

EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

H. OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Nov. 30.
Mr. Bauskett presented the Petition of sundry citizens of Edgefield District, praying the appointment of a Magistrate; which was referred to the Committee on District Officers and Officers.

On motion of Mr. Bauskett, the Committee on Incorporations was discharged from the consideration of the Petition of David Cherry, praying a re-charter of his Bridge over the Seneca River; and the same was referred to the Committee on Roads, Bridges and Ferries.

Mr. Bauskett submitted the Presentation of the Grand Jury of Edgefield, Fall Term 1844.

So much as presents the Court of Equity, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

So much as recommends an increase in the number of the Commissioners of the Poor, was referred to the Committee on District Officers and Officers.

So much as recommends that Commissioners of the Roads shall receive a per diem compensation was referred to the Committee on Roads, Bridges and Ferries.

Mr. E. G. Palmer presented the Petition of the State Agricultural Society of South Carolina, asking an appropriation to effect certain objects therein set forth; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Message No. 3 was received from His Excellency Governor Hammond, and read by Beauport T. Watts, Esq., transmitting a communication from Samuel Hoar, assuming to be the Agent of the State of Massachusetts, appointed under a resolution of that State, to collect and transmit information respecting the number and names of the citizens of Massachusetts, who have heretofore been, or may be imprisoned, without the allegation of any crime; which, with the communication, was referred to the Committee on Federal Resolutions.

Mr. Hunt, from the Committee of Judiciary made Reports.

On the Presentments of the Grand Juries of Charleston and Kershaw, on the subject of granting compensation to State Witnesses:

On the Presentments of the Grand Juries of Orangeburg and Kershaw Districts, recommending an extension of the jurisdiction of Ordinaries, in the partition of real estate:

On the Petition of sundry citizens of Williston, praying an increased compensation for apprehending run aways:

On the Presentments of the Grand Juries of Horry and Williamsburg presenting the carrying of concealed weapons:

On the Presentment of the Grand Jury for Marlborough District, on the subject of giving farmers books in evidence; and

On the Presentment of the Grand Jury for Sumter District, respecting the hiring of their own time by female negroes, and recommending that pecuniary fines shall be decreased and the length of imprisonment increased; which were ordered for consideration on Monday next.

Pursuant to notice, and by leave of the House, Mr. Hunt introduced "a Bill to amend and amend the law on the subject of insolvent debtors, and for other purposes;" which was read the first time, and ordered to be read the second time on Monday next.

Pursuant to notice, and by leave of the House, Mr. J. H. King introduced "a Bill to amend an Act regulating Hawkers and Peddlars, passed the 19th day of December, Anno Domini, 1843;" which was read the first time, and ordered to be read the second time on Monday next.

On motion of Mr. Pickney, the following Resolutions, submitted in Committee of the whole by the Speaker, were also referred to the Committee of the whole House, and ordered to be printed.

Resolved, That this Legislature is deeply impressed with the solemn truths and sound doctrines announced in the Message of His Excellency the Governor; but the people of this State having united under one banner with the Democratic Republic can party in the recent Presidential canvass, for the purpose of giving those sovereign members of the Confederacy which profess our principles an unembarrassed opportunity to demonstrate their fidelity to federal legislation: And, as we are therefore, willing to await the development of the policy of the new administration, we deem it inexpedient to take action on the subject, content to abide, with patient but prepared vigilance the issue of the promise of reform at present held out to us.

Pursuant to notice, and by leave of the House, Mr. Yates introduced "a Bill further to prevent the fraudulent packing and weighing of cotton;" which was read the first time, and ordered to be read the second time on Monday next.

Mr. Lartigue, from the Committee appointed to make arrangements for the College Commencement, on Monday next, made a Report; which was considered immediately, and agreed to.

Pursuant to notice, and by leave of the House, Mr. Orr introduced "a Bill to increase the powers and duties of the Court of Ordinary;" which was read the first time, and ordered to be read the second time on Tuesday next.

Pursuant to notice, and by leave of the House, Mr. Morderai introduced "a Bill to amend the attachment laws of this State; which was read the first time; and ordered to be read the second time on Monday next.

