

What that may be is a difficult point to decide. Various are the opinions which we see shadowed forth, rather than distinctly expressed, in reference to the policy, by which we as Carolinians, should be guided at this unpleasant juncture of our history. We will be pardoned it, among the rest, we hazard a few thoughts upon this important subject.

The people of South Carolina, by an unmistakable vote, have decided that, under present circumstances, it is utterly inexpedient for us to hoist the colors of a separate Independence.—With this decision in full view, our existing Convention will not, of course, take any steps which might lead us into an attitude so distinctly repudiated. To suppose them capable of doing anything of the sort, is to attribute to them the licentious spirit of reckless revolutionists. Presumptuous and unfounded must be the suspicion which has been insinuated, in this point of view, against this honorable and honest body of men. Secession by South Carolina alone, on the score of wrongs heretofore endured, is numbered and fled away in the archives of the past. We deeply regret the circumstances of division and distraction at home which have brought the State to this position; for we ever had, and have still, a firm confidence in the feasibility and power of separate State action. But as we have said, the mandate of the sovereign people of this commonwealth has gone forth—and, for the time being, that remedy is not to be considered.

Nor do we think, with the present condition of things in South Carolina, that any half-way measures, such as were sketched out by some of our politicians last year, should now be ventured upon. Because, in the first place, those measures, properly understood, are nothing less than ineffectual steps towards the condemned policy of separate action. And, in the second place, they are too weak and inefficient to command the confidence and support of either party. It would, therefore, be both dangerous and useless to press forward any thing of the sort at this time.

Again, we cannot find any reasons to recommend this thing of South Carolina playing "Achilles in his tent"—drawing herself within her shell, like a box-tortoise, in sullen obstinacy, while every other Southern sister is wide awake and struggling, with commendable zeal, to make the best of a hard case. It is neither philosophical, nor is it in accordance with the spirit of the age to fall back thus upon an empty and unavailing dignity. The days are gone by when a proud people could strike their oppressors with terror by a lofty but quiescent indignation.—The world has become eminently practical and singularly impervious to those generous impulses of honor and justice which, history says, have heretofore influenced men and nations to noble and disinterested concessions. Nothing now can be expected from the interposition of a barren right, unaccompanied by a determination to maintain it resolutely or perish in the attempt—nothing but the sneers and contempt of far the greater portion of mankind. These remarks, when applied to the case of our long-boasted State, become more sadly truthful than any devoted son of hers is disposed to admit. Yes—she has at length become a by-word for enraged impotency—and, since the woful termination of last year's domestic strife, she is indeed looked upon by a majority of her confederates as being little better than a feeble commodity of childish Hotspurs, who live by the stimulus of an occasional quarrel, in which the tongue and pen are the only weapons to be apprehended. Had the policy of the Secessionists prevailed, by a majority sufficient to have rendered our action indisputably the action of an almost united people, far different would have been the estimation placed upon the character of South Carolina. But, as it is, we much fear that her influence has been vastly diminished, if not completely annulled. It is in view of this apprehension, that we speak of her as a glaring illustration of the utter stupidity of a State's standing aloof in moody apathy, while all the world around is in a race for the mastery, paying no more attention to the findings of little Carolina than eager travellers would to the dull smoke of a newly-capsize steam-engine. This may seem to be a digression, merely for the purpose of venting a little spleen against those who defeated the energetic and manly action, advised by the so-called Fire-eaters of '51. Far from it. We have not the slightest ill-will towards any individual for having acted thus. But we think all must now admit that South Carolina's moral influence has suffered a declension, since the certainty has gone forth to her enemies that she is not to be feared, and to her friends, that she is not to be looked to as a leader. If this be so, how imperious the necessity which now calls upon her to leave her tent of imbecility—to grind on her armor, and step forth "into the ring" where all the rest of her associates are actively striving for the advantages. Unless she does this, there is no other late in store for her than to be spoken of by coming generations, as an impracticable little State, ever boasting of rights which she never dared maintain, and making an excuse of her indignation to avoid an equal participation in the cares and inquietudes of the American Republic.

