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BY GEORGE HOWARD,
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DOMESTIC.

THE TARIFF.

Congress...In the House of Representatives, on the 23d ult. Mr. Drayton presented the Memorial of the members of the Legislature of South Carolina, opposed to Nullification, praying a reduction of the duties imposed by the Tariff laws, &c. which he moved to refer to the committee on ways and means.

Mr. Denny moved that the memorial might be referred to the committee on manufactures.

Mr. Drayton said it was proper for him to state that the memorial prayed that the duties laid upon imports should be commensurate with the claims upon the Treasury; which he presumed was a proper subject to be referred to the committee of ways and means. The committee on manufactures is the proper committee to make enquiries upon matters relating to manufactures; he should not dispute the propriety of sending to them to enquire whether duties ought to be diminished upon a particular article manufactured in this country. But that committee are not charged with the general subject of revenue; they are not presumed to be conversant with it; they were raised for a different object. If that committee are to report bills increasing the revenues of the country to a great extent, without being charged with the general theory of revenue, the confusion that would result may be easily imagined. It is the committee of ways and means, within whose scope of duties and experience the subjects both of increasing and diminishing the amounts and objects of revenue, properly come. That committee, and that only, can decide upon the propriety of the measures to which this memorial relates;—he had accordingly proposed its reference to the committee of ways and means.

Mr. Denny said he had no wish to revive the discussion which had already occupied so much attention; but from the remark made by the gentleman, when he presented this memorial, he presumed its object was complaint against the burthen of the tariff laws. These were not acts of revenue, but of protection. If the complaint was against the protection afforded to the manufacturer of the country, surely no committee was so proper as the committee of manufactures who have charge of that subject. He admitted that questions of revenue should go to the committee of ways and means—but this was not matter of revenue—it was as to the effect of certain rates of duty upon manufactures. He had supposed the House had already

decided that those subjects should go to the committee on manufactures.

Mr. Speight requested the memorial to be read, which was done.

Mr. Speight said, there were two motions before the House; one to refer this memorial to the committee of ways and means, made by the gentleman who presented it—the other to refer it to the committee of manufactures, made by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, who professes to be anxious to avoid discussion upon the motion. If he is sincere in this wish, let him withdraw his motion. It is very strange that no enquiry, or proposition relating to revenue, can be brought before the House, but is seized upon and slaughtered by being sent to the committee on manufactures. Sir, what is the prayer of the memorial? It is to reduce the revenues of the country to the wants of the government. Is not that the very object of raising the committee of ways and means. Are not the revenues of the country their peculiar jurisdiction? The gentleman says the memorial complains of the operation of the tariff laws. Has not the State of South Carolina a right to complain? When the planters of the South are thrown prostrate, and the foot of the manufacturer placed on their necks, and his hands thrust into their pockets, have they no right to utter a complaint? Sir, the complaints of the South are universal on this subject. There is no difference of opinion, but only as to the proper remedy for relieving them from their oppression. The abhorrence to the system is universal in the South. He hoped the gentleman would withdraw his motion; but if it was persisted in, he should ask the yeas and nays upon it.

Mr. Branch said, he would not charge the manufacturers with unjustly thrusting their hands into the pockets of the planters of the South. He was unwilling to indulge himself in such remarks—not because he thought the tariff less injurious than others—no—it was exhausting the resources of the South day by day—it would finally, if persisted in, sink it into absolute ruin, or compel it to take steps at which he shuddered. This appeal was from a source entitled to peculiar consideration. It was a calm and rational—some in the South would call it a sycophantic appeal, actuated by a spirit of devotion to the Union upon which the national prosperity depends. How does the gentleman from Pennsylvania, propose to meet this appeal? That it shall be tried by the manufacturers themselves—the very persons who enjoy the profits which occasion their distress. Are they not entitled to be heard before an impartial tribunal? Would the gentleman make them submit to a tribunal interested in perpetuating their distress? The object of these remarks was not to foment excited feelings? He trusted he would not be so understood. His object was to call into action a feeling on the part of the manufacturers, to view this subject in its true

light. The memorialists ask nothing but a true regard to the public welfare. They have petitioned in respectful terms—will the House send their petition to an interested tribunal? He did not intend to go into a discussion of this subject. The State of North Carolina was deeply interested in the Union—she would cling to it until she was driven out—but she was not insensible to her grievances. He hoped the House would believe him in stating that upon the result of this general question depended everything. He warned them to reflect upon the consequences. The spirit that has been long slumbering in the South, cannot be repressed if relief is not afforded. He hoped the memorial would not be sent to the committee on manufactures.

[After some remarks from Messrs. Mitchell, Burges, Carson and Everett—]

Mr. Denny said, when he made the motion to refer this memorial to the committee on manufactures, he did not anticipate, after the House had obviously expressed an opinion that the subject should go to that committee, the discussion that had arisen—much less did he expect his motion would elicit the kind of remark that had been made by the gentleman from N. Carolina, (Mr. Branch.) He had attempted to alarm our fears—had threatened us with the flag of disunion. Sir, on such questions we do not take counsel of fear. From what had been said he was inclined to withdraw his motion and permit the memorial to go to the committee of ways and means. He hoped they would present to the House a statement of facts—not declamation. He did not assent to this course from the menaces that had been thrown out—but from a wish that the House might proceed with its regular business.

