

J. J. BRUNER,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS

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From the *Savannah Observer*.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

We have had many applications for copies of the Observers in which, during the months of March and April, we compiled a variety of facts and statistics bearing upon the question of equal taxation. After supplying all the enquiries you requested, we received requests to repeat them in the Observer. With a due diligence we proceed to comply with those requests, beginning today with the extracts from Gov. Graham's admirable speech with which we commenced the series of articles on the 15th of March.

It is quite manifest, we think, that all that is needful to the success of this right principle of taxation, is, that the people shall have plain facts about it. Those which we have presented, and now propose to republish, have not been controverted by the Democrats, however much their party feelings may deter some of them from adopting the palpably just conclusions to which they have led us.

A few surplus copies of these papers may be had as issued.

From the *Observer* of March 15th.

THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

We have been a good deal surprised at the prudence set up by the Democratic papers, for the saving of the Constitution of our State, and objection to disturbing the compromises agreed upon in 1850, by the Convention which assembled it. But that surprise is vastly increased when we see the Democratic Convention held last week—a body so much more intelligent than the body of Democratic Editors,—unanimously resolve,

"That we are opposed to disturbing any of the sectional compromises of our Constitution, State or National, and that we earnestly desire the introduction at this time by the Legislature of North Carolina into our State policies of a question of constitutional amendment affecting the basis upon which the revenue is raised, bearing it to be premature, impulsive, dangerous and unjust."

Now as to the Editors who have harped upon this matter of the compromises of our State Constitution, very few of them are familiar with the history or purpose of those compromises; but that the intelligent body of native and generally elderly gentlemen who composed the Democratic Convention should have set up such bold pretence, indicates either an ignorance of which we did not suspect them, or a recklessness by no means creditable to their integrity.

We propose to show that the compromise now insisted on was destroyed by the Democrats themselves, and is of course no longer binding in one part, the other being abrogated. And we propose to show that when it was thus destroyed, it was with a solemn warning of the very result now impending. We cannot do it in more clear and forcible terms than are presented by a speech of Gov. Graham in the State Senate in Dec. 1854—a speech which was published at the time in the *Observer* and other State papers, and in pamphlet, and we have no doubt was listened to and read by many of the very persons who now profess to be shocked at the idea of "disturbing" a compromise which they were then warned, (only five years ago) they were about to destroy by passing the Free Suffrage bill.

We ask particular attention to some passages which we have italicized in the following extracts from Gov. Graham's speech, and indeed to the whole of the extracts:

"Sir, to the most exact reader of the Act of 1850, it is perfectly manifest that the retention of the freedmen qualification in electors of the Senate was as well desired and secured as object to the adjustment, then made, as taxation for the basis of representation in the Senate, and federal taxation of representation in the House, and a much better secured object, than any other provision of the amended Constitution, save those two. And, as that adjustment was a compromise of a contention of thirty years, literally a treaty of peace the parties to it, and all others, will be separated from its further observance as soon as this one of its fundamental articles has been abandoned and annulled. I wish this to be known and remembered by those who have such decided apprehensions from the null of a convention, and the several changes the Constitution may be destined to undergo, that we may have no complaint of a breach of plighted faith, and a departure from the terms of compromise. This original bill sets the compromiser at naught, and leaves every man to take part in regard to amendments of the Constitution, as may seem right to his own eyes. Sir, there is no escape from this conclusion. We propose, by this bill, a plain and palpable violation of the compromise of 1850, and yet you evince a very salutary fear of losing the benefits of that compromise in other particular. If there be, as you, I think, really apprehend, a serious or general disposition to abolish the basis of representation, you will have lost more than lost your power of resistance to it, when you have broken the faith—which binds the moral elements of the world together."

"But, the change in the Constitution proposed by this original bill is not only a violation of the compromise, but it will destroy the basis between both conflicting interests there established, and will be an act of gross injustice to the owners of landed property, as contrasted with the owners of property in slaves. This may not be obvious at first sight, but I think it can be made perfectly apparent. We have already seen that a Constitution of a free government is like the human system, compounded of various parts, forming in on whole; and that each is the cause of those parts with each other, that one cannot be disturbed without affecting others. It might be supposed by a superficial observer, that the former would be improved by cutting off the fingers of equal strength, and the corporal would be so simple that any child who could handle as we could perform it. And you we

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