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POLITICAL.

The Basis of Representation in South Carolina.

It was provided in the first constitution of South Carolina, drawn by Mr. Locke, but never actually adopted by the people, although it was by the Lords Proprietors, that the State should be divided into counties, baronies, seignories and precincts. Each precinct was to have one representative, chosen by the people. This would seem to indicate some equality in the basis of representation.

It is well known that the settlement of the State of South Carolina was chiefly confined to the lower country, during the first century of its history. The upper country was a wilderness and inhabited a great portion of that period by the Indians. The city of Charleston and the parishes were the State. In the Colonial Legislatures they alone were represented and pretty fairly represented.

In 1776, the people of South Carolina adopted their first Constitution, which was before the declaration of American independence. By this Constitution, the representation of the State was fairly distributed over it, in proportion to the population and property. The city of Charleston returned thirty members, the parishes six members each, and the upper districts four, six and ten representatives, in proportion to their population, property and territory. The Legislature consisted of two hundred and two members, under the Constitution of 1776. There was only one House, no Senate provided for. This constitution was, however, temporary, and established only until the differences with the mother country could be adjusted.

In 1788 it was thought advisable to change the constitution of South Carolina and create two Houses instead of one, as a Legislative body. In this constitution it was provided that each parish and District should have one Senator and six Representatives. The city of Charleston still having thirty members and two Senators, and the district of Ninety-six, and some other large districts, having ten Representatives and one Senator each. There being thirty-five Senators, and two hundred and two Representatives. Eighty of these Representatives were from the upper country, and ten or fifteen of the Senators. This was, at that time, a fair and just representation of the people and property of South Carolina. There was no disposition shown on the part of the lower country, at that time, to monopolize the political power of the State. It was in their hands, but they partitioned it out fairly and justly.

After the termination of the Revolutionary war, and the adoption of the Federal Constitution, the situation and circumstances of South Carolina had so changed that it became necessary to form a new State Constitution, adapted to the then existing state of the country. In 1790 this was done. The basis of representation was changed. The House of Representatives was reduced in number, from two hundred and two, to one hundred and twenty-four, the present number. The Senate was increased to thirty-nine. The upper country had fifty-four members and nineteen Senators, and the lower country, designated as the lower division, had seventy members of the House and twenty Senators. This, likewise, was a fair apportionment of the representation at that time.

In the course of fourteen years we find the people changing their Constitution three times in South Carolina, and each time liberally extending the basis of representation in the upper country, as it grew in wealth and population. We heard no talk then of compromises between the lower and upper country, which were to be like the laws of the Medes and Persians, unchanged and unchangeable. On the contrary, the constitution of 1790 provides for its own change and alteration in any and every particular, the basis of representation included. No member of the State Convention, who assisted in framing that instrument, supposed for a moment that his work was to last always. He knew it would require alteration as the wealth and population of the State changed. The upper country was rapidly settling, and increasing in wealth and prosperity.

In the course of eighteen years, from the adoption of the Constitution of South Carolina, in 1790, to its first amendment in 1808, there had been a great change in the relative wealth and population of the State. The upper country had increased so much in population and taxation, that the basis of representation settled by the Constitution of 1790, was no longer fair and just. Nor were the people of the upper part of South Carolina disposed to submit any longer to such gross inequality in their basis of representation. With that spirit of liberality and magnanimity which has always characterized the lower country, they consented to an alteration of the Constitution which fixed, as the basis of representation in the House of Representatives, taxation and population. The House was to continue to consist of one hundred and twenty-four members, sixty-two of whom were to be elected in proportion to taxation, and an equal number in proportion to population. The Senate was increased to forty-six members, by giving to the upper country seven additional Senators.

This, again, was a fair adjustment of the basis of representation for the fourth time in South Carolina. As the country then was, forty-three years ago, the upper country had no right to complain of this adjustment. By it they gained twenty members of the House, and the lower country lost twenty members. At that time the taxes of the upper division were only \$33,000, whilst the lower division paid \$64,000 into the treasury. But now, the upper division pays eight or ten thousand dollars more taxes than the lower division, and fifty thousand more on slaves!

