

# The Camden Weekly Journal

VOLUME XXI.

CAMDEN, SOUTH-CAROLINA, TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 19, 1860.

NUMBER 25.

## POETRY.

### THE MIDNIGHT TRAIN.

Across the dull and brooding night  
A ghost flies, with demon light;  
And breath of wailing smoke,  
Around him whiles the racing pines  
And with a dash of grim disdain.

He cleaves the smouldering rock,

In lonely swamps the lone whaling alts  
The loth of death imminent lies;

That haunts to the sky;

Till, startled by his mad career,

They seem to lead a host of fear.

As it goes sweep by,

Through many a dark wild heart of death,  
Over bounding bridges, where beneath

A midnight river flows;

By ruin, remnants of the past,

That lies trembling in the blast,

By singing waterfalls!

The shudder on his silent load,

Turns to the light his lonely head,

Divested of its bane;

Long leagues of gloom are hurried over,

Through tunnel shadows, with iron rest,

And still brightening grottoes;

Fast bounding hills, past flying flocks,

High furnaces whose crimson arms

Are grinning with the night,

He tears along racing brads,

To where the kingly day stands,

Wrapt in a robe of light.

Here, round each wide and gushing gate,

A crowd of eager faces wait;

And every soul is known;

We thank them O their Titan train,

That in the city once again,

We clasp our loved, our own!

At the Post Office.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

**Mr. Ensign:**—For a justification of the *two* of my last communication, I must refer to that of the articles to which it is a rejoinder, while I disclaim any discounting to yourself or the unknown author of those articles. The term "Rancor Southerner" has a political and not a personal application, and is used to characterize those who have a special aptness for the slang terms of parties, as "Schubinschau," "Dougherty," and the like, on the one hand, and "Fascination," "Vancey," &c., on the other which, always used opportunely, and almost always falsely and injuriously promote misunderstandings and foster unfriendly feelings between men who honestly differ in opinion, without suspending any argument to enlighten or persuade the mind. These founders of unnecessary rancor and hostility between parties and sections I call the "Rancorous of fiction," and you will find the term just and appropriate if you will refer to the story of that somewhat celebrated character.

For the rest, permit me to inform you that you have (no doubt unintentionally) misstated my position, and then quoted Mr. Calhoun against an imaginary position, which I am not aware that any man in the United States had at this day; for his arguments are directed at the assumption that the people of a section, or the constituents of the United States, and exempt from the obligations which it imposes; which obligations he asserts that neither Congress nor a Territorial legislature can exempt them from, and this is precisely what I maintain; for I assert that the right of the people of a Territory to govern themselves is "subject" to the "Judicial and Executive departments of the Federal Government," which are the agencies through which the Constitution exerts its Supreme power over the Territories to protect the Constitutional rights of slave-holders, and of all other citizens of the United States, against all aggressions whatever. But I deny, as Mr. Calhoun denied, that Congress has any Constitutional power to meddle with slavery in the Territories, under any pretext whatever; and I hold, as he did, that the assumption of such a power is a dangerous usurpation, because unconstitutional. It is not unconstitutional, pray tell, the clause whence it is derived; and I advise you before doing so, to refresh your reading of the third Scott decision. If you can not find such a clause, and yet insist on the assumption of the power by Congress, by what authority can you deny to Congress any other power, or how can you escape the imputation of ascribing to that body unlimited power? But if you could (fortunately you can not) find in the Constitution a sanction of such power of Congress, then the rights of slave-holders in the Territories would no longer depend upon the Constitution and the Courts, but upon the empirical will of a Congressional majority; and then you would subvert the entire basis on which Mr. Calhoun has demonstrated our rights to be founded and sell our "birthright" for less than "a mess portage."

But the Kansas-Nebraska acts recognize the supremacy of the Constitution and its Courts for which Mr. Calhoun contended to protect the Constitutional rights of slave-holders in the Territories, and it was not questioned that I can learn from the newspaper reports) by any member of the late Charleston Convention; and hence I can not see in their action any pretext for endangering the peace and safety of the country by bringing the black Republicans into power.

You mistake again in supposing that I derive from Congress the right of the people of a Territory to govern themselves. I do not think it derived from Congress, but it is a part of the common law of the Anglo-Saxon race in every land which they have ever occupied. The State of South Carolina has twice asserted that right by a resolution. In the first instance it was fully concurred by the powerful and energetic British government to a feeble colony. In the second, she successfully established it by force of arms, and it is now granted even by the British that it was unjustly denied to her. It can not be pretended that this was the mere right of rebellion. In refutation of such an assumption, I quote a short paragraph from Mr. Madison's celebrated "Virginia Report of 1799," both as high authority on a subject and as a felicitous expression of the true relation of colonies or "Territories" to the mother government:—

"The fundamental principle of the Revolution was that the colonies were coequal members with Great Britain and with each other of an Empire united by a common Executive Sovereign, but not by a common Legislative Sovereign. The Legislative power was maintained to be as distinct in each American Parliament as in the British Parliament. And the royal prerogative was in force in each colony by virtue of its acknowledging the King or its Executive Magistrate, as it was in Great Britain by virtue of a like acknowledgement there. A denial of these principles by Great Britain, and the assertion of them by America, produced the Revolution."

