

COLUMBIA TELESCOPE,

AND SOUTH-CAROLINA STATE JOURNAL.

[XII.]

COLUMBIA, (S. C.) TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 27, 1826.

[NO. 26.]

Columbia Telescope;

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TERMS:—THREE DOLLARS per annum, payable in advance, or FOUR DOLLARS payable at the end of the year.
Advertisements are inserted at the rate of seventy-five cents for every twenty lines, or a less number, for the first insertion, and forty cents for each continuance.—Those from non-subscribers must be accompanied by the cash, or a responsible reference, or they will receive no attention.

☞ We are authorized to announce **JAMES O'HANLON, Esq.** as a Candidate at the ensuing election, to represent the district of Richland in the next Legislature.
June 13, 1826. 24—1f.

☞ We are authorized to state that **EDMUND REYNOLDS** is a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Fairfield district, at the approaching election.
June 13. 24—1f.

☞ We are authorized to state that **RICHARD B. HARRISON** is a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Fairfield district, at the approaching election.
June 13. 6m.

☞ We are authorized to state that **Col WILLIAM M'CREIGHT** will be a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Fairfield district, at the approaching election.
April 11 15 Jan. 7

☞ We are authorized to state that **Maj. THOMAS J. COOK**, will be a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Fairfield district, at the approaching election.
May 30. 6m

☞ The subscriber informs his friends that he has located himself in Columbia, and has opened an office, one door below Mr. Levin's Store, where he will attend to the duties of his profession.
ALFRED BYNUM, Attorney at Law.
Columbia, June 14. 24—1f.

Town Taxes for 1826.

THE subscriber hereby gives notice to all concerned, that he will commence receiving the Taxes, and also exemption from Street Work, this day, at his office in the Town Hall, and will continue to receive the same from 10 o'clock, A. M. until 2 P. M. every day until the first day of August next, after which it will be his duty to proceed against all defaulters according to law.
B. HARRISON, Jr. Clerk.
June 17. 25—1f

Poor Tax for 1826.

The Commissioners of the Poor for St. Bartholomew's Parish in conformity with a late act of the Legislature, do hereby give notice to all persons who pay in other collection districts, the general State Tax on property in this, that if the poor Tax for this year (twenty per cent. on the amount of the general Tax) is not paid to the Tax Collector of said Parish by the first day of July next, executions will issue against all defaulters.
By order of the Commissioners of the poor for St. Bartholomew's Parish.
A. CAMPBELL, Secy. & Treasurer.
April 1, 1826. 16 11f

To Rent,

In an eligible and healthy situation, as a summer residence.

A LARGE and commodious HOUSE at Lonsdale, about two and a half miles from Columbia, together with a four acre lot under good fence, an elegant spring of good water and spring house, with three apartments over the same.—For terms inquire of the subscriber.
JOHN FARR.
Columbia, June 20, 1826. 25—1f.

Lost.

THE subscriber travelling from Wainsborough to Columbia, lost a small red POCKET BOOK, containing seventy five dollars in cash; which had, when lost, W. T. Dawsey written in it. Any person finding the same, will be rewarded by returning it to the owner, or giving such information as will enable him to obtain it.
JAMES C. BOYD.
N. B. The numbers of some of the bills are known
Columbia, S. C. College Market 28 13 1f

Notice.

WHEREAS D. L. Wakely hath assigned over to the subscriber his books and all the unsettled accounts they contain, and it is said that the said Wakely is collecting the same from all who will pay to him; I do hereby warn all persons whomsoever paying said Wakely any account or accounts, or to any person but myself the subscriber, or D. J. McCord, and that all indebted to said Wakely, on account, must come forward immediately, and close the same by cash or note, as no longer indulgence will not be given; and that no account settled with said Wakely will be considered valid, since the assignment.
JOHN BLACK.
June 20 25 3

Notice.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of **WILLIAM A. A. BELTON** deceased, are required to make payment before the first day of October next, or they will find their notes and accounts in the hands of an officer for collection. The situation of the estate requires this punctuality. Persons having demands against said estate, are required to render them in property attached within the time prescribed by law.
JAMES ROCHELL, Adm'r.
Fairfield District, April 29, 1826. 23—13f. pd.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. HUSKISSON'S speech in reply to Mr. ELlice and Mr. WILLIAMS, on the subject of the prohibition of foreign Silk, grounded on a petition of the Silk Weavers to that effect.—
(Continued from our last.)

