists, sages, reverently met,
To waive each separating plea
Of sect, clime, party, and degree,
All honoring him on whom Nature all honor shed."

The resolutions were then unanimously adopted.

The VICE PRESIDENT appointed the following as the committee of arrangements: Messrs. MASON, DAVIS, of Mississippi, ATCHISON, DODGE, of Wisconsin, DICKINSON, and GREENE.

Ordered, That the Secretary communicate these proceedings to the House of Representatives.

Whereupon the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Journal of Friday having been read, (Mr. Speaker COBB presiding)—

Mr. VINTON rose and said: We may expect, in a little time, a message announcing the melancholy event which is already known to us all as a national calamity. I move, therefore, (instead of the House proceeding to the ordinary legislative business,) to suspend the rules, and that the House take a recess until they receive a message from the Senate.

The SPEAKER said that if there was no objection, the motion would be considered as agreed to.

And thereupon the House took a recess.

At a quarter past 1 o'clock the Speaker again called the House to order.

A message was then received from the Senate by Mr. DICKINS, their Secretary, announcing to the House the decease of the Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN, Senator in Congress from the State of South Carolina, and the proceedings of the Senate thereon.

The resolutions of the Senate having been read by the Clerk—

Mr. HOLMES, of South Carolina, rose and addressed the House as follows:

It becomes, Mr. Speaker, my solemn duty to announce to this House the decease of the Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN, a Senator of the State of South Carolina. He expired at his lodgings in this city yesterday morning, at 7 o'clock. He lives no longer among the living: he sleeps the sleep of a long night which knows no dawning. The sun which rose so brightly on this morning brought to him no healing in its beams.

We, the Representatives of our State, come to sorrow over the dead; but the virtue, and the life, and the services of the deceased were not confined by metes and bounds; but, standing on the broad expanse of this Confederacy, he gave his genius to the State, and his heart to his entire country. Carolina will not, therefore, be suffered to mourn her honored son in secret cells and solitary shades, but her sister States will gather around her in this palace of the nation, and, bending over that bier, weep as she weeps, and mourn with the deep, afflictive mourning of her heart. Yes, sir; her honored son—honored in the associations of his birth, which occurred when the echoes and the shouts of freedom had not yet died along his native hills; born of parents who had partaken of the toils, been affected by the struggles, and fought in the battles for liberty—seemed as if he were baptized in the very fount of freedom. Reared amid the hardy scenery of nature, and amid the stern, pious, and reserved population, unseduced yet by the temptations, and unnerved by the luxuries of life, he gathered from surrounding objects, and from the people of his association, that peculiar hue and coloring which so transcendantly marked his life. Unfettered by the restraints of the schoolhouse, he wandered in those regions which surrounded his dwelling, unmolested, and indulged those solitary thoughts, in ramfling through her mighty forests, which gave that peculiar cast of thinking and reflection to his mighty soul. He was among a people who knew but few books, and over whose minds learning had not yet thrown its effulgence. But they had the Bible, and with his pious parents he gathered rich lore, which surpasses that of Greek or Roman story. At an age when youths are generally prepared to scan the classics, he was yet uninitiated in their rudiments.

Under the tuition of the venerable Dr. Waddel, his relative and friend, he quickly acquired what that gentleman was able to impart, and even then began to develop those mighty powers of clear perception, rapid analysis, quick comprehension, vast generalization, for which he was subsequently so eminently distinguished. He remained but a very short time at his school, and returned again to his rustic employments. But the spirit had been awakened; the inspiration had come like to a spirit from on high, and he felt that within him were found treasures that learning was essential to unfold. He gathered up his patrimony, he hastened to the college of Yale, and there, under the tuition of that accomplished scholar and profound theologian, Rev. Dr. Dwight, he became, in a short period, the first among the foremost, indulging not in the enjoyments, in the luxuries, and the dissipations of a college life, but with toil severe, with energy unbending, with devotion to his studies, he became (to use the language of a contemporary) "a man among boys." In a conflict intellectual with his great master, the keen eye of Dr. Dwight discerned the great qualifications which marked the man, and prophesied the honors that have fallen in his pathway. He was solitary, and associated not much with his class. He indulged his propensity to solitude; he walked among the elms that surround that ancient college, and in the cells, in the secret shades of that institution, he felt that dawning on his mind which was to precede the brighter and the greater day; and, raising himself from the materiality around him, he soared on the wings of contemplation to heights sublime, and weilding his flight along the zodiac, raised his head among the stars. The honors of the college became his meed, and departing thence with the blessings and the benedictions of his venerable instructor, he repaired, for a short period, to the school of Litchfield, and there imbibed those principles of the common law based upon the rights of man, and throwing a cordon around the British and the American citizen. He left, and upon his return home was greeted by the glowing pressure of his friends, who had heard from a distance the glad tidings of his studies and his success. He took at once his position among his neighbors. He was sent by them to the councils of the State; and there, amid the glittering array of lofty intellects and ennobled characters, he became first among the first.

