

MINORITY REPORT

On Mr. Foster's Bill to protect Land from Economic Transition.

The Committee on Constitutional Reform, to whom was referred the bill to protect land from undue taxation, having duly considered the same, reported it back to the House with a recommendation unfavorable to its passage.

But before the east would consent to go into a limited convention with their brethren of the west, they were careful to prescribe in the act by which it was called, the terms upon which their slaves were to be represented in both branches of the Legislature.

After weeks of discussion and mature deliberation, the convention agreed with great unanimity that three fifths of the slaves should be represented in the House of Commons as persons, and the whole of them over twelve years of age and under fifty in the Senate as property.

We are not aware of more than one State, (though there may be others) in which through passengers on rail roads are taxed, viz: New Jersey. And though it is undoubtedly a large source of revenue to that State, it is universally considered by "the rest of mankind" as a most odious discrimination.

It may be justly said, however, to lay such a tax upon the tax on passengers would not deprive much of the travel from our State roads; whilst the tax on freight would have a tendency to concentrate trade in our home markets.

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most suffer and the people starve." Therefore we recommend "that the tax on land be doubled and not that on the poll."

And as this alteration will more than likely be carried out at no distant day, in imitation of many other States in the Union, it is evident that it becomes important to the landed interests of the State, and particularly to the Western portion of it, that the Constitution be so amended, if the Free Suffrage bill be ratified at the ballot box, as to protect the interest that is acknowledged by the Financial Committee's report to be the support and basis of every other interest.

January 9th, 1857. A New Idea.—We learn from the Register that Mr. Meares of Brunswick gave notice in the Commons a few days ago of an amendment which he means to offer to the new Tax bill, "to tax through passengers and through freight upon the Railroads running through our State."

Peddlers of Liquor.—In the Senate, last week, Mr. W. R. Myers of Mecklenburg moved to tax peddlers of spirituous liquors, and spoke in favor of it, as did Messrs. Dockery and J. W. Thomas. Mr. A. J. Jones opposed it, and it was rejected, 33 to 8.

A CAPITAL HIT.—The following lines are from the pen of a distant correspondent, from whom we have once or twice before heard, but who does not write for the press as often as he should:—

One of the wisest and best things ever written by the wise and good Joseph Story is: "If ever the day shall arrive, in which the best talents and best virtues shall be driven from office by intrigue or corruption, by the ostracism of the press, or the still more unrelenting persecution of party, legislation will cease to be national."

These questions in order that you may do me the favor of inquiring of some one who is versed in political science, and let me know at your earliest convenience.

"Sterling Democracy."—In his comments upon the recent Pennsylvania Senatorial election, the Raleigh Standard says that the K. N. papers of the South dislike Col. Forney and rejoice over his defeat because of his "sterling democracy" and his devotion to the rights of the South.

Telegraphed from the South Carolinian. LATER FROM EUROPE. Arrival of the Steamer America. The Nashville papers of Tuesday publish the following:

The steamer America has arrived at this port, with later advices from Europe. Cotton had advanced 1/4 during the week, with sales for the two days of 25,000 bales. Fair Orleans 7 1/4; fair Mobile 7 1/4; middling 7 1/4. The stock of American cotton at Liverpool amounted to 173,000 bales. The market closed firm.

On His Winding Way.—Professor Hedrick, who it will be remembered was expelled from the University of North Carolina, for openly avowing his treacherous opinions to the South, is making a tour of the abolition States. The Chicago Press, of a recent date has the following:

Professor Hedrick—a gentleman well known to the North for his manly avowal of Republican principles in the late Presidential canvass, and his subsequent expulsion from his position in the University of North Carolina and from his home in consequence—arrived here with a call on Saturday, looking as well preserved and buoyant as if nothing untoward had happened.

Horrible Superstition. The Brownsville (Texas) Flag notices a case of superstitious barbarism which almost surpasses belief. It is said to have occurred in Matamoros, Mexico, about a month ago:

she being a witch could take the form of the cat and resume her own shape at will—that the invalid was a victim to her diabolical art.

The Tower of Babel. BEIRUT, Dec. 8, 1856. It is nearly two years since that I informed your readers of the grand and instructive discoveries in ancient Nineveh, made by Mr. Place, the French Consul in Mosul.

How surprising, then, its discovery, if discovery it shall prove—that Titanic structure, whose base was laid in the earth, yet soaked with the waters of the flood, and whose summit was designated to pierce the very heavens!

Some very curious photographs, taken by the expedition, completed their labors, one of which was of the ruins of the palace of the famous Queen Semiramis. This ancient monument, situated on the height of a mountain raised by the hands of man, overlooks the awful solitude which surrounds Lake Van—a body of water six or seven times larger than Lake Geneva.