His next recommendation was, a review of our Revenue laws. He stated, very properly, that they were so numerous, so complicated, as to be not only troublesome and grievous, but in many cases unintelligible. That I allow was a great and important duty; the government did not shrink from it. It occupied much of my time, and it is but justice to state, that if I had not the assistance of a Gentleman in the Customs, of great practical knowledge, it would have been impossible to have accomplished the task either so speedily or so well. The difficulty of the undertaking will be estimated when I state, we had to wade through not less than 500 statutes relative to the Customs, independently of the laws on smuggling, our foreign plantations, &c.; that in the performance of this duty we encountered difficulties innumerable, and had to fight battles without end with interested parties; and yet now this little volume, which I hold in my hand, contains all the laws on the subject, which are put in a manner such as must be intelligible to every man. Sir, I refer to the existing state of the Revenue laws, in order to prove we have not been inattentive to the second recommendation of the Honorable Gentleman. [Hear, hear.] Then, Sir, comes the third proposition of the Honorable Member for Taunton; and that is, to substitute in all cases protecting for prohibitory duties. (Cheers.) Sir, I shall quote a short extract from a very accurate, perhaps, indeed, a too accurate report—(A laugh)—of this part of the Honorable Gentleman's speech. "Another desirable step was to do away totally with the entire of the prohibitory system as much as possible." "Totally and entire might appear terms somewhat synonymous, but I have no doubt the Hon. Member meant to express his thorough detestation of prohibitions in that way—(a laugh)—and mark his sense of their impropriety by that reiteration of phrase. (Hear, and a laugh.) Again he says, "his idea on this part of the subject is to do away total prohibitions altogether; and when protection was meant to be extended to any branch of trade, to let it be done by a formal duty." (Hear.) "Actual prohibition was most unwise and impolitic" said the Hon. Member, and he therefore desired its abolition. Considering that were protection for a particular manufacture necessary, it ought to be afforded by means of a duty, and not by a prohibition. The Hon. Member proceeded to assert that prohibitions seriously injured the revenue, and spoke of the customs as having fallen short £1,500,000, partly in consequence of their continuance, in the last year. Although he admitted other causes might have been a work, he thought there was no doubt a great part of the defalcation in the revenue was attributable to the prohibitory system. Sir, the Hon. Member proceeded to state that "nothing could be more absurd than to suppose that any prohibition would prevent the introduction of the articles which were in demand. The fact was, that an advance of 20 or 25 per cent. on all light prohibited articles might be had at our doors." (Cheers.) He would not say which sex was most to blame, but such was the fact" (Cheers.) Now this was the opinion of a practical man, who had gathered it from frequent visits to Paris. If he had not in this instance silk in his view, I am at a loss how to apply the expressions. The Hon. Gent. was then the leading professor of those doctrines which he reprobates me for now upholding, while he was then as free in censuring government for not more readily adopting his sentiments. In 1817, the Hon. Gentleman had declared to the House that "the smuggling of silks was carried to the greatest extent. The proof was that silks of all other nations were so abundant, that the home manufacturers were absolutely ruined." (Loud cheers.) In the years 1807 and 1812, the silk manufacture which we were told would only flourish under a prohibition, was in a state of complete and utter ruin. [Hear, hear.] Now, Sir, I should be carried too far from the subject before us, were I to call the attention of the House to circumstances of fearful resemblance, existing between this and that other question which now agitates the country—I mean the state of the currency. And yet light might be thrown on the subject by a reference to the overtrading which existed then as now. I compare the state of the silk trade in 1807, with its condition at present. In the preceding year it was 1,150,000 lbs. weight. In 1816 it amounted to 2,100,000 lbs.; being an increase of 81 per cent. At the same time the increase on the importation of cheap wool, was 130 per cent.; that on cotton 44

