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MISCELLANY.

Remarks of Edward Noble, Esq., On the Electoral question, delivered in the House of Representatives, December 6, 1855.

I desire very briefly, Mr. Chairman, to give my views upon this question, which has certainly been for a long time debated in the Legislature, but very little among the people. I think the reason is obvious, why the popular mind has not taken hold of this question, and manifested with regard to it the same peculiarities it has upon other questions of a popular character. Since my recollection, South Carolina has been immersed in federal politics, has had one sole great issue to occupy her attention, which issue was of that absorbing kind, that merged into itself all mere State politics. I confess to have entered heartily in this magnifying one issue at the expense of all others, although, from the first, I was in favor of giving this election to the people. As long, therefore, as the question with us was union or disunion, there was a palpable absurdity in agitating for this change.

I asked the gentlemen who has just taken his seat, (Mr. Dantzer), to withdraw his motion, as the bill we are now discussing is the one I advocate. Until 1845, there was no necessity for a change in the time, mode or manner of electing electors, but that year Congress brought on this election earlier than our Legislature could constitutionally convene. In this state of affairs, it becomes necessary for us to do one of two things, either to give this election to the people, or to alter the Constitution, so as to meet the emergency.

By the peculiarities of our State constitution representative power has been distributed according to a three fold method, according to population, taxation and geographical divisions of the State into districts and parishes. As to these territorial subdivisions it is well known what importance the lower country derives from thence. I believe there are at least five members on this floor, having their duplicates in the Senate, who hold their places by virtue of that article of the constitution which gives a representative and Senator to each district and parish without reference to population or taxation. In the State the five parish districts, Charleston, Colleton, Beaufort, Georgetown and Orangeburg, have twenty-one Senators, leaving for the remaining twenty-four districts but twenty-four Senators. By comparing the two sections together it will be found that the large majority of members from the lower section represent taxes and more artificial subdivisions of territory, while the large majority from the upper section represents population. As matters now stand the lower section, assisted by Richland and Abbeville, constitutes a clear majority of the Legislature and is able to elect electors, representing only an aggregate population of about 285,000, of which nearly 200,000 are two thirds slaves. On the other hand, the upper section, excluding Richland and Abbeville, in all twenty districts, with a population of about 285,000, half being white and half black, is in a minority in the Legislature on joint ballot. Is there any political justice in this giving to the minority the right of the majority? I shall not question the constitutionality of the present mode of electing electors, which then puts in the ascendancy the minority of the State for it has so long been exercised by the Legislature that we may well assume it to be constitutional. Doubts have been raised upon this point as early as in the year 1828, when a distinguished man, General Dumaine, pronounced it as a usurpation. Through it may have been wholly evaded, but it is a fundamental matter, pertaining essentially to the rights of the people, and the only scheme whereby political knowledge can be imparted to the people.

Andrew Jackson Donelson.
Parson Brownlow says is arranged to print the name of his candidate for Vice President in the above style in order to make him well heard. Hear him!
It has been understood, as arranged, that Mr. Donelson would be put on the ticket with Andrew Jackson in his letters and Donelson inevitable and then the Old Line Democrats would have a very easy and sure way to a light drizzle.

Federal representation is based solely on population, the whites being enumerated *per capita* and every five slaves counting three. Population is the basis of the one, and of the other the basis is population, taxation and artificial divisions of territory. What right, I ask, has a section to demand for her taxes and parishes a disproportional influence in the selection of the chief executive magistrate of the Union, when by the federal constitution influence and power in federal elections are directed to be distributed in proportion to population?

I will not occupy the time of the committee by enlarging on this point. To my mind, it is plain, the compromises of the State constitution have no reference to the federal might each section should have in federal elections, but were entirely confined to the distribution of power in reference to State affairs. This, the main objection, being disposed of, I will consider the other, that by the change the people would be corrupted, the unanimity of the State lost, and the State driven into the vortex of national politics. I am one of those who believe the people of the South to be capable of exercising all the rights of freemen directly, and without intervention of any agency. Why should not South Carolinians elect electors? In all other cases they are one degree removed from the choice of the highest functionaries of government. There is but one body between them, and the choice of governor, judges and United States Senators; and why is a second body to be interposed between them and the choice of the President? Is there any necessity for this difference in the mode of ascertaining the popular will? We, in the South, should not dread popular elections. Slavery with us is a powerful element of conservatism, sufficient of itself to keep in check all dangerous tendencies among us towards expansive and explosive radicalism. The citizen with us belongs to a privileged order in society—a privileged class. More than half of our population is servile, disfranchised and debarred from ever attaining to freedom. Universal suffrage, therefore, can reach to less than one-half of our population, not a title of whom live in cities or villages, but are agriculturists seldom going beyond their neighborhoods, and of all classes in society the hardest to arouse to anything like general excitement. Such a people cannot be corrupted by elections; they may become too ignorant of politics to exercise intelligently their rights by persuading them to take no interest in public affairs.

