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armies? Then no such executive perogatives were claimed as this bill contains; no such attempts made as here are made for intrenchments on the internal polity of the states, and the ordinary concerns of the people, and then, our army, small in comparison with its present establishment, was kept aloof from the affairs of the state, and the persons and property of the citizens. Our country was happy, prosperous, and respected. The present crisis is portentous.... Internal disquiets will not be healed, nor public sentiment controuled by precipitate and rash measures. It is time for the public councils to pause. This bill, sir, ought not to pass. It strikes at the vital principles of our republican system. It proposes to place the country in a time of peace under military law, the first appearance of which ought here to be resisted with all our talents, and efforts. It proposes to introduce a military despotism, to which freemen can never submit, and which can never govern, except by terror and carnage.

NOTE.—Subsequent to the delivery of this speech, the bill was recommitted and the second section expunged, and modifications were made in others, without essentially changing its most objectionable principles and provisions.