From the foregoing remarks it may be seen that we are inclined to the opinion that, inasmuch as Carolina chivalry is in a shocking decline at this particular time, we should make Carolina shrewdness felt, both in the affairs of the American Government and in the commerce of the world. We should bend all our energies to the great work of enhancing the wealth and general happiness and prosperity of our State and people. Seeing that it is scarcely possible for us, at present, to assume an attitude of independence, we should labor with patriotic ambition, to bring about the time when it will be the manifest interest of others to show us that forbearance which they never will yield at the bidding of Justice and Right. To this end, liberal encouragement should be given, by legislative enactments, to all undertakings which are likely to increase the happiness and affluence of any and every grade of our population. It should be the study of every one whose influence may be felt in the civil administration of our State Government to make that Government subservient, as far as possible, to the advancement of our wealth and consequent importance among the members of the great American League; especially since it has been settled by our own decision, that we should no longer prepared, as a separate State, to become the exponent and champion of a great

principle. We should do every thing that lies within the compass of our ability, to make our State, once more, an object of respect to the world around. Thus would she speedily become the home of enterprise and skill, and of every variety of progress, as she has heretofore been the land of the brave and generous. Nor should we do ought to deteriorate these latter virtues. While circumstances might enable us to assimilate in point of wealth, to the condition of all our northern sisters, we need not, on that account, cease to train our children to practice the old Carolina virtues. While we might find it to be our true policy to take an active part in the affairs of the central government, we need not on that account, cease to keep before the rising generation a faithful delineation of that government's past enormities, and of its tendency to despotic rule. While we are compelled to submit to the past, it should be emblazoned upon our banner that we thereby relinquish no particle of our sovereignty—but are determined to continue its assertion before mankind, until the day shall come when our people shall be prepared to proclaim with united voice, "We are ready to defend it upon the battle-field." That this day may speedily arrive we earnestly pray. In the meantime, what we have suggested in the foregoing remarks occurs to us as being our best policy for the present. If the day of determination and high resolve shall never come, our exertions will at least have made us peculiarly independent. But if it should arrive, then may we perhaps go forward with the glorious shout bursting from our united and unwavering ranks, "Now do we know that we are *animis opibusque parati*."

Life of An Editor.

Few employments are so unfavorable to careful reading, mature reflection, and elegant composition, as those of an Editor, especially an Editor of a Daily Paper. It is expected that he should not only read every thing, but it is expected that he should read every thing in advance of every body else, so as to guide the taste of others in the selection of all new books, periodicals, &c. Like a self-constituted gauger, he examines the articles prepared for the public palate, and chafes the proof and quantity as indicated by his critical analysis. The rapid conning over of the work to be reviewed, and the still more rapid glancing over exchange papers, and the versatility acquired by his random exertion of the mind, are favorable to any thing but a connected train of thought. Every one who has been in the habit of writing much, knows that there are times when a quasi-inspiration seems to come upon one; when conceptions come hot and glowing as from a furnace. Composition under the influence of such an *affluens*, is but a pleasure. But when soul and body are weary with long continued exertion, how hard to rouse the drooping faculties from repose, and command that intellectual energy which is necessary to the conception and production of a remarkable article. But, well, or ill, inspired, or jaded, the "copy" must be prepared, and so, like a reluctant school boy, he mounts the tripod. No friendly spirit comes to whisper a kind word of encouragement, or suggest a luminous train of thought. The article is at length finished, greatly to his own relief, and perhaps to the one who reads it; for who can, like the unhappy Israelite in Egypt, make bricks without straw; or to use a more modern simile, who can draw sweet strains of music from an unstrung harp?

The Editor is justly entitled to your sympathy, kind-hearted reader. His toils for your amusement are as laborious and as ceaseless as those of a convict on a treadmill. Surely, nothing but the pressure of poverty could ever induce any one to choose the wearisome profession. When, therefore, his efforts are found fault with; when the classic elegance and force of Macaulay are expected in a *leader* written amid the thousand perplexities that surround him, and his short comings are rigidly noticed and set down against him, how unkind is the censorious world! how unhappy the unfortunate Editor!