SENATE, Dec. 2.

Pursuant to notice, and with leave of Senate, Mr. Witherspoon introduced a Bill to increase the jurisdiction of the Ordinary, in the division and partition of real estate, and for other purposes. The Bill received the first reading, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

The House of Representatives sent to the Senate for concurrence, the Report of the Committee on Pensions, on the petition of James Head, praying a Pension; which was referred to the Committee on the Military and Pensions.

Mr. DeTreville offered certain Resolutions in relation to a Special Agent appointed and sent by the State of Massachusetts to the City of Charleston, for the

purpose of testing the constitutionality of a certain act of this State, passed on the 19th day of December, Anno Domini 1835, entitled "An Act more effectually to prevent Free Negroes and other persons of color from entering into this State, and for other purposes." They were ordered to be printed, and for consideration to-morrow.

Pursuant to notice, and with leave granted, Mr. Arnold introduced a Bill to alter and amend the law as to granting licenses to retailers of spirituous liquors, tavern keepers, of billiard tables. The Bill received the first reading, was ordered to be printed, and was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H. OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dec. 2.

Mr. Watson presented the Petition of sundry persons, for the appointment of a Magistrate of Edgefield District; which was referred to the Committee on District Officers and Officers.

Mr. Harden presented the Petition of sundry Citizens of York District praying the Legislature to make it an indictable offence for men and women to live as husband and wife while they remain unmarried; which was referred to the Committee on Grievances.

On motion of Mr. Henry, a Bill to alter and amend the 1st Section of the 3d Article of the Constitution, which had been read three times on three several days in each House of the General Assembly, and agreed to by both branches of the whole representation, at the last Session of the General Assembly of this State, was made the Special Order of the day for Thursday next at 1 o'clock P. M., in Committee of the Whole House.

Mr. Holland presented the Petition of sundry citizens of Edgefield District, praying that Caleb Mitchell may be appointed a magistrate.

Also, the Petition of sundry citizens of Edgefield District, praying that Scarborough Broadwater may be appointed a Magistrate, in place of John G. Dagnet, which were referred to the Committee on District Officers and Officers.

Mr. Cara, from the Committee of Roads, Bridges and Ferries, made a Report on so much of the Presentation of the Grand Jury of Edgefield District, as recommends a per diem allowance for the Commissioners of Roads; which was ordered for consideration to-morrow.

Mr. J. G. W. Duncan submitted the following Resolution, which was referred to the Committee of the whole House, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message No. 1, as relates to the Tariff, to Texas, and to the Abolitionists; and was ordered to be printed:

Resolved, That although we heartily concur in so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the Tariff, Texas, Abolition, and the importance of prompt and immediate resistance to the influence and inroads, especially of the latter; and, although we regard it a document evincing the highest order of ability and patriotism, and as altogether worthy of being read and cultivated by every true Carolinian, simply upon the grounds for unanimity of feeling and concert of action—broadly denying the existence of any solemn pledge to Northern democracy; we, therefore, recommend that the further consideration of the same be postponed until the first day of December 1845; Provided, that from and after the first day of April next, the inauguration address of the next President, and the selection of the new Cabinet, be such as to justify the hope that our grievances (now too heavy and long endured) will be redressed; or, if otherwise, (and such a result is greatly to be apprehended,) that His Excellency the Governor of this State, be authorized to convolve forthwith the Legislature, for the purpose of deciding what mode of resistance should then be pursued by South Carolina,—distinctly remembering, that equal rights, justice and freedom, require great caution to protect, and great firmness to defend them; and that henceforward, our motto—equal rights, low duties, separation from banks, the annexation of Texas,—must be respected and maintained, totally regardless of cost or effect. We profess to be sick and tired of pledges to resist the Tariff, unredeemed; and whenever the necessity for resistance shall come, which is now visible in the distance, and we fear will assuredly be ushered forth with the ideas of March next, we will first strike and then pledge ourselves to continue striking, even to the extermination of our race, or restore the Constitution, the intended palladium of our rights, to its rightful force and purity.

