

Practical Legislation

THE RIGHT OF SECESSION.

Let us see what they mean by "seceding" the right of secession... because it is not a right...

MR. CLAY'S SPEECH AT FRANKFORT.

The following letter from a member of the Kentucky Legislature, describing the scene and the effect of the speech, will be read with interest.

FRANKFORT, NOV. 15, 1850. P. M. D. C. WICKLIFFE, Esq. Dear Sir—The Legislature has just adjourned after listening to a speech of an hour and a half in length from Hon. Henry Clay.

You were made aware by the report of the Legislative proceedings of yesterday, that a resolution passed in the House was unanimously concurred in, inviting Mr. Clay to meet the General Assembly in the Hall of the House to-day, at 12 o'clock.

The Richmond Enquirer thinks "The Convention will do well to affirm the right of secession—a conservative principle of our confederacy, which cannot properly be denied, and which can alone save us from consolidated tyranny."

But the Enquirer speaks of it as a "conservative principle of our Confederacy." This again puts us in the dark, and introduces confusion where we thought no confusion existed.

But, then, it is all that is meant of secession, why is it necessary to affirm it? We presume then that something more is meant than the broad bold right of revolution...

DISRESPECT TO THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITY.

At Mecklenburg Superior Court, on the 13th inst. Capt. Green W. Caldwell was tried for an assault with a revolver on Rufus Barringer, Esq., during the late Election campaign.

Mr. Caldwell was found guilty, and Judge Settle sentenced him to 20 days' imprisonment. Whereupon, as we learn from the Hornet's Nest, "the excitement among Caldwell's friends was intense."

For ourselves, we respect the Judge who performed his duty, without respect to persons. The only drawback to this feeling is the fact that he afterwards gave way to the public feeling, and remitted the sentence after Mr. Caldwell had been in prison a day and two

LEGISLATIVE DEBATE.

ON THE BILL TO REPEAL THE ACT OF INCORPORATION.

REMARKS OF MR. AYERY.

Mr. Ayery said, He hoped the motion to reject would prevail—that day is now before the House, and the first opportunity will be before any Legislature in North Carolina, to violate the pledged faith of the State.

He expressed surprise that the bill should come from the County of Wayne; that the census returns exhibit a greater increase in population and wealth in that County, within ten years, than any other within the State, except the County of New Hanover, and this increase was conceded on all sides, to be attributable to the works of internal improvement.

He said he was the friend of internal improvements, and favorable to the charter which this bill proposes to repeal, and would be willing at all times and under all circumstances to maintain and defend the views he entertained upon the question of internal improvement, but he considered any discussion of the bill originally incorporating the North Carolina Rail Road, as not pertinent to the issue now before the House—that a more grave and serious question, than the consideration of a mere appropriation of public money for a public improvement, was presented for our determination.

That the original charter was a contract between the State and the stockholders who comprise a large number of its own citizens, and important and valuable rights have already vested under it, and any proposition interfering with the due assertion and exercise of those rights is in direct conflict with the constitutions of the United States, which provides that no State shall pass any law which impairs the obligation of contracts.

He argued that the contracts of the State made with her own citizens, were of a binding force and obligation, as those made with the people of a foreign government, and in any case, for any cause, would brand her with dishonor, and subject her to deserved contempt and degradation.

He alluded to the formation of a new party, saying that when the question of Union was at stake, all such measures of policy, as Distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, an "Independent Treasury," &c., sunk into utter insignificance.

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REMARKS OF MR. McLEAN.

Mr. McLean said, I arise to express the hope that the bill introduced by the gentleman from Wayne (Mr. Sherrard) will be rejected on its first reading. The passage of that bill, in my humble judgment, would be in utter disregard and violation of the Constitution of the United States.

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REMARKS OF MR. STEELE.

Mr. Steele said, I have been endeavoring for some time past, to obtain the floor, not for the purpose of opposing the bill, but for the purpose of stating what I consider to be the true position of the bill, as it has been amended.

He argued that the contracts of the State made with her own citizens, were of a binding force and obligation, as those made with the people of a foreign government, and in any case, for any cause, would brand her with dishonor, and subject her to deserved contempt and degradation.

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REMARKS OF MR. EATON.

Mr. Eaton said, I cannot for a moment suppose that the House of Commons can entertain any serious doubts upon the question now under consideration. The Charter of the North Carolina Rail Road Company, is a contract executed.

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REMARKS OF MR. CALDWELL.

Mr. Caldwell said, I am deeply regretted to hear the gentleman from Wayne say that he had no other motive for introducing the Bill than to make a party test and to see if gentlemen, when they were found to speak out, would have the nerve to stand up and record their votes as they have heretofore done.

He argued that the contracts of the State made with her own citizens, were of a binding force and obligation, as those made with the people of a foreign government, and in any case, for any cause, would brand her with dishonor, and subject her to deserved contempt and degradation.

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REMARKS OF MR. WINSTON.

Mr. Winston said, As my vote with others is to go on the record on this question, I desire to say a few words before voting. When this Central Rail Road Bill passed the last Legislature, it struck me among others with surprise.

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REMARKS OF MR. BARNES.

Mr. Barnes said, I do not rise for the purpose of discussing the constitutional question now before the House, but being called upon to vote upon the bill now upon the table, it is a duty that I owe to myself, to define my position and give some of the reasons that will govern my vote.

He argued that the contracts of the State made with her own citizens, were of a binding force and obligation, as those made with the people of a foreign government, and in any case, for any cause, would brand her with dishonor, and subject her to deserved contempt and degradation.

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REMARKS OF MR. GILMER'S RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved That the people of North Carolina cherish a deep attachment, and feel a loyal devotion to the Union of the States, and in the opinion of this General Assembly will never give their consent to a dissolution of the Union, except in a case of extreme emergency, which has not yet occurred.

Resolved That in the series of measures adopted by the Congress of the United States at their last session for the settlement of the agitation growing out of the question of slavery in the Territories, a compromise and adjustment of questions difficult and alarming in their character and tendency and as such, these measures have, in the opinion of the General Assembly, the approval, and will command the hearty support, of the people of North Carolina.

Resolved That the people of this State approve and will sustain as a whole, this series of measures, yielding objections, which they may have to any particular of the series, they have a right to expect and do expect, and will insist upon, a support of the whole, and like yielding of objections to any particular measure in those portions of the Union in which that is esteemed objectionable, which by the people of North Carolina is regarded as important and valuable to the people of the United States.

REMARKS OF MR. POPP.

Mr. Popp said, I do not rise for the purpose of discussing the constitutional question now before the House, but being called upon to vote upon the bill now upon the table, it is a duty that I owe to myself, to define my position and give some of the reasons that will govern my vote.

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REMARKS OF MR. WILSON.

Mr. Wilson said, I am deeply regretted to hear the gentleman from Wayne say that he had no other motive for introducing the Bill than to make a party test and to see if gentlemen, when they were found to speak out, would have the nerve to stand up and record their votes as they have heretofore done.

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NEGROES FOR SALE. All that valuable Estate in Lands known as the 'Ravenwood Plantation,' late the property of George P....

MR. GILMER'S RESOLUTIONS. Resolved That the people of North Carolina cherish a deep attachment, and feel a loyal devotion to the Union of the States...

These desirous of purchasing, are invited to examine the property before they purchase, and every facility will be given them for so doing, by persons on the premises.

Livery Stables! THE Subscribers, take occasion to inform their friends and the public generally, that they have been... Livery Stables!

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