



EQUALITY AT THE BALLOT-BOX: EQUALITY AT THE TAX-BOX.

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THE LITTLE AD.

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From the Warrenton News.

SINGULAR CASE OF LARCENY.

For some time past considerable excitement has existed in Raleigh, relative to the larceny of a half grown pig. Various reports were in circulation, more or less exaggerated, and considerable curiosity was excited to learn the particulars. The good character hitherto borne by the accused, and their position in society, made many incredulous as to the participation in so mean an action as stealing a poor man's little pig. The examination took place last week, and our special reporter furnishes us with the following abstract of the Proceedings:

Jack Register, George E. Coon and Jacky Puddle, were brought before his Honor, Justice Rip Van Winkle charged with stealing a pig, the property of Mr. Mosey, a respectable citizen of Ram Cat, in Wake County. The accused were three queer-looking specimens of the class known as dilapidated politicians, who, though they talked as if "butter would not melt in their mouths," evidently knew a truck and a horse, and discerned a hawk from a leopard. Mr. Mosey was accompanied by his counsel and adviser, the celebrated Orator Gasbags, the gentleman vot creates a (sensational and always coherent) his own speeches.

Mr. Mosey, who appeared to be depressed, being called on, stated that he had for nearly two years nourished a dear little animal of the porcine species of more than ordinary intelligence, and which answered to the name of Ad. Lately he had taken great trouble with it, and taught it to make a market distinction between white and black folks, beside various other little tricks which would make it very popular, and prove a mine of wealth to himself, and a tremendous saving to everybody else. But all his brilliant hopes were blasted by the prisoners, who, without the slightest notice or authority, had pounced upon little Ad, and were already exhibiting it all over the country, as the *Learned Opposition Pig*. In conclusion, he besought his Honor to give him back his dear little pig, that it was all he had in the world to make a start into business with, that he was utterly ruined unless these "rogues in grain" were made to disgorge their ill-gotten plunder. In answer to a question from the Justice he stated that it was a genuine Southern "home-bred." When Mr. Mosey concluded, Orator Gasbags made two gasping attempts to address the Court but being overcome by the intensity of his feelings, and the magnitude of his ideas, he sat down wiping his physiognomy with the cuff of his coat, as he patriotically declined to patronize Northern manufactures by making use of a pocket handkerchief.

The prisoners, being asked what they had to say in answer to Mr. Mosey's statement George Coon made a rambling "cock and bull story" about an old sow, called Free-Suffrage, that belonged to one Davy; which was the dam of little Ad, and of course the latter could not be the property of the complainant. That in law and fact it was an *Estrey*, and belonged to any that could catch it, unless the real owner came forward, proved property, and paid charges. There his Honor remarked, with a grin, that last item would be a serious one, as little Ad had kicked up the "Devil to pay," generally and individually, and his Satanic majesty was not easily satisfied.

Jack Register assured his Honor that he did not care one "bawbee" for the Devil, the pig, or the complainant. That he would have been as well pleased if Mr. Mosey had his infernal pig back in Ram Cat, that at the best it was a vicious animal just as likely to

gore its friend as its foe, and be apprehended, from present appearances, a little more likely. That he had a strong dislike to hog-meat, and this loco foco shout in particular. He solemnly protested he was drawn innocently into the affair by Mrs. Sally Dillard, whom his Honor knew was one of the drollest creatures in all creation. She had started the affair as a good joke, and joined in it for the fun of the thing, and to have a hearty laugh at the locofoco's, when Sally had succeeded in choosing them out of their pet pig.

Justice.—I am afraid, Jack, the laugh will be on the wrong side of your mouth.

Jack Register.—That's nothing, your Honor. I am used to laughing on that side for the last seven years.

Jacky Puddle stood on his dignity, and pledged his honor, that he was a perfect "Know Nothing" with regard to the entire affair, and invited all present to take a horn with him in the Executive mansion,—*when we got there*.