Mr. Holland submitted the following Preamble and Resolution, which were ordered to be considered immediately, and were referred to the Edgefield Delegation:

Whereas, The Poor House in Edgefield District is situated in an unhealthy position, almost destitute of fire wood, very badly watered, and located where the land on which it stands can be readily sold for a fair price. Therefore,

Be it Resolved, That the Commissioners of the Poor for Edgefield District, are hereby authorized and empowered to sell the land on which their Poor House is situated, on such credits and other terms as to them shall seem best for the public interest, and invest the proceeds thereof in other lands, and in building Poor Houses in such other place as they may think best for the health and comfort of the poor, and for the interest of the District.

Pursuant to notice, and by leave of the House, Mr. Joseph A. Black introduced "a Bill to provide for the election in this State of Electors of President and Vice President of the United States by the People," which was read the first time, and ordered to be read the second time to-morrow.

Mr. Middleton submitted the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were read and referred to the Committee of the Whole House, to whom had been referred so much of the Governor's Message No. 1, as relates to the Tariff, to Texas, and to the Abolitionists, and ordered to be printed:

Whereas, this General Assembly entertains a settled conviction, that the first clause of the 8th section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States, has been repeatedly and grossly perverted from its true intent and meaning, and thereby grievously wrong has been inflicted upon the good people of this State, and of the United States. And whereas, all of

the implied pledges given by the Act of March, 1833, commonly called the Compromise Act, have been so glaringly violated by the passing of an Act, many of the provisions of which are prohibitory in their character, and oppressive to the people. And whereas, it is apparent that there exists in many of the States of this Confederacy combinations of men, whose declared object it is to destroy the property and subvert the social arrangements of slave-holding States, by the combined influence of abolition excitement, and a system of taxation grossly unequal and sectional in its operation:

Be it therefore Resolved, That we regard the Tariff Act of 1842 as a breach of faith a violation of the Constitution, and an infringement of the rights and interests of the people.

2. Resolved, That we deem the avowed design on the part of combinations of individuals to interfere with our domestic institutions, to be dangerous to our interests, to be a violation of our rights, and to be destructive of the vital principles of that Union which our fathers formed, and to which we are attached by a sense of common interest, and a love for the glory of the American name.

3d. Resolved, That we deem it becoming to consult with our co-States, having in these matters interests in common with ourselves, and to the course it may be expedient for us to take in order to avert impending dangers, to redress our grievances, to secure our rights, and vindicate the Constitution.

4th. Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be requested to enter into communication with the Governors of the States of Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina, & that he request, that the above Resolutions be laid before the Legislatures of those States.

On motion of Mr. J. H. King.

Resolved, That the Committee on Grievances be instructed to enquire into the expediency of appointing an officer with a suitable salary to measure and brand all bolts or rolls of Kentucky cotton bagging, before it shall be sent out by the merchants of Charleston, either by sale or on consignment.

H. OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dec. 4.

The Speaker laid before the House, a communication from the Attorney General, transmitting a volume of the Report of the proceedings, arguments and opinions of the Court in the cases of the Bank of South Carolina, and the Bank of Charleston, on proceedings against them for suspending specie payments; which, with the volume, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Brown presented the Petition of William B. Villiard, praying compensation for the development of the Agricultural Resources of South Carolina; which was referred to the committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Brooks presented the Petition of sundry citizens of Edgefield District, praying the appointment of a Magistrate; which was referred to the Committee on District Officers and Officers.

Mr. Jamison, from the Committee on the Military, made Reports,

On the Petition of sundry citizens of Barwell District, praying an amendment of the law in relation to Courts Martial;

On a Resolution instructing the committee to report upon the expediency of exempting Commissioners of Roads from militia duty during the terms of their appointment;

On the Petition of sundry officers of the 9th Brigade praying that Brigade Encampments and petty musters be abolished and that Regimental be substituted in their stead.

