

POLITICAL.

COL. DRAYTON'S SPEECH.

At the Dinner given at Charleston S.C. to Col Drayton, and Gen. Hayne on the 1st instant, the following was the 6th regular toast :

William Drayton.—Able, faithful and eloquent, South Carolina cherishes him as a son disciplined in her best schools of chivalry and honor.—With devoted firmness he has sustained the dictates of his conscience in opposition to the request of a respected portion of his constituents.—We honor him for his independence.

When the long and deafening applause with which this toast was received had subsided, Col. Drayton rose and addressed the company as follows :—

Fellow Citizens :—Accept my grateful thanks for the approbation which you have been pleased to express of my public conduct, and of the motives by which it has been directed. At all times I earnestly seek to learn the sentiments of my constituents. They are entitled to all the services which I can render them ; and to require, as a general rule, that in rendering those services, I should conform to their wishes ; but, whenever, after mature deliberation, I have arrived at the conclusion that I cannot comply with them without violating my official oath, or the principles of moral right : whenever the question arises between my conscience and the will of constituents, that question must be solved by my duty to my God. This opinion I have so frequently uttered, that I have every reason to believe, that a majority of those whom I represent, are acquainted with it. Should I be mistaken, I gladly avail myself of this occasion to declare it. Political errors I may often have committed. With the concealment of my political principles no one can justly charge me.

The topics interesting to South-Carolina, to which I have lately given my attention in Congress, are the Tariff, and what are termed "Internal Improvements."—It being well known that I consider the imposing duties upon imports for the exclusive benefit of the domestic manufacturer to be unconstitutional and deeply injurious to the great mass of the community ; & that I regard "Internal Improvements" as they have long been acted upon, to be attended with a wasteful and ruinous expensures of the public treasure for private purposes, and to be at variance with the spirit of the federal compact, I shall not now enter into a discussion of these subjects, but confine myself to a brief examination of the consequences which have flowed from them. An excitement growing out of these subjects, more especially out of the first of them, has pervaded all parts of our State, and has made so profound an impression upon the public mind, as almost to absorb every other political consideration. Our citizens, suffering under an act, which a great majority of them believe to be unconstitutional, have naturally been led to deliberate upon the steps which ought to be taken, under circumstances so critical and momentous. Of the expedients proposed, that which seems most generally, to be relied upon, is, through the medium of the Legislature, or of a convention chosen by the people, to nullify the obnoxious law, or in other words declare it to be unconstitutional, and to absolve our citizens from obedience to it, unless a contrary decision should be pronounced by three-fourths of the Legislatures of the several States, or by conventions of the people in the same number of the States. Those who recommend this course are sanguine in their expectations of its efficacy. They assert that a sovereign State under its reserved rights, can constitutionally resort to it, and that by no other means can the Union be preserved. If by any process of reasoning, of which I am capable : if by any lights which I could derive from intellects far superior to mine, I could accord in these views and inferences, I should rejoice to do so, for no one condemns more than myself, the principles of the existing Tariff, or more deprecates its baneful effects. Nevertheless, after anxious and painful meditation, directed by every motive which ought to influence a lover of his country, & of his country's reputation and prosperity, I cannot perceive any substantial distinction between the abrogation of a law of Congress, by a State, and the separation of that State, from the Union. When an act of Congress has been passed in its customary forms, until repealed by the body enacting it, or decided to be invalid by the Federal Judiciary, it becomes the law of the land.—The President of the United States is compelled, by his oath of office, to enforce it, unless perhaps, he should be satisfied of its unconstitutionality, which is not the opinion of President Jackson, as to the Tariff of 1828. Should then the President, or the mandate of the Federal Court, direct it to be carried into execution, it could not be resisted by us, excepting upon the ground, that our State has withdrawn from the federation, or by the exercise of force. The first alternative would be, ipso facto, a severance of this State from the Union. The second would be an appeal to arms, the ultima ratio republice.

Let me not be misconceived. I am not the advocate of passive obedience and non-resistance. In the ordinary administration of affairs the assertion of the right of the majority to bind the people, is a mere truism ; but a majority, as well as a minority, may be a faction ; and where the Legislature is accused of usurpation, or of oppression, or of a pervailing mania, or of a will of a prevailing majority, should alone, could render null and void the proceedings, would render hopeless all possibility of relief. A crisis might arise when the bonds of the U-

the State to secede from the Union. I unqualifiedly, concede ; but so long as she belongs to it, if she be not bound by its laws the monstrous anomaly would exist of a Government whose acts were not obligatory upon its citizens ; and of a State constituting one of the members of the Union, whilst denying the authority of its laws.

