

## DIRECT TRADE.

There are two disabilities under which the South labors, which will forever prevent the realization of her hopes in respect of the establishment of Direct Trade, unless removed by Congressional legislation. These two obstacles will amount, in some degree, to the inability of the South to realize the long cherished but still deferred hope of commercial independence.

The first of these is the "foreign valuation" system, as established by the present Tariff. When the system of specific duties was abolished, and the *ad valorem* system substituted in its place, it was provided that the valuation of all goods exported from the Southern lands to the United States should be made abroad—that is, at the point from which they were shipped. Thus, a merchant in New York importing a cargo of silk goods from France, pays duty upon them not according to the home valuation, that is, their value in New York when they arrive there—but, according to the valuation made in France when the goods are shipped. There is nothing unfair in this system per se, but experience has proved that it leads to the most outrageous frauds. We do not exactly understand how it is done, but every impudent merchant knows shortly "false invoices" as they are called. The Government is annually cheated out of a large amount of duty; and the importer does not pay his ad valorem upon the real and true value of the goods that are shipped him.

By the system of specific duties, it is impossible almost that frauds can be committed. The importer pays so much per pound, per yard, or per gallon. But by the *ad valorem* system, he pays according to the value of the article imported. It is manifest, indeed, that if the article is undervalued, the importer does not pay what he ought to pay—*and the Government loses*. And it is notorious to all familiar with the subject that there is a great deal of this undershading going on—whether by collusion with the foreign merchant or not, we do not know, but which the importer pays less than the legal duty, the Government is cheated, and thus "frauds upon the revenue," of which last so much, are perpetrated.

During a debate in the Senate, a short time ago, when one of the Appropriation Bills was up for consideration, an amendment was moved by a Senator, providing for a home valuation on imports, instead of the foreign valuation as it now exists. His idea, he said, was to prevent those notorious "Frauds upon the revenue," which were created by the foreign valuation system—*and also to increase the resources of the Government*—so much needed in the present embarrassed condition of the Treasury. But the proposition was voted down, and the same old system yet continues.

The way in which the system works to the injury of the South is this. The Northern importers benefit well, without compensation, in a party to the fraud. He will collude with the foreign shipper to have the under-undersigned, and think it no harm to cheat the Government. This is something that the Southern merchant will not do, the Northern importers, by practising monopoly, obtain an advantage over the Southern, and drives the latter out of the sporting business. In the debate to which we have alluded, it was stated that a large house in New Orleans had proclaimed that they could buy goods in New York cheaper than they could import them themselves—for the New York importers, by constant invoices, paid so much less duty than the New Orleans merchant would pay according to an honest estimate, that he could undersell the New Orleans merchant at the door's own door. Thus do we see how the almost monopolies, the importing houses of the country, is it done, so that it is done. The result is evident—that the Southern merchant will be obliged to abandon the importing business altogether, and buy his supplies from the North—or else play the same game of fraud upon the Government, taking a party to those fraudulent importers.

The evil can be remedied either by a return to the old plan of specific duties, or by instituting a home valuation for the foreign. As long as the present condition of things continues, there is no prospect of safety and fair play for the South.

The other disability under which the South labors—or, rather, the other advantage with the North—is in the system of government subvention to steamships. The Southern line of steamers, for several years, received a subvention of half a million a year. Obviously, they could carry the lighter articles of merchandise for much less than any competing line. For in proportion to their pay for mail service was increased, in the same proportion could they lower their rates of freight. What should a line from Norfolk have, for instance, when received nothing from government—against the Collins line, receiving half a million per annum? Could there be anything like fair competition? Would not the Southern line have innumerable advantages, and thus drive the Southern line from the market?

A consciousness of this is also within the power of government—either by making the same subscription to each and thus putting all upon terms of equality—or by closing the practice altogether, and leaving them all to a free competition.

The former, indeed, is the best method. We can complain of it for being unfair—and it makes no difference to the people whether they pay the money to buying vessels directly out of the Treasury, or in the shape of a little higher rate of freight.

Below the South, then, enters upon the horizon of direct trade, it ought to be considered whether there are not obstacles to the very which would prevent fair competition. There may be others, besides those we have mentioned. Let us have a fair field at present—and the intervention of Congress will have to be invoked later on. We ought not to enter the contest at a disadvantage, lest perchance, a disastrous experiment at the beginning should postpone still longer the realization of our hopes—Lynchburg Virginian.

**Resource Overviews**—Private letters from the Hon. Robert Dale Owen, United States Minister at the Court of Naples, written to his friends at New Harmony, announce the gratifying intelligence that he has become converted to the Christian religion. Mr. Owen is well known throughout this State for his scholastic attainments, but his influence has ever been weakened by his heterodox views of Christ.

—*Harmonia Ind. Gazette.*

## N. C. MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The following statement will show the operations and condition of the Company to June 1st, 1858:

No. of Policies in force to June 1st, 1857, (last report.) 2,193

No. of Policies issued this year, 417

2,610

No. of Cancelled and Expired Policies this year, 443

Now in force, Of which 1675 are slaves, and 492 are whites 2,167

REBUTTS.

Amount on hand as per last Report, \$14,113.28

Amount of Premiums received to June 1, 1858, 66,620.44

Amount of interest, 5,578.51

" overpaid by Agents, 22.82

\$16,635.06

Deduct amount of notes canceled and expired this year, 6,693.02

2180,542.04

DISBURSEMENTS.

