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June 17 P. J. OAKS.

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From the South Carolinian. To Col. John S. Preston.

Sir: In proceeding with the task of estab lishing the justification of that portion of your fellow-citizens of Richland, lately in pondence with you on the great political topic of the day, in whose minds the appearance of your Barnwell letter first excited uneasiness as to the "soundness of your principles," it becomes necessary to call attention to some other points it developed before its valedictory be finally pronounced, and, in doing so, the con-tradictions to the "ground they supposed you to occupy" before its publication become absolutely and painfully certaia.

Unquestionably, on the 22d of March last, you and the "immediate State action me you have been pleased to style them, (and they have no objections to the designation when properly understood.) of your own District and throughout the State, stood upon a common platform, and avowed allegiance to the same great policy. That platform and that policy were disunion with the co-operation of the other States of the South if it could be obtained; if it could not be obtained, then DISUNION with South Carolina, ALONE, ACTING THROUGH HER ALREADY ELECTED CONVENTION, PROVI-DED FOR BY LAW AND BEFORE ITS FINAL AD-JOURNMENT. This is refutable truth, standing upon the record in characters of unextinguishable light, and, as such, challenging denia it is respectfully asserted, that you can hever escape from its persevering pursuit, and stand unimpeached in your consistency as a man. If additional proof on this subject could be required by honorable and intelligent men, after a candid review of what has already been adduced, it is abundantly supplied in the tatements of "A Secessionist and Member of the Legislature," in his card of nomination for deputies to the Southern Congress of the 23d of May last, a correspondent whom you justly compliment as a 'leading member' of that body. and 'as noble a gentleman as the earth af-Of course he heard your speech in the House of Representatives, and doubtless had participated in your less public consulations, Informed fully, therefore, as to your views of the line of policy which the safety and honor of the State demanded at the hands of those who assumed the helm of affairs, "A Secessionist and Member of the Legislature" lannehed your nomination as a deputy to the Southern Congress in May. Now, sir, leaving the courtesy of the movement entirely out of the question, upon what grounds was the nomination of yourselfand your respected co-nominee, Colonel Chesnut, placed and so earnestly recomended by that correspondent? The answer shall be given in the very language of the card itself: If they fail (that is, in the Southern Congress,) which it is now almost certain that they will do, to accomplish any thing for the honor and safety of the South, then I pledge my life they will co-operate most heartily with us in taking South Carolina single handed and alone out of this the State Convention. To this they are pledus. Let us, then, forget that we are divided by a hair, and give them a hearty and unanimous support for the sake of Carolina-for the sake of the cause-for the sake of the scorssion." This language is not susceptible of two constructions; your elevated moral senses renders you superior to any attempt perversion; and whilst the people of South Carolina are worthy of all commendation of their generous liberality, to yield an interpretation of it in support of your consistency, would be an exercise of charity that would go far to convict them of a gross imbecility, or the practice of a sycophancy derogatory alike to their common sense and independence.

Your relation to the nomination of the 22d of May is equally unequivocal with the language in which it is couched, and is as indisputable as the grounds were explicit upon which it was predi cated. It went before the public upon the au thority of a geutlman, as you know, whose spirit had been made "red with uncommon wrath' by the federal usurper, lustful of despotic power and impelled by the infuriated disciples of abolition, obedient to the flat of the "higher law." You knew him, therefore, to be a seces sionist, ready himself to stand the "hazard of the die," wholly uninfluenced by fears, interest or ambition, and without circuity or guile .-You well style him "as noble a gentleman as the earth affords." Previous, then, to the publication of your Barnwell letter, how did you stand before your fellow citizens in view of that nomination? Why, sir, plainly, palpably, and undeniably, in body and mind, committed and pledged to the principles and p licy which it embodies. It is not necessary to remind you of the maxim that "silence gives consent;" it would be an imputation upon your candor as a public man, which all scorn to make, to intimate that you could be guilty of cunning practices to obtain a distinguished dignity, involving an impo tant political trust. No, sir,-no, sir; the platform of the nominating card was avowedly your platform-you confessed your complete acquiescence in it, as a whole, and in all its parts, when you incorporated it in your reply to the recent interrogative note of some of your fellow-citizens of Richland in proof of wound upon a friend too cruel for endurance, and left room for an implication at least, that that friend, with all his opportunities for information, was destitute of sufficient intelligence to understand your meaning, ha I misconceived your principles, had over-estimated your pa-