After some wrangling about the ownership of Ad, Mr. News was examined. He knew Ad from the hour it was pigged to the present, and had always known it as the property of Mr. Mosey; there were a number of persons who took a great interest in the animal, but he couldn't swear they were joint proprietors. He had his suspicions, but "least said is soonest mended." In answer to the accused he stated, that he always considered Ad as "no great shakes," and had frequently told Mosey it was a vicious animal, that it would eventually kick up a muss in the neighborhood. He had always thought there was more of the Black Republican than the Southern breed in it, and therefore kept his eye on it, and gave it a knock whenever he got a chance. Its habits were so pugnacious, that it was a terror to the neighbors; it had a peculiar animosity to little niggers, and old darkies, and whenever a poor man left his door open, it played the very puck with his stove, pots, pans, &c. It was a snapper up of chickens, and a ripper and tearer among feather beds and furniture. He considered it a public nuisance, and was rejoiced when the defendants were so foolish as to steal it. He wished them joy of their bargain, and sincerely hoped his Honor would leave the vicious animal in their possession. Mr. Mosey entered his protest against the latter sentiment.

After a speech from Orator Gasbags, which we will report at a future period, his Honor decided to hold the prisoners to bail for their appearance at August Court, and in the meantime would take into consideration whether it would be necessary to indict Ad, as a public nuisance, which ought to be abated. The defendants were then liberated upon bail, and held responsible for the good behaviour of Ad, until the final decision of the case, in August next.

Our limited space prevents a fuller report, but we have copious notes, which we may publish another time. Some of the cross-examinations were decidedly rich. It is rumored that the defendants are already sick of their *spec*, but we doubt its truth, as it is "neck or nothing" with them. No matter how the affair ends, they cannot be worse off than before; if convicted, they will be pilloried and branded, but that's nothing, they are too well used to such things to care for anything less than continued suspension—from Office.

More Compliments to the West.—We learn from the Tarboro' Mercury that Gov. Ellis said in his speech at that town that,

"The basis would give the control of both houses of the Legislature to the West. It is from the East that the money comes and he believes that the people of the West conscientiously would spend one hundred millions of dollars in building up their railroads, cutting down their mountains, and filling up valleys, and it is the Eastern people that must furnish the money. The mischief resulting from this would be incalculable."

We should like to be present when the Governor gets to the West.—*Raleigh Register*

Send on your clubs!

From the Fayetteville Observer.

EQUAL TAXATION.

Having, on Thursday, by the publication of a portion of Gov. Graham's speech in the State Senate in 1854, very effectually disposed of the Democratic pretence that the Whig measure of equal taxation would violate a compromise of the Constitution, we propose now to offer a few plain matter of fact observations on the nature of that proposed measure, and its obvious equity. The following is the portion of the Whig Platform which relates to this subject:

"Whereas, Great inequality exists in the present mode of taxation, and it is just and right that all property should contribute its proportion towards the burdens of State.

"I. Resolved, That we recommend a Convention of the people of the State to be called on the federal basis as early as practicable for the purpose of so modifying the Constitution that every species of property may be taxed according to its value, with power to discriminate only in favor of the native products of our State and the industrial pursuits of her citizens."

The chief inequality, if not the only one complained of is, that lands and other subjects of taxation are assessed according to their value, whilst negroes, now the largest single species of property in the State, and the one most readily convertible into cash, pay far less than their due proportion, according to their value. As was shown by Gov. Graham, this concession was made to the slaveholders in 1835, as a consideration for the concession to the landholders of an exclusive representation in the State Senate. The reason for the concession no longer exists. Democracy has wrested from the landholders their part of the benefits of this compromise, and there is therefore no reason for continuing the unequal burden on them.

