

is honored with a seat on this floor, as one of the most important, if not the most honorable situations under the government. It is true, there are higher situations, but they are not immediately in the gift of the people; they are placed one or two removes from the people, but we are the immediate representatives of thirty five thousand free people. What can be more honorable? And is it fair to contrast such situations with places that have only pecuniary reward, as an inducement to acceptance? It appears to me that it is not. I say that the honor of serving freemen on this floor, ought to be the first consideration, and not pecuniary reward.

Mr. D. said, whenever the salary of legislators were raised so high as to give a spring to extravagance, by making money the first consideration, you give a vital stab to patriotism. Patriotism will sink under sordid avarice, the precursor of the downfall of republics. The first consideration of wise legislatures, in free governments, is, if they wish to perpetuate liberty, and their happy institutions, to frame their laws and public regulations so as to guard particularly against extravagance and luxury. Was not extravagance and luxury the ground work of the overthrow of nearly if not quite all the ancient republics? And is it not a fair way of reasoning, to judge of the future from the past? At least it will be acknowledged, that what has happened may happen again.—Then I say it is prudent to guard against what may at first appear trivial, but what may and certainly will, operate as an entering wedge, and ultimately, from the nature of things, be the means of the overthrow of the only republic in the world. Then is it not wise policy to frame your regulations so as to guard against this kankering worm, this fatal enemy to free governments, extravagance and luxury? Whenever it commences at the fountain head, the whole stream must become polluted; when it commences with your heads of government, with the highest legislators, and officers of government, it will ramify, and spread its destructive venom throughout all orders of society, until the prostration of our free institutions, will be the inevitable consequence.

But more particularly to the point—Is fifteen hundred dollars too much for a member of Congress to receive for his service, taking into consideration the expenses he must necessarily incur here? But this question will depend on circumstances: It will depend on what equipage he has, and the number of family he brings with him. If a member brings his family with him, keeps waiters, has a carriage and horses, he may expend large sums of money; but are these necessary appendages to legislation? I conceive not.—I consider a man who is always at his post, and is attentive to his duty, of more consequence to the public, than the man who sports away his time, and expends his money on vain show and empty parade. Mr. D. said he held it correct, that every officer of government ought to have an ample compensation for services. He ought not to be compelled, from the scantiness of his pay, to live parsimoniously; but still he ought to pay some respect to economy. My opinion is, that six dollars per day will enable a member to live genteely, and lay up some money; and I admit he ought to lay up some money, but not so much as to make it the first inducement to acceptance of office. Let us examine this subject a little, and see how it stands. The session of Congress, we may fairly conclude, will average about five months in the year, one hundred and fifty days; and what will be the probable expense of a member living here? We will say the average boarding is twelve or thirteen dollars per week, keeping his horse, four and one half or five dollars per week, which will make about seventeen dollars per week for boarding and horse-keeping, and which will amount, in an ordinary session of five months, to about three hundred and seventy or eighty dollars; add to this, two hundred dollars for cloathing, drink, and contingent expenses, which will amount to about five hundred and seventy or eighty dollars. The pay of a member at six dollars per day, for a session of five months, would be nine hundred dollars. A member gets six dollars for every 20 miles in traveling to, and returning from, this place. Say the average distance of the member's places of residence from the seat of government, is about four hundred miles, which would amount to \$240; one half of this he would expend in travelling, and live genteely, and the other half add to his per diem allowance, and it would make \$1020, from which deduct the five hundred and seventy or eighty dollars, and the residue will be found to be about \$440 or 50. This \$440 or 50 is certainly not an object sufficient to induce a man to come here, if his view is to make money; but if a man calculates on being remunerated for privations consequent on absence from family, he will be mistaken. Money could not compensate him for such privations—they are necessarily interwoven in the nature of our government and must be submitted to, or a fatal stroke is made at the strength of our government, which will operate as a damper to all patriotism, and sow the

seeds of avarice, the bane of civil liberty, or produce extravagance and luxury, the introduction of which is destructive to governments, whose base of strength is virtue and economy.

Mr. D. said he should vote for filling up the blank with no sum but six dollars: he was opposed to the compensation bill when it was adopted; he still thought it wrong, and was in favor of placing the pay of members on their former footing, and also for the repealing law taking effect from the commencement of this session; or, if gentlemen please, from the termination of last. One word as to an expression made use of by a gentleman, which was, that a few months ago, after long discussion and mature deliberation, we passed this law.

Mr. Chairman, what is the fact? The bill was introduced on the 6th of March, read the first and second time agreeably to rule, and committed to a committee of the whole, and made the order of the day for the seventh. On the 7th, the House went into committee of the whole on the bill in the afternoon of the day. The bill was under discussion in the committee about three or four hours, when the committee rose, reported the bill, and ordered it to be engrossed for a third reading on the 8th, and on the 8th the bill passed the House of Representatives; only one day intervened between the day of its introduction, and the day it passed and left the House.