Am't paid white losses, 515,716.32

Am't paid slave losses, 14,433.00

230,149.32

2,000.50

2,370.99

57,049.49

Balance overpaid by Agents, as per last report, 522.48

205,361.29

AM'TS.

Am't of Premium Notes, drawing per cent interest, 98,383.71

Am't of Stock in Bank of Cape Fear, 1,000.00

Am't of Individual Bonds, 22,006.73

Am't of the hands of Agents, 9,000.74

Am't in hands of Treasurer, 10,159.47

\$142,180.75

\$180,542.04

No losses due and unpaid. All losses paid on the day when due, or before. The company has paid, during the nine years of its existence, dividends amounting to 95 per cent, averaging 10 per cent on the annual premiums paid in.

H. H. BATTLE, Secretary.

**MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.**—The queer idea some of the Northern people have of the excessiveness of the marriage relation, is well illustrated by the following from the Cincinnati Enquirer:

"A lady came to this city a day or two ago, and made application to a lawyer for divorce, saying she was from the State of New York and had come here for the purpose of effecting a separation, expecting to do so in about twenty-four hours. She appeared much disappointed when told she must be a resident in the State for a year before she could obtain her wish, and said that if she had to wait so long as that she would return to her husband again, as the cause of their quarrel was only about a honest, which she wished to wear to another month. Herst and moustaches at that circumstance had shown him, she thought she might endure his presence a little while longer."

—*John H. Battle, Secretary.*

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**POST OFFICE RIGHTS.**—The question whether the Post Office Department has certain rights and privileges over the contractors of the mail—which has been much discussed of late—is now on its way to a settlement. Judge Southard of New York, has granted a temporary injunction in the case of parties who now have three or four thousand letters, it is said, detained by the Department—against Post Master Fowler, prohibiting him from forwarding to the General Post Office any letters addressed to him, and also enjoining him, his agents, &c., from opening or reading the letters. The Post Office Department regards the firm in question as fictitious; and upon that ground alone, it is said that the Department has an undoubted right to order all their letters to be sent to the next letter office under an act of Congress giving the Department that authority over fictitious letters.—*New York Tribune.*

**BUNNING BIRDS' TOOTERS.**—The tongue of a bunting bird is very curious. It has two tubes elongated, each like the tubes of a double-barreled gun. At the tip of the tongue the tubes are a little separated, and their ends are shaped like spoons. The honey is spooned up, as we may say, and then it is drawn in the mouth, through the long tubes of the tongue. But the bird uses its tongue in another way. It catches insects with it, for it lives on these, as well as on honey. It catches them in this way—the two speech grasp the insect, like a pair of tongs, and the tongue bending, puts it into the bird's mouth. The tongue, then, of the bunting bird is not merely one instrument, but it contains several instruments together—two pumps, two spoons and a pair of tongs.—*William Tudor.*

**THE NEW SLOOP OF WAR.**—The accomplished constructor of this naval station (says the Norfolk Herald) is now engaged in preparing the model for the new steam sloop-of-war ordered to be built here. Workmen are getting out her keel and other portions of her work, and rapid progress will be made towards her completion as soon as all things are ready. The length of the vessel between perpendiculars will be 198 feet; beam, moulded, 23 feet; draft of water, 14 feet. She will carry four guns, two ten-inch bore and two 32 pounders. Tonnage 1,000 tons.

**Resource Overviews**—Private letters from the Hon. Robert Dale Owen, United States Minister at the Court of Naples, written to his friends at New Harmony, announce the gratifying intelligence that he has become converted to the Christian religion. Mr. Owen is well known throughout this State for his scholastic attainments, but his influence has ever been weakened by his heterodox views of Christ.

—*Harmonia Ind. Gazette.*

**DYSPEPSIA AND CONSUMPTION.**—Which of these diseases occasions the victim the most suffering? The dyspeptic will say the former. It is, therefore, a consoling fact, that Oxygenated Bitters cure the most distressing complaint.

**CAKES.**

On the 12th instant, at his residence in this country, Capt. ABSALOM BLACK, in the 64th of his age, An honest man, 6ft. 2in. tall. Democrat.

Democrat please note.

—*John H. Battle, Secretary.*

**LADIES FABRIC COOKE.**

Mantillas, Bonnets & Ribbons.

Summer Clothing, &c.

Calls soon, if you like my Goods & I will send you what you have to offer.

BROWN, STITT & CO.

June 29, 1858. 110

—*John H. Battle, Secretary.*

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,**

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY.**

**IN EQUITY.**

David Williamson and Amelia, his wife

vs.

John H. Battle.

Plaintiffs, to the satisfaction of the Court,

that the Defendant is not a resident of the State, & is therefore Ordered, that publication be made six weeks in the North Carolina Whig, a paper published in Charlotte, notifying said Defendant to be and appear in the Court of Equity to be held at the County House in Mecklenburg, on the 11th September, and to give account of his conduct and behavior, and those acts done by him, under or in connection with his office, which may be deemed injurious to the public welfare, and whereupon the Plaintiff may be entitled to such relief as the Plaintiff may require.

Witness D. R. Dunlap, Clerk and Master of our said Court, Charlotte, the 11th Monday after the 4th Monday of February A. D. 1858.

D. R. DUNLAP, C. H. W.

June 22, 1858. Plaintiff's fee \$6. 100

—*John H. Battle, Secretary.*

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**MECKLENBURG COUNTY.**

**IN EQUITY.**

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vs.

John H. Battle.

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