

Patriot and Flag.

GREENSBOROUGH:

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1858.

TAXING LAND AND NEGROES.
Some weeks ago we published several articles endeavoring to show the necessity of extending our system of internal improvements, not only for the accommodation of the West, but for the benefit of the roads which had already been constructed. We insisted that this might be done, by so reforming our land tax system, and so remodeling our revenue law, that taxes would be equalized and there would be no necessity of increasing the tax on land and negroes. The Asheville News has attempted to ridicule our ideas, and insists that the land and negro tax should bear the burden of building these roads, and for this purpose calls for an *ad valorem* tax, so that the tax on negroes might be increased. We showed in our last how the *News* run up against Gov. Reid, in this matter, and that the *News* must first have the Constitution amended before it could apply the *ad valorem* principle to slaves. Now we want the *News* to understand that we are the advocates of an *ad valorem* tax; this is old Whig doctrine, and we are in favor of landholders and slave owners, paying their proper proportion of the revenue, but it is a measure which we well believe that an *ad valorem* tax would reduce the tax on land and negroes, and bring it up very essentially on some other species of property which now pays but very little. As evidence of this we quote the following from the Feb. No., 1858 of the *Banker's Magazine*.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.
It seems that the slavery agitation is to swallow up every thing else, and that in comparison with this all-absorbing and exciting question, all other matters and all other interests are of minor importance and entitled to but little consideration. It was a maxim of the ancients, that whom the Gods intended to destroy they first made mad, so that their destruction, although it proceeded directly from the Gods, yet seemed to flow from their own rashness, and was the natural result of their madness and infatuation. How far the ancients were correct in their theory we shall not stop to enquire, but could they again visit the earth, dwell in our midst, witness the turmoil, strife, and contention of parties, and fully realize the dangers which are hanging over and gathering around us, all springing from an insane agitation and an absurd contention about an abstract principle, they would certainly not be disposed to change their old ideas, but would certainly come to the conclusion that we were all afflicted with madness, which the Gods had brought upon us preparatory to our destruction.

III. Georgia.—The report of the State Treasury of Georgia shows a balance in the treasury on the 30th of October, 1856, of \$305,565 03, and the amount received up to the same date in 1857 from all sources, \$341,054 75. The balance remaining in the treasury on the 30th of October, 1857, is \$427,629 15, and the expenditures during the year 1857, \$117,590 30, of which amount \$259,137 47 had been expended in payment of the public debt and interest. The State debt is now reduced to \$27,700,000, while the State now has the property of the State, 3,000,000 acres of land, 100,000 head of cattle, 100,000 head of horses, and 100,000 head of swine. During the past two years, this road has paid into the treasury from its surplus earnings, \$143,000, of which amount \$108,000 was paid in the past year. The system of taxation in Georgia is an *ad valorem* one—this year it will be about 2 mills on the dollar—next year it will be reduced to about 1. The reduction is made on account of the large increase in value of all taxable property—the returns this year showing \$2,500,000,000, against \$1,900,000,000 in 1856. It appears by the Comptroller's report that the estimates, made independent of the increase valuation this year, \$2,500,000,000, is a estimation is that there are 26,744 negroes, and 40,750,000 acres of land that has not been returned this year.

Things appear that in Georgia, where every species of property is taxed according to its value, a negro worth \$1000, is only taxed 2 cents, and a tract of land worth \$1000, is taxed 2 cents. Whereas in North Carolina, where millions upon millions of property is not taxed at all, and millions more taxed but nominally, a negro worth \$1000, is taxed 25 cents, and a tract of land worth \$1000, is taxed 25 cents. This is to say, we would add the tax on land and negroes, that neither would appear still more. For example, see the taxes of Guilford county as follows:—
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