

of 23—and, in the mean time, were prepared, by suitable education, for this practical enjoyment of freedom. This was a totally different thing from modern abolition; according to which a slave, without preparation, without capacity, therefore, for the exercise of the rights of freedom, and without compensation to their owners, are to be forthwith liberated, and thrown upon the mass of the community.

Mr. Clay, believing that in Kentucky, with her small portion of slaves, a gradual emancipation might be safely adopted; and as ardent as he ever has been and still is, in the cause of human liberty, espoused the cause of gradual emancipation. But we are not mistaken in our knowledge of his character when we assert that, even at that day of youthful ardor, he would have been utterly opposed to abolition, as insisted upon at this day. Slavery and freedom are scarcely more distinct than abolition and gradual emancipation. The abolitionists are seeking to disturb the peaceful condition of other communities than those in which they reside. Their operations are directed to the States of the South and West, in which they do not reside. Mr. Clay's opinion in 1798 was confined to his own State. He did not seek to agitate other States, or to intrude his own opinions upon them. He was willing that each State in which slavery existed, should judge and act for herself. He sought only to improve the condition of his own. Indeed, we believe that even as to gradual emancipation, his own opinion was subject to modification and condition. When the proportion of slaves was so small in any State (as in Kentucky) that there was no danger, in any event, of the African race acquiring the ascendancy he would probably, if a citizen of that State, have been in favor of gradual emancipation but, if there were any ground to apprehend that their blacks, from their number, might in any State become uppermost we have no doubt from his declaration in the Senate of the United States, that he would, in such State, have been opposed alike to gradual emancipation and to abolition.

What then is the offence committed by Mr. Clay forty years ago, which the partisans of Martin Van Buren (that M. V. B. who sustained the right of negroes to vote in his own State, and opposed the admission of Missouri into the Union, because of her slaves) are now dwelling on with so much exultation? Not that he was in favor of abolition; that he never countenanced; but that in his own State, on the occasion of reforming her own constitution, he was in favor of a slow, cautious and considerate emancipation of slaves! And has not every State to decide this question for itself? What States Rights man, or other politician, will dare to question this right?

This charge of forty years' standing is now brought forward, for the first time, against Mr. Clay. When did he seek to invoke the interference of Congress on the subject of slavery? When did he not oppose all such interference? Did he, on the occasion of the admission of Missouri—that memorable occasion when he was announced by Col. Benton as the pacificator of ten millions of people—show any want of resolution in defending the rights of the Slave States. Did he, at the last session of the Senate, when he offered a resolution—the first time such a resolution was ever offered—declaring that Congress has no right to stop what is called the slave trade between the States; and another declaring that the faith of the Union was pledged by fair implication, against any interference with slavery in the district of Columbia?—

Louisville Journal.

FROM THE REGISTER.
TO THE PEOPLE OF N. CAROLINA.
FELLOW-CITIZENS:—There is no subject of such vital interest to us at present, as the progress and ultimate success of our system of Internal Improvements. Unformed by experience, great value is to be placed upon every thing, calculated to aid us in our deliberations, and point out to us the most practicable means of attaining the object we have in view. As such, a series of Essays, now under a course of publication in the Standard, over the signature of MEXRON, have, for the most part, attracted public attention. The author is generally known as a man of high standing, and considerable reputation as a professional man and State politician; which may give weight to his views, in addition to any intrinsic merit they may possess. I have read some of these Essays with pleasure, and believe them to contain many sound abstract principles, which, if adopted and acted upon, may prove of great ultimate benefit to the State. But the 15th and 16th numbers are so manifestly sectional and liberal in their character, that I cannot allow them to pass, without some attempt to disabuse the public mind with reference to the matters therein treated. The sentiment of MEXRON, that it is a wise policy to make the interest of our planters to trade at home, meets my entire approbation, and I only regret, that we differ so widely with regard to the means of effecting this policy. I assume as an admitted axiom, that the interest of the Planter and Farmer is the interest of the State, and contends equally undeniable, that whatever tends to enhance the price of his products, by opening to him a direct and speedy way to market, be that way or that market foreign or internal, is an immediate and direct advantage to him; that, on the other hand, that course (however pure may be the intentions of those who propose it) which seeks to force the Farmer to dispose of his crop within the borders of his own State, at such prices and upon such terms, as the agents of foreign Capitalists may see fit to propose, without this poor privilege of sending it where he can do better, is a serious and lasting injury to the agriculturist, and totally adverse to the true policy of the State—inasmuch, as it would sacrifice the interest of the whole laboring and productive part of our population, to enhance the profits of a few, perhaps al-

ready pinerly Merchants. What Men, I would ask, is the proper course to be pursued? Unquestionably that, which will necessarily produce neither effects. Let the State do her utmost to resist an extensive and liberal system of Internal Improvements, give to the citizen the means of sending the products of the soil to markets in the State and East of it; offer him the same inducements to trade at Wilmington, or Beaufort, that he finds at Peter-burg or Charleston, and if he finds it not most profitable to persevere, MEXRON will find but little exercise for his State jealousy.

Differing from me, as he does widely and essentially upon this point, he has in his last number embarked upon a wild and visionary crusade, against the proposed extension of the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road, from this place to Columbia South Carolina. To correct some of his (no doubt unintentional) errors, and shake some of his (no doubt unjust) conclusions, is my present intention.

