

eration, no consideration based on political place or power could tempt me to join you—I cannot betray you, for you have my promise not to do so. But I give you notice now, that I will use all the power with which God has clothed me to its fullest extent to defeat your infamous scheme.” The country knows how gallantly Mr. Clay fought that Texas annexation scheme, but it does not know his secret reasons for doing so.

And Mr. Clay's declaration is, that the day after the vote on the annexation was taken in the Senate of the United States, when it was carried by but one vote—twenty-six to twenty-five—the leading men who were fully initiated into the objects sought to be accomplished, said among themselves, the one to the other: “we must abandon our scheme of years, or we must get out of this Union.” For mark you, gentlemen, and here is the beautiful feature of their scheme, they did not intend to stop with the acquisition of Texas. There lay Tamaulipas, Chihuahua and other Mexican States all around the Gulf of Mexico—there they lay, as they said, just like pears fully ripe, ready to drop in their laps when they were ready to gather them. And their scheme was to go on in the same way with those States until they had made the Gulf of Mexico in their own language, an inland sea, surrounded by slave-holding States.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. Is that from the secret history of Texas!

Mr. SANDS. It is from the secret history of Mr. Clay, which I have in my room and can show to gentlemen if they desire to see it.

Mr. MILLER. Did not Mr. Clay say that if Texas could be annexed without opposition he would be willing to see it done?

Mr. SANDS. Gentlemen can inform themselves upon that subject in their own way. Mr. Clay declared that from the time that vote was taken, and they saw what their strength really was; when they determined that one of two things had to be done by them, either to abandon the enterprise which they had so fondly and devotedly nursed for thirty years, or get out the Union—the declaration among these southern politicians was to each other, we must go home and educate our people up to disunion. And if gentlemen will just read this speech of Mr. Clay in 1850 they will there find some intimation of these facts.

Then it was that the disruption of this Union was determined upon. Then it was that it was predetermined by these gentlemen that the Missouri Compromise should be repealed. And why? Because they knew that so long as that line stood there would be peace in the land, and they knew that so long as there was peace in the land they could not get out of the Union. They were unwilling to give up their darling scheme, the one they had cherished so long. They must have some bone of contention to enable them to

get out of the Union, and they knew that lay only in the slavery question. That is the true secret of their repealing the Missouri Compromise. They knew that so long as there was peace in the land they could not dissolve the Union, and could not carry out their scheme. There stood the Constitution which they professed so much to love; there it stood in their way. It was like Mordecai sitting at the King's gate, right in their path, and they could not go up to the gorgeous feast which their imaginations had spread for them, as long as the hated Jew was in the way. You remember Haman's fate.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. He was hanged pretty high, was he not?

Mr. SANDS. He was, and I believe as firmly as I believe in my Bible, that that illustrious example will yet be imitated. [Applause.] Mr. Clay found those men out; he knew them well, knew them like a primer. He knew that while they were continually crying out—The Constitution! The Constitution! Give us the Constitution! The Constitution was the very thing they did not want. You have all heard of the Irishman who was about to be tried for some offence, and was in great trepidation. The Judge noticing his uneasiness, said to him, for the purpose of reassuring him—“don't be alarmed, you will have justice done you.” “Faith,” replied Pat, “that is just what I don't want,” and just so with these men; the Constitution was just what they did not want.

Now there is another course of constitutional reading I would recommend to the attention of my friends here. I do not have my speech in my pocket; I have been drawn into this debate unexpectedly. I am in that respect on a footing with my friend from Kent (Mr. Chambers.) But I would ask my friends to read the preamble to the articles of Confederation, and then read the preamble to the Constitution. Just listen to what the articles of Confederation say—

“Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey,” &c.

When it was found, as Washington said, that no alliance between the parts, however strict, was adequate as a substitute for a government of the whole, then this Constitution was adopted, and the preamble at the head of the Constitution states—

“We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Now upon that point I would just like to