In the few remarks I have submitted, I have cautiously avoided personalities, or any expressions calculated to wound the feelings of gentlemen, and trust that a correspondent liberality will be measured out to me.

Mr. HULBERT said, he earnestly hoped that the notion of his honorable friend, (for assigning a distant day for consideration) would prevail. He lamented the precipitation with which the question respecting this law had been brought forward. Scarcely, said he, had the doors of Congress been thrown open, at the commencement of the session, when motions were made, in both Houses, for the repeal of the act. Why this extraordinary haste? Was there no other business worthy of the attention of Congress? Whence this impatience to undo that which we have so lately done? A few months ago, said he, after long discussion and mature deliberation, we passed this law. Does it comport with the dignity of the House, is it consistent with a proper degree of self respect, thus to hasten to its repeal? He dreaded the imputation of acting under the influence of fear, or of a love of popularity, and he was sure the manner, in which they were proceeding, could not fail to bring upon them that odious charge. He had flattered himself, that this subject would be left to the disposal of the next Congress. We said he, have declared our opinions, & have given our votes accordingly. If those who shall come after us, who have been elected since the passage of this law, should be of a different opinion, they can reverse what we have done. But why should we be the censurers of our own conduct? Why thus pass sentences of condemnation upon ourselves? Admitting that this business is not to be referred to the next Congress, but is to be settled by ourselves, why should we be called upon instantly to act upon the long, the very able and important report which is before us? It is said that the voice of the people demands an immediate attention to the subject. He denied the fact. He said the voice of the people had not been heard. It was the clamor of newspapers; it was the voice of party spirit, of faction, and misrepresentation, which had been heard. The deliberate opinion of the people he would always highly respect. But the clamors of faction he would despise.

Mr. Hulbert said he had freely given his vote for the law in question. He thought it a correct, just, and necessary measure. He had again and again reviewed the subject; and he was entirely satisfied with what he had done. Until he could change his opinion, he would never change his vote. His constituents, he said, might impute to him want of wisdom; but they should never justly charge him with abandonment of his principles, with cowardly and poltroon conduct.

(Debate to be continued.)

The 9th of November is what is termed in London the *Lord Mayor's Day*. We observe that Mr. ADAMS, the American ambassador, was present at the festival, on the last day of that sort, in Guildhall, which was brilliantly illuminated with gas, decorated with emblems, banners, paintings and transparencies. The Mayor's toast was, 'The American ambassador,' which was drunk with three times three and loud applause. Mr. ADAMS returned thanks for the honor conferred on him; an honor which he had frequently experienced, and he could only repeat what he had said on former occasions. He begged to give, in return for the compliment paid him, 'Prosperity to the city of London'; this too was received with loud applause.

The Colonizing Society has presented a memorial to Congress on the subject of the Free Blacks, requesting governmental aid, &c.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 25.

CAPTIVES BY THE INDIANS.

Mr. COMSTOCK rose to offer a resolution. He said he had sometimes been called upon, in discharge of professional obligation, to probe those wounds and to cause them to bleed afresh, which were partially healed. It was now, his painful duty to advert to transactions which exhibited the human character in an amiable and honorable aspect, and in vile and horrid deformity. The history of the battle of the River Raisin, said he, fought under the command of the brave but unfortunate General Winchester, has been read by this House and this Nation, with too much interest and sensibility, to have been forgotten. It discloses events which incessantly awaken our sympathy and regret for the unhappy fate of many of our beloved fellow-citizens, and which excite our abhorrence and detestation of the base and perfidious conduct of Gen. Proctor, who commanded the combined force of British and Indians, with which our troops had to contend on that memorable occasion. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the names of Allen, Hart, Graves, and Simpson, with many of their virtuous companions in arms, will live in the esteem and affection of mankind, and their catastrophe be deplored, whilst the name of Proctor, branded with eternal infamy, will only survive to be the scorn and derision of the world. Far be it from me, sir, to cherish a sentiment of unforgiving hostility, towards any of those British officers or soldiers who have waged the recent contest against us, with a due regard to the principles and usages of civilized warfare. Among these sir, were doubtless many examples of brave, humane and honorable men.—But surely the generous Briton must blush and feel humiliated at the recollection, that the same country which gave birth to a Sidney, a Russell, a Chatham and a Howard, should also have produced a Proctor. Whilst the heart sickens over the consideration of his murderous malignity, it is torn with anguish from the remembrance of its direful consequences. It is known, sir, that in January, 1813, Frenchtown and its contiguous settlements were menaced by a savage foe. The inhabitants manifested their fearful apprehensions, and solicited from our army aid and protection. General Winchester, with a force of about seven hundred and fifty men, chiefly volunteers from the state of Kentucky, among whom were many of her most favorite sons promptly repaired to this quarter to defend the inhabitants from that promiscuous carnage, in which this species of enemy usually indulge.—That on the 22d day of the month, above 1500 British and Indians, the latter headed by Round-head and Splitlog, and all under the command of General Proctor, attacked this Spartan band.—They successfully repelled, for a considerable time, the furious assaults of the enemy; and nobly sustained the honor of the country in the unequal conflict. But, sir, the most wise and gallant efforts, whilst they challenge our admiration, are not always crowned with success.