The upper division of the State has entirely stripped the lower in population, slave property and taxation. There are 223,108 white inhabitants in the upper division, and only 58,781 in the lower division. The upper country has actually 164,427 more white inhabitants than the lower country. This is not all. The upper country has 89,000 more slaves than the lower country, and seven millions of acres of land more than they have. And yet, notwithstanding this great disparity between the two sections, in everything that constitutes a nation, the lower country have the ascendancy in the Senate. In white population, we have four to one. In slaves, almost two to one. In territory, three acres to one. And in taxation, notwithstanding the great commerce of Charleston, we are ahead of them! Charleston, too, in feeling and interest, is with the upper country.

Is it right and just that this great inequality, this anti-republican and aristocratic feature of our government should continue and be perpetuated? Our ancestors did not think so.—They changed the constitution of South Carolina whenever they found the condition of the country required it. In thirty-two years they altered the basis of representation four times, in order to do justice to the upper country. Shall it never be altered again? Have we of the upper country lost the bold republican spirit of our ancestors? Have the gentlemen of the lower country failed in that liberality and spirit of justice and magnanimity which always, and at all times, characterized their ancestors.

We are one people in South Carolina, having but one interest, and should all have equal rights under the Constitution, as our fathers had when it was first adopted. But we have not. A citizen of the State, living in St. Thomas and St. Dennis, has as much political power in the Senate as one hundred and twenty-four men living in Pendleton District. One slave in a little parish counts as much, in political influence, as eight or ten in some of the upper districts. Several of these parishes have not population and taxation enough to give them one Representative in the House, and yet they have an equal influence in the Senate with Edgefield, Pendleton, or Spartanburg, whose wealth and population entitle them to five, six, and seven Representatives.

Is such a government worthy of the name of republic? Is there such a feature in the constitution of any other State of this Union? Could a feature so odious to every republican heart stand twelve months in the

constitution of any other State. It could not stand twelve months in South Carolina with public attention directed to it. For the last thirty years we have been in a squabble with the Federal Government, and have lost sight of all the imperfections of our own State government.

In every other State in the Union, the people have changed and altered their constitution, and adapted it to the present condition of the country. Massachusetts had a convention of the people in 1821, and altered their constitution. Rhode Island adopted a new constitution in 1842, under the apprehension of a revolution, if they did not make their form of government more just and republican. Connecticut formed a new constitution in 1818. New York has changed her constitution several times since the American revolution. In 1846 the convention at Albany adopted an entire new one, suited to the condition of the people and that great State. The people of New Jersey made and adopted a new constitution in 1844. In 1838 the State of Pennsylvania made a new constitution. The State of Delaware (in the same in 1831. Maryland amended her constitution, in regard to the election and judicial districts, in 1812. Virginia has altered her constitution twice or three times in convention of the people of that State. It is well known that one-half of Virginia is almost without slavery, and yet the white basis has been adopted substantially for her representation. In 1836 the people of North Carolina held a convention, adopted amendments to their constitution, and made a new apportionment of their representation.

But we will not pursue this subject any further. Enough has been stated to show that in all the other States they are disposed to make their constitution and basis of representation conform to the situation of the State and the condition of the people. In South Carolina alone where we boast so much of equality and equal rights, we are unmindful of them in practice. If the politicians of South Carolina are opposed to republican principles, and unwilling for one section of the State to have equal constitutional rights with another, let them say so and proclaim it abroad. If the Northern States had the same undue political influence in the Federal Government, over the Southern people, which the lower part of South Carolina possesses under our constitution over the upper part of the State, ten thousand swords would leap from their scabbards to redress the foul wrong.

The Constitution of South Carolina provides for its own amendment, and provides for calling a convention of the people to make a new Constitution. In the early history of the State we have shown that the constitution was altered and changed, and new ones made to suit the changed condition of the people, and the different sections of the State. A greater change has now taken place in the relative condition of the upper and lower country than ever did before. We must change our Constitution to meet it. Justice requires it and the people will demand it.