per cent.; and on tallow, 30 per cent.—Now, comparing the overtrading of 1818 with the state of commerce last year, and I think it possible to attain a greater certainty in the latter than in generally supposed; the importation of silk appears in 1825 to have increased 50 per cent.; cotton 38 per cent.; and in foreign wool 100 per cent.; in the article of tallow 30 per cent. Now, I will put it to my Hon. Member, whether, such an immense importation, so far exceeding that of preceding years, could by any possibility have taken place without causing a glut in the market and consequent embarrassment. I will put it to any one, whether the increase of our population and the increase of our wealth, has been such, or could have been such, as to have warranted the conclusion that such an immense augmentation in our imports could have met with a ready market? There are two other points to which I wish, while on the subject, to call the attention of the House. In the report of the Bank Committee, it is said, that the Bank possessed a greater stock of gold then, than at any former period. No sooner, however, had it given notice of paying in gold, than the exchanges in consequence of excessive imports, assumed an unfavorable aspect: the gold went out and was exchanged for the country one pound notes, and all this was owing to the excitement [by whatever cause produced] of 1818, which, as might naturally have been expected, was followed by a depression. Under these circumstances it was that in 1818, we were asked for an issue of Exchequer bills. But, to return to the speech of his Hon. Friend: the next point contained in it was on the subject of the navigation laws; and he called upon Ministers for their repeal or amendment. He "wished to see the right of bringing produce into this country, directly from the place of its growth, admitted, so that we might be free to import the productions of all the world." [Hear, hear, hear.] Further he thought, "a change in the navigation laws would be beneficial to commerce, by relieving it from the weight of many needless restrictions, the removal of which should not impair our maritime strength." [Hear.] Government, however, did not choose to go quite so far as the Hon. Gentleman recommended them to go. It referred the matter to a Committee which, after inquiring into the matter, recommended certain alterations which led to a change in these laws highly beneficial to commerce, and in no degree injurious to our strength as a maritime power. This therefore has been attended to. The next thing which had been strongly, he had almost said bitterly, forced on Government, was the annoyance and inconvenience arising out of the existence of transit duties. The Hon. Member for Taunton thought "every thing should be permitted to be directly imported for the purpose of exportation," and "that transit duties should not be allowed to exist on articles of foreign produce in their passage from one port of this country to another." At the very time the Hon. Member was pressing this point, he must have been aware his Majesty's Ministers wished to remove those restrictions, and simplify a system which its complication, however, rendered particularly difficult. Then the Hon. Member complained of the duties and drawbacks which existed in particular departments of our trade.—The transit duties are now exploded, and the system of duties and drawbacks have been revised. [Hear, hear.] The sixth recommendation of the Hon. Member for Taunton was, "to remove the restrictive and excessive duties that impeded our commercial intercourse with France," and he added, that such a system told against our national prosperity, "for the restrictions had not made his country grow great, but operated against its greatness." The Hon. Member explained to us at great length the unfavorable impressions which our restrictive and monopolizing system had created on the Continent. And what had been done in this case? We had set a good example to the nations on the Continent—we had shown our readiness to act on a system of reciprocity—and we had invited France to follow in our track. That country has taken the first step in the same course, and a step which I consider of great importance, inasmuch as it shows a disposition to follow in the same line of policy—a line of policy, which, whatever some people may think or say of it, must eventually lead to the most beneficial results. On the subject of the commercial convention between this country and France, it may perhaps be said by some, that the regulations against the introduction of the productions of Asia, Africa, and America, through this country into France, is a matter of express stipulation. This I beg leave to deny—the article was merely put in the shape of a recommendation to the government; and, in fact, we act in precisely the same way towards France in that respect as she does to us. Further, "the Contracting Parties reserve to themselves the power of making by mutual consent, such relaxations in the

