

POLITICAL.

FROM THE CAROLINA TELEGRAPH.
BREVARD'S DIGEST.

Freemen should never be uninformed of the acts of those, in whom their dearest rights are committed. The constitution imposes the only restraint upon the conduct of the legislator, in one point of view; and the disapprobation of the people, in another. He who would unheeding trample upon, and contemn constitutional principles, or reject the wishes and will of his constituents, pollutes the sacred temple of legislation, by the most daring of all profanations. It is no matter, whether the charter of the constitution, and the rights and interests of the people, are infringed from his negligence, silent acquiescence, or direct and immediate acts, he is equally culpable in every instance.

While others point out the alarming tendency of the act of Congress increasing the pay, and giving a fixed and settled salary to the members; I would call the attention of the citizens of South-Carolina, to the conduct of their own legislature. From the sun I would point the gaze to one of the planets, and while other political astronomers observe the spots on his disk, I would note planetary aberrations as equally portentous and equally alarming.

During the last session of the legislature, a resolution was passed, which bears stamped, on its own front, the characters of constitutional violation, sinister motives, and a dereliction of every sense of duty, in those who passed it. The form it has assumed, that of a resolution, makes it necessary that it should be inserted at length. For many have only heard of some such a monster being brought into existence, and are not acquainted with the beautiful proportion, and exact symmetry of its parts, and members. In order therefore, to hold the mirror up to nature, we give it in its own words:

Resolved, That each member of the senate and house of representatives shall be entitled to one copy of Brevard's Digest of the laws of this state, and that the comptroller general shall be, and is hereby directed and required to deliver to the treasurer in Charleston, eighty five copies, to be delivered by him, one copy to each member, applying at that office; and also to send eighty-four copies (and to pay the expenses of packing and carriage) to the treasurer at Columbia, to be delivered, one copy to each member applying for them at that office; and that the comptroller general be also required to send twelve copies to Columbia, six for the use of each branch of the legislature, and to have the names of the house printed on the back of each book. The remaining copies to be disposed of as may be hereafter directed.

It was truly a charitable donation! The members of the state legislature were not the Aristides of their country, honorably poor, and requiring assistance to enable them to discharge their duty: And they did not, Cincinnatus like, retire to their ploughs with no other trophy than honor.

It had formerly appeared to me that a member of the state legislature, who qualified, and took his seat, being bound, not only by his respect to the rights of man, but also by the most solemn of all moral obligations, an oath, to observe, protect, and defend the constitution; would hardly have the hardihood to impugn, or assail it. But the last session has shown us differently: that men, and men too in whom we repose the greatest confidence, have made a donation of one copy of Brevard's Digest of the laws of this state, to each member, in the face of the constitution, and in defiance of that section which says in so many words, that the com-

...pensation *not* be increased or diminished by law; if circumstances shall require; but no alterations shall be made, by any legislature, in take effect during the existence of the legislature, which shall make such alteration. If this is not an increased compensation for the services of the members without any circumstances whatsoever requiring it, and that too during their continuance in office, I am unable to give it its proper place. True, it is not a compensation in money for their services; but it is of the same value to the state. The sum of two thousand eight hundred and seventy three dollars, given by a vote of the legislature to themselves, would hardly be supposed constitutional, or proper by their constituents.—How then are they to consider that vote, which confers on the members of the senate and house of representatives, one hundred and sixty-five copies of Brevard's Digest, costing the state that sum of money? They must and will consider it in no other light than as a flagrant outrage on the constitution.

The legislature have in the resolution under consideration, given themselves a compensation which they do not allow to their successors in office. I should suppose that the compensation of members should be fixed, and certain, and not depending on whim and caprice. So thought the framers of the constitution, and supposed that they had erected an insurmountable barrier to prevent encroachment in this particular. Each succeeding legislature should receive as much as their predecessors, until the law was altered. The next may vote themselves copies of Brevard's Digest, and also of Judge Desaussure's Reports. Would they not be warrantable in doing so? The constitution has been already violated, and precedent justifies it; and each succeeding legislature increasing their donations in a geometrical ratio, might empty the coffers of state and hang the vacant purse of poverty to the girdle of South-Carolina. The sum of money which was thus prodigally, and extravagantly wasted, by the resolution of the last session, is trifling and paltry. But the precedent established, is great and alarming. The constitution, once violated, loses that sanctity and holiness of character, which would forbid encroachment. As soon as it is found, that wrong escapes chastisement, and is of value to the doer, a sense of right will hardly stay reiteration. An act once committed with impunity, is almost certain to be done again. In a subsequent resolution, by which the legislature gave copies of Brevard's Digest to the clerks and ordinaries throughout the state, they very astutely, and particularly insert, the words "and to their successors in office;" but in the resolution respecting themselves, the book is made the unqualified property of each individual, no matter whether he hereafter is the legislator or citizen; he opens those volumes which he compelled his country to give him, reads, and is wise!

That spirit manifested by the legislative body, to encourage professional and literary labours, I cannot too much applaud. They acted wisely, and properly, in patronizing undertakings, which tend to the general dissemination of knowledge. But after having thus performed the duties of the patriot legislators, how illy does it become them to turn those acts, which were public bounty and patronage, to their own private advantage. I may be told, the books were pur-

chased, and could be of no service to the state, lying on the shelves of the comptroller general's office. True; but would it not have been more in-character with the intention of the government, to disseminate knowledge as widely as possible, to have bestowed them on those officers who were farther removed from the sources of information, and whose means of acquiring it were less than the legislature? It certainly would; the donation would have been charitable, as well as proper, had it been conferred on the justices of the peace throughout the state, whose situation and paltry perquisites of office often prevent them from being able to procure that knowledge which their offices require. I would rather have seen twenty times the sum appropriated thus, than to have read in the annals of the legislature of my country such a resolution as the present.