The average value of negroes between 12 and 50 years of age is at least \$1000 each.—Suppose one man to own ten such negroes, worth \$10,000. He pays into the State treasury as tax on them, \$8. His neighbor owns \$10,000 worth of houses and lands, and he pays on that \$20 of State taxes. Is there any reason for this inequality? Not that we can perceive. Both are equally protected in their rights, and sustained in the values of their respective species of property, by the very same government which is maintained by the common fund of taxes thus collected. Out of this common fund the Executive and Legislative and Judicial departments, and all else composing the government that protects all alike, derive their support. Without this government, to protect and secure those rights of property, neither lands nor slaves would be of value in North Carolina, except so far as every individual could maintain his rights by his own strong arm. Such being the undoubted fact, we put it to the conscience of every fair man, of every party, whether it is not equitable that those who equally receive protection, according to their respective necessities for it, should equally pay for that protection, according to their respective amounts of interest protected?—Can any fair man whose property consists in negroes, really desire that his neighbor whose property consist in lands, shall pay for his protection in his negro property? We cannot believe it. Who will be willing that his neighbor shall justly taunt him with avoiding his share of the public burdens; and throwing them upon one who is no more able than himself to bear them, and yet is called on to pay his own and more than half of his neighbor's share? On the other hand, what freeman will tamely submit thus to pay his own and his equally rich neighbor's taxes? It ought not to be desired and it will not be submitted to.

But the case is far stronger than we have stated it above. The owner of these ten negroes, worth \$10,000, is, on an average, the owner of ten others, under 12 and over 50 years of age, who are worth say \$5,000; [by reference to the last census it will be seen that just about one half of the negroes in the State are under 12 and over 50.] On \$15,000 worth of property, therefore, he pays \$8, whilst his neighbor, with \$15,000 worth of

real estate, pays \$30. We know it is said that those under 12 and over 50 are exempted because they are non-productive. This everybody knows is legal fiction. Many of those over 50 are among the most productive negroes in the State, earning to their masters from \$100 to \$500 a year; while it is well known and admitted, that every one of those under 12 is increasing in value at the rate of about \$100 a year, and this \$100 a year is just as really and truly \$100 made by the owner upon this little negra as is any \$100 produced by the labor of any one of his grown negroes. Now we put it to any fair man to say, whether any property that a man owns pays him better than this \$100 a year of increase in the value of each one of these little negroes? And if it is thus confessedly productive property, why should it not contribute its due proportion to the payment of the public burdens? If, on the other hand, any of the old or young should be, by reason of any infirmity, a charge upon the owner, they should not only not be taxed, but a proper deduction therefor should be made from the aggregate valuation of those who are taxed.

But it is said that these little children may die without ever actually producing anything. Very true; but that contingency enters into the estimate of their market value, which would be much higher if there could be any guaranty that they would not die.—So also one's dwelling or store house or factory, may constitute the chief value of his taxable real estate. That is liable to destruction by fire, and it is as great a pecuniary misfortune thus to lose the one by fire as the other by death.

But how is it with the land? Are there not millions of acres in North Carolina worth many millions of dollars, and regularly taxed which do not yield the owner any profit whatever? Why should he pay a high tax on unproductive land whilst the slaveholder pays no tax on unproductive negroes—supposing that they were unproductive, which we deny?

A persistent effort is made by the Democrats to deceive people into the belief that the object of the Whigs is to devise new subjects of taxation—subjects now exempt, such as the household furniture of the "poor widow," &c. This is not only false, but it is absurd. The Legislature already has the right to tax such things, and if it were designed or desired to exercise that right there would be no need to call a convention to give the power. But the Legislature has not the right to tax negro property according to its value. That is expressly forbidden by the Constitution; and it is therefore necessary to get an amendment of the constitution to confer the right to equalize taxation between lands and negroes. When the Whigs come into power, as we hope and believe that they will, they will desire thus to equalize the taxes on all the leading subjects of taxation, but not to create new subjects unless the public necessities should demand them.

At some future time we propose to show that, as only the same amount of revenue will be required under the one system or the other, when the amount levied on negroes is increased, the amount levied on lands will be correspondingly diminished, and so in many cases a man's taxes may not in reality be materially increased or diminished. For the present we must pause for want of space.

Democrats for Equal Taxation.—A Rowan county correspondent of the Salisbury Watchman says that at a "log rolling" in that county, after conversing upon the subject of equal taxation, he found that "there were 4 democrats in the crowd out of 5 who declared that they would vote for such a change, believing it was right. But, says I, Democrats are opposed to it. Gov. Ellis is opposed to it. They said they did not care if he was. They said it would not be fair for one neighbor to pay the tax of his more wealthy neighbor, because his property happened to consist slaves."

The National Union Convention met in Baltimore on the 9th instant.