

# THE TELESCOPE.

[Vol. I.]

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BY THOMAS W. LORRAIN.

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## MORALITY.

FOR THE TELESCOPE.

### MORAL SOCIETY, OF PENDLETON.

Pursuant to notice a very respectable meeting of the Citizens of Pendleton District was yesterday convened at the Court House, for the purpose of forming an Association for the suppression of Vice and the encouragement of Virtue—a constitution was adopted, and the following officers elected for one year, agreeable to its provisions:

Major General Andrew Pickens, President; Rev. James Hembree, Vice-President; John T. Lewis, Esq. Secretary; Joseph Grisham, Esq. Treasurer.

#### Committee of Council.

Rev. Henry Gaines, John Pickens, Joseph Reed, Esquire, George Reese, senior, and Wm. Hillhouse.

#### Committee of Correspondence.

The Rev. James Hillhouse, Samuel H. Dickson, and John T. Lewis, Esquires.

By order of the society.

JOHN T. LEWIS, Sec'y.

August 29, 1816.

An Extra Meeting of the Society will be held at the Court House, on Thursday the 19th of September, next—at which time and place, the Rev. Richard B. Cater will deliver a discourse on its objects and uses. The public are invited to attend.

JOHN T. LEWIS.

August 29, 1816.

### CONSTITUTION OF THE MORAL SOCIETY.

IN republics, virtue is the only thing which can uphold and perpetuate the existence of the State. It requires no investigation to make it manifest, that without the magistrates entrusted with the execution of the Laws possess virtue, morality, energy and unanimity, the people will soon be prepared to become slaves, and the flagitious to usurp the government, and rule them with a rod of iron. No compact is more unalloyed or pernicious than the tacit agreement between the rulers and people to dispense with the laws and tolerate crimes. When irreligion and vice shall have contaminated the mass of the people; when the majority, emancipated from civil and moral restraint, shall be disposed to set aside the laws and institutions of the country, then we may dread that we are approaching a dangerous crisis. The means of preservation passing into other hands, will become the means of destruction: talents and official influence, and the power of legislation, and all the resources of state may be perverted to demolish our institutions, laws and usages, until every vestige of ancient wisdom, virtue and morality be forever gone. To secure the execution of the laws against immorality in a time of moral declension, an influence is needed distinct from that of the government, independent of popular suffrage, superior in potency to individual efforts, and competent to enlist and preserve the public opinion on the side of law and order. This most desirable influence we hope and believe may be found in local voluntary associations of the Wise and Good, to aid the civil magistrate in the due execution of his official functions. They awaken the public attention, and by the sermons, the reports, and the conversation they occasion, diffuse much moral instruction. Societies of this kind combine the wisdom and influence of all who desire to prevent crimes and uphold peace and good order. They will have great influence in forming correctly the public opinion, and rendering the violation of the laws disgraceful as well as dangerous. By their numbers they will embolden the timid and intimidate the enemy. The hands of the magistrate will be strengthened and the laws rescued from contempt. In all governments the primary obligations of the citizen are to his God and his country. Deeply impressed with these considerations, and observing the great declension of morality in our country, and the necessity of our uniting to put a stop to vice and immorality, we do voluntarily associate ourselves, in perfect consonance with the municipal laws of the land, for the promotion of morality. We make no innovation; we embark in no novel experiment; we set up no new standard of morals; we encroach upon no man's liberty; we lay it over no man's conscience—our object is merely to stand on the defensive. We assume to ourselves the title of "THE MORAL SOCIETY," and we ordain and establish this Constitution for the government of the said Society. And also, we do pledge ourselves to use every honorable and legal means in our power to carry the Constitution, Laws and Rules of the Society into effect.

ARTICLE I. The Society shall meet annually on the fourth Thursday of August, in every year, at the village of Pendleton, and quarterly on the fourth Thursday of November, February and May, at the same place in each and every year. The Society shall at each annual meeting elect all the Officers of the Society, for one year ensuing such meeting, which shall be done by ballot; in all cases a majority shall elect. A meeting of the Society shall consist of at least ten members to form a quorum.

II. That we will use every reasonable exertion to suppress all kinds of vice and immorality, and will always aid and assist the civil au-

thority of the country in executing their official duties. And that we will correspond and cheerfully co-operate with all individuals, bodies or societies in this District, State, or any of our sister States, who have the same laudable intentions in view.