Many members no doubt voted for it without an intention of committing wilful wrong; and many, no doubt, acquiesced in it, without deliberating on, or thinking of the consequences. But still this furnishes no excuse. The ignorant or inattentive legislator is unfit for this place. Minutes, which pave the way to greater encroachments and more serious injuries, require a more steady opposition than the most flagrant outrage. The one is permitted to pass unheeded, on account of its insignificance; the other is instantly repelled, on account of its enormity. Hence the act or resolution introduced into the legislature, tending to impair the constitution, or the rights of the people in the slightest degree, is to be watched with the Lynx's eye of jealousy. For government is never so seriously assailed, as when the mind strikes his slow and cautious plow, so as not to be heard; or (if heard) not to excite fear. I would not be supposed to say or think that the government has been, or is endangered from that resolution; but that other times, and other men guided by such an example, might do something, to make the mountain maid Liberty writhe in the last agonies of death. The duty of the legislator is, not only to view a thing in its immediate, but also remote consequences. He should anxiously watch for the happiness of his country, and only admit those measures to become a law, which, in every point of view, would accord therewith. Against all others he should oppose his veto, and, even if that should be solitary, it would rebound the more to his honor. The watchman of liberty should never be fearful of exciting a false alarm, where he himself really thought there was danger.

With these observations I shall consign the members of the legislature and their resolution, giving one copy of Brevard's Digest of the laws of this state to each member of the senate and house of representatives, to the citizens of South-Carolina, conscious that they will be dealt with as they deserve, and again tread the floor of legislation the worthy representatives of my country, or walk the rounds of private life, the proper objects of punishment for a departure from their duty in legislation. CATO.

Notice.

THE Commissioners of the roads for Kershaw District, inform all persons retailing Spirituous Liquors, without Licences, that unless they immediately comply with the laws concerning them they will be proceeded against.

By order of the Board,
J. W. LANG.
July 1, 1816. 14c19*

For Sale.

A BODY of good High LAND of about SIX THOUSAND ACRES, in Lancaster County, on Wild Cat Branch and Camp and Crane Creeks; the Platts are in possession of James H. Blair, who can give information about the Lands to any person wishing to purchase, and will receive proposals for the same.
ROBERT BALKLEY,
DUNCAN M'RA,
ZACH. CANTEY,
July 19, 1816. 17tf.

LEE & DeLEON

HAVE on hand a general assortment of seasonable and Fashionable Goods.

Also, a good supply of GROCERIES, which they will sell low for cash or produce.
Camden, May 9, 1816.

Shannon & Ballard

HAVING received an addition to their former stock, have now on hand a handsome and general assortment of Summer Goods, which they offer for sale at very reduced prices.
Camden, July 16, 1816. 6w18

NOTICE.



FOR SALE or to LET, the subscribers premises, on Broad-st. in Camden, nearly opposite the Post-Office, recently occupied by Doctor Carter. Any person disposed to purchase said premises may expect to get a great bargain. A very liberal credit will be given.—For further particulars apply to Mr. JOHN DEBY, or to the Subscriber.
EVERARD CURETON.
July 2, 1816. 14tf.

In the Common Pleas.

ROYAL BULLARD, Endorsee, }
ALEXANDER SPEARS, } Case in attachment.

WHEREAS the Plaintiff, in this action, did on the 13th day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen; file his declaration in the Office of this Honorable Court, against the Defendant, who is absent from, and without the limits of this State, and hath neither wife nor attorney known within the same, upon whom a copy of the said declaration, with a rule to plead thereto, within a year and a day, might be served.

It is therefore ordered in pursuance of the act of the General Assembly in that case, made and provided, that the Defendant do appear and plead to the said declaration, on or before the sixteenth day of April; which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen; otherwise, final and absolute judgment will be given, and awarded against him.

Office of COMMON PLEAS,
Thomas Salmond, C. C. K. D.
Kershaw District, April 15, 1816.

Patent Medicines.

For Sale at the Store of
ALEXANDER YOUNG,

- Broad-street, Camden.
- Dr. Dorr's Stomachic Elixir of Health,
- Vegetable Nervous cordial,
- Gout & Rheumatic drops,
- Patent Stomachic Wine Bitters,
- Worm Destroying Lozenges,
- Anti Bilious Pills,
- Patent Itch Ointment,
- Infallible Tooth Ache Drops,
- Circassian Eye Water,
- Restorative Dentifrice.

— ALSO —
Bateman's Drops, Godfrey's Cordial, British Oil, Burlington's Balsam of Life, Stear's Opodeldoc, Essence of Peppermint, &c.

— LIQUORS —
Elixir of Paregoric, Laudanum, Spirits of Lavender, Spirits of Hartshorn, Spirits of Nitro, Calomel, Jalap, Rhuubarb, Ipecacuanha, Tarter Emetic, Peruvian Bark, &c.

Wanted, one or two intelligent LADS, from 14 to 16 years of age as apprentices to the Printing Business.— Enquire at this office. Aug. 1.

Printing,

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, EXECUTED WITH NEATNESS AND ACCURACY AT THE OFFICE OF THE
CAMDEN GAZETTE;
Where may be had
BLANKS FOR LAWYERS,
MAGISTRATES, SHERIFFS, &c.