I am not unaware of the conviction of many, that the consequences anticipated by me, would not follow from a nullification of the tariff act, in the mode which has been mentioned—that, on the contrary, the repeal of the law would be insured by so vigorous a resolution. To those who are under this conviction, I would submit, that it is founded upon the supposed weakness of their opponents, a position as false and dangerous in politics as it is in war, and utterly unworthy of the high-minded freemen of South-Carolina. Unless a majority of the people of the United States were persuaded, that their interests were advanced by the miscalled "American System," it would never have been imposed upon us by successive Congresses, from 1816 to 1850. Is it probable, that this majority, stimulated by the lust of avarice, and sustained by the arm of power, would yield to the legislation or to the menaces of a single State ?

It might be asked of me, whether I would recommend silence and inactivity amidst the wrongs with which we are afflicted. My answer is—No. What can constitutionally be done by the Legislature, ought to be done by it. Through Congress, and the Press, and communications with those States whose cause is common with ours, every possible exertion should be made, to dispel the delusion under which the people labor, as to the true character of an unconstitutional law, which fetters our industry, cripples our commerce, and taxes the many for the benefit of the few. All are injured by it, excepting the manufacturers, and although they, when combined, can carry the majority with them, yet recent events strongly indicate, that by attacking the Tariff in detail, we may bring it back to those principles from which it ought never to have departed.

Should the efforts which I have suggested fail of success—should the law we complain of, remain unrepealed upon our statute book—we should then enquire, whether a recurrence to the remedy which I have adverted to, would not be worse than the malady which it professes to cure—whether its certain consequences would not be disunion—whether disunion would not be fraught with more disastrous results than the provisions of the act—whether it would not create a division in our own State, producing that direst of national calamities—civil war. After pondering dispassionately and profoundly upon these questions, we are bound by every social and moral duty, to select the least of the evils presented to us. For my own part, I feel no hesitation in avowing that I should regard the separation of South-Carolina from the Union, as incalculably more to be deplored, than the existence of the law which we condemn.

I have thus fellow-citizens, communicated to you my sentiments upon an all-engrossing subject.

When I look around me and see many to whom I am united by the ties of blood—many who are my valued and personal friends—and some, with whom I have acted harmoniously, in political struggles, I am unable to convey an adequate idea, in words, of the pain which I feel, in expressing opinions which, I believe, to be at variance with theirs. I have, nevertheless, done this violence to myself from the conviction, that in times of public excitement, the opinions of no citizen should be concealed ; and because my constituents have the right to know my thoughts, in order that they may determine whether I am worthy to represent them. I most willingly submit myself to their verdict, confident, and I trust not vainly so, that they will give me credit, for having fully, candidly, and fearlessly, spoken from the dictates of my heart.

Mr. President, the colors floating around these walls, have suggested to me a toast, which I beg leave to offer instead of the one which I had prepared for this meeting :

May our star-spangled banner, so often triumphantly unfurled upon the ocean and the land, ever wave, with undiminished lustre, over free, sovereign and united States."

THE GREAT ECLIPSE OF 1831.

This eclipse which will happen on the 12th of February next, will of the most remarkable that will again be witnessed in the United States for a long course of years. The apparent diameter of the sun will be 32½ minutes of a degree, that of the moon 31½. Of course the eclipse will be annular ; that is in all places where the sun will be centrally eclipsed, at the moment of the greatest obscuration, it will exhibit the appearance of a beautiful luminous ring around the moon. Eclipses of this kind are of less frequent occurrence than those which are total. The centre of the eclipse will first touch the earth's disk in the great Pacific Ocean on the morning of Feb. 12th, in lat. 24 deg. 55 minutes N. and longitude 140 degrees 3 minutes west from Greenwich. At this point the sun will rise 34 minutes past 6 o'clock ; or at 3 hours 54 m. P. M. apparent time at Greenwich.—Thence proceeding by a gentle curve to the South and East in 16 minutes it will enter upon the coast of California, in lat. 27 degrees 30 minutes N. Thence curving Northwardly, 47 minutes more it will enter the United States near the South West corner of Louisiana, and in 6 minutes will cross the Mississippi, near St. Francisville. Passing through the States of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, in 24 minutes more it will arrive at a point