strict execution of the article, as they may think useful to the respective interests of the two countries, on the principle of mutual concessions, affording each to the other reciprocal or equivalent advantages." This was all we could stipulate, or, indeed, had any right to expect. (Hear, hear.)—In that respect, we have done all in our power, what remains must be left to time to effect. We have at all events followed so far the recommendations of the honorable Member, and what remains must be left to the operation of time; to that time which is always necessary for eradicating prejudice, and which, I regret, that it is so frequently impossible to eradicate by any other means. But I would appeal to the House, and to the Right Hon. Member himself, whether the best plan to do away with those prejudices and unfavorable impressions on the Continent, would be to retrace our steps, and to re-enact the prohibitory system—to exclude foreign merchandize and foreign shipping, as we had formerly done? The Hon. Member had also recommended the enlargement of our trade with British India; and I trust it is needless for me to say that our attention has been incessantly directed to that object. If we have not succeeded to the extent of our wishes, the fault is not with us; we have done our utmost to effect a change, but we have no means of compelling it, and must respect those rights which the Legislature has vested in the Company. These were the great points on which the Hon. Member had insisted, with the exception of some general recommendations in regard to the adoption of the principles of free trade; and so very eager was the Hon. Member for enforcing his views of commercial policy, that when my Hon. Friend (now Chancellor of the Exchequer) stated the great difficulty attendant on such changes, and the strong prejudices which had to be encountered, the Member for Taunton got up to reply, and wound up his oration by saying, that the principles of the petition had met with such unanimous support, and been so universally recognized in every part of the country, that he wondered from whence that opposition sprung which so alarmed the President of the Board of Trade [a situation then much more ably filled by my Right Hon. Friend.] and expressed a hope that he would not listen to the suggestions of others, but follow the dictates of his own excellent understanding.—With this admonition the debate closed and the advice he had that night received, sinking deep into the mind of my Right Hon. Friend was not unattended to, as his subsequent conduct has proved. In this House the Foreign Trade Committee was formed, and in another House a noble Marquis, (Lansdown) who takes the greatest interest in whatever relates to the trade and commerce of the country, and if not so correct in his views as some members here, he at all events has the merits of being much more consistent, moved for a Committee to inquire into the same subject. And what did it do? Bearing in mind the vile system of smuggling, prohibitions, &c. on which the Hon. Member had discoursed so eloquently, it reported (Report 1821.) that in the silk trade there were no bounds to smuggling, owing to the system of prohibition, and recommended a protecting duty to be substituted instead of it. Two foreign merchants were examined by that Committee, who had no interest whatever in giving any false account of the comparative state of the silk trade; and what was their evidence? Why, the one of them said that the difference in point of price in articles of silk manufacture, was from 20 to 25 per cent.; the other, that it did not exceed 20 per cent.; while in all articles of hosiery, the English manufacture was decidedly cheaper and better. An alteration in the law was accordingly recommended, and recommended on substantial grounds. In 1823, the Hon. the Member for London, presented a petition from the master manufacturers in Spitalfields, who wished to have an abominable law repealed, which interfered with the free exercise of their trade, proceeded upon the vile system of fixing certain rates of wages, and contained various provisions of the most vexatious and injurious nature; and when I had an opportunity of conferring with them the other day, if I had put it to them to make their choice between that act and the prohibition, and told them that they could not have both, I feel confident that they would have said, prohibit the Foreign Silks, and give the Spitalfields' Act to the wind. Those parties said, in their petition, (1823) "that some relaxation might with safety be allowed considering the immense quantity of silk which might be procured from India, and the immense amount of capital employed in the trade." Yes, Sir, the immense capital; although the Hon. Member for Coventry has stated that the silk trade is so much superior in that respect in Switzerland, and that the towns he represents is not equal in that branch of trade to some parts of the continent.

