

the Evil of the Day.

The annexed stirring and patriotic letter from the Hon. JOHN A. GILMER, of North Carolina, appears in the Philadelphia papers:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 24, 1860. C. W. LITTELL, Esq.

Dear Sir: Multiplied and pressing engagements here have delayed my answer to yours, of the 28th ult., requesting me to attend a mass meeting of the friends of the Constitution and the Union, to be called in a short time at Germantown. I regret to say that my duties here forbid my accepting such an invitation, although, were it possible, nothing could give me more pleasure. I am satisfied that unless the growth of sectional prejudice and hatred can be stopped, we will soon be hurried with precipitate steps into the destructive vortex of disunion and civil war. To such extent has sectional jealousy already gone, that I do verily believe, were both General Washington and Dr. Franklin now alive, and in the vigor and prime of their lives, and they should be nominated at the Chicago Convention for the offices of President and Vice President of the U. S., on a sound conservative Southern platform, they could not get the votes of the majority of the slaveholding States. So, on the contrary, do I believe, that if the Charleston Convention should nominate Wm. H. Seward for President, and Charles F. Adams for Vice President, with the Republican platform, they could not command the votes of a majority of the free States. You may smile at this statement, but it illustrates the truth, a fearful truth, and one to which the eyes of the great masses of the people in all sections cannot be too soon opened.

When fairly examined, this will be found to be the true state of sectional prejudice at this time; yet all fair-minded citizens, who will extend their inquiries, will soon become satisfied, that they have permitted themselves to become excited about things more imaginary than real, more abstract than practical. No sensible southern man ever expects slavery to go and remain in any territory north of 36 30. The influences of climate, soil and production fix this. The status of slavery is already fixed in New Mexico, which now embraces Arizona. As to the Indian Territory, if the Government keeps in good faith its treaties with the Indians, we can never have any dispute about slavery in that Territory. This disposes of all the territory we now own. If the status of slavery in New Mexico is ever changed, it can only be by the free and voluntary action of its own citizens! Of this neither section can complain justly. Then, where is there, in a practical point of view any ground for this sectional feverish excitement? We are permitting the country to become most dangerously maddened without cause or justification. I take it for granted that should New Mexico, when her population becomes sufficient, fairly and voluntarily adopt a constitution of her own choice, and apply for admission into the Union, that a majority of the Representatives from the free States in Congress would not be found voting against her admission into the Union because she admitted slavery, whatever might be their opinions of slavery, and the admission of a slave State. The consequences of rejecting a State, thus freely, fairly and voluntarily organized, would be too momentous to permit prejudices to be indulged in negative votes to any extent. The power may be claimed, but I have too much confidence in the good, sound sense of the people of the free States, to believe that they will ever think it wise under such circumstances to exert it.

The masses of this country must be aroused to the dangers which threaten and hang over us. The Constitution and the Union must be preserved. The laws of Congress passed under the authority of the Constitution must be enforced. The peace of the country must be preserved. To this end, all sectional agitation and sectional agitators in and out of Congress must be put down. There is now no time to inquire after the incendiary. We see the country is on fire—and we must rush to the work of extinguishing the flames. We have no time to be inquiring into Democratic, Whig, Republican or American fancies, likes, or dislikes. No one party, as such, can successfully do the work. Nor is it desirable that it should be undertaken. The dangerous exigencies of the country invite the conservative masses of all existing parties to unite their exertions for the general welfare. We must preserve the Constitution and the Union. This the honest masses of the people can do, and, as soon as they can be properly advised, in my opinion, will do, in defiance of designing politicians. We have only to be advised by the father of his country, and all will be well with us again. Every citizen should be induced to get a copy of his farwell address, and read it every day. It would revolutionize the country, and give peace. No sane man can believe that a separation of these great, prosperous and happy States can ever take place in peace. It cannot be done. We have only to look into the consequences of dissolution, to be satisfied of the importance of dispensing with all useless and abstract sectional prejudice. I envy not the heart of that man who can look forward with composure to the day when this prosperous country shall be divided, and involved in fraternal strife and blood butchery—our fields laid waste—towns and cities burned—our shipping destroyed—our improvements and trade stopped. It is enough to make the heart of every true patriot melt within him to contemplate the consequences of bringing the free and proud American citizens

to confront each other on bloody battle fields. History has never yet recorded such sanguinary butcheries, as these will prove to be. When Greek, trained under the influence of Grecian freedom, met Greek, it was called "the tug of war." A distinguished Mexican on seeing a display of American courage, in the late war with Mexico, declared that "Americans fought more like devils than men." But the description of the first conflict in arms between Northern and Southern American freemen has yet to be invented. The war of the Roses in England would be but a faint type of the awful struggle.