Mr. Branch, in reply, said, he would appeal to every gentleman within the hearing of his voice, whether he had spoken in the language of menace. He felt impressed by a far different feeling than that which leads to words of menace. He had, within a few days witnessed the display of a spirit upon this floor, that was not such as he had expected from enlightened gentlemen, seeking the good of their country. For himself, he felt how much depended upon the issue of this question. When he was up before, he did not express himself so explicitly, perhaps, as he should have done. His object was not to menace the gentlemen interested in manufactures, but to endeavor to call into action, on this all-important subject, their generous, their just, and their patriotic feelings. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Denny,) had moved that a review of the operation of a system, imposed for the benefit of the manufacturers, which had been ruinous to an extensive section of the country, should be made by the manufacturers themselves. He had endeavored, in all sincerity, to depict the inevitable consequence of a settlement of this question made by such an interested tribunal.

Of the truth of those consequences, there was nothing which he believed in more firmly. He hoped the subject would be thoroughly examined and fairly met. He regretted that words of menace should be imputed to him—for he was aware that those whom he addressed were as high minded men as could be found, and were the last persons in the world who he should expect would be affected by the language of menace.

The memorial was accordingly referred to the committee of ways and means.

Virginia.—The Legislature of Virginia has been for some time engaged in discussing the subject of abolishing slavery in that State; in relation to which the Richmond Enquirer remarks, "The seals are broken, which have been put for years upon the most delicate and difficult subject of State concernment. We publish speeches in the House of Delegates to-day, which at no other period, would have been delivered but in closed doors. In the same spirit the press fearlessly speaks its own sentiments—unawed by the terrors of denunciation or the menaces of proscription." The Whig of the 19th instant, says: "the debate on abolition continues with increased and increasing interest. Virginia has never had greater reason to boast of her gifted sons. The debate has indeed been one of transcendent, and the most sustained power and interest. Day after day, multitudes throng to the Capitol, and have been compensated by eloquence which would have illustrated Rome or Athens."

The debate arose on a proposition to instruct the committee on the subject of slaves, free negroes, and the melancholy occurrences growing out of the tragical massacre in Southampton, to "inquire into the expediency of submitting to the vote of the qualified voters in the Commonwealth, the propriety of providing by law that the children of all female slaves, who may be born in the State, on or after the 4th day of July, 1840, shall become the property of the Commonwealth, the males at the age of twenty-one years, and the females at the age of eighteen, if detained by their owners within the limits of Virginia until they shall respectively arrive at the ages aforesaid; to be hired out until the nett sum arising therefrom shall be sufficient to defray the expenses of their removal beyond the limits of the United States." This was offered as a substitute for a resolution, proposing to discharge the committee from the further consideration of the subject, and declaring it inexpedient to legislate thereon. It will be observed that the object is to effect a gradual abolition; and this seems to meet the views of the press. The Norfolk Herald thus expresses what appears to be the sentiments of many Editors in the Old Dominion: "We are not so besotted as to ask that the evil be removed at once; if it can be entirely shaken off in 50 or even 100 years, it is as much as we should

expect. All that we have in view is, that the number of slaves sent out of the country shall equal their increase for the next ten years, that a certain per centum of decrease shall be established for the next ten years, and so on until their entire removal shall be accomplished, according to circumstances and the ability of the government to provide the means for effecting that object."

The Enquirer says: "we understand the committee on colored population are prepared to make their report on the removal of the free people of color."

As to what will be the final issue of this important debate, we are unprepared to hazard an opinion. But as it involves matters of the highest moment to all the Southern States, and must therefore be deeply interesting to our readers, we shall continue to take such notice of its progress as may be necessary to show the disposition of the Legislature, and satisfy public curiosity.—*Ral. Star.*

The Savannah Georgian says: "The brig Colombo, Watson, cleared yesterday for Norfolk, having on board 49 slaves, emancipated by Dr. Jas. Bradley, late of Oglethorpe county, Ga. upon condition of their emigrating to Liberia."

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, under whose auspices recently, were Mr. Isaac Proctor, Rev. Samuel A. Worcester, and Rev. John Thompson, as Missionaries to the Cherokee Indians, has addressed a memorial to President Jackson, setting forth in glowing colors the alleged mal-treatment and persecution these Quixotic zealots have received from the authorities of Georgia, and praying him to direct the Attorney General of the U. S. "to commence a suit in the Courts of the U. States against the offending officers of the State of Georgia, for the false imprisonment and other injurious treatment of the teachers and missionaries," &c. To this memorial the President directed the Secretary of War to reply, that "the Legislatures of the respective States have power to extend their laws over persons living within their boundaries," and "that he has no authority to interfere, under the circumstances stated in the memorial."

Hancock Adv.

The Winter.—All accounts from all quarters, concur in the opinion that the past has been the hardest December within the recollection of many of the oldest inhabitants of the country. From notices of the character of the winters at New York for the last 42 years, it appears that it has been the coldest December since 1789.

An old man was lately committed to the jail of Centre county, Pa. for the murder of his son. He was intoxicated, caught the boy by the neck and choked him to death.

The remedy for injuries is not to remember them.