

The idea of a Convention of the South, or of the slaveholding States, has been broached in all quarters of this region, by individuals, presses, at public meetings, and in Legislatures. I am by no means certain that it is the very best thing for the Union; that could take place; and we are in favor of it. Let the South meet in Convention—discuss formally and fully their grievances, their causes of dissatisfaction, and unitedly take a decided stand against what they consider Northern aggression. We believe that this is the very best mode that could be adopted, to come to a proper understanding, and to real harmony. We are satisfied that dissatisfaction has been steadily growing and gaining ground throughout the Southern States, and that it has nearly come to a head; and we would warn the people of the Northern States, in the most solemn manner, against a policy which is pursued by both political parties, and which, if persisted in, is fraught with danger to the Federal Union—will end in its destruction; and that, too, before the sound and honest citizens of the North dream even that it is in the range of probability, or even of possibility, to occur.

The rights of the States is a doctrine that has been freely discussed, in late years; and if anything in our Federal Union is fully and almost uncontestedly established, it is the fact that the "United States" and "Federal" have the same political meaning; and that the Constitution was adopted by the States as States, and that we are not a nation of individuals in the aggregate, but are a federal community of States—each State being sovereign.

The accession of one State, however small, from the Federal Union of thirty States, would be had enough, and cause an infinite amount of embarrassment and trouble, if it did not lead to violence and bloodshed, which would, at this crisis, scatter the States and destroy the Union, as can easily be foreseen. How much more certain would be these disastrous events, if a section of States should conceive themselves outraged by unequal legislation?—by feeling that their constitutional rights were violated—their property sacrificed, and their own lives endangered by a congressional majority, and the government at Washington? That the fatal, suicidal attempt, of the abolitionists, aided by the free soilers, will be persisted in at the next session of Congress, is already clear to our minds; and knowing that the people of the South are contending for their constitutional rights solely, we assert our solemn belief, that if a majority in Congress use their power, and pass a law which deprives the South of their equal territorial rights with the North, and the President sanctions such a bill, the blow will have been struck which dismembers the United States. Are the people of the Northern States prepared for this? Have they looked forward to the consequences? Are the merchants, the ship owners, and men who hold property, aware of the serious consequences to themselves that would ensue? In three months from the passage of such a bill, ordinances would be enacted in the South, by State after State, setting at defiance both Congress and the Executive, and declaring the Federal Union dissolved by the violation and setting aside of the equal provisions of the constitution on the part of the Northern or free States.

The Southern States are, in reality, the conservative portion of the Union. With the withdrawal of the South, where would the free States be? Party in the North has eaten up patriotism, such as the early framers of the Constitution had in their hearts, and showed in their actions. Power, plunder, spoils, govern the mass of the politicians of our Northern schools; and it is time now that the people—those who have higher motives, who have rights and property—should move, and curb this mad crusade against the South, if they would save themselves, the titles to their property, or their own safety. The Southern States are sick of this unholy war against slavery and nonsense about slaves. Unfortunately, it has become the question, absorbing all old party considerations; and the efforts of the miserable old organs, on both sides, at Washington, to keep out this, the greatest of all questions, and to confine the old and obsolete issues of both parties, is looked upon with scorn and indignation. They are determined to maintain their rights; and if the North won't let them, then they say, "Let us have a separation from those who show themselves our enemies. Let them go their way; we will go ours."

The South have already freed more negroes than we have freed. At the last census, there were in the 13 slave States, and District of Columbia, 215,801 free negroes, and in the 13 free States but 170,444 negroes; so that there are 44,357 more free negroes in the slave than in the free States. One of the very first fruits of a separation, brought on by the injudicious movements of the abolition and free soil party, would be, that every free negro in the South would be driven out, and forced into the North; to be a burden or a blessing to us.