But enough of this. My heart heaves with anxiety to see the great conservative masses of Pennsylvania, and of every State in the Union arise and take their own work in their own hands. The real people have left the destinies of this great land too long under the control of office-holders, placemen, office-seekers, and mere politicians. They can give the country peace. They have only to say the word, and the work is performed.

Please accept assurances of my high regard and esteem. Yours, truly, JOHN A. GILMER.

Equal Taxation.

We make the following extracts from the Enquirer, the Democratic organ in Newbern:

"Eastern North Carolina now pays four-fifths of the taxes, and if our opponents break now our Constitutional safe-guards we will have to pay nine-tenths, and whether the rich men or the poor men of the East pay the taxes, the money will be taken from us, and we would all feel the loss, for our interests are one and the same. Let us understand this question. It is this: The labor of the East is done principally by slaves—the work of the West is done principally by free labor. We speak in general terms. After the formation of our State government, the West, year after year, urged a general Convention for the purpose of changing our Constitution, which the East with one unanimous voice, without respect to party, refused. And in this they were obstinate in their refusal for the very reason that the West would attempt to tax the slave labor of the East, leaving her own labor untaxed. For instance, an Eastern farmer cultivates his lands with four slaves, worth \$4,000; a farmer in the West cultivates his lands with four free laborers, on which you are not permitted to put any value. According to this new doctrine of ad valorem the Eastern farmer would pay forty-one dollars, while the Western farmer would pay only five dollars! Is this just? Is it right? We say it is not, and our fathers very properly considered it unjust."

Let us look first at the statistics of this Newbern organ. It says that Eastern Carolina now pays four-fifths of the taxes, and under equal taxation will have to pay nine-tenths. Is this true? Let the reader turn to the tables which we compiled from the official source, the Comptroller's Report, in last Thursday's Observer. It will there be seen that the East pays \$164,773, whilst the West pays \$149,702. Instead of four-fifths, this is but a little over eleven-twentieths. And instead of nine-tenths under the system of equal taxation, the East will pay but about six-tenths, and this simply because the East has more in value of property than the West. Of course we do not suppose the Enquirer would deliberately mis-state the facts, but such random assertions are of as evil tendency as if they were made with a purpose to deceive. We suppose that if any one would take the trouble to sift out the proportions of interests, merchants' capital, &c. paid by the East and West, about the same proportions of taxes would be shown; but the argument of the Enquirer would be weakened; for if, as the Democrats falsely assert, equal taxation means equal taxation on every thing, then, as the East pays the larger share of these minor kinds of taxes, an equalization of every thing would reduce these and increase the taxes on lands and negroes.

We deny also that there is any such marked difference as the Enquirer contends in the kinds of labor of the two sections. It appears by the same official statistics that we have published, that there are about two taxable black polls in the West to every three in the East—58,897 to 89,016. And it is said, and we believe it to be true, that there are as many slaveholders in the West as in the East—many Eastern people owning each very large numbers.

Again, on the part of the West we utterly deny and repudiate the idea that her people would under any circumstances "attempt to tax the slave labor of the East, leaving her own labor untaxed." It is a libel on any section of the State to say so.

But we had another purpose in quoting these Democratic views, to wit, to show white laborers, whether East or West, the estimation in which they are held by this Democratic organ, whose Editor, by the way, had just come from the Democratic State Convention, fully imbued, doubtless, with the feelings which prevailed in that body of leaders of the party towards the working men, whose peculiar friends they profess to be. See the parallel instituted by this Democrat between the white laborer and the slave laborer. On the free laborer, (the white man,) says this Democrat, you are not permitted to put any value! That is, if the Whig doctrine of equal taxation should prevail, the free white poor man will be put upon a different footing from the negro! Well, we do not see that this would be any great outrage; indeed we rather think it is right and proper that it should be so, whether the white laborer be

rich or poor. The farmer who owns \$4,000 worth of property, whether in slaves or anything else, ought to pay a tax upon it as property, whilst every white man pays a poll tax as a contribution to the government which protects his person and his life, in peace, as he protects, or is expected and required to protect, the Government and the property in time of war.