But, the "unkindest cut of all," and one which many feel most acutely, is when he is not only blamed, but left unpaid. That neglect takes away the sole remaining solace in his afflictions. Consider, good, kind, gentle reader, whether the "Laborer is not worthy of his hire"—especially when it is a work that not only wears out his body, but wastes out the very freshness and youth of his heart!

States Rights Republican.

The Ripley (Miss.) Advertiser states that two men, named Clay and Bickerstaff, have been committed to the jail of Tippah county, on a charge of horse stealing. The latter turned State's evidence in which we find some very novel relations, which demonstrate the fact that horse stealing is now reduced to a science, and that the master, salesman, striker, runner and stealer, constitute the different degrees of this new order. In his disclosures, he confessed himself to belong to the gang of horse-thieves, who operate from the Tombigbee, through Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas.

The House of Representatives of Ohio, on the 5th instant, refused to pay the expenses of M. Kosuth while on his visit to that State. A resolution directing an appropriation for this purpose was laid on the table in that body by a vote of 45 yeas to 29 nays.

Cotton Sales.—Wilmer & Smith's European Times of the 23d ult., states that a decision had been recently pronounced by the President and Vice President of a commercial association, affecting the interest of those operators in cotton wool who buy and sell to arrive. A question was submitted to the above named gentlemen as to whose is the liability of putting into condition suitable for delivery to a consumer such cotton as may have been sold to arrive, the terms of delivery by the seller being from ship's side, with customary allowance. The liability in question was pronounced to be upon the buyer.

SOURCES OF LIFE.—Read not books alone, but also read thyself. If you find anything questionable there, use the commentary of a sovereign, rather than the gloss of a sweet-tipped flatterer. There is more profit in a distasteful truth than in deceitful sweetness.

The human family can learn from the stork the best trait in a good character—the young one never ceases to find food for the aged parent.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL.

FRIDAY-EVENING, FEBRUARY 20, 1852.

THEO. J. WARREN, Editor.

Our Market.

Great activity has prevailed in our cotton market, fully sustaining our Tuesday's quotations. Last evening the Canada's news came to hand, which being of a favorable character, has caused an advance of 1-8.—We quote at 6 to 8.

The Charleston market has advanced one-eighth since the receipt of the steamer's news.

Detention of the Cars.

We learn that the late arrival of the Cars on Wednesday evening was caused by two freight trains coming in contact and blocking up the road about seven miles from Charleston. No person injured by the collision, and we understand the damage to the trains was slight.

Capt. Long's Letter.

This document shows that all the noise which we have heard about Kosuth's treatment on board the Mississippi off Marseilles, is but smoke, and was only a pretext on the part of the Kosuth enthusiasts to make capital in his favor. This has been resorted to in common with other means, quite as unfair and unworthy, in order successfully to cajole the masses into the utopian scheme of aiding Hungary, and advancing Kosuth in his wild and visionary movements. The "formal Hoecusses" who have espoused this new feature of Intervention, have left nothing undone which would seem to give point and force to their schemes. It is high time that our country should be freed from the rule of such spirits, who are mad upon abstract principles, touching human liberty and justice. Are we to be revolutionized and the affairs of our government turned upside down, by every foreign adventurer who may be invited to an ashy in the land of the free? If so, a little more prudence might be advisable in the selection of those upon whom the respects and compliments of this great government of ours is to rest. We are not advised that Kosuth was invited to our shores to teach us what we should do, and mark out for the government its lines of duty. Why should our national flag be compromised on the high seas, or made the pass-word, ensign and protection of any revolutionist? Captain Long did right in observing to the very letter, the instructions which were given him by his superior officers—to avoid any expression of opinion indicating sympathy with any particular party—when in foreign ports to observe the strictest neutrality, and to enter into no political discussions himself, or to allow his officers and men to do so; or to do or say any thing whatever, by which the National character would be compromised. As a faithful American officer, he observed these instructions—he done his duty—and he did right.

Let us for a moment see how matters stand, and we think when all is properly understood, the head and front of Captain Long's offending, will be found to be an exceedingly small matter. We regret not having space for his entire letter, but shall make such extracts from it as will serve to place him in a proper light before the public, using his precise words in the conclusion of his letter—"Justice may linger for a time, but to one who has no ambition but to do his duty, it will ultimately be awarded by a discriminating public."

