THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1860.

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Plain Facts and Considerations.

We dislike to refer to rumors of any kind, or matters which have not assumed a decidedly public character; but we feel called upon this time to make allusion to some matters which have been so much talked about on the streets that they cannot be regarded as at all private. One of these has reference to the provisions of the second section of the fourth article of the Amended Constitution of North Carolina—at least that portion of such section as says, "No person who shall deny the being of God, or the truth of the christian religion, or the divine authority of the Old or New Testament, shall be capable of holding any office or place of trust or profit in the civil department within this State."

This provision assumes importance in view of its operation as an exclusion against citizens of the Hebrew persuasion. We need hardly say here, what we have more than once said before, that we look upon any civil tests or exclusions from office, founded upon religious belief, as opposed to the genius of our institutions. We look upon such tests or exclusions as wrong in principle, and we alone, perhaps, of all the papers of any party in the State took open and decided ground upon this subject two years ago, basing our position upon no mere grounds of expediency, upon no desire to achieve popularity or to gain votes, for the citizens of that persuasion are too few in number to engage the services of the mere interested politician. Our course was dictated by a simple reference to which we conceived to be *right*. Our views are the same now as they were then. We can see no reason why a citizen who can be made to pay taxes—to serve on juries—to do military service, in fact to bear all the burdens of the State equally with all others, should not be equally capable of holding its offices of trust or profit, should it be the pleasure of the people to bestow such offices upon him. We think such views are in accordance with the true principles of Democracy. We feel assured that they are in accordance with the views of any Democratic representatives who may be sent from this county—of the Democratic Senator and Commoners who *will* be sent this year.

The history of the Democratic party all along, but especially within the last few years, contrasted with that of its opponents, ought to show on which side the weight of feeling in favor of civil and religious liberty is and will be found to exist. We feel justified in saying, that when anything can be done for the promotion of an object of this character—calculated to remove invidious distinctions, our Democratic representatives will not be found wanting. We say, with all personal respect to the worthy gentlemen who come out to oppose the Democratic nominees for the House of Commons in this county, that these Democratic nominees will be found at least as deserving of the confidence of any class or persuasion, anxious for the removal of a religious test, which they feel to be invidious, as their opponents who have been identified with the movements of a late party—one of whose tenets was the application of such religious test or exclusion towards the members of another religious denomination.

We have heard nothing personally from either Mr. Meares or Mr. Poisson in reference to this matter, but presuming that rumor does not misrepresent their position, or the positions asserted for them, we will state that rumor, to the effect that they are held forth to the voters of the Jewish persuasion as the especial advocates of an amendment of the second section of the fourth article of the Amended Constitution of North Carolina. If this rumor be wrong, we will take pleasure in stating so when apprized of the fact.

We trust that rumor does truly represent these gentlemen, for we like to see the spread of liberal views—views already advanced by ourselves, even among those whose tenets so recently advanced would render the boon an idle one to nearly every adult Hebrew in the State, since according to such tenets their foreign birth would be still an absolute bar to their attainment of any civil office of trust or profit.—We must further trust that Messrs. Meares and Poisson will abandon *that* illiberality too. Not that we know of a single man of the Jewish persuasion who wants an office, nor for that matter, a foreigner of any persuasion.

Again, we learn that an effort is made, by whom we know not, to array the mechanics and working-men of the town against the Democratic party. Now, if there be any just reason for this—any tangible grounds of complaint, it is fair that they should be known. Errors cannot be remedied until pointed out—publicity is the thing to sift them; the complaints made, whatever they may be, should be made in such a way that candidates aspiring to represent the people should know their wishes and grievances, so that representatives and constituents may understand each other. Be assured that in all that is practicable and reasonable, the representatives of the popular party—the party of the people—the Democracy, will not be found wanting.

