

THE TIMES.

A. E. GLENN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

FOR THE TIMES.

TO THE REV. DANIEL PLUMMER, Senator from Dearborn county.

A friend of mine has just placed in my hands a copy of the "Indiana Patriot," of the 13th instant, containing your speech in the Senate of this State, on the 28th of last month, on the bill to suspend the operations of the act for the relocation of our county seat. I was so much astonished and surprised on the perusal of this production of yours, that I have concluded to address you, (with the permission of the Editor of the Times,) through the medium of the public prints, in relation thereto; and I shall do so with becoming frankness, and with due deference to the station which you hold. You say the People of Dearborn are the jury by which your conduct is to be tried. I am one of that jury, Sir, and your very speech itself forces upon my mind the conviction that you have departed from the course your conscience dictated unto you to pursue.

I find, Sir, that at the very onset of your speech you endeavored to impress the Senate with the belief that your constituents were not in their right mind—that they did not know themselves what they wanted; and as evidence of this you cited the Senate to the numerous petitions and remonstrances then before the Legislature. And you did not forget to say that you understood a petition had been got up praying for a division of the county; and without any authority whatever, you strike six hundred names from the remonstrance and add them to the petition for a division, asserting at the same time that these six hundred were *Nullifiers*! that they had turned round and departed from their first position: Yes, Sir, you charge six hundred of your constituents with the crime of *Nullification*—a crime next in order to *High Treason*—you charged them with a crime of which they were not guilty. But let us examine this matter a little farther. At the moment you made this charge the Senate were considering a bill to suspend the relocation act. Now where did this *suspension* business originate? Who was it that petitioned for *suspension*? Why, Sir, as you well know, it was five or six men, composing the President and Select Council of the town of Lawrenceburg, who asked for the *suspension*. You had their memorial before you—you also had a petition, signed by fourteen hundred, as you tell us, stating that the relocation at Wilmington did not suit the citizens; and in opposition to this memorial and this petition, you had before you a remonstrance, signed by sixteen hundred and sixty-one citizens of your county, which stated in the most emphatic terms—in language not to be misunderstood—that the majority WERE SATISFIED with Wilmington—that the majority wanted no further legislation on the County Seat question. Here then, Sir, were your instructions, for the remonstrance contained a majority of two hundred and sixty. The petition for division of the county was not before you; it had nothing to do with *suspension*; they were two separate and distinct questions, and you had no right, no authority, even to allude to the petition for division, much less to stigmatize six hundred of your constituents as *Nullifiers*, and to take their names from one petition and add them to another. You placed yourself, Sir, in an awkward position, and it is a position which, in my opinion, you ought not to have got into.

But let us follow this "awkward position" still farther. You tell us that your constituents asked more than you could give—more than the whole Senate could give. Well, Sir, what was it you could not give? Was it a new county you could not give? If not, what was it? But, Sir, the course you took, and the reasons you assigned, are not satisfactory to your constituents; for as I have told you, the petition for division was not before you, and it had nothing to do with *suspension*. It was your duty then, as a faithful public servant, to be guided by the will of the majority; and the majority prayed no further legislation on the subject. Instead, however, of doing this, you turned a deaf ear to the voice of the people, and the memorial of five or six men of Lawrenceburg, had more weight, more influence over you, than the remonstrance of sixteen hundred and sixty-one citizens of Dearborn county!!! Yes, Sir, this is true; and I ask you to consult your conscience now, and ask it if you have done right? Ask it, Sir, if you have not betrayed the confidence the People reposed in you, when they elected you, by a triumphant majority, to the station you now fill? It was expected that you would support the removal of our County Seat—and you

done so the session previous to the last; this strengthened our confidence in your integrity, and you need not wonder then if we were surprised when we heard that you had deserted your post, and gone over to the enemy. It came upon us like a thunderbolt, for we had no reason to suspect that Daniel Plummer would be cajoled from his duty by four or five citizens of Lawrenceburg.