But we are told that no evil has resulted from this inequality in our representation. We deny this assertion, and appeal to our legislative records to sustain us in our denial. The election of Electors of President and Vice President by the people of South Carolina has been defeated ever and over again by this inequality in our representation. The division of Pendleton into two election districts has been defeated time after time by the Parish Representation. They are unwilling for Anderson and Pickens Districts to have Senators, although they vote five thousand strong, whilst St. Thomas and St. Dennis, with thirty or forty votes, is entitled to a Senator! The election of Governor should be made by the people, and is made by the people in every other State in the Union; but in South Carolina this is impossible, whilst the present basis of representation continues. All of our political wrangling with the federal government for the last thirty years which has paralyzed the energies and prosperity of the State, originated with the parishes. This was the case with nullification in 1828, when Governor Taylor was called on by a

meeting in Colleton to convene the Legislature. It was the case with the Bluffton excitement a few years since; and, more recently, was the case with our secession doctrines.

The population and property of a country have to defend the government and support it. For their protection, governments are organized, they bear the burdens of government, and should control the government. They should both be equally represented in all good governments. Every act, before it becomes a law, should have approval of both these powers. If the people alone were represented, the property interest of the State might be injured. If the property alone was represented, it might be to the injury of the people. But when both are equally represented, no injury can accrue to either interest. And whenever the people and the interest of the property of a State require the passage of a law, it should be enacted, and not defeated by a rotten borough system.

The same rotten borough system of representation was continued in England for many years, until the people rose up in the majesty of their strength and demanded its reformation. The aristocracy of England resisted this reformation as long as they dared to do so. They contended, as is now contended in South Carolina, in regard to the parish representation, that no evil had resulted from it! But the people knew better. When the representation of the boroughs in England was first adopted, it was just and fair. So, too, was the parish representation in South Carolina. The boroughs of England were, at one time, the most flourishing towns in the kingdom. They afterwards became deserted villages, and new towns sprung up, having thousands and tens of thousands of inhabitants, without a representative in Parliament. The same thing has happened to the parishes. They have lost their relative wealth and population, and great districts have sprung up, like Anderson and Pickens, with two and three thousand voters, without a Senator! Shall this system be continued? Are we behind the people of England in our republican principles, and notions of political justice and equity? The sooner this evil is remedied, the better for the lower country. All history shows that the postponement of a remedy makes it more terrible when it does come. So it was in France, previous to their revolution. The nobility and feudal lords owned all the lands, and paid no taxes. The burdens of the government fell on the poor and industrious, whilst all of its protection and advantages were claimed by the rich, idle and high born. The waters were dammed up as long as they could be, and when they burst asunder their barriers, they swept over the country with death and desolation.

The reform bill in England was resisted till the kingdom saw it must either pass, or a revolution would be the consequence, in which church and lords would go overboard as they did in the days of Oliver Cromwell.

The people of the lower country should give up freely and cheerfully an undue political influence, which time and circumstances have accidentally given them. They can suffer no detriment from thus placing themselves on an equal footing with the rest of their fellow-citizens. They have no distinct interest to protect. They are slaveholders and planters, and so are the people in the upper country. The upper country, too, has a deeper interest in this property than the lower country, as we have already shown. When the State Constitution was first formed, there might have been some reason in giving the lower country a check on the legislation of the country. At that time there was comparatively few slaves in the upper country. It was not known that the upper country ever would own much of that species of property. This doubt has been solved, and there are now almost two slaves in the upper country to one in the lower country.

No people can live together in harmony, and with perfect good feeling, unless they are upon an equality. If one possesses powers, privileges and advantages to which

he is not entitled, it must create bad feelings, and interrupt their social and political intercourse. If the lower country will not do justice to the upper country, and change our constitution to suit the changed condition of the population and wealth of the upper country, then we must see if we cannot force them to do justice.

The upper country can control all the elections in the State made by joint ballot of both Houses of the Legislature. Let us then determine that we will vote for no man for Governor, United States Senator, Judge or Chancellor, who opposes a fair and equal distribution of power in the State. No man has a right to ask a favor of the upper country who, at the same time withholds a right from them inestimable to freemen, and formidable only to tyrants.

Heretofore the upper country has acted with becoming liberality in this respect. The members of the Legislature from the upper districts have often voted for gentlemen from the lower country for Judge and Chancellor, over their own friends and neighbors, because they thought the lower country was entitled to those offices. But they will not be disposed to act so generously again unless they can have justice done themselves.

In conclusion we would say, that a refusal, on the part of the parishes, to alter the basis of representation, is not in character with the conduct of their ancestors during and after the revolutionary war; is not in accordance with that free and liberal republican spirit and feeling which has been manifested in every other State in the Union, and is not long to be submitted to, on the part of the upper country.—Southern Patriot.