imputation is wholly inadmissible, and it would ciples, admired the briliancy of your talents," be treating you with unpardonable injustice to trusted to the invincibility of your political suppose that you would allow it to exist for a moment; and had you submitted that card of most reliable and available leaders. You asnomination to your fellow citizens of the State action party who lately addressed you in answer to the interrogatories they propounded, they would have hailed it with delight as satisfactory evidence that they had not been mista- stand at the helm till the final catastrophe shall ken in "confiding in the soundness of your principles, that you agreed with them in the main fate. in your principles, and were prepared to act with them." They were prepared to stand by fellow-citizens of Richland, your encourageyou in defence of the position that the great resistance party in the State, the people, through their representatives in the last General Assembly, bravely marched up almost in solid phalanx; and that platform is faithfully delineated in the card of nomination; upon it they were a corresponding dignity. In you was then reresolved to stand in triumph or to fall in honor, and upon all the responsibilities of their consciences they now declare that they regarded you as one of their banner-bearers; and in the firmest convictions of their judgments, after a review of the whole ground, you have abandoned that glorious standard, which from your hands would have kissed the dust, had they not caught it as you east it from you.

It is now proper to open the inquiry how far and in what respects your Barnwell letter, which gave rise to the late correspondence between yourself and some of your fellow citizens, is at war with your previous political faith as stamped upon the face of your nomination in May last, as a deputy to the Southern Congress, in the closing paragraph of which, that faith, as far as it relates to the present action and duties of South Carolina, is pronounced as fol-

" Such, then, gentlemen, is my belief, that S. Carolina should devote herself now, and patiently to seek the co-operation of other States -to do this by the sentiments of the people expressed in their primary associations, by the acts of her legislature, and most especially by the solemn ordinance of the people's supreme organ now existing, in all honor to use all argument and solicitation.'

It is not to be disguised that this is taking new and totally different ground as to the action of the "people's supreme organ now existing," the convention, from that so explicitly assumed for you, and so undeniably sanctioned by yourself, in the nominating card of May .-According to the latter, the convention was to be a body of action-of practical, decided, complete, and final action. It was to perform the great business of taking South Carolina single handed and alone, out of this accursed Union before its final adjournment; and that you would help us in this mortal achievement, in the event of your failure to effect any thing for the safety and honor of the South. The life of your noble friend stands pledged, and he staked that life on the ground that you were pledged by your votes of the last session, by your known disunion sentiments, if not by your accursed Union before the final adjournment of private declarations. Vastly, immeasurably ged by their votes of the last session and by their nestly recommend that that body should pur- lost to a glorious cause, nothing could have ged by their voies of the last session and by their pri- sue. You would now strip it of all its efficient induced me to employ my pen as I have in advate declarations." And again: "If it the South- cy and dignity; you would now have it pass dressing to you, and through you to the public. vate declarations. And again. If it the South an ordinance of solication instead of secession my previous communications, except a strong -to register an august, argumentative decree, instead of "taking South Carolina single handed and ALONE, out of this accursed Union"-It is imagined that the style of the preamble, and title of the most imposing decree which you would have the "people's supreme organ" to promulgate might be something like this :--Whereas, the other Southern States have, by the sentiments of their people, "the acts of their Legislature," and ordinances of their conventions, most solemnly resolved not to co-operate with S. Carolina in the effectual measures of resistance to the encroachments of an abolition Federal Gorcenment, but to submit thereto: Be it therefore ordained by the People's Supreme Organ of this State, that it becomes her, to use all argument and solicitation to effect a change in their opinion, and then-to adjourn. How are the mighty fallen! How have the injured, insulted brave succumbed! Sir, none of your fellowcitizens are ambitions of the glories of martyrdom, "if indeed, glory can be predicated of martyrdom at all;" but there are thousands, with no mobility about them except of heart and soul, of mind and spirit, who are ready now to meet its bloody or burning tortures, and the scene of its cruel and revolting death, rather than be what they are and what they must be in an early future, to a more damning degree -the degraded vassals of an infuriated, domineering, and usurping Central Abolition Government. Depend upon it, there are those who will not permit that Government to "bestride

the narrow world" of their sovereign State, "\_\_\_\_ like a Colosses; and they, petty men, Walk under its huge legs, and peep about To find themselves dishonorable graves."