A good deal of talk is made about taxing the salaries of Clerks and the wages of Mechanics. Would it be believed that this clause was introduced into the tax-bill by a prominent member of the opposition party—the party which now brings it as a terrible charge against the Democracy. For our own part, we are free to say that we think this feature of the tax-bill requires essential modification. If not so modified it ought to be struck out. We have said this long since, as a reference to our files will show.

Would our Opposition friends inform the public *how* they expect to get at their proposed amendment of the second section of the fourth article in the Constitution? The resolution of their State platform on the subject of constitutional amendment reads thus:

Resolved, That we recommend a Convention of the people of the State be called on the federal basis as early as practicable for the purpose of modifying the Constitution that every species of property may be taxed according to its value, with power to discriminate only in favor of the native products of our State, and the industrial pursuits of her citizens.

And this, Mr. Pool says, means that the Convention so called shall amend only the second clause of the third section, so as that negroes shall hereafter be taxed *ad valorem*. Mr. Pool says that it means "that and nothing more." How then are our enthusiastic friends to get their amendment before the Convention, if called, since the standard-bearer of their party excludes it and all other amendments save the specific one referred to. The fact is that they would be afraid to introduce this because it might open the way for others. And be it known that the Opposition denounce the Democratic mode of legislative amendment. Fact is that from the force of circumstances the Opposition *party* is pledged against this amendment.

☞ George Payne Rainsford James, (G. P. R.) the prolific novelist, died recently at Venice, of paralysis, aged 59 years.

Mr. James wrote well—the tone of all his novels was pure—he corrupted neither the morals nor the tastes of his readers. If given too much to the cultivation of "two horsemen," they were generally very respectable horsemen, and adepts in the science of equitation. He lived a good many years in Norfolk and Richmond, Va., as British Vice Consul, and was much respected by our neighbors of the Old Dominion, upon whose soil he laid the scene of one of his latest novels, the plot being founded upon the Southampton Massacre.

☞ We notice that the Military Convention which is to assemble at Goldsboro' on the 11th of July, prox., bids fair to be well attended.

☞ Governor Stevens, of Washington Territory, was a member of the Baltimore Convention, and *he* could speak knowingly of what committee-room politicians and spouters dispose of so glibly, without really understanding, or caring to understand.

As a soldier on the frontier, as the Governor of an exposed Territory, Governor Stevens knew that the whole force of the United States had been employed to protect property there from the depredations of Indians or other marauders—that when horses, cattle, or other property was stolen, the dragoons followed up the thieves or robbers for the purpose of recovering that property. That, too, in the organized Territories of Oregon and Washington. But, according to the new code—the new interpretation of non-intervention—it would appear as though the United States could not afford protection, or if she could afford protection to all other species of property, she was bound to deny it to property in slaves! What a humbug!

Again we say, we do not ask intervention for the establishment of slavery in any Territory, and we think no one ought to consent to intervention against it. If we oppose *Congressional* intervention, so we do *Territorial* intervention. If the Federal authorities and forces protect and recover the horses, cattle, hogs, etc., of the Northern emigrants, why should they not be bound to protect the slaves of the southern settler? Let the thing be fairly done. Give all the same chance.—We ask no more. We ask no law introducing slave property or giving it peculiar privileges. We simply ask that, being property, it shall be protected as property, wherever the constitutional authority of the Federal government extends.

At Once.

We have before us Democratic papers from all sections of the State, and we find them endorsing the nominations of Breckinridge and Lane, most of them putting up their names—none opposing them. Beyond doubt, his nomination is *the* nomination which will be sustained by the Democratic party of North Carolina. We have this news in private letters and by public report.

Now what we want to say is this. Let us, in North Carolina, consider this matter as settled. Let us have no division in our own ranks—let us not be under the necessity of wasting any of our force in combatting the friends of the Douglas wing of the Democracy, but let us at once by concert among ourselves be prepared to turn our whole force to defeat the opposition.

Let there be no wavering now—no back-looking—no faint-heartedness—no criminations or recriminations, but let us rally at once around the banner which the great body of the North Carolina Democracy already delight to honor. We will thus preserve our own harmony and secure the defeat of the Opposition.