In the ancient republics citizenship was confined to the inhabitants of the cities, and the voters attended the elections in vast throngs, surrounded by every inducement to turbulence and anarchy, and it was no wonder the population became licentious and tyrannical. In South Carolina, outside of the cities, I believe there are but few election boxes where the number of votes polled is greater than in the Legislature on a joint ballot. Were I speaking for New York or Massachusetts, I might well fear the results of adding to the popular elements or characteristics of the government; for in each of those States the popular strength is already too much unchecked by the conservative part of society. Their liberty is fast running the career of the ancient commonwealths, after the people had seized hold of the reins of government.

This election has not corrupted or weakened the unanimity of the people of Alabama or Mississippi. The people of those States are as consistent Democrats as we are, and are no more corrupted than we are, and afford us an example of what we should be, were the election of electors for President and Vice-President to be given to the people. There the ablest men of the State are electors, and visit every county to discuss the great principles of their party. This is what we want in South Carolina. As we are now situated, but two elections of any political character belong to the people. Those who run for the Legislature are mostly unprepared and unfit to discuss the great questions of State which enter into every Presidential canvass. We want our ablest men, our orators and statesmen, upon these great occasions, to go among the people and instruct, excite and arouse them upon the issues between the parties. In this way we will have enlightenment, political knowledge and intelligence sown broadcast over the land. Sooner or later, in my judgment, we will give this election to the people, not because it is giving to the upper country its just proportion of political power, but because it will be found wise and necessary as a scheme of public enlightenment, as the only scheme whereby political knowledge can be imparted to the people.

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Senator Evans on the Cincinnati Convention.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, '56.

MY DEAR SIR: I have had various applications from newspaper editors to know my opinion of the Cincinnati Convention. These I have declined to answer, because I presume the object was to give publicity through the papers. The subject is a grave one, to be decided by argument and not by the influence of names. My position here does not enable me to form better opinions than may be formed by others at home; but I have on this, as on most other questions, an opinion which has never been withheld from my private friends; and such as it is, I have no hesitation in giving it to you. There are many objections to such assemblies, the greatest of which is the mode of organization. If they could be constituted so as to reflect truly public opinion, I do not see any very great objection. But this is not so. In the primary assemblies the chief actors are intriguing politicians, who look to the distribution of the immense patronage of the government more than the great principles of the party. The great object should be to select the man who is the best exponent of the principles of the party to which we belong, excluding entirely all selfish considerations. But whilst man's nature is unchanged we shall never realize this. The worst symptoms of the times is the numerous herd of office-hunters. The question with them is not who will best carry out the great principles of the Constitution, but from whom are they most likely to obtain an office.

There are (in all the North and West, and somewhat at the South,) the active politicians who manage to get themselves appointed delegates, with a view to make the best bargain for themselves. The mania of office-seeking has as yet but little influence on the people of our State, and it may be that this is owing, in some degree to our avoiding such Conventions. But it seems to me, there are times and occasions which justify a departure from former usages. Party is inseparable from popular governments. Since the days of Washington, no man has stood out so prominently that all eyes were turned towards him. Every section has its favorite, and if each section voted without concert for its first choice, they would be beaten by unity of action in the opposition, or every elector would go into the House of Representatives to select from the three highest. Some pre-concert seems, therefore, to be necessary for the success of the party. The first mode was a Congressional caucus, but this was broken down in 1824. The present mode was substituted after Gen. Jackson's time, and has been acted on ever since. The greatest objection to it is, as I have before stated, that it represents the intriguing, selfish politicians, and not the unbiased and honest views of the masses. Such an assembly will meet others, and will designate who is to be the candidate of the Democratic party, whether we are represented or not. It is equally certain that South Carolina will vote for the nominee. The choice will be between him and the nominee of the Know Nothings, and the nominee of the Abolitionists, or Black Republicans, as they are called. President Pierce is a man after our own hearts. Both in words and in deeds, he comes nearer to our opinions than any man who has preceded him for the last thirty years. Our vote may give him the nomination, and my best judgment is that we ought to join in the selection. Whether we shall do so in future, may depend on circumstances.