III. The Officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, a Board of Council to consist of five members, and a Committee of Correspondence to consist of three members.

IV. The duty of the President shall be to preside at all meetings of the Society, keep order, regulate debates, and put questions to vote and decide thereon.

V. In absence of the President, the Vice-President shall act as vested with all the powers and exercise the functions of the President.

VI. The duty of Secretary shall be to keep at all times a true record of the proceedings of the Society, make such orders and publish such rules as the Society shall from time to time order and appoint.

VII. The duty of the Treasurer shall be to keep a true and just account of all monies received, on what account, and how the same has been applied. He shall report at each quarterly meeting to the Board of Council, and his accounts shall at all times be subject to the examination of any member of the Society.

VIII. The duty of the Board of Council shall be to collect, combine and enquire into facts, and general information relating to the purposes of the Society, to devise ways and means for the purpose of furthering the views of the Society, and apply the Society's funds according to directions. And they are to report to the Society at each annual and quarterly meeting what they have done. Any three members of the Committee may form a quorum, and shall at each stated meeting elect a Chairman from among themselves who shall preside in their Committee of Council.

IX. The duty of the Committee of Correspondence shall be to correspond with any individual or society instituted with similar views, and to report at each stated meeting of the Society, what communications they have received, as well as what they have made, with such observations thereon as they may deem necessary or proper for the Society to act on.

X. No money shall be paid out of the Treasury, except the Society order the same at a stated meeting.

XI. Any person wishing to become a Member of the Society shall be proposed and balloted for in the absence of the candidate for membership. A majority, at any stated meeting, may elect by a plurality of votes of the members present.

XII. The Society shall have power to impeach, and by a vote of two thirds of the members present at any stated meeting, to remove from office any Officer of the Society for any infraction on the Constitution or Laws of the Society, and shall have power to expel any Member from the Society who shall be convicted by two thirds of the Members present of having violated the Constitution, Laws or Rules of the Society; but for an offence which the Society may deem insufficient to expel a member the member convicted shall be reprimanded by the Chairman of the Committee of Council, in committee, and for the second offence shall be reprimanded from the Presidential chair, in open Society. No member expelled shall be elected a member of the Society a second time within one year after expulsion.

XIII. The Officers of the Society shall be compelled to attend at each stated meeting of the Society, or for default, without sufficient excuse, each of them shall forfeit the following sums, to-wit: the President, the sum of one dollar; the Vice-President, seventy-five cents, and all the other Officers the sum of fifty cents each, to be collected and applied to the use of the Society.

XIV. The members of the Society shall contribute annually the sum of one dollar, which sum shall be paid at each annual meeting, and every person elected a resident member shall also pay the same sum on his being elected, and any person is at liberty to contribute what he pleases towards the support of the Society.

XV. The society shall have power to impose fines on its members for any disorderly behavior, and have power to collect the same.

XVI. The Society shall have power to elect any person an honorary member of the society, who lives out of the District of Pendleton.

XVII. The Society shall be competent to make such laws and rules as they may deem necessary or expedient to adopt, pass or enter into for the promotion or furtherance of the intentions of the society, provided the same shall not be repugnant to, or inconsistent with the Constitution.

XVIII. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting by a majority of two thirds of the members present concurring; provided the alteration or amendment proposed or intended to be made, shall have passed a vote of two thirds of the members present, at one of the previous quarterly meetings.

Done at Pendleton, in the District of Pendleton, in the State of South Carolina, this twenty-ninth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, and in the forty-first year of American Independence.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto and hereon signed our own names.

Andrew Pickens, John Harris, David Humphries, John T. Lewis, John Nicols, Robert Gaines, George Varner, Samuel H. Dickson, James Dobbins, Abner A. Steele, William Davis, Jas. Hillhouse.

William Hillhouse, James H. Dendy, John Harris, Joseph Reid, John T. Lewis, Jonathan Smith, John Hillhouse, William Walker, Andrew Brown, Wm. C. Baskin, John B. Hammond, Arthur M'Dow, George Reese, John Pickens, Josiah Houston, James Hembree, Wm. Leadbetter, Joseph Grisham, David Humphries, jr. John Simpson, John S. Willson, Bartly Hargre, Nathaniel Harris, Wm. Clanahan, A. Patterson, Wm. Carson, A. J. Liddell, Jas. Douthit.