The Enquirer, after some further remarks, reiterates its Democratic doctrine, so insulting to laboring men in every section, whether rich or poor, as follows:—

"Democrats of North Carolina, such is this boasted ad valorem! The slave labor of the State, which is owned mainly by the East, is worth \$200,000,000! The free labor of the State, used principally in the West, is worth—what? Why nothing, because you cannot put any value upon free labor. Now apply this delusive ad valorem system and slave labor, at 25 per cent. on the \$100, ad valorem pays into the Treasury \$500,000, while free labor ad valorem pays nothing. Where is the equality? Where is the justice of such ad valorem?"

"25 per cent. on the \$100" would, according to our calculation, be \$25 on the \$100, and instead of \$500,000, as the Enquirer says, would amount to a tax of fifty millions of dollars.—

We submit that nobody proposes to tax slaves 25 per cent., or fifty millions of dollars a year. Nor does anybody propose to tax them even 25 cents on the \$100, which is what the Enquirer probably meant. As we showed on Thursday, a tax of 10 or 11 cents on the \$100 of lands and negroes would yield about the same amount of revenue as is now derived from those sources. And it is not true that free white labor pays nothing. It pays a poll tax, which is no higher than ever before, yet not so high as the necessities of the State may hereafter require.

We beg our readers, in all sections, to ponder well these Democratic doctrines and statistics. The former are as insulting to white laborers as the latter are grossly inaccurate and delusive. White men who do not incline to be valued like a slave, will scarcely relish such Democratic doctrines.

Pay Observer.

From the Chattanooga Gazette. Facts! Facts! Facts!!!

It is a Fact!—That when the Democratic party came in power in 1853, national peace pervaded the entire body politic; the Abolition vote had been decreased nearly one half by the wise and conservative course of Mr. Fillmore; the public debt had been reduced, and a surplus was left in the National Treasury.

It is a Fact!—That the Democratic party leaders declared in 1848 that "there could be no Union of the Democracy whilst the Slavery question was recognized as a legitimate party issue."

It is a Fact!—That they declared in 1852, that "when the Baltimore Convention [of 1852] assembled, the Democratic party was split up into three distinct divisions, in regard to the slavery issues, whilst on all other essential measures it was a unit. These three divisions entertained different and irreconcilable opinions as to the merits of the laws passed in 1850, for the settlement of the slavery question. One portion cordially approved the Compromise measures as doing justice to both sections of the Union; another portion denounced those measures as grossly unjust to the rights of the South, whilst the third portion repudiated them for their alleged concession to the rights of the South."

It is a Fact!—That the Democratic party in 1855 passed such a resolution on the slavery question as to permit Stephen Arnold Douglas and the Northern Democracy to justify Squatter Sovereignty, a doctrine more odious to the South than the Wilmot Proviso, and more destructive in its consequences than Seward's Congressional prohibition.

It is a Fact!—That the Democratic leaders professed to regard the Compromise measures as a final settlement of the slavery question.

It is a Fact!—That Franklin Pierce in his first message to Congress, congratulated the committee on the adoption of the Compromise measures, and pledged his sacred honor to faithfully carry out its provisions in his Administration, and

It is a Fact!—That almost before the ink had dried, he violated this solemn pledge by advocating the iniquitous Kansas bill, with all its "glittering generalities."

It is a Fact!—That this bill was the Grecian horse by which armed treason was smuggled into the South!

It is a Fact!—That the Democratic party has furnished every Abolition candidate that has ever made the race for President!

It is a Fact!—That the author of the Wilmot Proviso is a Democrat.

It is a Fact!—That the author of the Homestead bill is a Democrat.

It is a Fact!—That the Administration truckled to the advocates of polygamy in Utah Territory.

It is a Fact!—That the Administration has proscribed men for voting for whom they pleased.

be a poor man is a crime. This proves that the Democracy do not believe that a poor man is honest.

It is a Fact!—That Mr. Nicholson says that a man who owns land is a better patriot than one who owns none—thus proving that leading Democrats believe that a poor man does not love his country!