Mr. Brooks, from the Edgefield Delegation, made a Report on a Resolution proposing to sell the land on which the Poorhouses are built in Edgefield; which was ordered for consideration to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Bauskett, the Committee on Incorporations was discharged from the consideration of the Petition of sundry citizens of Edgefield, praying the appointment of a Magistrate; and the same was referred to the Edgefield Delegation.

Pursuant to notice, and by leave of the House, Mr. William C. Black introduced "a Bill to extend the jurisdiction of Magistrates in cases arising upon contracts," which was read the first time, and ordered to be read the second time to-morrow.

Mr. J. H. King submitted the following Resolution, which was considered immediately, and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to enquire into the expediency of requiring the Chancellors in Equity to hold Court, during the whole term now allowed by law, to each District.

Mr. Brooks submitted the following Resolution, which was agreed to, and ordered to be sent to the Senate for concurrence:

Whereas, Horse Creek, in Edgefield District has been proved a navigable stream by Act of the Legislature; therefore,

Resolved, That Darling G. Walker, Joseph Hightower, Britton Mims and James Jones be appointed Commissioners on the part of the State to superintend and keep open and free from obstructions the said Horse Creek.

On motion of Mr. Chandler,

Resolved, That the Military Committee enquire into the propriety of exempting ministers of the Gospel who have pastoral charges, from the performance of patrol duty, except in case of invasion or insurrection, and that they report by Bill or otherwise.

H. OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dec. 5.

The Committee on Federal Relations, to whom was referred the Communication of His Excellency the Governor, transmitting a letter addressed to him by Samuel Hoar, an agent of the State of Massachusetts for certain purposes, submit the following Report:

By an act passed on the 19th day of December, 1835, the General Assembly endeavored to guard against the introduction of free negroes and persons of color into this State, upon principles of public policy, affecting her safety, and her most vital interests. The right of excluding from their territories conspirators against the public peace, and disaffected persons whose presence may be dangerous to their safety, is essential to every Government.

It is everywhere exercised by independent States, and there is nothing in the Constitution of the United States which forbids to South Carolina the right, or relieves this Legislature from the duty, of providing for her public safety.

Massachusetts has seen fit to contest this right, and has sent an agent to reside in the midst of us, whose avowed object is to defeat a police regulation essential to our peace. This agent comes here, not as a citizen of the United States but as the emissary of a Foreign Government, hostile to our domestic institutions, and with the sole purpose of subverting our internal police.

We should be insensible to every dictate of prudence, if we consented to the residence, of such a missionary, or shut our eyes to the consequences of his interference with our domestic concerns.

The Union of States was formed for the purpose, among other things, of ensuring domestic tranquility, and providing for the common defence; and in consideration thereof, this State yielded the right to keep troops or ships of war, in time of peace, without the consent of Congress; but while thus consenting to be disarmed, she has, in no part of the constitutional compact surrendered her right of internal government and police; and, on the contrary thereof, has expressly reserved all powers not delegated to the United States, nor prohibited by it to the States.

The State of Massachusetts denounces as citizens, those persons for whose protection her tender solicitude has devised this extraordinary mission. Yet if it were admitted that they are citizens of that State, your Committee cannot suppose that she will challenge for them greater rights, immunities and privileges, within our territories, than are enjoyed by persons of the same class in South Carolina.

But your Committee deny that they are citizens, within the meaning of the Constitution; nor did Massachusetts herself treat as citizens, persons of this class residing within her limits, either at the adoption of the Constitution, or since; but, on the contrary, they were subjected to various disabilities, from which her other inhabitants were exempt.

Your committee cannot but regard this extraordinary movement as part of a deliberate and concerted scheme to subvert the domestic institutions of the Southern States, in plain violation of the terms of the national compact, and of the good faith which ought to subsist between the parties thereto, and to which they stand solemnly pledged.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That the right to exclude from their territories, seditious persons or others whose presence may be dangerous to their peace, is essential to every independent State.

Resolved, That free negroes and persons of color are not citizens of the United States, within the meaning of the Constitution, which confers upon the citizens of one State the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.

Resolved, That the emissary sent by the State of Massachusetts to the State of South Carolina, with the avowed purpose of interfering with her institutions, and disturbing her peace, is to be regarded in the character he has assumed, and to be treated accordingly.