## GEOGRAPHICAL.

### THE TOMBIGBY.

This river is one of the great branches, or rather the principal branch of the river Mobile, and is itself indeed designated by the name of Mobile by the older geographers. The Indians called it simply Hache, the river; and the name of Tombigby, or rather Etomeigaby, or the Box-maker's creek, was confined to a creek, which discharges itself into the Hache about 225 miles above its confluence with the Alabama. The Tombigby has two main branches. The western branch, which is now usually called the Tombigby, has its sources in the Chickasaw nation; but the eastern branch, called the Tuska-loosa or Black Warrior, takes its rise in the Cherokee country, above the Muscle shoals of the Tennessee river. Both branches must in a future day become great channels of commerce, and will by good roads or canals be connected with the Tennessee. The distance from the ocean to the state of Tennessee and the back parts of Virginia is so much shorter by way of the Mobile and Tombigby, than by way of the Mississippi, and the current of the Tombigby is so much more gentle than that of the Mississippi, that it is highly probable it will be employed to a considerable extent for the purposes both of importation and exportation. The junction of the Alabama with the Tombigby is about 45 miles above the mouth of the Mobile river. From thence to St. Stephens it is between 60 and 70 miles by water, though not 40 by land; and this place is regarded as the head of schooner navigation. The water is generally deep—but there are two places near Bassett's sand bar where, in the dry season of the year, the water is not more than seven feet deep. For nine months in the year, however, it is at least ten or eleven feet even in those places. Any vessel which can come from New-Orleans into Mobile bay by the usual route, finds no difficulty in proceeding to St. Stephens, except what is occasioned by the want of wind in a river where the wind is so much obstructed by the thick woods adjacent.

Barren—The mouth of the Alabama to St. Stephens in three days, unless the water be very high. Just above St. Stephens is a rapid, formerly called Walker's shoals, which though affording some obstruction in low water, is passable with a tolerable fresh, and might probably with a small expense be rendered navigable at all times. As to the navigation above St. Stephens, there is nothing like a rock shoal in the river from the rapid just spoken of to the Cotton Gin Port, which is at present considered as at the head of navigation, and is only between 60 and 70 miles from the navigable part of Bear creek, which falls into the Tennessee below the Muscle shoals. The shallowest places in the river are generally at the heads of islands, where the river spreads out to an unusual width.

It is believed that barges drawing not more than four feet of water, may ascend the Tombigby as far as the Cotton Gin Port for eight or nine months in the year. Through the greater part of the remaining months (say July, August, September and October) it would be difficult to ascend with boats drawing more than eighteen or twenty inches of water. The country is well settled as far as where the Choctaw line strikes the west bank of the river, thirty miles above St. Stephens. Should the Choctaw claim to the land on the east side of the river, which was always contested by the Creeks, prove unfounded, the United States will then, under the late treaty with the Creeks, be entitled to all the land between the Tombigby and the Alabama, and in that case the country will in less than a year be settled almost as high up as the Cotton Gin Port.

The following statement of distances on the river may be considered pretty nearly accurate:

Mobile to Fort Stoddert by the nearest way,	42
Forks of the Tombigby and Alabama,	3
Mackintosh's Bluff,	16
Bassett's Creek,	53
Jackson, a new town on the east bank,	6
St. Stephens, a town on the west bank,	10
Stee-Bogue, or Snake creek,	13
Oke-Tuppa, or Cold Water creek,	21
Faluck-te-bunna, or Cedar fork old fields,	16
Chickasaw Bogue,	41
Tuska-Loosa, or Black Warrior river,	29
Etomeigaby, or Box-Maker's creek, near to which stood Fort Confederation,	41
Oke-Noxaby,	20
Tilly creek,	88
Cotton Gin Port,	51

The eastern branch of the Tombigby, which is called the Tuska-Loosa, or Black Warrior, affords, it is probable, a communication with the Tennessee, as convenient at least as the western branch. The distance of its navigable waters from the Tennessee river is less, the intervening country is more level, and it will have the advantages of passing entirely through a settlement of white people, provided the United

States should maintain their claim to the whole country east of the Tombigby. The distances by this route are computed to be as follows:—From Knoxville, down the Holston and Tennessee rivers, to the mouth of Thompson's creek, 65 or 70 miles in a direct line above the Muscle shoals, the distance is 300 miles. Thence by land to the highest navigable part of the Black Warrior, through a level, firm valley of excellent white oak and poplar land, well watered, and settled by Cherokee chiefs—25 miles. (The river is here between forty and fifty yards wide, and not easily forded at a common time. It is a gentle stream.) Down the Black Warrior to the end of the Shoals—100 miles. (The Shoals are about 32 miles through, but there are only 4 miles of rough water. Boats find no difficulty when there is a moderate swell in the river.) From the end of the Shoals to the Tombigby—125 miles. St. Stephens, 122 miles. Total—672 miles.