And if they be compelled to strike your name from the catalogue of such glorious sons of South Carolina, the eye shall be averted at

the inauspicious moment of the erasure. It cannot be said with justice that any porion of your fellow-citizens of this State either "give strength to the weakness of our foes, to invite or drive our friends to join them, or by any means to make a glorious, a vital cause, the sport of chances which are all against us." Such they deny to be their motives or the tenyour consistency. You could not repudiate it, because its repudiation would have inflicted a of them be blind with fury, or mad with "rage" -if they, or any of them, are ready to encoun ter the fate of martyrs, whether it be glorious or ignoble, (and you seem to doubt which rit would be the one or the other,) you cannot escape from your proper share of the responsibility of producing such a state of the public respondence. A far higher and more indepentriotism and public spirit, and had incorporated mind. You cannot point your finger at them dent ground was open for your occupancy, as

ments without competent authority. Such an They "confided in the soundness of your princourage, and rejoiced in you as one of their sisted to launch their little vessel of State on the waters; and if the element is about to become enveloped in storm and darkness, and to engulph it, they have a right to expect you to occur, bravely and heroically sharing their Upon an occasion well remembered by your

ous eloquence inspirited the timid, and brought back to hoary years the patriot fires of youth, when you declared, with impressive solemnity, that "we were enacting history," and that our forms of procedure should be characterized by cognised our leader and our tower of strength, from which should fly in triumph, the colors of SINGLE-HANDED SECESSION, on the failure of proper efforts to secure co-operation. Sir, where are you now? Where has your Barnwell and other letters carried you? Where has your letter of reply to some of the citizens of Richland carried you? in which you declare that "you deem it due to yourself to say that you believe that the convention may honorably and patriotically terminate its own existence without perpetrating the act of secession." You have answered for youself. You are a co-operationist-that is your party now, which will sweep you on irresistibly from position to position; and planetary motion is not more certain than that your destination is - but I forbear; I will not speak the word.

The operations of the human mind are, indeed, mysterious, and the springs of its action are often so subtle that they escape its own observation. Influences not unfrequently in trude themselves upon it unknown to itself, operating, however, with a power equally hidden and controlling; and if unhappily yours has been seized upon by such occult agencies, whose effect has been to render you oblivious of the past and to mislead you as to the future, the broad mantle of charity must be thrown over your errors whose sudden and unlucky mischiefs our reinvigorated energies PALMETTO. will struggle to repair.

NO. 5.

- nothing extenuate, Nor set down aught in malice-

Sin: I am about to relieve you from my intrusive addresses, and at parting have only a

word to add. The hamility of my position, as well as of my endowments, might well have deterred me from entering upon the task of exhibiting what appeared to me to be the irreconcileable inconsistencies in which your short, but by no means anattractive, public career abounds; and considering the very extraordinary advantages of social relations, wealth, connections, and abilities, of which you are possessed, and all of which, in my best judgment, I thought I saw different is the line of conduct you now so car- were about to be suddenly and unexpectedly and overmastering impulse of duty. I frankly confess to you that your divergence from that line of policy, which your countrymen had every ground to believe you had firmly adopted at the present perilous and all important juncture of public affairs, previous to the appearance of your ill-omened Barnwell letter, was so manifest, and at the same time so alarming, that I thought that even one as little fitted as myself might easily expose it, and thereby avert in some degree its threatened mischief.

If I have succeeded, I have real cause for rejoicing, as I seek no other reward for my labor than the approbation of my fellow-citizens and of my own conscience; and if I have failed, the superior intelligence of the former will infallibly supply the deficiencies of my argument, so that you cannot finally escape from a just retribution. It would be in vain for you to attempt to vindicate your consistency, for the array of evidence against you is commanding and overwelming; it stands invulnerable and ineffaceable in the solidity of the record; it is found in a force and power which defy overthrow in your public writing, public speaking, and public acting -in the whole tenor and spirit of your private conferences, consultations, and conversations, up to a certain period already designated. Until the advent of your Barnwell letter, by the undisguised and loftytoned committal of all these, you were a recognised secessionist, standing on the platform of your December speech, on the platform of the resolution of the Richland Southern Rights Association of the 22d of March last, and finally on the platform assumed for you, and, I eyond all disputation, sanctioned by you, in the card of "A Secessionist and Member of the Legislature," of the 22d of May last, nominating you as a deputy to the Southern Congress. This body of evidence you can neither overleap nor undermine. Its stability puts at defiance alike the ingenuity and desparation of desire or intend, as you seem to imagine, to attack, and has carried conviction to all minds of all parties-co-operationists, submissionists, and secessionists-which no appeals, no tropes or figures, no promises, protestations, or sophistry can in the least disturb. The celebrated Junius, on one occasion, justly remarked, that "a question once decided was no longer open for argument;" and in this light the question of your consistency must be regarded by a just and enlightened public opinion.