I would not give the delegates positive instructions to vote for or other, but they should be distinctly informed that he is not to be given up until all chance of success fails. I certainly prefer him to all other men, but there are others from which we may expect good, but they have not given, as yet, the evidence. The great impediment in the way of Mr. Pierce arises, I fear, from the cause before stated. His re-election will dispirit the masses of the aspirants for office, as it is not to be expected that he will turn out his own appointees, to put in new men of the same party. It is said the offices in the gift of the President are worth eight millions of dollars for the four years. For a share of these spoils there are fifty thousand aspirants at least. If there is an entire change of party, this immense sum is the stake to be won, and the influence of the immense number is brought directly to bear against the party in power, and partly against the nomination of the incumbent by his own party. Your obedient servant,

JOSIAH I. EVANS.
DR. JOHN DOUGLASS.

STEAMBOAT LINE TO COLUMBIA.—One of the gentlemen, whom we mentioned yesterday as having left Columbia with a surveying party for the purpose of exploring the river and ascertaining the feasibility of establishing a steamboat line between this city and Columbia, arrived here yesterday, and is endeavoring to collect money to equip a boat to be sent down the river as early as possible. They are going to start on a light drizzle.

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Washington Correspondence of the Charleston Mercury.

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1856.

Messrs. Editors: Abolitionism has fairly sprung its rattle in both Houses. For ten days past the Senate has been fully exercised upon the Kansas question, and has been the theatre of some rich scenes. 'Tis said that in secret session Messrs. Johnson, of Arkansas, Weller, of California, and Pugh, of Ohio, administered a handsome castigation to Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts. The Navy Board has also drawn off some of the declamatory fury of the Senate. Judge Butler has made a capital speech on each of these subjects.

His speech on the Kansas question, and in defence of General Acheson, we think the finest effort which the Judge has made for some years.

There is some feeling here upon our foreign relations. The newspaper correspondents, in pandering to a morbid appetite among our people for novelty and excitement, have to some extent, flamed a war feeling in our country. The various points in controversy may easily be adjusted. Time will settle the most, and only criminal brawling can magnify the rest into sufficient moment to involve us in a war. I think it quite likely that diplomatic intercourse will be suspended, but this will not be war, although it will be an initiation of soreness and restlessness between the two countries. The enlistment question is assuming a form of chronic irritation, and will, unless managed with good feeling and good temper on both sides, lead to harassing entanglements. The war clamor which has been raised, is much to be deprecated, as it stirs up difficulties, and ruffles the wings of commerce. But we have domestic questions which now vex us sorely, and threaten to vex us still more. The Whitefield Reeder case is now up before the House, and is exercising the genius and resources of that body.

Some weeks ago the Committee of Elections reported a resolution authorizing them to send to Kansas for persons and papers; but, as they did not give any reasons for such an extraordinary proceeding, after a short and sharp debate, it was referred back to them. Last week they reported back their resolution, with a long report, in which they profess to give their reasons for the course indicated. The minority, consisting of Stephens, of Georgia, Oliver, of Missouri, and Smith, of Alabama, have made a minority report, which is brief, but able and conclusive. The minority report is accompanied with a letter from Gen. Whitefield, which is lucid and eminently satisfactory. The House is now fairly launched upon the current of this discussion, and no one can tell when it will stop. Reeder will not be admitted, though it is quite likely that Whitefield will be rejected. The fanaticism of the House seems driving to this; but, should it thus eventuate, it will involve us in a striking embarrassment.

The Bill organizing the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, orders the Governor to take a census of the population; to distribute the number of Representatives among the districts; to appoint the places and time for holding the election, and persons to superintend it; and then says that thereafter the whole power of the subject shall be in the Territory Legislature.

Thus you will see, that the election having been held under the bill, all the power under it, in the hands of the Governor, has been exhausted. Now, if the House pronounced the Kansas Legislature an illegal body, where is the power to order a new election? Not in the hands of the Governor. Where, then? In the hands of Congress. But, suppose the Senate should decide the Kansas Legislature to be a legal body; or suppose the President should so decide—and, in fact, he has so decided—and either should refuse to pass or sign a new bill: what would be the condition of things in the Territory? Ours of anarchy—profound confusion. The action of the House may yet involve us in utter embarrassment.