But to return to the channel usually known by the name of the Tombigby. This was well explored, in the year 1808, by Captain E. P. Gaines, (now a general in our army) who after descending the Tennessee to the Muscle Shoals, passed down to Bear creek, one of its navigable tributary streams, which falls into the river below the Shoals; and from Bear creek went across to the Tombigby, where he built boats and descended to Fort Stoddert. He left the Tennessee at Melton's, near the head of the shoals, and proceeding south-westwardly, struck Bear creek at the distance of 45 miles from Mr. Melton's. He found Bear creek 54 yards wide and knee deep at the ford. It was in the month of January. At 38 miles from Bear creek he came to the Lunecisto, the main branch of the Tombigby, where descending in a perogue, he commenced his survey of the river.

From Bear creek to the dividing ridge between the waters of that creek and those of the Tombigby, the distance is about seven miles, over rather a hilly country. The last of the waters of Bear creek is five yards wide.

Two miles from that stream you come to one of the waters of the Tombigby, which finds the Gulf of Mexico within the distance of 500 miles, whilst its neighbor, by throwing itself into Bear creek and running with it into the Tennessee, and the Mississippi, traverses a space of 1200 miles before it becomes united with the same gulph.

From the dividing ridge between these waters to the Lunecisto, or Tombigby, it is neither a dead flat nor a broken country, but consists in a great degree of low ridges, covered with pine, intermixed with oak and hickory. Five and twenty branches at least (one of which, about midway, is 16 yards wide) are crossed in the space of thirty miles. Some of them run to the right and some to the left: falling either into or into one of the branches of the Tuska-loosa, its eastern fork, which the Chickasaw hunters call the Sipsy, and which runs for several miles in a south-eastwardly direction. The Chickasaws own the country between Bear creek and Lunecisto. General Gaines found the Lunecisto, in January 1808, to be three feet and a half deep at a ford a few miles below the place where his survey met its low-grounds. The bottom was gravelly and the current at the rate of two miles and three-quarters in an hour. About 25 miles from this place, in a N. N. W. course, is the mouth of Twenty Mile creek, which is about 45 miles from Colbert's ferry on the Tennessee river, and about 23 miles from the highest point of navigation on Bear creek. This is the highest navigable branch of the Tombigby, and is the head of what the Indians call Lunecisto, or All-Swamp. The Lunecisto is about 28 yards wide where it receives Twenty Mile creek, and increases in width to the mouth, where it is 50 or 55 yards wide. It receives two large creeks and several small ones below the mouth of 20 mile creek. The navigation of the river, however, is considerably obstructed by fallen and drifted timber, which in many places extends nearly across the stream. It might however be easily removed. The low grounds of Lunecisto are from one mile to three miles wide. If the river were cleared of fallen timber it would not only afford a safe and easy navigation for boats, but give a free passage to the water, and render thousands of acres, now much incommoded by the freshes, extremely valuable. The distance to Cotton Gin Port from that part of the low grounds of Lunecisto which Gen. Gaines's survey met, is about six miles, making the whole distance, from the ford of Bear creek to the Cotton Gin Port, 44 miles.

Rich lands and open woods are found on both sides of the river at the Gin Port rendering it a very eligible crossing place for a road, as well as a suitable seat for a commercial establishment: and until the Lunecisto is cleared out this may be regarded as the highest point of navigation of the waters of the Tombigby river. The river at this place is 63 yards wide, and at low water 8 feet deep; the current running at the rate of two miles an hour, and entirely free from obstruction. There is a beautiful bluff on the east side of the river, nearly opposite to, but a few chains above, the Cotton Gin bluff. Gen. Gaines and his party left the Gin Port in two large perogues, lashed together, side by side, with poles extending across them. The river, in consequence of rains which had lately fallen, had risen four feet above what is deemed low water mark.

The average depth of the water from the Gin Port to Okenoxaby, a distance of 128 miles, was about eleven feet. In some places, however, it was not more than six or seven feet deep; but in other places it was sixteen, eighteen and even twenty. The river is generally bounded by rich low grounds; but bluffs or high lands fre-