latitude 34 degrees 27 minutes N. longitude 82 deg. 38 minutes W. where the sun will be centrally eclipsed on the meridian. Thence passing over North Carolina into Virginia, in 14 minutes it will cross James River, near Richmond, and continuing nearly in a direct line, in 8 minutes will leave the Jersey shore at Little Egg Harbor, passing a few miles east of Montauk Point ; in 8 minutes it will leave the eastern shore of Cape Cod at Wellfleet, and in 6 minutes will enter upon the south western extremity of Nova Scotia. Thence passing over the island of Newfoundland, and increasing in velocity, as it approaches the verge of the earth ; in 19 minutes more it will leave its disk in lat. 51 deg. 58 deg. 40 min. W. long. at which point the sun will set centrally eclipsed at 4 h. 30 m. or 6 h. 25 m. Greenwich time.

The eclipse will have been 2 h. 31 m. in crossing the earth's disk ; and about one hour from its entrance to the time of its leaving the United States. A line drawn through the above points on the Map of North America, will pass through all those places where the eclipse is central. Two other lines on each side of the first, at the distance of 50 miles, will include all places in the United States where it will be Annular. Its penumbra will precede and follow the centre, at the mean interval of one hour and thirty minutes, making on the central track the beginning and end of the eclipse. Lines drawn on a map of the United States parallel to the central track at intervals, on the South side, and 200, 185 and 175 miles, and on the north at intervals of 225, 250, and three hundred miles will exhibit, nearly, the respective points where the sun will be 11, 10, and 9 digits eclipsed. By making proportions along the central path of the eclipse, of the intervals of Greenwich time, and protracting the hour lines at right angles, the time and phases of the eclipse may be found for very nearly any place in the United States, observing to reduce the Greenwich time to that of the place of observation.

This eclipse will be visible over every part of the North American continent and the West Indies, and will be seen as far south as the city of Quito in South America.

HAIL STORMS.

Professor Olmsted, of Yale College, thus accounts for Hail Storms :

Violent hail storms are always attended by black clouds, high winds, and thunder and lightnings ; they are confined, chiefly to the temperate zones ; they occur most frequently in the hottest months ; hail stones are much smaller on the tops of mountains, than in the neighbouring plains ; they are often followed by cooler weather. The immediate cause of hail storms, is a sudden and extraordinary cold in the region of the clouds, where the hail stones begin to form, but the great question is, what is the origin of this cold ? An exceeding cold wind from the North, or from the high and cold regions of the atmosphere ; this meets with a moist, warm current of the air, and a hail storm follows. In descriptions of hail storms, it is commonly mentioned, that opposite and violent winds meet.—When a cold current from the regions of perpetual frost meets with a warm current, the watery vapor of the latter is frozen, and hail stones are formed. In the torrid zone there are no hail storms, except near lofty mountains, because there are no freezing currents of air, and in the frigid zone there are no violent hail storms, because there are no heated currents of air to mix with the cold currents. The South of France is more remarkable for frequent hail storms than any country in the world.—This is owing to its situation between the Alps and Pyrennees ; the cold blasts from these regions of snow and ice, mingling with the hot damp air over the intervening country, produce violent hail storms ; the opposite currents of hot and cold air are set in motion, when the heat of the sun is great. It is surprising that hail stones, descending as they do, through many thousand feet, fall with so little force. They are heavy enough to fall with a hundred times the force which they actually exhibit. The reason of this is the following.—They are very small when first formed, and receive continual accessions in descending ; these accessions are made from watery vapors at rest, and the taking one of these new loads continually retards their speed.—Hail stones are smaller on the tops of mountains, than in the neighboring plains, because they do not fall so far.—Silliman's Journal.

FERGUSON, THE ASTRONOMER.

The Library of Useful Knowledge gives a very interesting account of Ferguson, the Astronomer, who, originally a tender of sheep, and of weak body, spent his nights like the Chaldeans, in studying the heavens.

