

now afford him an opportunity of returning the shot. Webster replied from his seat :—
“ Let the discussion proceed, I am ready now to receive the gentleman’s fire.” On the following day Webster made his reply. That day has been called the day of days in the Senate of the United States. Daniel Webster had made many great efforts, both at the bar and in the Senate, but not until that day had he displayed his full strength. Not until that day did even his friends know how deep, strong and resistless was his eloquence.

For days people had been crowding into the city to hear the great oratorical contest. As early as nine o’clock in the morning, crowds gathered in the Capitol, and by twelve, the appointed hour for the debate to be continued, the hall was crowded, and the stairways jammed with men. At last Webster arose, and after a brief introduction, sufficient to attract the attention of all present, asked for the reading of the resolution. While the resolution was being read, many seized the opportunity to view the man who was about to speak. There he stood, rather