We shall try to show that the facts are chiefly these. Kosuth was invited by this government to share the hospitalities of our shores. By this act we do not presume that the United States intended to give unqualified approbation, comfort and support to Kosuth, and all his notions of freedom, &c. It was merely intended as a compliment to the patriotism of this great leader. A government vessel was dispatched upon this special mission, to bring the great Hungarian and his companions to this country.

The duty, as Capt. Long remarks, was a delicate one, and he says "I could have been actuated by no motive but to do it in such a manner as would make them happy and myself respectable." We are assured by Capt. L that he did every thing in his power to make Kosuth and his companions happy and comfortable. His own apartments were surrendered freely to their use. His position at Marseilles, he says, was peculiarly perplexing. He did not intend to be, nor was he disrespectful to Kosuth, either in his language or manners. His orders were positive in regard to his course as an American officer—he was to observe the strictest neutrality in regard to all interference with the political affairs of other nations. The American flag was under his especial charge—he dare not compromise it for Kosuth or any body else. The French authorities had refused Kosuth to pass through France to England—that he had once landed at Marseilles, and that orders had been issued by the same authorities prohibiting his doing so again.

It appears that the arrival of Kosuth at Marseilles caused such excitement among the people, that the "Prefect," through Consul Hodge informed Capt. Long that no individual on ship-board, except his officers and men should land. This however, did not prevent the people from seeing Kosuth—at least, a portion of them—boats were filled, and large numbers surrounded the ship in which Kosuth was, and gave loud demonstrations in his favor.

Under these exciting circumstances, Captain Long remarked to Kosuth, that if he would retire from the deck, perhaps the people would disperse. Kosuth at first complied with this request, but soon returned, and said, "I hope I will meet a generous welcome from your people also, and I am sure you would not have me refuse it; I am in the same position here." Capt. L replied of course he would not, but this was a different case. Kosuth made a short address to the people, and then retired from the deck. Thus closed the scene, and this is the sum and substance of Captain Long's offence to Kosuth. Behold what a great fire a little matter kindleth!

We should not regret to see Kosuth settle down amongst us as a peaceable citizen, or else leave us. We do not like this continual noise and confusion about a person, who, after all is said which can be said, is but a man.

Plank Road.

The Montgomery (Ala.) Journal, speaks in high terms of the successful operation of the Central Plank Road, leading from that City. It is now finished thirty-seven miles and the tolls are already increasing in geometrical progression as it lengthens. When it reaches Sylacauga, fifty-four miles from Montgomery, it is estimated that the tolls will amount to seventy-five dollars per day.

"The doubts of the skeptical," says the Journal, "are removed. Bitter enemies have become zealous advocates, and the popularity of the movement extends to every one who has travelled upon the road and it is

increasing in public favor, more rapidly than any other work of internal improvement, that has ever been undertaken in the State of Alabama. This road has been working its way rapidly, but quietly and without loud pretensions. It is especially adapted to the wagon trade of the Up Country and is calculated to be of immense service to that section."

The Baltimore Platform in Missouri.—Lexington, Mo., Feb. 12.—Our late Democratic meeting was composed of both divisions of the party, and the resolutions passed are similar to those adopted in other counties, approving the Baltimore platform and the right of instruction. Some of the resolutions met with considerable opposition from the Benton side. They express no preference for the Presidency.

A private letter from Spain states that the American prisoners recently pardoned by the Queen were to sail from Vigo on the 10th of January, in the ship *Prentis*, Capt. Woodbury, of Boston, bound to New York; they are 80 in number and their imprisonment lasted only a fortnight after they arrived in Spain.

Sugar Tare.—The New Orleans Bulletin notices a sale of a crop of Sugar at actual rate. This is the first transaction of the kind that has been reported, and the Bulletin says it is satisfactory to both parties, the planter having obtained a better price for his crops than he could have realized at the old commercial rate of ten per cent., and the buyer receiving the full amount that he pays for.