Does any man in his sober senses, in the free States, believe, that if the question was put to the citizens of each of the 15 slave States, "Shall the institution of slavery in this State be abolished or not?" doubt the answer? It would be a thundering "No" from each State. Is there any doubt, then, that if Congress drive these States to the wall, by saying, in fact, "We will abolish slavery for you, by first commencing with your constitutional rights in the territories," that the South will make an issue for their existence and property, on the very threshold at any cost? Certainly not. Then why, the name of all that is sacred in compacts, should such a dangerous and doubtful question be pushed to a direct issue, when no possible good can result from it, save to mercenary, designing, corrupt, and God-forgotten politicians, abolitionists and free soilers, and when the worst of all evils, a dismemberment and separation of the States of this Union, must follow, as certain as effect follows cause in the final result? For if one slave State makes the issue upon this slavery question, or its rights in the territories, and falls back upon its sovereignty, every slave State will follow its example—they will be forced to do it, to save themselves from annihilation as independent States, and to save the property and rights of their respective citizens. Let every free soiler and political trader look at the result which their mad action would roll in upon the country. A Southern Federal Union would be consummated ere a year. The fifteen States where African slavery exists, cover an area of 935,318 square miles. California and New Mexico would add to that area 526,078 square miles more, while the North has but an area, 454,340 square miles. The South, too, has an extent of Atlantic seaboard six times greater than the North.

We have spoken a warning which we trust will be heeded by the good, and those who love the Union. To retain it, the North must cultivate kindness and good feeling, and abstain from meddling with the South, in a matter in

which the North has no direct concern; and the more so, in a matter where the constitution is the only resort and protection for a minority against the majority—is clearly against the North. The North cannot force the Southern States to remain members of the Federal Union, if its own injustice drives them from it. Blood-spilling is a sad alternative among brethren, and God grant that the folly or madness of knaves and bad men never force us into it.

Let the Southern States have their convention; let them in a fair and friendly spirit discuss their grievances; and let the majority in Congress meet their statements in the spirit of accommodation, and redress them. We thus avoid difficulty, and, above all, disunion, and stand forward again, fair and fresh, in our vigorous republican career of greatness and stability; and as a preparatory step, let the common sense of the honest men and patriotic citizens kick to the devil those insidious spirits whose paltry ambition and love of office, power and plunder have brought the country to this crisis.

In a former letter I have alluded to Southern manufactures, and the consequences that will result from them to the Northern and Eastern sections. This has been brought about by a long continued unjust system of delusion, upon the subject of protection, beneficial to a few aristocratic nabobs in the North, and deadly to the entire South, from the planter who raises 100 bales of the raw cotton to the planter who raises 300 bales. We cannot exhibit the real result better than by stating a case which clearly exhibits that it intended, and that the effect of our protective system is, to make the labor and capital of the North, profitable, at the expense of the labor and capital of the South.

We will suppose A to be a Southern cotton planter, residing in Charleston. He raises 300 bales of cotton.

B is a New England manufacturer, and resides in Boston, and makes 300 bales of domestics.

A and B are here understood to represent the South and the North.

We will suppose the 300 bales of A to be of precisely the same value in the home market, as the 300 bales of B. A, the Southern planter, ships his 300 bales of cotton direct from Charleston to Liverpool, where it is sold for a sum of money which enables him to purchase 300 bales of English cotton goods, of precisely the same quality and quantity as those made by B, leaving a sufficient sum of money to pay all the expenses of the 300 bales purchased, to Charleston. When his 300 bales of English manufactured goods arrive in Charleston, assuming the duty to be 33 1/2 per cent, (and on an aggregate it is more than that) and that the duty is paid in kind, A will have to deposit 100 bales in the Charleston custom house in order to obtain liberty to bring in the remaining 200 bales. He then finds B with his 300 bales of manufactured goods ready to under sell him, in consequence of the protective duties imposed by the government for his protection. This drives A out of his own market, makes labor and capital of A unproductive, and compels him to abandon cotton planting, and resort to manufacturing, or some other employment, or to continue with very little profit beyond the outlay.