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be requested to expel from our territory the said agent, after due notice to depart; and that the Legislature will sustain the Executive authority in any measures it may adopt for the purpose aforesaid.

This question was then put, and it passed in the affirmative—Yeas, 117. Nays, 1.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

South Carolina, 21st June, 1844.

Sir:—The last post brought me your communication, accompanying the memorial of the Presbytery of the Free Church of Glasgow, in behalf of John L. Brown, convicted in this State of aiding a slave to escape from her master, and sentenced to be hung in April last. It will be gratifying to you, seeing the interer you have taken in the matter, to learn that I have pardoned Brown. In consequence of representations made to me in December last by Judge O'NEAL, speaking for himself and the Judges of the Court of Appeals, I commuted his punishment to thirty-nine lashes. Facts, not known to the Jury, nor to the Judges, were afterward brought to my knowledge, which satisfied me that Brown had no criminal design in what he did; and in the month of March I transmitted to him a full pardon. I was not at all aware at that time of the great interest taken abroad in behalf of one whose case I had never heard mentioned here, except on the occasions referred to; and I was astonished to find myself overwhelmed soon after with voluminous petitions for his pardon from the non-slaveholding States of this Union; and to perceive that this sentence was commented on, not only by the English newspapers, but in the English House of Lords. The latest, and I trust last communication to me on the subject, is your memorial.

The interference of foreigners or any persons beyond our boundaries, in the execution of the municipal laws of a Sovereign State, even if in respectful terms, is certainly a violation of all propriety and courtesy; and if carried to any extent, must become wholly intolerable. I pass that by however. The law under which Brown was convicted, was enacted during our Colonial existence, and is emphatically British law. It is also a good law. I pardoned him, not because I disapproved the law, but because I did not think he violated it. It would be the most absurd thing in the world to recognize by law a system of domestic slavery, and yet allow every one to free, not merely his own slaves, but those of his neighbor, whenever instigated to do so by his own notions of propriety, his interest, or his caprice. What sort of security would we have for property held on such terms as these? You cannot but perceive, that to permit others to take our slaves from us at pleasure with impunity, would amount to a total abolition of slavery. There would be no real difference between this, and allowing the slaves to go free themselves. Your Presbytery, and all the petitioners for Brown, and agitators of his case, must

have seen the matter in this light; and it is attributing to us but a small share of common sense to suppose that we would not take the same view of it ourselves.

Whether death should be inflicted for such an offence is another question. We have modified in a great degree the sanguinary code of law left us by our British ancestors; but we have not gone the length to which some philosophers, both here and in your country, would have all Governments to go—of abolishing the punishment of death. Nor do I believe the success your Government has met with in endeavoring to diminish crime by abolishing this punishment in so many cases, will encourage them to press the matter much farther at this time. Considering the value of a slave; the facility of seducing him from his owner; the evil influence which frequent seduction might exercise on an insatiable, the destruction of which must speedily and inevitably strike from the roll of civilized States nearly the whole slave holding section of this country, as it has already done St. Domingo and Jamaica; and the enthusiastic and reckless eulogies of this institution by whom we are surrounded, it seems to me that if any offence affecting property merits death, this is one.

Your memorial, like all that have been sent to me, denounces slavery in the severest terms; as "traversing every Law of Nature, and violating the most sacred domestic relations, and the primary Rights of Man." You and your Presbytery are Christians. You profess to believe, and no doubt do believe, that the laws laid down in the Old and New Testaments for the government of man, in his moral, social and political relations, were all the direct Revelation of God himself. Does it never occur to you, that in anathematizing slavery, you deny this Divine Sanction of those laws, and repudiate both Christ and Moses; or charge God with downright crime, in regulating and perpetuating slavery in the Old Testament, and the most criminal neglect, in not only not abolishing, but not even reprehending it, in the New? If these Testaments come from God, it is impossible that slavery can "traverse the Laws of Nature, or violate the primary Rights of Man." What those Laws and Rights really are, mankind have not agreed. But they are clear to God; and it is blasphemous for any of His creatures to set up their notions of them in opposition to His immediate and acknowledged Revelation. Nor does our system of slavery outrage the most sacred domestic relations. Husbands and wives, parents and children, among our slaves, are seldom separated, except from necessity or crime. The same reasons induce much more frequent separations among the white population in this, and I imagine, in almost every other country.