It is to be sincerely regretted, therefore, that you made the question of your consistency at all before your fellow-citizens in your late corinto your political creed objectionable ele- and cry out, "thou canst not soy I did it."- I am sure, on reflection, you will at once per-

ceive, and one which a generous public would readily have tolerated. Deeply implicated as you were deemed to be in the doctrine of secession by the convention provided for by law, and before its final adjournment, whilst support would certainly have been withdrawn, no one would have denied to you the right to change your opinions on that subject upon any evidence satisfactory to yourself, and a ready rebuke would have been administered to that proscriptive illiberality which might have questioned that right. Had you placed yourself before your feilow-citizens in that attitude, its defensibility as a personal privilege would have been admitted at once and by all, and the war between you and them would have assumed the complexion of an elevated and honorable contest concerning great principles of public pol-

No motives would have been inquired after -no alien and controlling interests would have been alluded to-von would have been believed entirely sincere upon your own declaration, and your former political allies, though parting with you in serrow, would have commended your truth and frankness. The controversy between us would have been a manly warfare, worthy of intelligent and enlarged minds, capable of appreciating and bandling momentous' questions involving the very profoundest public. considerations; and if you should signally fail, as you nevitably will, in the effort to sustain your consistency, it will, after all, afford to honorable men with whom you have come into collision, no real satisfaction to behold one so valuable to the State broken and discomfitted at their feet, were it not for the consciousness that in prostrating you they had advanced the great principles, upon which, in their estimation, the public honor and welfare rest. They can find no other ground of gratulation in your misfortune-no other source of exultation in the extinguishment of your well founded ambitions pretensions; and you are entreated to allow them to indulge the hope that the opportunity will not be long deferred of healing the mortification they may have inflicted on you in the performance of a present paramount publie duty. In the indulgence of this feeling be assured all of us delight.

You have the respectful adien of PALMETTO.

Distance of the Sun .- Imagine a railway from here to the sun. How many hours is the sun from us? Why, if we were to send a baby in an express train, going incressantly a hundred miles an hour, without making any stoppages, the baby would grow to be a boy-the boy would grow to be a man-the man would grow old and die-without seeing the sun, for it is distant more than a hundred years from us .--But what is this compared to Neptune's distance? Had Adam and Eve started, by our railway, at the creation, to go from Neptune to the Sun, at the rate of fifty miles an hour, they would not have been there vet; Neptune is more than six thousand years from the centre of our system .-- Household Words.

One of the Witnesses .- The late J. S., a man of infinite wit and humor, and who had probably seen as much of life in America as any one, used to tell the following story, which is too good to be lost, though pro he could do full justice to it. If we err not, it

What rail road stock is in the east, steamboat shares are in the west, and as almost every body owns more or less, if is impossible to procure a judgment against any company for injury, carelessness, or even loss of life. Such suits are vet very frequent, and give rise to some strange contre temps.

Not long since, it seems, a steamboat called the "Old Kentuck," blew up near the Trinity, at the mouth of the Ohio, where it is a well established fact, that a great many of the mosquitoes will weigh a pound, by which accident a lady rejoicing in the name of Mrs. Jones, lost her husband and her trunk, for both of which an action was brought.

There was, strange to say, great difficulty in proving that Mr. Jones had been on the boat at the time of the collapse, that worthy having notoriously been very drunk on the wharf boat just as the steamer left Trinity.

Many witnesses were examined to prove the fact until finally a Mr. Dietzmar, a German was placed on the stand. Our friend J. S. was attorney for the boat, and elicited from Mr. Dietzmar this testimony:

"Mr. Dietzmar, did you know the Old Kentuck?"

"Yah, I was blowed up mit her." "Were you there when she collapsed her flue?" "When she bust de bile? yah, I wash dere." "Did you know Mr. Jones?"

"To be sure-Mr. Jones and I took passage togedder." You did! When did you last see Mr. Jones

on board the boat?" "Well! I did not see Mr. Jones aboard de last time."

J. S. fancied his case was safe, and with a most triumphant glance at the jury, said, You did not? Well Mr. Dietzmar, when last

did you see Mr. Jones?" "Well, when de schmoke pipe and me was going up, we met Mr. Jones coming down!"

## CHOICE OF A HUSBAND.

Of beauty just enough to bear inspection; Of candor, sense, and wit, a good collection; Enough of love for one who needs protection, To scorn the words—"I'll keep her in subjection;"
Wisdom to keep him right in each direction, Nor claim a weaker vessel's imperfection. Should I e'er meet with such in my connection, Let him propose, I'll offer no objection.

Vanity not malice, is the prevalent reason why men take so little pleasers in the praise and gifts of others.