Now instead of the "royal prerogative" and common Executive Sovereign, or "King," substitute the Constitution of the United States, which is the only representative of common Sovereignty, which we acknowledge, and this paragraph will correctly describe the situation which eight of right now exists between

the Federal Government and its colonies or Territories. The Constitution and the obligations it imposes being acknowledged, and the tribunals it established to enforce those obligations being submitted to, they should be permitted to legislate for themselves, untrammeled by the vexations and unconstitutional intermeddling of Congress.

Here, Mr. Editor, I close our correspondence on this subject, and leave the reader and intelligence of your readers to determine as to the justice and propriety of the principles which you and I severally maintain. I had no intention at the beginning to protract it beyond my first communication, but was compelled to do so to submit to misconstruction. In conclusion accept assurances of the personal regard and kind feelings of

A FARMER.

Mr. Horrocks—*Dear Sir:*—I wish to address a few lines to your readers, through the columns of the *Journal*, upon the condition of the Cemetery. Improvements are going on all around us; a handsome steeple has just been erected; a new hotel is about being built, and a new road is in contemplation, with many others of minor importance, all tending to show that we are advancing in the right direction; and surely the additions made by a wise Legislature, regardless of results. We trusted they came here to make no compromise of the Constitution. If they could not secure the recognition of these principles by the whole Democracy, they would proclaim them elsewhere. The time has come to let go the coming.

Mr. Manning of Arkansas and Mr. Nichol of Georgia, were appointed Secretaries.

Rev. Dr. Barrows, of this city, offered prayer.

Mr. Davis of Mississippi moved that delegates register their names.

Mr. Hunter of Louisiana objected, insisting the delegates had not arrived.

Mr. Davis suggested that the motion referred only to such were present.

The motion prevailed.

The Secretary began calling the roll of the States. Mr. Thaddeus Mott and seven others answered for New York and presented their credentials. Messrs. Fisher and others represented Virginia. Full delegations were present from South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. Tennessee was represented by two Delegates, appointed by a convention in the Second Congressional District.

Mr. Davis moved that the vote on record be directed to call for the vote by states.

We are informed that the South will compete in Baltimore, or make arrangements at Richmond.

The motion carried.

The Delegates from Tennessee, New York and Virginia were received with applause.

A telegraphic dispatch was ready, stating that the Florida delegation were *en route*.

Mr. Parry of Mississippi moved to adjourn a committee of one from each State to report a list of permanent officers for the Convention at ten o'clock to-morrow, which prevailed.

Mr. Meek of Alabama, moved to appoint a committee of one from each State to deliberate and to determine the ratio of voting which prevailed.

The delegations then appointed their committee men.

Col. A. P. Calhoun represents South Carolina on the Committee of Permanent Organization, and Hon. J. Izard Middleton on the Committee on Credentials.

Mr. Stedman of Texas moved that the left gallery be reserved for ladies, which prevailed.

Mr. May of New York vindicated the legality of the New York Delegation to the Convention, and added that one wing of that Delegation was excluded at Charleston, and the other wing misrepresented them. His colleagues were genuine representatives of New York Democracy, and that want of time alone prevented the appearance of a full delegation.

Mr. May's remarks were received with applause.

At one o'clock p.m. the Convention adjourned until ten o'clock a.m. to-morrow.

RICHMOND, Va., June 11.

At 11 o'clock p.m. a session was held this evening. The most unprecedented harmony and good feeling which has characterized the Convention prevailed in the census.

The New York delegates will be excluded from the Convention on the ground of irregularity.

There will be a full delegation here to-morrow from Virginia, to have a friendly conference with their Southern brethren.

The programme is to adopt no platform and to do nothing beyond an organization to-morrow, and then to adjourn over until June 21st.

The delegations generally merge personal predilections in good wishes for the cause, but the Virginians are peculiarly attached to John Brown, and made no effort to exclude him.

Rev. Mr. Barnes offered prayer.

Col. Calhoun of South Carolina, from the Committee on Organization, reported the following names:

Gen. John Irwin, of Alabama, President Pro-Terminator; Messrs. Rumbel of Texas, Vicksburg of Mississippi; Fisher, of Virginia; Scott of Alabama; Burrows, of Arkansas; Waddington of Florida; Gathright, of North Carolina; Cummings of Tennessee; Tracy of Georgia and Lawson of Louisiana. Also a full list of Secretaries.

The report recommends the adoption of the Cincinnati rules of order, and that where only one Congressional District was represented, its delegates should only cast the vote of that district.

The report was adopted and the session closed.

Mrs. Mathews of Mississippi and Bryan of Texas, conducted the President to the Chair, and Gen. Lubbock, who had elicited a temporary President, on retiring thanked the Convention for the consideration extended to him, and introduced Col. Irwin.

Col. Irwin, on taking the Chair, said he wished the honor had fallen on some other gentleman. They had met to vindicate the Constitution, and made no effort to exclude him.

He gave a recital of events at Charleston, and said their position was peculiar. They had all along asked for their opponents for the protection of their rights.

They had overruled the bill to prohibit the importation of slaves, and had adopted a bill to prohibit the importation of slaves.

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