"When a little older, he went into the service of another farmer, and a respectable man called James Glasham, whose name deserves to be remembered. After the labors of the day, young Ferguson used to go at night to the fields, with a blanket about him and a lighted candle, and there, laying himself down upon his back, pursued for long hours, his observations on the heavenly bodies. "I used to stretch" said he "a thread with small beads on it, at arms-length, between my eye and the stars—sliding the beads upon it, still they hid such and such stars from my eye, in order to take their apparent distances from one another ; and then laying the thread down on a paper, I marked the stars thereon by the beads." "My master," he adds, "at

my meaning to him, he encouraged me to go on ; and, that I might make fair copies in the daytime of what I had done in the night, he often worked for me himself.—I shall always have a respect for the memory of that man." Having been employed by his master to carry a message to Mr. Gilchrist, the minister of Keith, he took with him the drawings he had been making, and showed them to that gentleman. Mr. Gilchrist, upon this, put a map into his hands, and having supplied him with compasses, ruler, pens, ink and paper, desired him to take it home with him, and bring back a copy of it. "For this pleasant employment," says he, "my master gave more time than I could reasonably expect ; and often took the thrashing flail out of my hands, and worked himself while I sat by him in the barn, busy with my compasses, ruler, and pen." This is a beautiful, we may well say even a touching picture—the good man so generously appreciating the worth of knowledge and genius, that, although the master, he voluntarily exchanges situations with his servant, and insists upon doing the work that must be done, himself ; in order that the latter may give his more precious talents to their more appropriate vocation. We know not that there is on record, an act of homage to science and learning more honorable to the author.

RAILWAYS.

The following humorous argument was advanced by a Canal Stockholder, for the purpose of putting down Railways :

"He saw what would be the effect of it ; that it would set the whole world a gadding—twenty miles an hour, sir ! Why, you will not be able to keep an apprentice boy at his work ; every Saturday evening he must take a trip to Ohio, to spend the Sabbath with his sweetheart. Grave, plodding citizens will be flying about like comets. All local attachments must be at an end. It will encourage flightiness of intellect. Various people will turn into the most immeasurable liars ; all their conceivings will be exaggerated by their magnificent notions of distance—only a hundred miles off ! Tut, nonsense. Ill step across, madam, and bring your fan ? " Pray, sir, will you dine with me to-day, at my little box on the Alleghany ? " Why, indeed, I don't know—I shall be in town until 12—well, I shall be there, but you must let me off in time for the theatre." And then, sir, there will be barrels of pork, and cargoes of flour, and chaldrons of coal, & even lead and whiskey, and such like sober things, that have always been used to sober travelling—whisking away like a set of sky rockets. It will upset all the gravity of the nation. If a couple of gentlemen have an affair of honor, it is only to steal off to the Rocky Mountains, & there no jurisdiction can touch them. And then, sir, think of flying for debt ! A set of bailiffs, mounted on bomb shells, would not overtake an absconded debtor—only give him a fair start. Upon the whole, sir, it is a pestiferous topsey turvey, barum scaram whirligig. Give me the old, solemn, straight forward, regular Dutch canal !—three miles an hour for express, and two for jog or trot journeys—with a yoke of oxen for a heavy load ! I go for beasts of burden ; it is more primitive and scriptural and suits a moral and religious people better. None of your hop, skip and jump whiskeys for me."

POST OFFICE FRAUD.

We copy the following particulars of a most extraordinary and successful fraud committed in the Scotch Post Office, from the Liverpool Times of the 1st ult.

"The report of the commissioners of enquiry, just printed by order of the House of Commons, has brought to light a remarkable and remarkably extensive system of frauds practised eight years ago in the Scotch post-office. It appears that forty-one clerks and letter carriers in the Post office of Edinburgh confederated to defraud the government, and that they succeeded—that the system of the office permitted them, for at least twelve years unchecked, to carry on their system of theft, to the amount of twenty pounds daily !—The discovery it now appears, was made in the year 1822, when a particular postage was detected. The thief having been seized and imprisoned alone, became alarmed, had some compunctious visitings, and gave information respecting others that was of the greatest importance, and led to the complete knowledge of the frauds that had been, and were then in progress of being practised. The predators were separated and sworn, but—little knowing what the one who had been seized with remorse had divulged—they aggravated their daring acts of positive and regular theft, by the most determined perjury. Ultimately thirty five out of the forty-one confessed their crimes. According to the report, not one of these desperate, wholesale and official delinquents was brought to justice. They were—itis positively so asserted—merely dismissed from their situations ; and the affair was so 'hushed up,' nay, completely smothered, that eight years elapsed before the particulars transpired. The lowest possible conjecture fixes the sum fraudulently obtained by such official individuals, at something like seventy thousand pounds !

DISTRESSING OCCURRENCE.