Terror and fair promises were held out to General Proctor; to our troops. They were told by him, that in case they did not surrender, he could not be responsible for the conduct of the Indians, and that Frenchtown would be burned. They were moreover promised by him, that, if they would surrender, they should not be murdered, that they should not be rifled of their private effects, and that the officers should have their side arms returned; and under these delusive promises they did surrender; and with what faith these engagements were regarded, is too well known. Here we have an awful manifestation of the deplorable ruins of the fall, and another distressing proof of the wretched depravity of man.—The surviving prisoners were put under the charge of Indians, to be marched to Malden. But few ever arrived at the place of destination. Many were wantonly massacred on the way, and others carried off by the Indians, and made the degraded object of an abominable traffic.

The houses containing the sick and wounded were burned, and the rights of sepulture from an affected fear of offending the Indians were refused to our slaughtered citizens. The last act of friendship and of duty, was however performed to some, in the face of every peril, by the humane inhabitants of this ill-fated region. I have said, sir, that many of our captive citizens were made the degraded objects of an abominable traffic. Yes, sir, Americans, our brethren, rendered dear to us by a thousand sacred ties, were publicly hawked about the roads and streets, to gratify cupidity or afford the means of indulging the beastly appetites of their savage masters. In view of the complicated misery our troops were suffering and would continue to endure in barbarian captivity, the citizens in & about Detroit, obeying the voice of humanity, and the dictates of benevolent feelings, purchased numbers of them from the Indians. Some of the inhabitants who engaged in this laudable work, are, I under-

stand, in limited circumstances, and stand in need of being remunerated for these expenditures. The ladies, ever pre-eminent in acts of kindness, and charity, displayed the distinguishing perfections of their character, upon this mournful occasion. They cheerfully parted with their personal ornaments and with many articles of clothing, to redeem from the most deplorable slavery their brave but unfortunate defenders. In thus purchasing redemption, sir, for our captives, the inhabitants anticipated the government in the discharge of an imperious duty, which it certainly would have performed.—Sound policy, which is always founded in justice, demands that the government should indemnify the class of citizens, of which I have spoken. It cannot longer wish them to sustain those losses which ought to be borne by the nation.

It is proper to mention, sir, upon this subject, what I am informed has lately been ascertained; that even at this moment one of our citizens taken prisoner at the river Raisin, is held in cruel bondage by an Indian in the Upper Province of Canada.

Sir, I cannot suppress the effusions of my sensibility when I reflect on the various and aggravated evils which those of certain portions of our frontier have suffered in the course of the late war. Legislate as far as you can, with a view to their alleviation, and they will have eventually sustained its calamities in an undue proportion, with those of the interior. Under these impressions, sir, I indulge a hope, that the resolution may be adopted, and that the important subject it involves, may be prosecuted to an honorable and beneficial result.

Mr. C. then moved the following resolution.

Resolved, That the military committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making provision, by law, to remunerate those who in the late war redeemed (by purchase) our captive Officers and Soldiers from the Indians, and of making such provision as may be deemed expedient, to redeem those now in captivity.

Mr. HARRISON said he hoped this resolution would be adopted, and the latter clause of it particularly, on account of information of an important character which had come to his knowledge. He had learnt, he said, from a respectable source, that a citizen of our was at this moment held in captivity by an Indian, in the city of Quebec, the Capital of the Province of Lower Canada, where the Governor General of all the possessions of his Britannic Majesty in Canada, resides. Mr. H. said he had been in doubt whether to give credit to a tale so improbable, as that a citizen of the United States, whom the British government was bound by treaty to release and deliver up, should yet be retained in captivity. He had to read again and again the letter he had received from a lawyer of high standing in Lexington, who had assured him he was well acquainted with the person who had given him the information, that a certain man by the name of Fant or Fants, a Drummer in Capt. Hart's company (whom Gen. H. said he well remembered) was hired out in Quebec by an Indian, for the benefit of his pocket.—It was impossible that the circumstance should exist, and the fact should not before this have reached the ears of British officers there. He hoped the resolution would be adopted; and the President of the United States, would take proper measures to represent that circumstance in its proper light to the British government.

The resolution was adopted, without debate or opposition.