But that sphere was too limited for the expansibility of a mind which seemed to know no limit but the good of all mankind. At the age of twenty eight he was transferred to this hall. He came not, sir, to a bower of ease; he came not in the moment of a sunshine of tranquillity; he came when the country was disturbed by dissension from within, and pressed from without by the great Powers of Europe, then contending for the mastery of the world, and uniting and harmonizing in this, and this alone—the destruction of American institutions, the annihilation of American trade. The whole country (boy as I then was, I well remember) seemed as if covered with a funereal gloom. The spirits of the best men seemed crushed amid that pressure, and the eye of hope scarce found consolation in any prospect of the future. But he had not been long in these halls before he took the gauge and measurement of the depth of these calamities, and the compass of its breadth. He applied himself most vigorously to the application of the remedies for so vital a disease. He found that a mistaken policy had added to the calamities on the ocean, that still further calamity of fettering, with a restrictive system, the very motions and energies of the people. He looked down and saw that there was a mighty pressure, a great weight upon the resources of this country which time had gradually increased, and he resolved at once, with that resolution which characterized him—with that energy which impelled him direct to his purpose—to advise what was considered a remedy too great almost for the advice of any other—"at once, weak as we were in numbers, unprepared as we were in arms, diminished as were our resources, to bid defiance to Britain, and assume the attitude of a conflicting nation for its rights." Fortunately for the country, that advice was taken, and then the great spirit of America, released from her shackles, flamed up and caused her to arouse from her prostrate condition, and, standing erect, shake her spear in bold defiance.

In that war his counsels contributed as much, I am informed, as those of any man to its final success. At a period when our troops on the frontier, under the command of the Governor of New York, were about to retire from the line, and that Governor had written to Mr. Madison that he had exhausted his own credit, and the credit of all those whose resources he could command—that his means were exhausted, and unless in a short period money was sent on to invigorate the troops, the war must end and our country bow down to a victorious foe—Sir, upon that occasion Mr. Madison became so disheartened that he assembled his counsellors and asked for advice and aid. But advice and aid they had not to give. At length Mr. Dallas, the Secretary of the Treasury, said to Mr. Madison, You are sick; retire to your chamber; leave the rest to us. I will send to the Capitol for the youthful Hercules who hitherto has borne the war upon his shoulders, and he will counsel us a remedy. Mr. CALHOUN came. He advised an appeal to the States for the loan of their credit. It seemed as if a new light had burst upon the Cabinet. His advice was taken. The States generously responded to the appeal. These were times of fearful import. We were engaged in war with a nation whose resources were ample, while ours were crippled. Our ships-of-war, few in number, were compelled to go forth on the broad bosom of the deep, to encounter those fleets which had signalized themselves at the battles of Aboukir and Trafalgar, and annihilated the combined navies of France and Spain. But there was an inward strength—there was an undying confidence—in the hearts of a free people; and they went forth to battle and to conquest.

Sir, the clang of arms and the shouts of victory had scarcely died along the dark waters of the Niagara—the war upon the plains of Orleans had just gone out with a blaze of glory—when all eyes were instinctively turned to this youthful patriot, who had rescued his country in the dark hour of her peril. Mr. Monroe transferred him to his Cabinet; and upon that occasion, so confused was the Department of War, so complicated and disordered, that Mr. William Lowndes, a friend of Mr. Calhoun, advised him against risking the high honors he had achieved upon this floor for the uncertain victories of an Executive position. But no man had pondered more thoroughly the depths of his own mind and the purposes of his own heart—none knew so well the undaunted resolution and energy that always characterized him; and he resolved to accept, and did. He related to me what was extremely characteristic: he went into the Department, but became not of it for awhile. He gave no directions—he let the machinery move on by its own impetus. In the mean time he gathered, with that minuteness which characterized him, all the facts connected with the working of the machinery. With that power of generalization for which he was so remarkable, he combined together in one system all the detached parts; instituted the bureaus, imparting individual responsibility to each, and requiring from them that responsibility in turn, but uniting them all in beautiful harmony, and creating in the workings a perfect unity. And so complete did that work come from his hands, that at this time there has been no change material in this Department. It has passed through the ordeal of another war, and it still remains fresh, and without symptoms of decay. He knew that if we were to have wars, we should have the science to conduct them; and he therefore directed his attention to West Point, which, fostered by his care, became the great school of tactics and of military discipline, the benefits of which have so lately been experienced in the Mexican campaign.

But, sir, having finished this work, his mind instinctively looked for some other great object on which to exercise its powers. He beheld the Indian tribes, broken down by the pressure and the advances of civilization, wasting away before the vices, and acquiring none of the virtues, of the white man. His heart expanded with a philanthropy as extensive as the human race. He immediately conceived the project of collecting them into one nation, of transferring them to the other side of the great river, and freeing them at once from the temptations and the cupidity of the Christian man. Sir, he did not remain in office to accomplish this great object. But he had laid its foundation so deep, he had spread out his plans so broad, that he has reared to himself, in the establishment of that people, a more enduring monument than battles e'er gave, and gathered more glorious trophies than can be plucked upon the plains of war. The triumphs of war are marked by desolated towns and conflagrated fields; his triumphs will be seen in the collection of the Indian tribes, constituting a confederation among themselves, in the schoolhouses, in the valleys, in the churches that rise with their spires from the hill-top in the clear sunshine of heaven. The music of that triumph is not heard in the clangor of the trumpet and the rolling of the drum, but swells from the clang of the anvil, and the tones of the water-wheel, and the cadence of the mill-stream that rolls down for the benefit of the poor red man.

Sir, he paused not in his career of usefulness; he was transferred, by the votes of a grateful people, to the chair of the second officer of the Government. There he presided with a firmness, an impartiality, with a gentleness, with a dignity that all admired. And yet it is not given unto man to pass unscathed the fiery furnace of this world. While presiding over that body of ambassadors from sovereign States, while regulating their councils, the tongue of calumny assailed him, and accused him of official corruption in the Riprap contract. Indignantly he left the chair, demanded of the Senators an immediate investigation by a committee, and came out of the fire like gold refined in the furnace. From that time to the day that terminated his life no man dared to breathe aught against the spotless purity of his character.

But while in that chair, Mr. Calhoun perceived that there was arising a great and mighty influence to overshadow a portion of this land. From a patriotic devotion to his country, he consented, on this floor, in 1816, upon the reduction of the war duties, to a gradual diminution of the burdens, and thus saved the manufacturers from