SICTY.—This is the largest and most remarkable island in the Mediterranean, and measures 755 miles in circumference. The ancients denominated it the "Island of the Sun," and the land of Cyclops. The Greek poets, on account of its extraordinary beauty and fertility, styled it the "Garden of Hesperides." The number of houses upon the island is estimated at 268,120, and the population at 1,757,771. The mass of the people are poor and without education. It is subject to the King of Naples, who governs it by a Viceroy. The government is very exacting and oppressive, and affords scarcely any encouragement to agriculture, manufacture, or commerce. Sicily has always been distinguished for the remarkable luxuriance of its soil, and even in its present imperfect state of cultivation one good crop, says Brydone, would be sufficient to maintain the island seven years. In the spring the flowers of the island are fragrant beyond description, and the air is so loaded with their perfume that dogs lose their scent in hunting over its heights. The works of Homer, Virgil, Cicero, and Milton, abound with many beautiful allusions in reference to Sicily. The shape of Sicily is that of a triangle, and on this account has been called Trinacria; it is full of mountains and valleys and fertilizing streams. In the early ages, the Sicilians assiduously cultivated poetry, sculpture and painting. Fabricius gives a list of seventy Sicilians who have been celebrated in antiquity for learning and genius; there are still able and gifted men scattered over the island, but they are silent and in the shade. The absolute character of the government and the arbitrary censorship of the press prevent them from being seen or known—their works are seldom, if ever, published and their voices are unheard.

No paper is issued in Sicily except a price current, and the only authorized journal in circulation, is that entitled "Journal of the two Sicilies," published at Naples, under the official sanction of the King.

In spite of wars, earthquakes, tyranny and superstition, the natural beauty of the island is still the same; but the people are not happy, because they are without freedom, without which, the richest blessings of nature are little value.

(From the Southern Standard.)

General Edward Burleson.

We learn from the Texas State Gazette, of the 3d instant, that the funeral obsequies of Gen. Burleson, who died at Austin, on the 26th December, were imposing and solemn; evincing, in a striking manner, the strong attachment entertained for the illustrious patriot by his neighbors and countrymen. The procession, composed of the Masonic Fraternity, State officers, members of the Legislature, and citizens, extended in length over half a mile, and the entire concourse around the grave must have numbered over two thousand people.

Messrs. Wilson and Darcy addressed the Senate on the character, services, and virtues of the deceased, and Messrs. Hamilton, Turner, and Bryan addressed the House. They state that Gen. Burleson was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina; he was married at the early age of sixteen, emigrated from Tipton county, Tennessee, in May, 1831, to Texas. He died on 26th December, aged fifty three years.

From the date of his arrival in Texas to this hour of his death, the history of Edward Burleson is the history of Texas. There is no page of her annals which does not register his name. There is no event in her progress, in which he is not either a leader or an active participant.

He acted a prominent part in all the battles of Texas. At the storming of San Antonio de Bexar, where Cos and his force were captured, Burleson was in command, and after the capture, discharged Cos, and his soldiers on their parole, and furnished them with the means of returning to Mexico. At the battle of San Jacinto, he commanded the first regiment, and after the battle, was despatched with a part of his regiment to watch the retreat of the enemy out of the country.

From this time until he was elected Vice President, he was constantly in the field. He was in command of the regular army in the Cherokee war where his usual good sense, experience and valor, made him conspicuous among the chosen men of Texas. When Vasquez and Wall invaded the country, he was among the first to hasten to the frontier.—When the Comanches, like an avalanche rushed down from their mountain homes, sweeping every thing before them, General Burleson was the first to raise the alarm, and rush to the rescue. He met and defeated the Indians in a pitched battle at Plum Creek.

"During the Mexican war, when General Taylor called upon Texas for volunteers, Burleson was among the first to respond. And the Rio Grande and the heights of Monterey attest his patriotism and valor.

"He not only served his country in a military capacity, but for the last fifteen years he has been almost continuously in the councils of the Republic and State of Texas. He was a member of the Texan Senate for years, and like a faithful sentinel upon the watchtower of his country, he died at his post."