It is a Fact!—That a majority of the Democratic members of Congress from the South are the advocates of a dissolution of the Union if a certain party—a party of its own making—shall elect their Presidential candidate.

It is a Fact!—That the Democratic members of Congress, and the Republicans, are continually making Abolition and Disunion speeches when there is no practical question with regard to the negro question before the country.

It is a Fact!—That Wendell Phillips declares that he had rather see a Republican elected President than any one else, because he believes when the Democrats are defeated agitation will cease.

It is a Fact!—That the Democratic party of the North and that of the South are as widely separated in principles as are the poles.

It is a Fact!—That the Democratic party are not agreed on any one single principle, except they intend to have the spoils of office though the heavens fall.

These are only a few of the facts which can and will be established. We defy contradiction on each and all of these counts. And yet the Democratic leaders ask Southern men to vote for the Charleston nominee. Reader, will you do it? We will not—we cannot.

Opposition Convention.

A convention of the Opposition party, for the 5th Congressional District, was held in Greensboro, on Tuesday last, at which Hon. E. G. Reid was appointed delegate to Baltimore, and John Manning alternate; Albert G. Foster, Esq., of Randolph, was appointed elector for the District. During the absence of the Committee appointed to draw up resolutions for the action of the Convention, Hon. John A. Gilmer was called on and addressed the large assemblage present.

The resolutions approve the nomination of Mr. Pool for Governor, and reiterate the doctrine of ad valorem taxation.

A correspondent writing to the Charlotte Bulletin, says:

"I have just returned from a visit to Iredell county. The wheat fields throughout that portion of the county where I traveled, have all donned their robes of living green in which they present so animating and pleasing a scene to the eyes of the beholder.— The wheat fields for a distance of ten miles, extending from Statesville in the direction of Wilkesboro, give a more flattering promise of an abundant crop than they have given during twenty years of the past. I hope they will afford plentiful 'seed to the sower and bread to the eater.'"

The stockholders of the Atlantic and Ohio Railroad, have, as I was informed, made it a "sine qua non" that the citizens of Statesville and its vicinity must take \$50,000 of stock in the road; otherwise it will not approach nearer than five miles west of Statesville, en route to Taylorsville."

Shameful Misrepresentation.

The Salisbury Banner of last week made amendments for one wrong it had done us; and this week it perpetrates another, and a very gross one, in the following:—

"If the object was to realize more taxes from slave property, how comes it that Mr. Pool declares upon the stump at the East that the proposed change will not have that effect?—and the Fayetteville Observer thinks with Mr. Pool—that under the change, slave property as a whole will pay no larger sum into the treasury than now. And if what Mr. Pool and the Observer say be true, what becomes of the Western Opposition view of the matter?"

And this is repeated over and over again by the Banner.

Now all our readers know that our plain and decided allegation has been the very reverse of that attributed to us by the Banner. We have contended, and have shown that Mr. Pool contends, that the proposed change will "realize more taxes from slave property," that slave property will pay a larger sum into the treasury than now. How the Banner could have perverted our plain declarations into their very opposite, is more than we can account for.

The Banner further asserts (speaking of Mr. Pool and the Observer),—

"That they do not propose to lessen the tax on land or any thing else and put it on the slaves not now taxed. That would not do to talk of in the East."

This, also, is the very reverse of our argument. We have shown, that if slaves are taxed, like lands, according to value, the tax on the latter may be reduced from 20 cents to about 11 cents on the \$100 value, whilst the aggregate tax on slaves will be increased from \$118,329 to \$198,000.

The Banner goes on to say for itself, as follows:—

"We assert it, and we defy contradiction, that a tax on all the property in the State, to raise the sum now required by the treasury, would reduce the tax now paid on slave property more than three-fourths—that is, a slave which now pays a tax of 90 cents would then pay less than 20 cents."

We contradict this, here in the part of the State where the slaves abound. We say to slaveholders, plainly and honestly, your taxes on slaves will not be reduced three-fourths, will not be reduced at all, but will be increased. Your taxes on lands will be reduced, but not on slaves.

If we cannot succeed without deception, we will be content with defeat.—Fay. Obs.

Iredell Express.

EUGENE B. DRAKE & SON, EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

STATESVILLE, FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1860.

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