The debate in the House upon this subject has been a very able one. Mr. Boyce, of South Carolina, made a superb speech. He is one of the very best and clearest constitutional lawyers in the House. His opinions always carry great weight with them. His discussion of the many grave questions connected with this subject, was luminous and profound. He commanded, throughout his argument, the unflagging attention of the House. This is the best test of a member's standing in the House. Mr. Boyce is regarded here as having exhausted the important points in the controversy. So far as the friends of Whitefield are concerned, they may safely leave their case with Mr. Boyce's argument. His constituents may well be proud of him.

Washington is gay. There are balls every week, and private parties unnumbered. There are a great many brilliant women here, and many matches are said to be upon the tapis. The weather has been lately so delicious. Pennsylvania comes down with fine snow, and the hills are covered with it. The snow is so deep that it will give the feet somewhat with Kansas as well as with Pennsylvania. Kansas as well as with Pennsylvania. Kansas as well as with Pennsylvania.

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The Duck.

Once I stood on the bridge and saw on the pond a large family of ducks. From them I received instruction. After playing on the water a little while, one little duck got mad. He went up to his mate and said, or seemed to say, "Now, my lad, I am going to drown you." So he took him by his cap and pulled his head down under the water. But I perceived that in order to drown his little brother, he was just as likely to drown himself. He seemed so intent on drowning his brother, that he was actually choking himself. When these two ducks could stand it no longer under the water they came up. But the quarrel was not yet settled. Both were in a complete rage. They went at each other with mouths open, trying to get a grip at each other's cap. One seized the other, and a third seized him; and then three heads were under the water at once. And it was not long before the whole family were drawn into the quarrel. They gripped, and bit, and jerked, and choked, and strangled each other, till the whole pond was in a foam, and sent out its circles to its utmost extent. Silly birds! thought I. In order to drown others you strangle yourselves. You will hold your own heads under the water till you are half dead, hoping to drown your own brothers. Poor birds! Ye were made innocent. But here is a whole family in a quarrel.

Two things more I have against the duck. She never feels any other duck, not even her own little ones. All she cares for is to fill her own dear crop. She has not a particle of benevolence. She will eat when she is not hungry, for the sake of keeping away from even her ducklings. Shame on her for that! And when she can't eat any more, she will walk over her food, and soil it so nothing else can eat it. The other thing I complain of is, that the duck lives in low ground, generally in the mud.

Wicked children are too much like the ducks. John strikes his brother. His mother shames him, and his father whips him. Tell me which gets the worse ducked, John or his brother? Henry steals Mary's apple. Now Mary only loses a good apple, while Henry loses a good conscience, a good name, and a good friend. Now, my children, tell me which gets the worse ducked, Henry or his sister Mary?

Pharaoh pursued the Hebrews. He cornered them up at the Red Sea. He drove them into the sea. God helped the Hebrews all out on dry ground. Pharaoh and his hosts were all overthrown, and sunk like a stone in the cold waters. But while they were sinking and dying in the Red Sea, the Hebrews stood on the opposite banks singing the song of Moses. Tell me, little children, who were the worst ducked, Pharaoh or Moses?

As it is with ducks, so it is with wicked people. Every one for himself. A careless wicked man will keep his money, all he can get. His children like little ducks, must get their living if they can. He buys no books against lying, no books against stealing, no books teaching love to one another. They live in the mud. Their minds are all muddy. Every duck is for himself. If he gets his own crop full, it is all he cares for. There is not one good bird among them all. They fight at nothing. One duck will often draw the whole family into a quarrel. Not a good teacher among the whole tribe.

SURGERY IN ILLINOIS.—Mr. Brown, of Big Muddy, had his leg crushed by a log, and had all the doctors of Richmond, Clay and Jasper, in attendance. Not a set of surgical instruments could be found—and amputation was imperative. A rusty butcher knife and butcher's saw were obtained—the saw rusty and greasy, was good enough. The incision was made, and the flesh cut in professional style, the arteries taken up with a crooked fork, and tied with bastling thread from one of the M. D.'s jackets; the end of the bone was scraped with a case knife, to get off the grease and rust left by the saw; the flesh was turned over the end of the bone, and a cotton rag stuck on to the wound with shoemaker's wax. Eight inches of common whiskey was put into the patient before the operation commenced, which made him oblivious. This is considered one of the greatest triumphs of the science of surgery extant, and shows that money expended for instruments is thrown away.—*Olney Rep.*