A subscriber who only owed us a few months, the other day sent us the arrears and a year in advance, saying—"I can't read your paper any longer." We supposed at first our friend had taken some offence, or had got sick of the Telegraph. No such thing. He was only going to read his own paper.—New Hampshire Telegraph.

Slaves for New Mexico.—The Tribune's Washington correspondent telegraphs that Judge Parker, of New Mexico, is in that city for the purpose of purchasing slaves to work the mines of New Mexico.

The sober sense of the American people has, we expected, proved too strong for the impulsive popular movement that appeared to threaten the overthrow of the principles which have guided our statesmen in the management of our foreign policy. Even the most sympathetic of our politicians seem to have receded from their positions on the subject of intervention, which by apparent congeniality with Kosuth, were advanced by them when he first arrived on our shores. As he left the Atlantic cities the popular feeling in his favour abated. It seemed to roll away to the Westward with the contagion of his eloquence. There will be no returning tide in this flow of popular feeling. Reflection has taken the place of impulse. Members of Congress who participated in public banquets, and bowed before the influence of that infectious zeal for republican propagandism which was of kindred minds, met to exchange views and opinions, speak a different language when they enter the Senate, and address themselves to this important question of intervention. They are conscious of their responsibility as Senators of the United States—as constitutional advisers of the Executive. Whatever may be their predilections—however they may combine with others in echoing the popular shout that went up on the first reception of Kosuth, in the gravity of their function they felt the influence of an inter-charge of reason and experience, and not of impassioned rhetoric. It brought into the debates in the Senate that sobriety of judgement which corrected the enthusiasm of those who had shared the triumphs of the platform and the dinner table. The conservative branch of the National legislature will have vindicated the policy of Washington and the Fathers of the Republic.

Charleston Evening News.

VIRGINIA.—In a letter to the Boston Transcript we find the following descriptive paragraph of the Old Dominion and the people. They present rather a pleasing contrast when compared with this fast age, and the turbulence and turmoil of the Eastern States:

"Virginia is a community of land owners, undisturbed by the foreign alloy—and those who own least of the soil, seem as happy and contented as those who own the most. The mass have grown into a state of repose, and it would be difficult by any process to make them taller or shorter. I remark no anxious face, indicating daily struggle and uncertainty. The only person that I have seen in a hurry since I came here was on his way to execution, in Hymen's territory. It is true that their daily life is not fertilized by those steady streams of intelligence which flow through our northern region, neither do they care to be thus enriched. They do know, however, that the Executive chair of the confederacy has been filled by six of their native-born citizens, and that many orators and statesmen figure in their annals—and even the unlearned and illiterate comprehend what the 'mother of Gracchi' means. A singular ignorance seems to prevail among the decently educated regarding the secondary men of note in the Union—and they know much less of men of mark in individual States, and there is a pleasing serenity in their manner and bearing when they make the avowal. To my eye and ear, they seem to live for Virginia, and not for the United States.

"No instrument of torture could force them to a change of thought or life, under their present circumstances. Internal improvements have generally been frowned down, and from very obvious reasons. Where all are farmers, it is certain that a railroad cannot run through and by every man's estate, and therefore they have discontinued projects, which would largely benefit a few, and exclude the mass. Reverses of fortune are as few and far between as their rail roads; and, so far as my observation has extended hereward, I am inclined to the belief that the Old Dominion, notwithstanding her cracked houses, loose windows, fragile sashes, crazy mirrors, unhinged doors, swagging gates, and rotten harness, furnishes as fine a picture of contentment and happiness as can be found in the Union."

TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

Later from Europe.

ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

BALTIMORE, February 18, 1852.

The steamer Canada, which left Liverpool on the 31st ultimo, has arrived.

In the Liverpool cotton market business had been most active, the sales of the week having reached 69,000 bales—of which 10,000 bales were on speculation and 9,000 for export. The following are the official quotations, viz: Fair Orleans 5 1-4; Middling 4 7-8; Upland fair 5; Middling 4 3-4. The demand was good, and was freely met by holders. The trade bought to a moderate extent.

After the sailing of the Pacific the market became quiet and prices unsteady. The Franklin's advices subsequently caused a brisk demand, and prices revived, and the market closed at the extreme rates of the week. Should the next two steamers from America continue to advise active markets, the prices here will improve.