But this is not all. The 100 bales in the custom house are the property of the United States government. B outvotes A, and then takes it to himself in the various forms of appropriation. He thus has, in reality, 400 bales against the 200 of A, owing to the unequal and unjust interposition of the government; and instead of an equal income, has a double increase from the same cause. After having impoverished A, by this process, he assails the laborers of A, on the ground that they are unprofitable, attempts to destroy his property in them, on the ground that it is sinful and unproductive. This is the whole state of the case, expressed in short terms, following a trifling deduction, which goes to A, in the form of appropriations by the government. We think those presses who are ridiculing the South and its institutions will find it a very different matter to answer this statement. That the South have suffered a great many evils from the unequal legislation at Washington, in the past period of thirty years, is not to be denied. They have rights in the Union as well as the North, and if this Union is to be perpetuated, those rights must be respected by the other section, even if they have the majority, and can carry any congressional enactment. We love the Union, and it needs but justice to all from all to make the United States the greatest country in the world. We don't care a straw for the South more than we do for the North, but we are determined to see fair play—more than this, we wish to lay before the North the real state of these sectional relations, and that our Northern members may not rush down to Washington the coming winter, and in ignorance plunge the Union into a civil struggle which cannot but result in its destruction, and destroy the North; for the South, it cannot be doubted, would be, when separated from the free States, more compact and more prosperous than she has ever been. Take your time, ye whigs, and remedy this state of things, and don't drive matters to extremities, and ruin your party and country.

**VINEYARD IN MOBILE.**—An association has been recently formed in Mobile for planting and cultivating a vineyard of the Scuppernon grapes, with a view to the manufacture of wine. The committee to draft articles of association are, G. N. Stewart, (State Senator from the county), W. W. McGuire, (co-editor of the Herald), and O. S. Beers, (the city Postmaster). Committees were appointed to select a suitable locality for the "Company Vineyard," to assess costs of improvements, &c., with further powers to inquire whether any other branch, or branches of business should be connected therewith.

**DIFFICULTY WITH FRANCE.**—The following despatch, received last night, is somewhat startling. The matter may make mischief:

BALTIMORE, Sept. 18, p. m.

It is reported and believed, that some weeks since, F. Poussin, the French Minister, sent an impertinent note to the State Department, whereupon the President demanded his recall. The request not having been complied with, the President has intimated to M. Poussin, that his passports are ready.

It is believed that France will sustain the Minister's course. A despatch just received from high authority at Washington, strongly intimates something serious brewing, but the correspondent thinks that the facts are not sufficiently matured for publication.—Telegraph.

**CAROLINIANS ABROAD.**—We find the name of Charles A. Bullard, Esq. formerly of Camden, So. Ca., announced as a Democratic nominee for the House of Representatives, from Natchitoches, La. In the list of delegates to the Memphis Convention, appointed by the Governor of Louisiana, we also find the names of several Carolinians.—Telegraph.

## THE CAMDEN JOURNAL

Wednesday Morning, September 20, 1849.

W. THURLOW CASTON, EDITOR.

**CAMDEN FEMALE ACADEMY.**—We direct the attention of distant readers to a Card in another column, relative to the next session of the Camden Female Academy. Under the care of Mrs. F. A. McCandless and Miss M. A. Walker, the School will open on the 1st October, for a session of nine months.

Those who are disposed to support home institutions, would do well to patronize this Academy. All the various branches of female education are here taught with success and ability.

¶ We refer our readers to an article in another column, taken from the New York Herald, which forcibly expresses strong and correct views relative to the great issue before the country, and settled determination of the South.

**THE STRANGERS' FEVER.**—As rumors had reached us that the Yellow Fever had commenced its work of death in Charleston, our community looked with intense anxiety to the papers for a denial or confirmation. From the Courier and Mercury we learn that six deaths had occurred during the past week, of what the Board of Health designate as "Strangers' Fever."

The character of the disease is represented to be, by no means violent, and generally occurring "from incautious exposure or neglect." Of the six deaths, four were from Ireland, one from England, and one from Germany—whose occupations exposed them to very unfavorable weather, which then prevailed. It is confidently stated, from its mild character, and ready yielding to treatment, it cannot become generally prevalent or fatal. It has occurred too late in the season to become an epidemic—such is the opinion of the Board of Health. The prompt and full statement given by these papers will, we trust, arrest the unfounded rumors which were first producing a panic, and strengthen the confidence of the up country in the fairness and truthfulness of the City Journals. The general health of Charleston is good, and for a length of time has been better probably than any other city in the Union; and we would sincerely regret, in common with other citizens of the State, if her well deserved reputation should be injured by false reports.

**RELIGIOUS REVIVAL.**—A friend writing us from Len Castle, says:—At a protracted meeting, which lasted twelve days, at the Fork Hill church in this District, 89 were baptized, and eight restored to the fellowship of the Church.