The substance of information which has just been circulated relating to the discovery of the Tower of Babel, I will give in a few words, expecting soon to receive fuller details, at the same time remarking that the French Consul General of Beirut, Mr. Lesseps, has received various common articles which were found in the tower, which I hope soon to see and describe.

"By no means," replied the Turk; "but I am unable to remount my horse, because I need the help of a stone in order to re-engage my stirrup, and who can find a single stone in all the plain of Gingar-naw?"

A Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger thus mentions our fellow citizen: He is in Washington, studying character among Congressmen:—

tower, which was built in defiance of Heaven and aimed to pierce the very skies, has lost, in the course of ages, its cloud-reaching elevation. Six of its eight stories have fallen and crumbled into dust; but the two which remain are so high that they may be seen for fifty or sixty miles around.

Another curious fact arrested the attention of the exploring party. The sacred record runs thus: "And it came to pass as they journeyed from the East that they found a plain in the valley of Sinar, and they dwelt there."

Among the interesting discoveries of Mr. Place were certain inscriptions on fillets of gold, silver and copper, and also upon a metal now unknown, and which has somewhat of the appearance of ivory.

He would sally out of a morning and climb to some high eminence upon the surrounding mountains which encircle Derby, and appear wrapt in contemplation of the beauties with which nature has adorned that portion of her creation.

I will only add, that your readers wish to obtain a distinct and accurate idea of the region referred to, which lies the battle field of Arbela, and the plain of Sinar, they should open their atlas and survey the country between Mosul on the Tigris, and Lake Van, south-east of Mount Ararat. It was very natural that the sons of Noah, descending from Ararat, should commence their agricultural labors in the fertile and well-watered plain of Sinar, lying to the east, where in terrible remembrance of the flood, they vainly and impiously attempted a work which should protect them from the recurrence of the disaster.

Dr. J. F. G. Mittag, of South Carolina, is here collecting materials and making observations for his great work on the "Language of Forms." This new science has been the study of the doctor for years, and first originated with him from the study of the influence of the mind upon the physical manifestations of life. His theory is, that the power of the mind may be estimated geometrically by the contour and lines of the face.

Be still, my heart—be not so fast— For all that gave thee life has fled!— Yet—ever cherish'd thoughts have past, And left thee sorrow in its stead!

Lover's Leap at Derby, Conn.

We know of nothing which more excites the sympathy of the sensitive philanthropist, or the young and susceptible, than to view the prostrating, crushing effects of rejected love, more especially when the unloved one is possessed of those complaisant, amiable traits of character, which to us appear as if even created to enthrall us to this life, bitter and heartless as we often, too often, are doomed to feel it by experience.

Such were our reflections when one bright summer's evening, at the village of Derby, in Connecticut, we listened to the relation of an occurrence at that place, breathed with an inspiration of confidence and warmth of feeling to which guileless innocence and woman's sympathy can only give utterance.

It was one day in the summer of 18—, that a passenger alighted from the stage which plied between New Haven and Derby, ordered apartments for himself at the inn, notifying his intention to spend some weeks in the vicinity, and desiring the landlord that he might be as private as circumstances would admit.

His appearance was such that country inquisitiveness, at all times on the alert, was in his instance more than usually excited. The suavity of his manner, coupled with a complacency of demeanor and an unaffected regard for the feelings of others, made him no less a favorite with all the villagers, than his personal attributes gained him an elevated and enviable place in the hearts of the reigning beauties of the village.

He would sally out of a morning and climb to some high eminence upon the surrounding mountains which encircle Derby, and appear wrapt in contemplation of the beauties with which nature has adorned that portion of her creation. He would gaze upon the deep, richly-embosomed valleys through which the Housatonic winds its devious course, and mark the lapping mountains, which appear to give boundaries to its waters, dividing it into picturesque lakes, and then jutting high up to the clouds, to roll down the many rivulets to nourish their existence; or watch the receding traveler as he wound up the toilsome mountain-side, now lost behind the intervening foliage, then issuing forth, giving animation to the sleeping landscape; then contemplating the wild rushing of the foaming water over an intercepting rapid, which, gaining some deep passage, flowed placidly on, emblematic of serene, untortured human passions soothed by the deep devoted love of woman's nature.