GENERAL HARRISON'S CASE.

The select committee of the House of Representatives, to whom was referred the letter and documents from the Acting Secretary of War, on the subject of General Harrison's letter, ask leave to REPORT.—That they have investigated the facts involved in this enquiry, by the examination of documents and a great number of most respectable witnesses, personally acquainted with the transactions from which the enquiry originated. And the committee are unanimously of opinion, that General Harrison stands above suspicion, as to his having had any pecuniary or improper connexion with the officers of the Commissariat for the supply of the army; that he did not wantonly or improperly interfere with the rights of Contractors, and that he was in his measures, governed by a proper zeal and devotion to the public interest.

The committee beg leave to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject; and, as the papers refer in part to the conduct and transactions of the contractors of the North Western Army, where accounts are unsettled, and only incidentally involved in this enquiry, that the papers be transmitted to the Department of War.

After the report was read, Mr. HULBERT said, that, having the honor to be one of the committee who made the report which was then before the House, he felt it his duty to make a few remarks upon it.

The committee, he said, considered the subject an important one. It was interesting to the public, and highly and especially so to General Harrison. The character of that gentleman has been impeached. They, therefore, determined to make the investigation full and thorough, as should be in the power. With such views and sentiments; they entered upon the enquiry. They had notified a gentleman who had made charges in writing against the General, and requested his attendance upon the committee, and he more than once attended. They had read and considered all the documents and papers which they could obtain, and which they thought calculated to throw light on the enquiry, and had examined many respectable witnesses, the investigation had resulted in a firm belief, and an unanimous opinion of the committee, that the insinuations and complaints which had been made against General Harrison, and which were the foundation of his application to Congress, were unmerited, groundless and unjust.

Mr. Hulbert said it gave him pleasure to make these declarations. He considered himself doing an act of justice to an injured individual. He must acknowledge, that he had entertained impressions very unfavorable to the General. The complaints which had been made against him, spread far and wide. The bane and antidote had not gone together. He rejoiced that this inquiry had been made, and he had no hesitation in saying, that, so far as the report of the committee should defend, before the public, the conduct and character of General Harrison, it would promote the cause of truth and justice.

Mr. Hulbert said that the general had been charged with unjust and oppressive conduct, in relation to the contractors in the army under his command. He said he was entirely satisfied that the General had interfered only in those cases, where he thought his duty to the public imperiously required it. In saying this, he meant cast no imputation upon the contractors; he spoke only of what he believed to be the motives of General Harrison.

The most serious accusation against the General was, that, while he was commander in chief in the west, regardless of his country's good, he was in the habit of managing the public concerns with a view to his own private interest and emolument. Mr. Hulbert said, he could not refrain from pronouncing this a false and cruel accusation. He was confident that directly the reverse was true. There was the most satisfactory evidence, that the general, in the exercise of his official duties, in his devotion to the public interest, had neglected his private concerns, to his material detriment and injury. In a word, said Mr. Hulbert, I feel myself authorized to say that every member of the committee fully satisfied, that the conduct of General Harrison, in relation to the subject matter of this enquiry, has been that of a brave, honest & honorable man; that, instead of deserving censure, he merits the thanks and applause of his country.

From the Louisiana Gazette.

The Congress Frigate has arrived at the Balize from a cruise in the Gulf of Mexico during which it is said it fell in with two of the Spanish vessels which made the late dastardly attack on the Firebrand, which she overhauled after a chase of some hours. It also said that the reason given by the Copper Captain for running from the Mexican frigate which was building at Baltimore for the Patriots. Had the valourous Don been conveyed by two three Santissima Trinidades, he would probably have attempted to play the same trick with Capt. Morris that did with lieutenant Cunningham—and gone on the same reason for it.

We are informed that Beverly Chesapeake Esq. has been appointed collector of the Port of New Orleans, vice P. L. Duplessis, Esq. resigned.

Two or three agents have gone from Massachusetts to Ohio or Kentucky to buy corn for their families and neighbors; and several vessels have sailed for the Mississippi, to receive it on board. Corn has been sold on the Ohio and its neighborhood for 25 and 30 cents. Contracts have been made for large quantities to be delivered at New Orleans at 75 cents per bushel. How strong do these facts impress us with our mutual dependence. Those you states which Massachusetts so lately revised now feed the boaster with bread while Louisiana, which she termed a curse to the nation, affords a free and safe channel through which she supplies her necessities!

William C. C. Claiborne late governor of Louisiana, has been elected to the Legislature Senator of the U. S. succeed James Brown, Esq.

Every mark of respect has been shewn to the memory of the deceased Mr. DALLAS at Philadelphia. The courts sitting in the city immediately adjourned, on hearing of his death, and resolved to wear crape for thirty days. His funeral was attended by the most distinguished citizens