During Tuesday afternoon last (says a Plymouth, Mass. paper) we had remarked to the southward of us clouds of an uncommonly angry aspect, apparently spending their fury over some of the towns on the Cape. Soon after the day shut in, it began to rain here powerfully, without much wind, but extremely vivid lightning. The tempest lasted until about 9 o'clock. The

himself, about a quarter of a mile from the Calvinistic Meeting-House, was struck.—It would appear that the lightning struck the chimney with its full force, the main stream passing down into a small chamber on the south. Another stream of the fluid, comparatively small, as would appear from its effects on the wood work, passed from the top of the chimney, into the easterly chamber, making a hole not bigger than a buck shot hole in the room beneath, nearly under which Mrs. Holmes was sitting, and killed her instantly. The fluid, divided, passing off from the extremities of one of her feet [the shoe of which was torn off on one side] discoloring the paint so as precisely to mark the course of each branch, leaving the space of the foot, and perforating the different sides of the room about the bigness of a pin's head. Her little daughter, about 8 years old, sitting in the same chair, escaped uninjured, though the mother's arm was around her ; as if the protecting arm of a mother's love conducted off the lightning's force, tho' the shock were fatal to herself. Mrs. Holmes was buried on the day succeeding, and the sympathies of us all, for her afflicted children and friends. The sun may set in his brightness on the duties, the hopes, the endearments of life—a cloud passes over them and they are gone.

LOTTERIES.

At the late session of the Legislature of Connecticut, an act was passed relating to lotteries. One of the sections regulates the mode of drawing lotteries, prohibiting, under heavy penalties, the modern plan of combination of numbers.—The following is the section alluded to.

"No scheme or class in any lottery shall be drawn, nor shall any lottery be drawn upon, or according to the principle of combination of numbers, but the manner and modes of drawing lotteries shall be by depositing separate ballots, on which shall be inscribed or written the blanks and prizes in one wheel, and ballots on which shall be inscribed or written the number of each ticket in such scheme or class, beginning with number one, and proceeding with arithmetical order to the whole number of tickets in such scheme or class, in another wheel, and in no other way or manner. And any person who shall draw any lottery, or aid or assist in drawing any lottery contrary to the true intent and meaning of this section, on being thereof duly convicted before the county Court, shall forfeit and pay a fine of five hundred dollars for the first offence, and a fine of one thousand dollars for any subsequent offence. And if any lottery, granted by authority of this State, shall be drawn otherwise than according to the mode prescribed in this section, the purchaser or purchasers of any ticket or tickets in such lottery, shall have liberty to recover of the person from whom he or they purchased the same, the amount of the scheme price of such ticket or tickets, by a proper action founded on this statute."

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE REGISTER.

Messrs. Editors,

The attention, you will recollect, of our whole State, was drawn to the subject of Domestic Manufactures (I mean on a large scale,) by the very able and enlightened report on that subject, made to the Legislature by CHARLES FISHER, Esq.—This report which said all and in a masterly manner that could be said on the subject, I hope is well diffused—and if not, it should be. It attracted much attention in the Northern States, so much indeed, as to alarm the Manufacturers there, with the idea that we were going rapidly into Manufactures ; and then they knew, they were gone—'we done up,' to use a familiar phrase ; for we have the advantage in climate, water power, negro workmen, &c. &c. If the sums of money which have been, almost we may say, wasted on some of our unimprovable Rivers, had been invested by the State, in Manufactories, established on those very ledges of rock, which are the obstructions to good navigation, it would perhaps, in the end, have been the best. And if the State did not choose to retain their property, after it was seen to be profitable, there would have been found many individuals willing to purchase. ALEXANDER.

Messrs. Editors,

You are the publishers of a Work, exclusively devoted to the promotion of the Agricultural interest of the State, which cannot be too highly recommended. I have myself, a Copy of that Work, purchased three or four years since, and I can truly say, that after having perused a great many Works, on the same subject, both by our own countrymen, of different parts of the Union, and also the productions of foreigners, I see no Work with which I am so well pleased, as "Essays on Agriculture, &c. &c. by Agricola, a North-Carolina Farmer." It is now well understood, Messrs. Editors, that this Book is the production of a gentleman, who is an extensive Farmer, in one of our upper Counties, and who is a most excellent practical Agriculturist.

He tells us himself, that in composing the Work, he had the aid of a very large collection of rare, and not easily acquired Agricultural Works, and those who know him, well understand that he has carried on the most diffuse agricultural correspondence of any other individual, perhaps, in North America. Permit me therefore, to recommend to our Farmers and Planters, one and all, the purchase without loss of time, of the above Essays. A FARMER.