Large business is doing in Manchester at good prices.

The sales of the week comprise 52,000 bales American. More doing in rice—17s 6d a 18s 3d, in bond. The market for breadstuffs is steady, but not buoyant.

The cotton market closes firmly, but not briskly.

In Manchester, on Saturday, the market was quiet—dull—and somewhat weaker.

The internal condition of France is agitated by Orleanist decrees and public reprobation of those measures, as loudly expressed as the reign of terror permits. It is rumored that the decrees will be modified or submitted to the Senate for ratification. The Patrie, however, denies the statement. Prince Jerome Bonaparte is appointed President of the Senate. 2,000 additional political prisoners will be transported to Algeria.—On the 30th ult. the President gave a grand dinner to the English Ambassadors, and expressed great regret at the belief which pervaded the public mind of England that his intentions were hostile to that country. He said he had lived there long enough to acquire respect for its institutions and people, and had many friends there.

England is quiet, the French invasion rumor having been extinguished.

Building Plank Roads.

The report of the Engineers of the Anderson Plank Road explains so clearly the manner of building such roads, that we are induced to take from it the following extract:

The lumber used for planking the road must be of sound timber, having square edges, it must be 8 feet long, and 3 inches thick. The stringers must be three inches thick, showing 5 inches face at the small end. All trees, stumps, roots and rocks, are to be removed for the distance of 17 feet from the centre of the road, so that in no case shall either plank or stringers rest on stump, root, or rock. All dead trees are to be removed for the distance of 30 feet from the road. The road bed is to be 22 feet wide, and the centre raised 24 inches above the bottom of the side ditches. This is to be observed where no cutting or filling is required. Where there are slight inequalities in the natural surface of the ground, although the grade may be under that required; yet they should be removed, inasmuch as their removal will add greatly to the appearance of the road. A ditch is to be formed upon each side of the road, so as to carry off all surface water to the most convenient cross sluice, or other place of discharge; said ditch is to be 5 feet wide at top and 2 at bottom, and the entire slope to be on the side next to the road bed. And such other sluices, and lateral ditches, as may be necessary to secure the perfect drainage of the road.—These will be mostly necessary where the water will require to pass under the road, or from one The stringers are to rest firmly on the earth their entire length. Particular attention must be paid to having the earth well packed around the stringers, so that although the plank are to rest firmly on them, they must also rest equally firm on the well packed earth between them.—The plank are to be laid on the right hand side of the road-bed, when ascending a hill, and on the left when descending. The ends of the plank must project alternately, one beyond another 3 inches. After the plank are laid, the road shall be so graded, that the firmly packed earth at the centre of the road, shall be three inches higher than the inner ends of the plank, and the whole surface of the road to be made smooth and even.

To those are added certain suggestions in reference to a particular section, which is rendered difficult, probably by the wet or muddy nature of the soil. The suggestions are as follows:

The grading in the section of country near Grindstone, will require more care than at any other point of the line, from the nature of the soil. Our opinion is that after the road-bed is raised above the general level of the ground—say at least 18 inches, that there should be a coating of 3 inches of sand on the dirt track. This must be done on the hill sides. A small quantity of gravel thrown at the inner ends of the plank, will be of very great advantage to the road through this section, which will prevent the wheels from cutting the dirt track near the ends of the plank.—Southern Standard.

Later from Texas.—We learn from the State Gazette of the 31st ult., that the Governor vetoed the bill confirming the action of the Auditorial Board, but the Senate had passed it again by a vote of 18 to 5. It was supposed that it would pass the House by the constitutional majority.

The Galveston Journal of the 5th says that the Legislature has been in an interesting state in confusion on the subject of the apportionment of the Senators and Representatives for the next session. Most of the members have gone home in disgust, and it is difficult to form a quorum. It is supposed that no appropriation will be made for Railroads.

We also perceive that the Indians are recommending their depositions on the western frontier of Texas.—They have recently carried off a large number of horses from the vicinity of Goddard and the Cibola settlements.

A man on being asked how old he was, replied, "I am in health;" and being asked how rich he was, said—"I am not in debt."