

ter price for their produce. I regret, Mr. President, that I cannot give the credit of that important act to Mr. McLane: he, however, had nothing to do with it: it formed no part of his arrangement. The opening of that intercourse, for certain articles of our produce, had been done *gratuitously* by the British Government in 1826, prior even to the attempt at negotiation by Mr. Gallatin. Now that act must have been known: it could not fail to have been known to the senator, [Mr. Clay] then the Secretary of State. Why then does he now charge it as a fault committed by Mr. McLane, who had no more to do with it than the man in the moon? Nor had Mr. McLane any thing to do with the Act of Great Britain, passed subsequently to the arrangement made by him; by which Act, other articles of our produce are admitted free of duty into the Northern Colonies, and from thence are received in England and the West Indies, as if they were the produce of the Canadas. The senator (Mr. Clay) complains, that the produce of our farmers bordering on Canada, is received in England on equal terms with those of Canada, thus giving a new market to a part of their articles, without which other markets might be overstocked. The senator (Mr. Clay) has truly said, that the wheat of the States bordering on the Canadas, passes into Canada, is their ground, and the flour shipped to British ports, as if it were the produce of the wheat of Canada. This has been the spontaneous act of Great Britain, adopted for her *own interest*, and is most certainly highly beneficial to our farmers. An immense number of sheep, hogs, horses and cattle, are driven annually from Maine to Quebec, and New Brunswick. The farmers and graziers of Maine differ in opinion with the senator from Kentucky, (Mr. Clay) and are really *so simple* as to believe, that their free intercourse with Lower Canada and New Brunswick, is highly beneficial to them:—whether the intercourse with the British North American Colonies be beneficial, or whether it be injurious, the present administration, nor Mr. McLane had little part in it. It had been effected, in part, before the arrangement was concluded, and soon after for another part. It formed, as I have previously said, no part of the arrangement with Great Britain, and this fact must have been known too by the senator (Mr. Clay,) for he then acted as Secretary of State. We have for nearly half a century been claiming the free navigation of the Saint Lawrence, as a natural right: it has at length been gratuitously conceded to us by Great Britain; and now the senator from Kentucky, (Mr. Clay,) complains of it as a *grevance*.

The senator, (Mr. Clay,) also complains, that the instructions state, “that the late administration had *abandoned* certain pretensions.” The senator admits, that these pretensions had been *waved*. The senator from Georgia, (Mr. Forsyth,)