



MR. WEBSTER'S SPEECH ON THE COMPROMISE BILL.

In Senate—Wednesday, July 17.

Mr. Webster addressed the Senate as follows:— Mr. President: I have my purpose, on Tuesday...

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Such honors I honor her, and I do not... And peaceful slept the mighty Hector's shade...

Mr. President, I proceed now to say upon the subject before us, what it was my purpose then to have said...

Then, with respect to the territories, I have been... I do not think it safe to allow things to stand as they are...

Mr. Webster: I would like to know the honorable member's purpose... Mr. President, if California is admitted...

Suppose we admit California. My honorable friend from Illinois brings in a bill for a territorial government for New Mexico and Utah...

But, sir, if it be the pleasure of the Senate to vote for the motion which it is proposed to make to the Senate...

Well, sir, the next inquiry is, What do Massachusetts and the North in the anti-slavery States, lose by the adjustment of this bill...

Now, sir, allow me to say that the Wilmot Proviso is no matter of principle; it is a means to an end; it cannot be raised to the dignity of a principle...

Well, then, what is it that is yielded by the North but a mere abstraction—a naked possibility upon which no man would act...

Let us examine this. If I may analyze the matter a little both in regard to the North and the South...

by this or some similar measure. She gains the quiet of New Mexico, and she gains the settlement of the Texas boundary—objects all desirable...

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sentiment with us—is differently received by others. According to our notions and habits of thinking, it is not only allowable, but incumbent upon a member of Congress...

The Nashville address has been sent to me as a syllabus or homily of Southern sentiment. Now, I do not believe a word of this. Far be it from me to impute to the South generally the sentiments of the Nashville Convention...

Mr. BARNWELL. With regard to the first part, the honorable Senator is correct—and I have no doubt at all that the character of the address—that unless a great change be produced in the temper of the Northern people...

Mr. WEBSTER. It is hardly worth while, as the paper is not before us, for the honorable member to attempt to tell the truth about this address...

Mr. WEBSTER. Now, the Senator from Connecticut told the truth the other day, and I am obliged to him for telling the truth [Laughter]...

Mr. WEBSTER. I would like to know the honorable member's purpose... Mr. President, if California is admitted...

the Union upon another, founded, not on the conduct of the North or South generally, but on the conduct of particular persons or associations in each part respectively...

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The first of these misapprehensions is an exaggeration of the actual effect of the reclamation of fugitive slaves, felt by Massachusetts in the case of one individual. There has been a case within the knowledge of this generation, in which a man has been taken from Massachusetts into slavery by the South...

Mr. WEBSTER. I will state how that was. That pretended to kidnaping by some one who claimed to be a free man, and ran away with him by force. What I mean is, that there has been no man under the Constitution who has been sent back from Massachusetts into slavery...

Mr. WEBSTER. And what does that mean—separation—for God's sake! Mr. BARNWELL. Not at all. It means what I have alleged, that the North has no right to interfere with the institution of slavery...

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