After returning from these excursions, dejection appeared to cling with faster hold, and melancholy wrap him in a closer embrace. Then would he exclude himself from all association, and when evening shades had gathered over the scene, stroll to a romantic, picturesque projection of the mountain, about a mile below the village, and while away the time deep into the hours of night, with no companion but a guitar, to whose sweet chords his voice lent an enchanting inspiration. One night particularly, when all was hushed in death-like silence, and that noiseless hum of day which seems earth's throbs of existence, had ceased, a voice so thrillingly musical that it seemed preternatural, wafted by a gentle breeze, was heard by many an entranced listener to chant forth to a touching melancholy air the following:—

Be still, my heart—be not so fast— For all that gave thee life has fled!— Yet—ever cherish'd thoughts have past, And left thee sorrow in its stead!

But yet, true heart, hast thou not said?— And if perchance, perchance, thou shouldst,— Conscience will her grief say.

The day after this occurrence, just as evening had closed, two carriages deposited their burdens at the inn-door. Out of one was handed by a gentleman, with a countenance radiant with joy, a beautiful girl, evidently but lately the beloved and loving bride of her joyous gallant; and tripping hastily up the steps to avoid the ardent gaze of a collection of idlers gathered to inspect the new comers, she had but just entered the portal of the inn, when she was met by the stranger to whom we have had reference. Fencil nor pen can paint the wildly-depleted flush of all that constitutes earthly happiness, and which illumined for an instant his face, and which was immediately displaced by a shadow of the deepest, startling dejection. A sight of the lady's companion had wrought the change—and, brushing past him, he sped along the road toward his favorite evening retreat, and was soon lost in the distance. Evidence of his having fled to the promontory before-mentioned was adduced, and all trace being then lost, it is too conclusive that there he met his untimely end. The lady, it is easily divined, was the cause of his mysterious, inexplicable visit, and the cause of this denouement.

No monumental marble or epitaph marks the spot where this victim of passion immolated himself to the object of his idolatry; but the village maiden drops a tear of remembrance whenever she hears the name of that spur in the mountain, since known as the "Lover's Leap."

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN AND CREW.—An old Arctic seaman, a pensioner in Greenwich Hospital, whose intelligence and good character are endorsed by the Governor of that institution, has addressed a letter to Sir Roderick Murchison, in which he holds out the idea that some of Sir John Franklin's crew may have voluntarily joined themselves to the Esquimaux, and might yet be discovered. The old man says:—

I well recollect the Esquimaux from time to time when they observed me at work on the ice of Winter Island, repairing a boat, and their notice of the tools. They were repeatedly motioning by gestures, and they made me understand they wished me to remain with them, and as it was my heart's desire, I took more notice of the occurrence. And often did I wish I could muster courage to ask the captain, or mention my desire to our first lieutenant (Nias) to intercede for me to be allowed to remain behind.

I studied their mode of living, being daily with them for many months. I considered their resources in clothing and food, and the effect it would have upon me, and came to the conclusion that, from the experiments of eating seal, seal-horse, birds, deer, fish, &c., I should soon become inured to them, particularly as it would be by my own choice.

As to clothing, the deer and seal skins would be more suitable for that climate than our own and we could convert the birds' skins also. The snow huts for winter and skins for summer would do very well and no rent to pay. The disposition and friendly manner of the natives was satisfactory.

I beg, sir, to state, that I have consulted my old shipmates about here, and they are of the same opinion as myself, that some could hold out till this time, and if the ships were drove on shore (same as the Fury) they would fare the better.

FACTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

In 1789, prior to the revolution, St. Domingo exported 76,835,219 lbs. of coffee, and 140,000,000 lbs. of sugar; in 1818 the export of coffee had fallen to 26,000,000, the export of sugar had ceased entirely, and sugar is now imported into the island.

In 1834, the year of the emancipation of the slaves, Jamaica exported to England 18,268,83 lbs. coffee and 125,625,309 lbs. sugar; in 1839, five years after, those exports had decreased to 9,423,197 lbs. coffee and 70,507,800 lbs. sugar.

The whole number of slaves imported into the English West Indies was 1,700,000; in 1834 only 660,000 remained to be emancipated, being 1,040,000 less than the number imported, or a decrease of over three-fifths.

The whole number of slaves imported into the United States prior to the prohibition of the slave trade, 1808, was 357,000. By the census of 1850, the slaves in the United States amounted to 3,204,318; added to this the free blacks, 434,495—total of the negro race was 3,638,808, or nearly nine for every one imported.

The free black population in the New England States, in 1810, was 19,479. In 1850, a period of 40 years, it had increased to 23,021, or eighteen per cent.

The slave population in the United States in 1810, was 1,191,368. In 1850 it had increased to 3,204,313, or 2.64 per cent, nearly fifteen-times the ratio of the increase of the free black population.

From the above facts the following conclusions may be drawn:— 1st. That in consequence of the revolution in St. Domingo, and the emancipation of the slaves in Jamaica, those islands are fast relapsing into deserts.