¶ We return our thanks to the Hon. J. A. Woodward for a handsomely bound copy of the Congressional Globe and Appendix.

### DIFFICULTY BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENT AND FRANCE.

A serious apprehension is entertained that all peaceful relations between our Government and the French, are about to be disturbed. The Baltimore Sun gives the following account of the difficulty:—that a want of a friendly feeling has marked the diplomacy of France towards the American Government for some time—about for months back the correspondence of Mr. Pousin, the French minister at Washington, with our Government has been of the most insulting and insolent character. Forgetful "says the Sun's Correspondent" of the common rules of diplomatic etiquette, he has not hesitated to call into question even the honor of our country. Recently he addressed a note to Mr. Clayton, which was deemed very impertinent. The President directed nearly two months ago, that the offensive letter be sent to the Government of France with a demand that Mr. Pousin be immediately recalled. The French Government did not notice the demand, although sufficient time has elapsed since it was made. Our Government has therefore intimated to Mr. Pousin that his passports are ready for him.

Some suppose that the origin of the difficulty was connected with the rumored refusal on the part of the French Government to receive Mr. Rives our new Ambassador to Paris.

M. Rives when in France as a former minister, had sent home despatches relating to the French indemnity. They were private and were published contrary to the wishes of Mr. Rives. They found their way back to France and placed our Minister in bad odour with that Government. It is supposed that he will not now be received, and that Mr. Pousin penned an "impertinent note" in giving our Government that information.

But the Correspondent of the Sun says that the offensive communication was on another subject. From the prompt manner in which the Cuban expedition was arrested, and the determined spirit not to permit our Government to be insulted in this case, if an insult was really given, we are forced to conclude that no efforts will be spared by the Administration to protect and preserve the political dignity and honor of the Country.

Since explaining the above, we notice the following explanation given to the difficulty. M. Pousin, last February, presented to Mr. Buchanan, the Secretary of State, a claim of Mr. Porta, a Mexican Frenchman, who had purchased Tobacco, knowing it to be private property. Gov. Childs had ordered the Tobacco to be restored to the right owner, and gave the Frenchman back his money. M. Pousin then set up a claim for damages which was denied against by a Court of Inquiry. The decision was approved of by Gen. Scott, and afterwards by Mr. Clayton. M. Pousin, in a note to Mr. Clayton, used insulting language towards Gen. Childs, but at the suggestion of Mr. Clayton withdrew it. Subsequently M. Pousin addressed another note to the State Department, making charges against Commodore Carpenter, in connection with saving the French ship Eugenia from shipwreck. Carpenter claiming salvage for his crew, which was refused. On this subject Pousin wrote a very insulting letter to Mr. Clayton reflecting on the honor of our government.

President Taylor then caused the whole correspondence to be laid before the French Government, expecting immediate redress. This not being done President Taylor ordered all correspondence with M. Pousin to be closed, and his passports placed at his disposal.

The Washington Republic thinks there is no apprehension of war, in consequence of this difficulty.

### FLORIDA INDIANS.

To suppress the outbreaks of the Indians Maj. Gen. Twiggs, who is in command in Florida, has recommended to the Government, and through commission, has applied for a volunteer force. But President Taylor, who has had experience in Florida campaigns, has determined to send the whole regular army and all the marine force, before Volunteers shall be called out. In addition to the forces already collected two Regiments of the army, one of infantry and one of artillery are on their way to the seat of hostilities, and other Regiments are expected to be ordered into the same service. The object of the Government will be to conciliate, and remove the Indians, if practicable, by peaceable means. In any event their removal is deemed certain and indispensable to the peace and safety of the whites.—Late murders have increased the alarm among the settlements, and have rendered the prompt measures necessary. However Billy Bow Legs and other chiefs have disclaimed any connection with the recent depredations, and have manifested a disposition to be at peace with the whites. A day is appointed to hold a talk with Gen. Twiggs. It is said that the murders will be given up. We trust the news is true, and that hostilities will soon cease in that State. There will be a few discontented Indians among the remnant of

tribes remaining, who will occasionally attack the settlers and their only security for the future lies in removing them all to the West.