Sir, your vote was as unkind as it was unjust. Self-interest will sometimes lead men astray; and this may have had its influence in the case under consideration; but my opinion is "the power behind the throne was greater than the throne itself." I have evidence to support this belief; and I can prove to you, Sir, if you desire it, that when the *suspension* question was in the hands of the judiciary committee, that you hesitated, doubted, faltered—that one day you were in favor of *suspension*, and the next day you opposed it; and I have been told that you threatened to *dodge* the question in the Senate, by leaving your seat when the bill was called up; and when you were told that the ayes and noes would be taken, and that your constituents would see the trick, you changed your determination. Ah! Sir, such conduct, such maneuvering as this, ill becomes a person of your profession. And your declaration that you wished to do right, when you could ascertain what was right, evidently proves that you had taken a stand for Lawrenceburg. If you wanted to do right (and what was right but to do the will of the majority?) you had the remonstrance of the people against further legislation on the subject. But, Sir, you took the wrong course, and I cannot help thinking you knew it at the time. You done wrong in attempting to undo what you had done before—you done wrong in voting for a *suspension*—and those who were the warmest of your constituents for a division, opposed *suspension* the strongest, and hence you had no right to change their names from one petition to another.

You said you could see no harm from *suspension*, but that the prospect was much good; that it would allay the excitement, and give people time to reflect and compromise. What compromise could be made?—who is it, Sir, that would compromise? Is it those who have always been the cause of the strife and contention of our county? You must have known that to suspend the removal of the county seat, would prolong the excitement, and of course this would be doing harm.

I have read your remarks carefully from beginning to end; and, Sir, I cannot find one plausible argument in favor of *suspension*; and the whole seems to me as an attempt to gloss over a wrong action, or a mistaken zeal. The course you have pursued, Sir, has alienated you from your constituents; they can have no confidence in you hereafter, and they therefore think it your duty to resign your office, that they may elect a Senator who will not go in opposition to their wishes. This is the language of truth and soberness; judge you what I say.

Respectfully yours,
A CONSTITUENT.
Union township, Feb. 22, 1836.

MEXICO AND TEXAS.
The following is an extract from a letter written by an American now in Mexico, to his friends in New York. He seems to think the Texans are on the wrong track—but we don't believe all that he says.

Mexico, Dec. 4, 1835.
The policy of this Government demands that, for the present, all communication with North America should be closed, but that, only to prevent intelligence of their movements being conveyed to Texas. This is forced upon the Mexican Government by the hostile movements and acts of the merchants and other citizens of New York, New Orleans, &c. Such unaccountable folly and manifest injustice on the part of Americans appears to us here in the most heinous light.

Your public press are bold and loud about their country's honor, &c. regarding France and the indemnity; but where is their honor and honesty in respect to Texas? Is America not at peace with Mexico? Why, then, does the American Government allow public committers, and men and arms, &c. to be shipped openly from her ports, in violation of existing treaties, not only to fight against Mexico, but to assist rebels? Two thirds of all those that assume the designation of *Texians* are *smugglers*, which we, as well as many others, can prove; but, suppose that they were *Mexicans*, what right have Americans to interfere? Would they have submitted to Mexicans going, rifle in hand, upon American ground, in troops, in like manner to assist any party of their citizens similarly situated? They are not

only doing what is unjust, but are endangering the lives of thousands of their own countrymen, whose blood if shed, shall assuredly be on their head.

Great activity prevails throughout this republic. Large loans, voluntary and otherwise, have been made to the Government, and Santa Anna left this city eight days since for Texas. When concentrated, his forces will amount to 8,000 foot and 1,700 well mounted horse; at least, such is the statement as given by those who I believe have the best information. I have seen 300 of the cavalry, and, in my opinion, they are excellent troops.

Santa Anna is decidedly popular with two-thirds of this republic; and even the Liberals are at this moment making voluntary loans, considering it their duty to do so, taking up the quarrel in a national point of view.

I pity the *Texians*, first, because they are wrong, and, secondly, because they will meet with little mercy. The infatuation is great; the very Constitution of 1824, which they now make their war-cry, was never adopted by them, but, on the contrary, opposed and trampled under foot; and any attempt by the Government to collect the revenue according to the Constitution, was violently resisted; and yet such acts are approved and supported by men professing moral principles—the leading men of your city.

We remain, as yet, in quietness; but God alone knows how long. I advise, without fail, that you ship the annexed order per first packet, as no interruption is anticipated to imports.

ABDUCTION.