Mr. Ellice.—My observation applied to the ribbon trade.
Mr. Huskisson.—The petition went on to say, "Your petitioners do not hesitate, considering the circumstances, the superiority of our machinery, and the skill of our workmen, to declare their opinion, that those advantages, such as to place us in a situation to triumph over any opposition that can be offered, and render the silk a staple trade of the country." I have deemed it necessary to go over all these things in order to show the House that the measures which the Government did take, were measures of mere theory, nor the measures which it carried in opposition to the prevailing opinions of the country, measures (of the good policy of which its members were well convinced) which were in a manner forced upon them, and which they introduced in compliance with repeated solicitation. Nor were we precipitate in carrying them; for it was not until 1824, that my Right Hon. Friend (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) finding the finances of that country in a prosperous state; and seeing that he could afford to sacrifice the duty on foreign silk, determined to do so in compliance with the wishes of the manufacturers, and to substitute a protecting duty. From that moment, Sir, we had to take leave of the support which till then we had experienced from the opposite side of the House. When I said that we would give them two years to prepare for this change, how was the proposition received by my Hon. Friend? "Well," said he, "we will take these two years, but the end of it will be, that the trade will gradually decrease; all of the very many persons who depend upon it for support, must inevitably fail, and thousands will to a moral certainty be thrown out of employment." Now I have to remark, that of all the letters that I received last year, and I certainly was almost overwhelmed with them, there appeared to me to be one case that called more loudly for compensation than many others—it was certainly a most distressing case. But still I do not go the length of considering it a case for compensation, and I informed the person to whom I allude, of my hopes that his fears were groundless; and I have now the satisfaction to be enabled to state, that that honorable individual some time since sent me word, through an honorable member of this House, not only that his fears had not been realized, and that my hopes were well founded, but that he had not suffered; and those events which he apprehended would have been fatal to his trade, had occurred. Let us see then how far the predictions of my honorable friend have been realized, and if they have been realized in any degree, he has been indeed, endowed with a prophetic spirit. The bill was passed in 1824. During the year 1824, the silk trade went on notwithstanding the operation of this "annihilating" act. In the Spring following, such was the increase of our wealth, such the growing extent of our prosperity, such the overflowing of our capital, such the eager demand for our manufactures, such the necessity for new buildings, in which to carry on our manufactures, not like the old working establishments with their plain regular looms, but new and splendid erections on improved plans, and which I am told were each to cost £15,000: not yet now, at the end of twelve months, not one of these buildings has ever been roofed, notwithstanding the immense sums of money they had cost, and although they had been commenced in that which was described as the most prosperous period in the history of the country.—They built therefore to an excess that had never been equalled in the most prosperous state of their trade, or indeed of any trade that had ever existed in the country. To this fact I entreat the attention of the House, I entreat particularly the attention of my Hon. Friend. I know, and with feelings of undissimulated sympathy and sorrow for the sufferings of the people of Macclesfield, I declare that I am aware of the distressed situation in which they are at this moment. (Hear.) But let us look to the circumstances that preceded this distress. The whole population of that town, in the year 1821, according to the calculation of a gentleman well acquainted with it amounted to 17,746 persons. Now, I will suppose that between that year and 1825, the population may have increased to 20,000. But what was the situation of its ruined trade? In the Macclesfield Newspaper of 10th Feb. 1825, there appeared the following advertisement:—
"To the Overseers of the Poor, and to families desirous of settling in Macclesfield:
"Wanted immediately—From four to five thousand persons." (Loud and continued cries of hear.) "Between 4 and 5,000 persons." (And I beseech the House to attend to the description.) "Of from 7 to 20 years of age" [so that from the tender age of seven years, children were to be employed in the manufacture of Macclesfield.] "to be employed in the throwing and manufacture of silk." (The great increase of trade having caused a great demand for hands—it was represented that) "it offered a good opportunity, to parents and overseers, to put out children!"
(To be continued.)