But I make bold to say that the Presbytery of the Free Church of Glasgow, and nearly all the Abolitionists in every part of the world, in denouncing our domestic slavery, denounce a thing of which they know absolutely nothing—nay, which does not even exist. You weep over the horrors of the Middle Passage, which have ceased, so far as we are concerned; and over pictures of chains and lashes here, which have no existence but in the imagination. Our sympathies are almost equally excited by the accounts published by your Committees of Parliament—and therefore true; and which have been verified by the personal observation of many of us—of the squalid misery, loathsome disease, and actual starvation, of multitudes of the unhappy laborers, not of Ireland only, but of England—nay, of Glasgow itself. Yet we never presume to interfere with your social or municipal regulations—your aggregated wealth and congregated misery—nor the crimes attendant on them, nor your pitiless laws for their suppression. And when we see by your official returns, that even best classes of English Agricultural laborers can obtain for their support but seven pounds of bread and four ounces of meat per week, and when sick or out of employment must either starve or subsist on charity, we cannot but look with satisfaction to the condition of our slave laborers, who usually receive as a weekly allowance, fifteen pounds of bread, and three pounds of bacon—have their children fed without stint, and properly attended to—are all well clothed, and have comfortable dwellings, where, with their garden and poultry yards, they can, if the least industrious, more than realize for themselves the vain hope of the great French King, that he might see every peasant in France have his fowl upon his table on the Sabbath;—who from the proceeds of their own crops, purchase even luxuries and finery—whose labor scarcely more than nine hours a day, on the average of the year—and who, in sickness, in infancy and decrepitude, are watched over with a tenderness scarcely short of parental. When we contemplate the known condition of your operatives, of whom, that of your agricultural laborers is perhaps the least wretched, we are not only not ashamed of that of our slaves, but are always ready to challenge a comparison, and should be highly gratified to submit to a reciprocal investigation, by enlightened and impartial Judges.

You are doubtless of opinion, that all these advantages in favor of the slave, if they exist, are more than counterbalanced by his being deprived of his freedom. Can you tell me what freedom is—who possesses it, and how much of it is requisite for human-happiness? Is your operative, existing in the physical and moral condition which your own official returns depict—deprived too of every political right, even that of voting, at the polls—who is not cheered by the slightest hope of ever improving his lot or leaving his children to a better, and who actually seeks the four walls of a prison, the hulks, and transportation, as comparative blessings—is he free—sufficiently free? Can you say that this sort of freedom—the liberty to beg or steal—to choose between starvation and a prison—does or ought to make him happier than our slave, situated as I have truly described him, without a single care or gloomy forebough?

But you will perhaps say, it is not in the Thing, but in the Name, that the magic resides;—that there is a vast difference between being called a slave and being made one, though equally enslaved by law, by social forms, and by immutable necessity. This is an ideal and sentimental

distinction which it will be difficult to bring the African race to comprehend. But if it be true, and freedom is a name and idea, rather than reality, how many are there then entitled even to that name, except by courtesy; and how many are able to enjoy it in perfection? Does your operative regard it as a sufficient compensation for the difference between four ounces and three pounds of bacon? If he does, he is a rare philosopher. In your powerful Kingdom, Social Grade is as thoroughly established and acknowledged as Military Rank. Your commonalty see among themselves a series of ascending classes, and, rising above them all, many more, composed of men not a whit superior to themselves in any of the endowments of nature, who yet in name, in idea, and in fact, possess greater worldly privileges. To what one of all these classes does genuine freedom belong? To the Duke, who fawns upon the Prince—or the Baron, who knuckles to the Duke—or the Commoner, who crouches to the Baron?