STORY OF A RAMPON.—A Mr. Stout, of Iowa, having occasion lately to use his loaded rifle, attempted to discharge it, which he failed to do after expending several caps. He then entered his house and on examination came to the conclusion the powder was wet.—He pricked some dry powder into the tube, and placed his cap partly filled with powder also. He then took the wiper, which had a ball screw on the end, put it into the rifle and screwed it into the ball. After doing things so far ready for operation, he saw the trigger, looked the rifle, and finding the ball on the wiper, pulled it off with another rod he set on the trigger. The rifle went off, and the ball and all passed through the hole, but did not enter the powder. The wiper, however, had been broken.

Later from Europe.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 12.

The British and North American Royal Mail Steamship Arabia has arrived at this port, with advices from Liverpool to the last instant.

A despatch received by Messrs. Brown & Shipley, the Liverpool Agents of the Collins line of steamships, dated Glasgow, the 27th ult., says that the steamship Edingburg, from New York, passed on the 7th ult., when five days out, in latitude 40 degrees 30 seconds, and longitude 49 degrees 40 seconds, large quantities of broken iron, and saw on it a quantity of broken cabin furniture, consisting of fine ornamental doors, with white or glass handles, a ladies' work box, and other articles common in the cabins of first class steamships—it is, we fear, too probable that these articles were fragments from the wreck of the Pacific, as the Arabia brings no intelligence of that vessel.

In Paris three peace Conferences have been held, but none of their proceedings have been allowed to transpire. The general impression is that matters, so far, have progressed favorably. It is believed that immediately after peace has been signed, a European Congress will meet to adjust the balance of power. A rumor, to which, however, not much credence is given, is afloat to the effect that Russia concedes the required limitations, but will not abandon her protectorate over the Greek Christians. Another rumor, somewhat alarming, but believed to be a speculating ruse, says that Russia has stated objections which will break up the Conference.

An armistice has been announced, to last until the end of March, but not to affect the existing blockade, and has been made known to the armies of the Crimea. Omar Pacha's resignation has been accepted. Russia, the Allies and Sweden continue to make active preparations for war. The excitement in relation to the difficulty with the United States had entirely subsided in England. Mr. Buchanan had dined with the Queen.

The Liverpool cotton market opened active, but closed quiet. The sales during the week ending the 28th ult., comprised 60,000 bales, of which speculators took 13,000 and exporters 3,000 bales, leaving 50,000 bales of all descriptions to the trade. The stock in port consisted of 400,000 bales, including 270,000 American.

The Liverpool Breadstuffs market had declined and closed dull. Wheat had declined 3d. flour 1s., and corn 1s. Ohio flour was worth 37s. 6d. per bbl. of 196 lbs.

Indiana Doctrine.

Gov. Wright, of Indiana, having been requested by the free-State men of Kansas to urge the people of his State to interfere in their quarrels with the Missourians has written a reply, in which he says:

"Indiana, as a State, has wisely selected her own domestic policy. She is willing to give her neighbors the same right, and to suppose them capable of choosing and deciding for themselves. She has never given any cause of complaint to any of her sister States or Territories. And I do most sincerely hope that none of her citizens will so far forget the relation they sustain to their neighbors, and the national compact, as to take any part in the strifes and contentions of others who are openly violating the laws of the land. * * * There are those who indulge in the use of land names and sectional phrases, such as subserviency to Southern interest, doughfaces, and the like, in order to influence the public mind, and to arouse our people to a violation of law. All this, however, I ardently hope, will not lead our people away from the great principle that underlies all our institutions—the absolute right of each State and Territory to make its own institutions, without the influence of others.

"Upon this principle we can stand and maintain the peace and harmony of the Union with safety and honor. It is the corner-stone upon which the security and perpetuity of the Union rests. "Having the utmost confidence that the people of Indiana will, not under any circumstances, abandon this high position, I frankly say to you, no efforts will be made by this department to induce a soldier to enter upon a crusade against any portion of the people of the Union or their institutions. If others do wrong, we will do right."

Horrible Murder.—The Governor on the plantation of Mr. John B. Lumpkin, in Hancock county, Miss., was killed by one of the negroes a few days since. The murderer dragged the body some distance and cut off both of his hands. He then carried off the house of Mr. L., and set a trap out that he had killed the Governor, and intended to kill the Governor.

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