**BIBLE PRESENTATION.**—The Bishopville Division No. 25, S. of C. were presented on 1st of September with "a splendid Bible," by Mrs. Jane B. Miller, "the representative of the Ladies of Bishopville and vicinity." It was received by W. Rogers, Esq. in behalf of the Division. Their addresses, which have been published in the Sumter Banner and Temperance Advocate, were most chaste and appropriate. A large concourse of persons witnessed the interesting ceremonies, and other able speeches were delivered.

**THE CRISIS APPROACHING.**—The following letter was sent to the Charleston Mercury, from which it will be seen that the abolitionists continue their unlawful and malicious interference with our institutions.

This taking letters from the Post Office by force, presents a new issue with the Government, and shows most clearly the determined spirit of our people to resist these insidious attacks upon their rights:

PENNSYLVANIA, Sept. 16, 1849.

Gentlemen: By the mail of Friday, there was received, at this place, a number of copies of an Abolition circular, directed to the members of the Committee of Vigilance. The Executive Committee of that body, on the following day, demanded the letters of the Postmaster. On his refusal to deliver them, they entered his office and took them by force. This case presents a new feature, of an important nature, which is deeply agitating the public mind. Among the reforms which our enemies hope to accomplish, in this State, it will not escape your notice that the election of President of the United States occupies a prominent position.

It need scarcely be remarked, that the war which the fanatics of the North are so perseveringly waging against the peace and security of the South, cannot much longer be carried on only by one party. An offensive attitude by the other, it will be impossible to restrain the people very shortly from assuming.

Respectfully, yours, S.

### PLANK ROADS.

We are glad to see the subject of Plank Roads exciting attention in various portions of the State.—Able writers in the Edgefield Advertiser are forcibly urging upon the people of that region, the propriety of constructing Plank Roads from Hamburg, to run up to Edgefield, to Abbeville, to Newberry and Greenville, admirably adapted to the wants of the country, and in every way calculated to be of immense benefit to those Districts.

The following remarks, taken from that paper, we deem as applicable to a Plank Road from this place to the N. Carolina line, as they are to a Road from Hamburg to Edgefield:

If a Plank Road were built from Edgefield to Hamburg, its advantages would be so obvious, and its utility so well established, I hazard but little in saying, it would be followed up by building Plank Roads on all the main roads in this and the upper Districts. There is a large amount of pine land in our District, which is only valuable on account of the timber standing on it—and the timber ain't worth any thing. Introduce Plank Roads, and we will see steam engines sawing up this timber, converting it into valuable Roads, while the shavings would be used in settlement roads, in sandy or muddy places, thereby improving the minor as well as the main roads. The facilities thus offered, would induce the planter to transport out his agricultural purposes, assist him in collecting leaves, straw, etc. for manure, and encourage him to improve his land instead of moving away. At the same time, it opens to him a market for corn, food, meal, lumber, wood, coal, peas, oats, fruits, shucks, and other articles which will not bear long transportation on common roads. The effect of this would be to enhance the value of plantations on the route, to double their present value. Such has been the effect where Plank Roads have been built elsewhere, and it appears reasonable that similar causes should produce similar effects here. There is another feature in Plank Roads, which should not be lost sight of, the money that is expended on them is retained among us. The materials of which the roads are built are now at hand, waiting to be used, and along the line of the road. Nature seems to say, in silent but audible language, "though I have placed sand in your path, there is on your right hand and on your left, what ye most need"—murmur not at my doings."

It is true, that unlike the constructing of Rail Roads, the money expended is retained among us,—indeed, they may easily be built without expending one cent of money. Stockholders would prefer paying out their instalments by work—by grading, cutting trees, hauling and laying down plank, &c. No money would be needed to send to distant places for iron, cars and locomotives. It is unfortunate for the success of a Plank Road in the direction of Charlotte that the people, proposed to be benefited by it, have been so recently defeated in their efforts to procure a Railroad. A recollection of a former failure dampens the spirit of enterprise, and doubt and uncertainty color all their thoughts on Road enterprises. Now this is wrong. A comparison can scarcely be said to exist between them. In estimating the cost of one there is great room for speculation—for the other, we have most reliable data.—Mistakes may be easily made as to the cost of iron, its transportation, cars, engines, the grading, the stations and depots. Not so in calculating the cost of Plank Roads. The material for them is all at hand, and we know their price. There is no room for speculation in estimating the cost of planks and shingles, and work necessary to lay them down. The only doubt that can exist, relates to the grading, and we know it is quite a different thing from grading for a Railroad.

