troversy.

The morning of Monday January 26, 1830 dawned upon a feverish and excited Community all eager to witness the triumph or defeat of Mr. Webster who, himself of all the mighty throng which burst & pressed towards the Capitol was the calmest.

It was a day never to be forgotten by those who witnessed the Scene in the Senate chamber, & a day destined

17E 32

to be forever memorable in the Annals of the Senate. There never had been before in connection with the sessions of either House an occasion of so much excitement. People had been flocking to the city from every direction for days & the hotels & boarding houses were thronged. Before nine o'Clock in the morning the streets were full of people wending their way in great haste towards the

capitol building, and when the hour of meeting 12 o'clock arrived, every available foot of space on the floor in the galleries and all the lobbies & cloak rooms were literally packed & jammed with a human mass. The stairways & doorways were blockaded with men. The House of Representatives while it did not really adjourn or entirely suspend business literally emptied itself into the Senate Chamber, the floor of which was

packed so densely that it was almost impossible for one to move. I well remember that morning just before Mr. Webster rose ~~to reply~~ (Senators were offering petitions & memorials &) ~~I~~, in passing from * (over) * the Secretary's desk to that of a Senator ~~to receive the petition he was offering~~ I accidentally trod upon a lady's foot (the ladies had been admitted to the floor by the courtesy of the senate). ~~Seated~~ She ~~fairly~~ literally howled out in tones heard plainly in all parts of the Senate Chamber, "You have killed me." In those olden days the pages wore pumps; they were not allowed to enter the Senate Chamber with heavy shoes on, so I replied to her "I could not have hurt you very much" when she fairly shrieked: "But you ~~trod~~ have trod on my corn!" The effect ~~of~~ of such a speech in such ~~an audience~~ a presence may well be imagined.

The anxiety to hear the speech of Mr Webster was intense, & everyone was so impatient that no sooner had the Vice-President assumed the Chair, than a motion was made & unanimously carried, to postpone the ordinary morning business of the Senate, & that to at once take up for consideration the Foote resolution.

In the rear of the Vice President's chair the crowd was particularly dense. In this part of the chamber a representative from Alabama by the name of Dixon H Lewis, an unusually large man, became wedged & unable to move without disturbing a large number of other people. And to make matters worse he was in a position directly behind the chair of the Vice President where he could not see & hardly hear the Speaker. By dint of a great deal of persistent squeezing & pushing & ~~a~~ ~~good~~ no small amount of perspiring he finally gained one of the painted windows which flanked the Vice President on either side. Here he had to give it up as he could make no further progress. But determined not to be balked out of his intention to see Mr. Webster as he spoke, he with some difficulty got ~~hold~~

out his Jack-Knife and began scraping off the paint of one of the panes of glass. The noise of his scraping attracted considerable attention, but nothing daunted he persevered until he had cleared quite a large space on the glass sufficient for him to peer through & gaze upon the Speaker. The hole which he made in that painted window resound, for many a day a monument to his perseverence.

So great was the anxiety (see back of folio 35)

Mr. Webster then rose & began his speech the opening sentence of which had the riveted the attention of every one upon him. although it was his most zealous opponents appeared for a time to be unconcerned & uninterested at first, or

especially ~~seeming to~~ be trying hard to read his newspaper upside down, but it was not long before friend & foe alike were carried away with the power of his eloquent oratory.

The exordium with which he began his speech is familiar to almost every one, but is worthy of recording again in these pages. "Mr. President, when the mariner has been tossed, for many days, in thick weather, and on an unknown sea, he naturally avails himself of the first pause in the storm, the earliest glance of the sun, to take his latitude, and ascertain how far the elements have driven him from his true course. Let us imitate this ~~prudent~~ prudence; and before we float further on the waves of this debate, refer to the point from which we departed, that we may, at least, be

able to form some conjecture where we now are. I ask for the reading of the resolutions:

The effectiveness of Mr Webster's manner it is difficult to portray to those who never saw him. In the prime of magnificent manhood, & in the zenith of his fame he stood like a gladiator facing his foe.

He never rose ~~on any ordinary occasion~~ to address the Senate on any ordinary subject more self-composed than he appeared to be on this occasion.

He exhibited the calmness of conscious strength, in every feature, tone & gesture. Complete master of himself and of his subject & fully conscious of the high estimate that was placed upon his great ability he struck majestically onward sweeping everything before