MEXRON grants his opposition to the extension of the State, and even to the massive construction of the work, upon the following assumed facts: 1st. That it has none of the essential characteristics of a State work. Upon this question, there can be no positive rule by which to judge, and if it is or is not, it must be either, in a relative degree. Let us compare it then with that of the State works—the Wilmington and Raleigh Rail Road, and see how much it must suffer by the comparison. And first, is the Wilmington and Raleigh Rail Road a produce road? Unquestionably it is not, and facts will bear me out in this assertion. This Road was first chartered in the month of March, 1837, in Raleigh, the center of the State, and had it been so constructed, must have depended mainly upon freight for its support. But as this could not be regarded as the source of great profit, the necessary subscriptions for its commencement could not be obtained, and an amendment was obtained to the Charter authorizing the view of connecting with Charleston by Steam Boats, and Norfolk by Rail Road; and in fact, all accompanied with the history of Rail Roads, will undertake to say that for the next ten years, the receipts from the transportation of produce on the Wilmington Road will pay the expenses of repairs. It is then, essentially, a passenger, travel Road, and as such, according to MEXRON'S idea, had no claim whatever on the assistance of the State. But here, again, I differ from MEXRON, I have no feeling of sectional hostility to the Wilmington, or any other Road, and actuated by the same feelings with the Prince, whose highest wish was to see a chicken in the pot of every one of his subjects, I would rejoice to see a Rail Road traversing every county in the State. Farther, if these sectional feelings and local jealousies, which have so long kept our State inactivity, if not actual decline, shall ever be overcome by a patriotic spirit of solicitude for the general welfare, this much abused Raleigh and Columbia Road, will become a very important link in the chain of State works. The Fayetteville and Yadkin Road will intersect it about 40 miles west of Fayetteville, and when the branch of the Wilmington Road to this place shall be completed, (a project for which I believe MEXRON is not at all solicitous) the Planter bordering upon either Road will have the choice of 3 Markets—two in the State, and one out; and, if equal inducements are offered at all, who can doubt as to his choice? It is well known also, that, at some seasons, the Cape Fear, below Fayetteville, is not navigable. What then would be the situation of the produce or the passenger? The produce must be sold for what it will bring, and the passenger must get as he can to Wilmington, or some other place far out of his way. The Farmer, however, would no doubt willingly sell his Cotton at half price, and the passenger lose his time and money and charge it to account of State Pride! Verily, MEXRON would "bite his own nose off to spite his face."

The second objection is, that it cannot be profitable Stock, and, consequently, must be a losing business to those who engage in it. MEXRON has evinced but little of his usual political sagacity in the discussion of this question, and sometimes unfortunately, contradicts himself. At one moment the whole trade of North Carolina is to be cut up and divided—one-half to be carried to Virginia by the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road—the other to go to South Carolina, by the Columbia Road—and the extension of the Wilmington Road will be rendered unproductive, because the Columbia Road will deprive it of a large portion of the travel. At the next moment, the Raleigh and Columbia Road can never be built, because the Wilmington Road will carry all the passengers, and there will be no produce for the Columbia Road to carry, and capitalists will not invest their money in works, where there is no prospect of a return. Now both propositions are equally defective and absurd. North Carolina is not sold to the Dutch, nor have I any fears that she ever will be. Open direct communication with the great Eastern and those towns will offer inducements to our Planters, and with the rapidly increasing population of our country, the advocate of either Road need not fear that his favorite will suffer for want of passengers. But let us see how it is, that MEXRON would appropriate all the Passengers to the Wilmington Road? A fine, fine reference to the paper, that he considers the whole travelling world as boundless by Charleston on the South. Here is his great error. That the Wilmington Road will always continue to enjoy a large portion of the travel between Charleston and the North, I do not doubt; but at the same time, I cannot allow that the travel from Augusta and the South-western States will prefer going a hundred and fifty miles out of their way, for the mere purpose of travelling upon the Wilmington Road. Persons from the Western part of this State, and even I presume, will also seek this Road as the most direct route to the Northern Cities. But, upon this point, there can be but little room for controversy; every person of ordinary sagacity, must perceive, that the Columbia Road, if built, combining as it will, the advantages of being a link in the great chain of internal communication, between the principal places of the Seaboard States, and being upon the line of the great Northern and Southern mail, will always command a large portion of travel between the two sections of country.

What may be the cost of the Rail Road from Charleston to Columbia, or thereabouts from travel, or other sources, can be of no interest to us; but, so far as we are furnished with the means of judging, the Road from Raleigh to Columbia can be built at but little greater expense per mile, than the Wilmington Road, and MEXRON'S speculations about cent per cent are well but little here.

It may not be improper to introduce a few facts here, for the purpose of showing MEXRON'S intimate acquaintance with his subject. He states that the Books of subscription were opened, "in the time of an unprecedented Road in the money market." The company was chartered in the winter of 1837, and the Books were opened in '37, but a short time previous to the suspension of Specie payments. Truly an unprecedented time! He also states that the whole subscription amounts to but little over \$30,000; now, if MEXRON had been ever scrupulous about the correctness of his assertions, he might have informed himself that the extent of Raleigh alone has subscribed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars! This I am however disposed to consider a typographical error, as I cannot suppose MEXRON to have been thus ignorant of his own facts here, for the purpose of showing MEXRON'S intimate acquaintance with his subject. 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