A Railroad track must be straight and level—hills must be cut through and valleys must be filled up.—Not so with a Plank Road track. A descent from 6 to 12 inches in a rod is known to be sufficiently level, and no curve is too great, that does not bend more than ordinary curves in a country road.

We are sure that the grading for a plank road from here to the N. Carolina line, would be very inconsiderable, as the country is remarkably level. There is not a single hill, on any route that would apt to be selected, that could not be easily avoided except probably a few at the upper end. They might present difficulties in the way of a Rail Road, but not of a Plank Road.

We take the following from the same paper as the above, and we commend it to the attention of our readers:

On the great routes from the Atlantic cities to the valley of the Mississippi, where hundreds of travellers pass daily, Rail Roads possess as great advantage over Plank Roads as the latter do over common roads. No one, I presume, would advocate the introduction of Plank Roads on these great routes, for purposes of travel. It is in agricultural countries, where the population is sparse, as with us, that Plank Roads possess great advantages over Rail Roads.

In the first place, the cost of a Plank Road, ready for use, is only about one-tenth the cost of a Rail Road ready for use, (I include in this, Locomotive, Passenger and Freight cars, Water Tanks, &c.)—The cost of attendants for a Plank Road is less than one-tenth of what it is on a Rail Road. The money expended for Iron, Locomotives, Cars, &c. for a Rail Road is sent out of the State, while the amount expended for a Plank Road is retained in the State, and needs only a steam engine to convert it into lumber. The labor is among us, and needs only proper direction to be available. When completed, the Road will be here, accessible to every one, benefiting every one, injuring no one, and can be used at all times, and at all hours, by the poor and rich, old and young. It is somewhat different with Rail Roads. Having certain hours for

departure, the traveller is obliged to leave when the regulation of the company requires, or he cannot travel at all.

Many are of opinion that if the Rail Road was near them, they have only to transport their Cotton to the nearest point on the Railroad, and that they will receive their supplies brought by the Road at the same point. Such will sometimes be the case, but not generally.—A Rail Road may pass through a man's plantation, and within twenty yards of his Gin House, and unless there is a station or a turn out at the place, he may be compelled to wagon his Cotton, and other produce, five or six miles to a station; and still the Company may be disposed to grant him every accommodation. Turn-outs are expensive, and are only constructed where the wants of the Company require. The trains have their regular time of departure, and if they are stopped on a single track, to take on Cotton, or other produce, they interfere with other trains, besides it would be necessary to take hands upon the train to load, and if the Company were disposed to accommodate, they would be prevented by circumstances. There are other objections to shipping cotton, by Rail Road, when left at turn-out stations, it often lies for days, exposed to the weather, until a Car load is collected, or it is convenient for the way-train to take it on. If a planter is subjected to the trouble of loading and unloading his wagon, if he has near a Plank Road, he would prefer sending his Cotton in that way to market.

¶ There are 68 Divisions of the Sons of Temperance in North Carolina, and 53 in this State.

**POST OFFICES.**—A new Post Office has been established at Goose Pond, Union District, and John Gregory appointed Postmaster.

The Post Office at Cataura, Greenville District, has been discontinued.

Povidence, Sumter District, has been changed in name, and John W. Thomas appointed Postmaster.

Gully, Darlington District, changed in name and site to Swift Creek, and C. J. Flinn appointed P.M.

¶ Governor French, of Illinois, has called an extra session of the Legislature, to meet about the 1st of October, chiefly for the purpose of electing a Senator to Congress. General Shields is again a candidate, and it is said, will again be returned.

The writer who contributed to our columns a few weeks since, an article on the Penitentiary, has favored us with a continuation of his views.