Doubtless you all boast of being ideally free; while the American citizen counts your freedom slavery, and could not brook a state of existence in which he daily encountered fellow mortals, acknowledged and privileged as his superiors, solely by the accident of birth. He, too, in turn, will boast of his freedom, which might be just as little to your taste. I will not pursue this topic farther. But I think you must admit, that there is not so much in a name; and that ideal or imputed freedom is a very uncertain source of happiness.

You must also agree, that it would be a bold thing for you or any one to undertake to solve the great problem of good and evil—happiness and misery, and decide in what worldly condition man enjoys most, and suffers least. Your profession calls on you to teach that his true happiness is seldom found on the stormy sea of politics, or in the mad race of ambition;—in the pursuits of Mammon, or the cares of hoarded gain; that in short, the wealth and honors of this world are to be despised and shunned. Will you then say, that the slave must be wretched, because he is debarred from them?—or because he does not indulge on the dreams of philosophy, the wrangling of sectarians, or the soul disturbing speculations of the sceptic?—or because, having never tasted of what is called Ereedom, he is ignorant of its ideal blessings, and is as contented with his lot, such as it is, as most men are with theirs?

You and your Presbytery doubtless desire, as we all should, to increase the happiness of the human family. But since it is so difficult, if not impossible, to determine in what earthly state man may expect to enjoy most of it, why can you not be content to leave him in that respect where God has placed him—to give up the ideal and the doubtful, for the real—to restrict yourselves to the faithful fulfilment of your great mission of preaching "the glad tidings of Salvation," to all classes and conditions, or at the very least, sacredly abstain from all endeavors to ameliorate the lot of man by revolution, bloodshed, massacre, and desolation, to which all attempts at Abolition in this country, in the present, and, so far as I can see, on any future age must inevitably lead.

Be satisfied with the improvement which slavery has made, which nothing but slavery could have made to the same extent, in the race of Man. Look at the Negro in Africa—a naked savage—almost a Cannibal, ruthlessly oppressive and destroying his fellows—idle, treacherous, idolatrous, and such a disgrace to the image of his God, in which you declare him to be made, that some of the wisest philosophers have denied him the possession of a soul. See him here—three millions at least of his rescued race—civilized, contributing immensely to the subsistence of the human family, his passions restrained, his affections cultivated, his bodily wants and infirmities provided for, and the true Religion of his Maker and Redeemer taught him. Has slavery been a curse to him? Can you think God has ordained it for no good purpose?—or not content with the blessing it has already bestowed, do you desire to increase them still? Before you act, be sure your Heavenly Father has revealed to you the means. Wait for the inspiration which brought the Israelites out of Egypt—which carried Salvation to the Gentiles.

I have written you a longer letter than I intended. But the question of Slavery is a much more interesting subject to us, involving as it does the fate of all that we hold dear than anything connected with John L. Brown can be to you; and I trust you will read my reply with as much consideration as I have read your Memorial.

I have the honor to be, Very respectfully, Your obedient servant, J. B. HAMMOND.

To the Rev. Thomas Brown, D.D., Moderator of the Free Church of Glasgow, and to the Presbytery thereof.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE, NO. III.
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Columbia, 30th Nov. 1844.

And House of Representatives.
The accompanying communication was received by the last mail, and I deem it proper that it should be laid before you for your information. It will be seen that the State of Massachusetts has appointed a Special Agent to reside in this State, for the purpose of testing, by a series of law suits, a long standing law of a peculiar character, which is deemed of vital importance to the security of our property, and the peace of our citizens. She has also appropriated a fund for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the litigation. These facts I gather only from the communication of her Agent, which is transmitted to you. I have received no notification from the Authorities of the State. It is for you to determine whether any, and what measures should be taken to maintain the police regulations of this State within her limits.

J. H. HAMMOND.

CHARLESTON, 25th Nov. 1844.
SIR:—Your Excellency is already informed of remonstrances made by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts against the arrest and imprisonment of her citizens in South Carolina, against whom the commission is no crime of alleged. The Legislature of Massachusetts has recently passed a resolve, authorizing the Governor of this State to appoint an Agent "for the purpose of collecting and transmitting