About three weeks ago an industrious negro man who had accumulated property to the amount of 5 or 600 dollars, with his wife and children, was forcibly carried from his house in Posey county, about ten miles from Mt. Vernon, Ia. and the woman and children sold as slaves. It is stated that five citizens of Posey county were engaged in the nefarious act. One of the gang who was a near neighbor to the negro, went into his house at 10 or 11 o'clock at night, leaving the others at the door, and pretended that he wanted to hire the negro to chop wood. The negro who was in bed and his wife engaged in spinning, became alarmed on discovering a pistol in the hand of his visitant at that late hour, and reached up and took down his rifle which was hanging at the head of his bed, and while presenting it to the breast of his antagonist, the persons standing at the door rushed in knocked him down, jumped upon him with such force as to break his breast bone, and beat him till he was senseless. In this situation he and his family were placed upon horses, and taken to the river, at the lower part of the Village of Mt. Vernon, and put into a ferry boat that had been prepared by some of the gang, taken down the river, 12 miles, to the mouth of Highland Creek, and to the house of a relative of Davis, one of the number. Here the negro was untied, as it was supposed that he was so much injured as to be unable to escape. He however, did escape, and returned to Mt. Vernon, when, two citizens of that place started on board of the first steamboat in pursuit of the villains. Captain Green, the Captain of the boat, was informed of their business and gave them all the aid in his power. This was the night after the abduction of the negroes; and Capt Green gave direction to his officers and crew, to attend to all calls from the shore. A pistol shot was heard, the boat rounded to, and as was anticipated, took in Davis and Miller, the two of the gang who went off with the negroes, with the negro woman and children. The persons in pursuit kept secreted till they arrived at Shawneetown, when Capt. Green placed a guard to prevent any one from leaving the boat till a process was obtained for the arrest of Davis and Miller, but by some strange manœuvre they were released, and suffered to pursue their course.

On the return to Mt. Vernon of the two persons who went in pursuit, other persons started to pursue and arrest the villains again. The result we have not definitely heard. Rumor says they were re-taken at New Madrid, after they had sold the woman and children, and that they escaped from the sheriff after he had shot and wounded Davis, and that one or both of them have gone to Texas, that band of patriots which some of our good citizens wish Gen. Jackson to purchase.

One of the five is under recognizance for trial at the next circuit court of Posey county.—*Monitor*.

We have this morning another arrival of more than a quarter of a million of dollars, making near three quarters of a million in two days; and we understand still more is coming.

N. Y. Jour. Com.

TEXAS.

Every thing in relation to Texas, is now interesting to the people of the United States; and we therefore give some extracts from a letter, to a citizen of this place, dated "Nacogdoches, Dec. 31, 1835."—*Logansport Tel.*

"On leaving Natchitoches, I travelled alone to San Felipe, a distance of three hundred and fifty miles from Red River, and two hundred from this place. The country over which I passed is different, perhaps, from any you have ever seen. The uplands are high and dry, and well supplied with streams. The soil has the color of burnt brick, and is very productive—producing cotton, sugar-cane, corn, tobacco, sweet potatoes, cabbages, turnips and all kinds of vegetables. The finest peaches grow there; and cherries, plums, oranges, grapes and figs in abundance. The grass and the wild cane are green all winter. The bottom or lowlands are still more rich, and covered with a growth of tall trees and cane. Game is plenty, and fish in abundance in the streams. The coldest days of winter are more mild than September in Indiana. I have seen no ice this winter, but light frosts occasionally.

This will be a fine place for lawyers, on account of the land disputes. Here is claim heaped upon claim. As yet there is nothing permanent; but the *Texians* having declared independence, the common law will be the standard. The Government offers great inducements to the young and adventurous. Goods sell exceedingly high, at about 500 per cent. Money is plenty, and the business of the town brisk. The society of men is good—Ladies are few. I have been over a good portion of Texas and the most beautiful is the Brassos country. Every man that comes into Texas during the war, is made a citizen with all privileges the very moment he enters the Territory with the intention to stay, and this is by act of the Convention. I have just returned from the army and expect to go against the Mexicans again in the spring."

INDIAN MASSACRES.

In all narratives of suffering, a single well authenticated individual example affects the feelings more sensibly than the most eloquent generalities of wider spread calamity. Of this nature is the following statement by Mr. Cooley, of the New river lighthouse, Cape Florida.—*N. Y. American*.

"When he approached his once peaceful home, he found the body of Joseph Flenton, of Cecil county, state of Maryland, who acted as instructor to his children; his body was mangled, and he had evidently been killed with an axe. His two eldest children were found near by, shot through the heart, one holding yet the book in her hand she had been learning, and the book of the other lay by his side; about a hundred yards off, he found the bodies of his wife and infant. She, also, had been shot through the heart, and the same ball, it is supposed, broke the infant's arm. His house had been burnt, but the house in which he kept arrowroot, and the machinery with which he manufactured it, are left uninjured. The Indians carried off about twelve barrels of provisions, thirty hogs, three horses, \$430 in silver, his clothing, one keg of powder, over two hundred pounds of lead, and \$700 worth of dry goods. By their tracks and the amount of property carried off, Mr. C. computes the number of Indians at from twenty to thirty. They also carried off his negro man and woman, and a Spaniard named Emanuel."

RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES.

The Columbus Hemisphere contains a letter from a gentleman at Toledo, dated Jan. 30, 1836, by which it appears that some recent difficulties have taken place between a Michigan tax collector and citizens of the disputed territory. An attempt was made by the Michigan officer, living north of the disputed line to collect taxes of citizens on the south side. They remonstrated declaring they would pay no tax except to Ohio. The officer thereupon levied upon the property of several of the citizens and proceeded to sell it. Amongst other outrages the house of Col. Hoadly was broken into during his absence and a considerable amount of personal property taken out and sold. This so enraged the inhabitants that they collected in a body, took out a warrant for the Michigan officer under the laws of Ohio, arrested and committed him to the jail of Wood county. The officer has been since bailed out of prison, and threatens to raise the posse to enforce the execution of the laws of Michigan. Great excitement prevails. *Lebanon Star*.

The steamboat Walk-in-the-Water has been burnt, with 13 to 1500 bales of cotton at Natchez.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 9.

The following highly important and acceptable Message was yesterday transmitted by the President of the United States to both Houses of Congress:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The Government of Great Britain has offered its mediation for the adjustment of the dispute between the United States and France. Carefully guarding that point in the controversy, which, as it involves our honor and independence, admits of no compromise, I have cheerfully accepted the offer. It will be obviously improper to resort even to the mildest measures of a compulsory character, until it is ascertained whether France has declined or accepted the mediation. I therefore recommend a suspension of all proceedings on that part of my Special Message of the 15th of January last, which proposes a partial non-intercourse with France. While we cannot too highly appreciate the elevated and disinterested motives of the offer of Great Britain, and have a just reliance upon the great influence of that Power to restore the relations of ancient friendship between the United States and France, and know, too, that our own pacific policy will be strictly adhered to until the national honor compels us to depart from it, we should be insensible to the exposed condition of our country, and forget the lessons of experience, if we do not efficiently and sedulously prepare for an adverse result. The peace of a nation does not depend exclusively upon its own will, nor upon the beneficent policy of neighboring Powers; and that nation which is found totally unprepared for the exigencies and dangers of war, although it come without having given warning of its approach, is criminally negligent of its honor and its duty.

I cannot too strongly repeat the recommendation, already made, to place the seaboard in a proper state for defence, and promptly to provide the means for amply protecting our commerce. ANDREW JACKSON.
Washington, Feb. 8, 1836.

In the proceedings of the House of Representatives, on the 5th instant, we find the following:—

Mr. HANSEN moved to suspend the rules in order to instruct the select committee of twenty-four appointed yesterday, on the subject of pay and mileage, to make the following inquiries:

"First—Into the expediency of removing the seat of the Federal Government from Washington to Cincinnati or Louisville.

"Second—Into the propriety of so amending the Rules of the House, as to cause a list of the absentees, whenever the yeas and nays are taken, to be entered on the Journals, and published as part of each day's proceedings in the morning papers.

"Third—Of compelling all members who may hereafter absent themselves, during the sittings of the House, on visits to their homes and families, or for the purpose of attending to their practice in the courts of this District and adjacent States, to relinquish their pay during the period of such absence.

"Fourth—Of requiring a relinquishment, in like manner, of their compensation, from members during the time lost from the business of the House in excursions to the neighboring cities, or in pleasure parties about this city and the surrounding country, or from any other cause whatever, except sickness and the order of the House.

"Fifth—Of establishing a rule to prevent members from drawing their pay up to the close of the session, who leave several days prior to the adjournment."

On motion of Mr. WILLIAMS, of N. C. the motion to suspend the rules for the purpose indicated, was laid on the table.

In the House of Representatives, Jan. 7, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Lane:

Resolved, That the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, be instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing the following post routes in the State of Indiana. From Versailles, in Ripley county, to Burlington, Boone county, Kentucky, via Hartsville, Dillsborough, Guilleville, Hartford, and Rising Sun. From Napoleon, in Ripley county, to Louisville, in Henry county, via Clarksville, New Salem, and Smelser's Mills. From Aurora, in Dearborn county, to Napoleon, in Ripley county, via Wilmington. From Harrison, Dearborn county, to Scipio, in Ohio, via Drewsbury, in Franklin county. From Lawrenceburg, in Dearborn county, to Brookville, in Franklin county, via Hubble's and McKenzie's Cross Roads.