### A STATE PENITENTIARY.

As a matter of economy, we again urge the claims of this system. We believe the State would be greatly benefited if a pecuniary point of view, by adopting it, in place of our present mode of punishment; for whilst the violators of our laws are severely punished, the State is obliged to pay well for it—not really large and extravagant amounts to her ministerial officers, who execute her laws, but in the aggregate—a large portion of which is made up in feeing criminals in prison, where they exist for the time being, daily becoming less disposed to pursue honest vocations, and physically and morally worse than the day they were committed. It is by no means certain that the object for which criminals are punished is effected by the present method. The item of expense to the State each year for the punishment of criminals is a very considerable matter, and added to the other expenses of the Government, in the payment of public officers, &c., increases the annual outlay, to a very large amount. It will be recollected that every dollar of this is paid out of the taxes, and comes directly from the pockets of the people,—from those who are obedient to law and order, who discharge their duties as good citizens. Is this right? Ought the better part of the community to suffer for the guilt of those who are regardless of all law, neither fear God nor regard man? If the present system of punishment would, by any means, effect the design for which it was intended, we would not for a moment object, but willingly let well enough alone. But when we see daily demonstrations of its inefficiency to do this, we are clear for a change—an entire and complete change—a thorough modification of the law in this regard.

We have been enabled, to some extent at least, to see for ourselves the practical operation of the present system, and speak confidently when we reduce our arguments to figures. The cost, as we previously stated, for dieting white prisoners per day is thirty cents, nine dollars twelve and a half cents per month—two hundred and nine dollars and fifty cents per annum; and this is barely sufficient to pay the keeper of a jail for the trouble he has, the other fees appertaining to the jail being so trifling, that the man really receives but little remuneration after all for his labor, risk of life, and the responsibility and unprofitableness of his situation. This amount seems small, as an abstract proposition, yet in the course of a single year, even in as small a District as Kershaw—in connection with other incidental expenses belonging to this part of the administration of justice—the sum is considerable. The average of State prisoners in our jail, one year with another, is about six persons per annum. We then have the amount of six hundred and fifty-seven dollars for the expense of feeding alone, exclusive of arrests, commitments, chastisements, medical aid if necessary, and relocations. Add these to the original amount, and the most economical and reasonable calculation will bring the State in debt, we may say, as an average amount, in round numbers, one thousand dollars. We believe a close calculation would exceed this amount. We are certain if all proper claims are allowed by the State to public officers, and the regular fees and expenses of the jail charged, this year the amount will be nearly double the calculation we have made. It must be remembered in this connection, that ours is one of the smallest Districts in the State. The amount of money paid by the State to officers of Charleston District, last year, was over eight thousand dollars. It is true, a portion of this amount would be paid if we had a Penitentiary, but the largest part of it, say two thirds, would be saved, if we had the Institution. It is a fact, as we have been credibly informed, that from the District of Chesterfield, a few years ago, a return of taxes was made to the amount of thirty-four hundred dollars, at the same time the State paid accounts for services rendered by Sheriff, Clerk, Magistrates, Constables, &c., to the amount of about thirty five hundred dollars, a larger amount than the whole taxes of the District. Are not the people then heavily taxed directly for the support and punishment of criminals?

The amount paid by the State in the year 1848, for the support of officers, was thirty-one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five dollars and five cents. We deduct from this amount one thousand four hundred and ninety-nine dollars and twenty-two cents (\$14,999.22) for monies paid Coroners, the Secretary of State, &c., which leaves the amount of thirty thousand two hundred and seventy-five dollars and eighty-three cents paid to Sheriffs, Clerks, Jailors, Magistrates and Constables alone. We are aware that all of this was not paid on account of the punishment of criminals, or the administration

of justice according to the penal system. We know, however, that a very liberal deduction from this sum, would leave at least twenty thousand dollars, which the Penitentiary would save. We have not the means of ascertaining the precise amount required for the support of the penal system, but think from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars are required—more than another, for this purpose. Here, then, is a large amount of money sunk and lost to the State—we say lost, and will at some future time try to prove it. In this statement, we have not taken into the account the salaries of Attorneys General or Solicitors, as those would be required even with a Penitentiary; nor the expense of supporting the poor, which is augmented by the imprisonment of transients, in the manner now provided.

We will endeavor, on some future occasion, to show that the moral as well as the physical condition of criminals is made worse by the present system of punishment; we will endeavor to show the advantages of the Penitentiary system in a moral point, and its efficiency to carry out the object of law in preventing crime; believing, as we do, that the certainly, and that the severity of punishment generally, strains the perpetrators of crime.