A FREAK OF FORTUNE.—The New Orleans Crescent says: "Thousands returned Californians will probably recollect the firm of Priest, Lee & Co., at Sacramento. They established one of the first trading houses at that place, before the town was laid out. They commenced with a small capital, and in eighteen months were the possessors of immense wealth. Two years ago the firm became embarrassed in consequence of heavy losses. At that time Barton Lee, esq., one of the senior partners in the house, was the wealthiest man in Sacramento; his property being estimated, and probably not much over estimated, at a million and a half of dollars, but he lost all in the reverses which involved himself and partners. We are informed by a late number of the Sacramento Transcript, that Mr. Lee is now at the Sandwich Islands, engaged in his former occupation as a house carpenter.

"Mother, send me for the Doctor?"

"Why, my son?"

Case that man in the parlor is going to die—he said he would, if sister Jane would not marry him—and Jane said she wouldn't.

Why is Gillet, the manufacturer of steel pens, a dishonest man? Because he makes the people steel pens and says they do write!

DISSEXTILE, OR LEAP YEAR.

The following, from the Frederick Examiner, will be interesting, no doubt, to many of our readers. Beyond the circle of scientific enquiry so little attention is paid to chronological exactness, that many intelligent persons will be glad of even a short account and explanation given of the term bissextile.

In reforming the computation of time, Julius Cæsar ordained that the year should consist of 365 days, except every fourth year, which should consist of 366 days, the additional day to be reckoned by twice counting the 24th of February, which was the sixth calend of March. Hence the name, from the Latin words, bis, twice, and sextilis, sixth. The calends, (whence our word calendar, or first days of the month, were reckoned backwards to the ides, thus, the first day of March was the first calend; the 28th of February was the second calend of March; February 27th the third, and so on.

The Julian year, which by this rule was reckoned at 365 days and 6 hours, was found not to be accurate, but to exceed the length of the solar year by 11 minutes, which, in 181 years, amount to an entire day. It was therefore corrected by Pope Gregory, in 1582, who retrenched 11 days from the Julian computation—being its excess or gain over the solar time. Out of this correction grew the distinction between the old and new style. The Gregorian or new style was introduced into Germany in 1770, and by act of Parliament, into England in 1752—just one hundred years ago—the 2d day of September (O. S.) of that year being reckoned as the 14th (N. S.) under the Gregorian system.

Under the name Bissextile is retained with its obsolete import, we intercalate the 29th of February every fourth year for leap year, and, for still greater accuracy, make only one leap year out of every four centenary years, that is—the years 1700, and 1800 were not leap years, nor will A. D. 1900 be reckoned as one, but the year 2000 will be Bissextile.—Preserve this memorandum for future reference.

A Beautiful Passage.

We find in the Home Book of the Picturesque, the following beautiful passage:

"And here let me say a word in favor of those vicissitudes of our climate which are so often made the subject of exclusive reproof. If they annoy us occasionally by changes from hot to cold, from wet to dry, they give us one of the most beautiful climates in the world. They give us the brilliant sunshine of the south of Europe with the fresh verdure of the north. They float our summer sky with clouds of gorgeous tints of fleecy whiteness, and send down cooling showers to refresh the panting earth and keep it green. Our seasons are all poetical; phenomena of our heavens are full of sublimity and beauty.

Winter with us has none of its proverbial gloom. It may have its howling wind; and chilling frosts, and whirling snow storms, but it has also its long intervals of cloudless sunshine when the snow clad earth gives redoubled brightness to the day; when it might the stars beam with intense lustre, or the moon floods the whole landscape with her most limpid radiance; and then the joyous outbreak of our spring, bursting at once into leaf and blossom, redundant with vegetation, and vociferous with life! And the splendors of our summer—its morning voluptuousness and its evening glory—its airy palaces of sun-gilt clouds piled up in a deep azure sky; and its gusts of tempest of almost tropical grandeur, when the forked lightning and the following thunder valley from the battlements of heaven shake the sultry atmosphere—and the sublime melancholy of our autumn, magnificent in its decay, withering down the pomp and pride of a woodland country, reflecting back from its yellow forest the golden serenity of the sky; surely we may say that in our climate the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth forth his handiwork; day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge."

Charles Dickens, in the last number of Household Words, says that the watchwords of France are no longer "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity," but "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and Musketry."

Honesty and interest, like virtue and Heaven, can never be separately pursued.