

the eye, informing every feature, and urging the whole man onward, right onward to his object—this, this is eloquence ; or rather it is something greater and higher than all eloquence : it is action, noble, sublime, god-like action ! ”

Such was the eloquence of Webster when he made the finest effort of his life and swept the arguments for secession before him as autumn leaves before the stormy blast. A debate was in progress in the Senate in regard to the sale of public lands. To such a height did feeling rise that South Carolina, with other states ready to follow, threatened secession. Mr. Hayne, an orator of great ability, was the champion of the South. As a speaker he was rapid and fiery, and could occasionally utter a sentence that would strike sharply and with great effect. Webster having spoken on the subject of debate, and finding it necessary to attend the Supreme Court, in which he had a case to argue, a friend moved a postponement of the debate, but Hayne objected, declaring that Webster had discharged his fire in the presence of the Senate, and he hoped he would