### Correspondence of the Camden Journal.

With reason, Governor, Miss, says, "The Editor's course in regard to the present mode of writing something which I find it interesting to your readers. I had in reference to the Cotton crop: In addition to the old and backward springs, and even killing, we have suffered from the incessant rains, which have caused Cotton to grow to late, they are drouth conjoined with the ravages of boll worms, which will reduce, as a fair estimate, the yield to one-half of an average crop, say nothing of the recent inundation on Red River, Louisiana, sweeping as with the broom of destruction, the entire valley from St. Louis, on the junction with the great father of waters, and destroying cotton, corn, &c. There must necessarily be a short crop of cotton in this State, and throughout the entire cotton regions; but I fancy that the planter will be amply compensated by the high price that Cotton will command during the present season; provided the market is not disturbed by the politics and convulsions of Europe.

The Mississippi River has long since subsided, or receded from its high water mark to the spring, but was gradually rising some few weeks since, from the wet weather and rains, which, in conjunction with the high stage, has caused the overflow above named of the Red River.

You have probably learned, ere this, that the Taylor Republican party, or Whigs of this State, are making efforts to bring out a State and Congressional Ticket, to combat with the great Democratic Host, at the coming election in November next. We take it to have been nominated by the Central Committee of the Governor, in opposition to Gen. Quitman, as it is probable, however, that the Democrats will gain the day; but it will be like the old story of the Dutch taking Holland. They would almost move heaven and earth, if in their power, to achieve victory. To this end they are directing their batteries against Gen. Taylor, who regards it as little as he did the Methodist I suppose.

In reference to the Free Soil question, something has been done in this State, viz: a Convention was held in Jackson, and the resolutions were characterized by a pure devotion to Southern interests. Another has been called to meet in October next, for the purpose of devising some means to prepare for the encroachments of the Northern fanatics. In connection with the above, it is thought expedient for our next Legislature to pass some law prohibiting the introduction of slaves from other States, thereby counteracting, if possible, the rapid strides that are being made for emancipation in Kentucky. If we close our market against them, they may take wisdom in their anger, and hold on to their property. There should, however, be a concert of action in the Southern States, in order to communicate this object.

Mr. Benton is no doubt "infatuated by the guided halcyon of the Presidency in his flourishes upon the Free Soil question in Missouri." I predict that the infatuated party of the North will nominate him and Mr. Sumner of Houston of Texas, the former for President and the latter for Vice President, in 1852, unless the little New York Magician, with all the wailing of the Fox and Wren, can generate them. My allusion is to Mr. Van Buren, who was in 1840 a Northern man with Southern principles; but showed his hand last year, in either his cloven foot. In conclusion, Mr. Editor, you can publish the above, provided it is not too caustic for your democratic readers. I am, a Whig, and would not desire to wound the feelings of the people of good old South Carolina, as I had the pleasure, some weeks since, of a joyful visit in old Lancaster District, a few months, and received their hospitalities.

Yours, respectfully, CREOLE.

### From the South Carolinian.

**INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.**

The following interesting correspondence, which has been placed in our hands for publication, we take great pleasure in laying before our readers:

### EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS.

Columbia, July 14, 1849.

Madam: The Legislature, at its last session, directed the Governor to procure and cause to be presented, on behalf of the State, some appropriate memorial to the widow of the late Lieut. Col. Dickinson, as evidence of the regard and admiration of the State for the lamented and distinguished dead.

In the performance of the honorable yet melancholy duty assigned me, I herewith transmit, and ask your acceptance of, seven pieces of silver, constituting a tea and coffee service.—Receive them, madam, as a slight memorial of the high estimation in which South Carolina held one of the gallant defenders of her fame; preserve them as a memorial of his patriotic zeal and heroic conduct on every occasion demanded by duty and danger.

Lieut. Col. Dickinson lived a brave, skillful and humane officer, and received his mortal wound at his post, where he was always to be found.—Although no token of the gratitude of the Commonwealth can dissipate the grief engendered by your bereavement, still the hope is indulged that the one I now forward, will, while it recalls the most endearing domestic associations, be considered and held by you as the reward of honorable merit bestowed by a sovereign State upon a citizen soldier, once your bosom friend, but now, I trust, the companion of his God.

With sentiments of respectful regard, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

Wm. H. R. Searles.  
Mrs. Emma S. Dickinson.

Monday, July 20, 1849.  
Dear Sir: Through the politeness of Col.