☞ As we write—(a quarter to eleven) the thermometer is at 90 and rising. Under these circumstances we feel like taking it as coolly as possible. We do not feel like writing long, labored editorials. We prefer the scissors to the pen. We are also relieved from the necessity of making any great effort, by being placed in possession of the labors of an intelligent correspondent who offers some well-considered views upon one of the aspects of the *ad valorem* question.

The candidates for the Governorship of this State are in the mountains. We trust they have a "good time." We would like to be there ourselves, but *not* canvassing. Perhaps it is as well that we should be here. At any rate here we are, with the thermometer still rising. It is going to be hotter to-day than it has yet been this year. It is time that it *should* be hot. One of the editors of the *Herald* is having a nice trip through the Western country. He is lucky. We belong to the can't-get-away club, a pleasant association of perspiring patriots.

The Candidates for Sheriff and for the Legislature will commence their regular rounds on Monday next at Federal Point. Hope *they* will have a pleasant time of it,—that the water may agree with them. They will perspire, especially those who are fat, if such there be. It will be cool enough in Raleigh next winter.

WILMINGTON DIRECTORY—*to which is added a* BUSINESS DIRECTORY *for* 1860-'61. Compiled by T. Tuther, Jr. Journal Buildings: Fulton & Price, Steam Power Press Printers. 1860.

The above is the title of a work which has been well done by Mr. Tuther, its compiler, and which cannot fail to prove beneficial to the trading and other interests of the town of Wilmington. It contains an alphabetical list of business houses and individuals, alternated with the cards or advertisements of some seventy of our enterprising business men or firms, these latter being indexed at the beginning for convenience of reference.—The "Business Directory," at the close also contains a complete inventory or catalogue of every branch of business pursued in our community, with the names of the parties engaged in their prosecution.

The "Appendix" gives the "Town Government" with its various officers and departments—the Schools, Thalian Association, Cemetery, County officers, Courts, Inspectors, Gas Company, Secret Societies, Benevolent Societies, Military Companies, Banks, Railroads, Churches, Post Office, Custom House, Consuls, etc.

We think upon the whole, that the Directory is neatly got up, and will be a great convenience. It will be found very convenient in counting houses and dwellings, but especially ought it to be circulated all through the State—hung up at every depot, and in the public room of every hotel or stopping place. If this is done it will pay, and pay well those circulating the Directory.

HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA, *Containing an Exact Description of that Country, together with the Present State thereof, and a Journal of a Thousand Miles Traveled through several Nations of Indians, giving a particular account of their Customs, Manners, &c., &c.*, by JOHN LAWSON, Gent., Surveyor General of North Carolina. London: Printed for W. Taylor, at the Ship, and F. Baker, at the Black Boy, in Pater Noster Row, 1714. Raleigh: Printed by Strother & Marcom, at their Book and Job Office, 1860.

The above is the title in full of a neatly bound 12mo. or small 8vo. of 390 pages, published by Messrs. O. H. Perry & Co., of Raleigh, who state in their preface, that of the original edition of Lawson's book, republished by them, but two copies are to be found in the State, one in the State Library, and one at the University.—Hence, in their opinion the necessity of a reprint, in order to preserve entire in all its sprightliness and originality, a work which tends to elucidate the history of the good old State.

We believe this is a faithful reprint from the London edition of 1714. It ought to obtain a wide sale among all those who feel an interest in the early history of the State, or in the manners and circumstances of the Colonists of the last century.

FIRE.—The alarm of fire between eleven and twelve o'clock this forenoon, proceeded from the burning of a small two story frame house on the South side of Chestnut street, between Seventh and Eighth streets. The house, we learn, belonged to Mr. Sylvester Petteway, and was occupied by Mr. John Finer.

The house in which the fire originated was totally consumed, together with the household furniture and clothing of the occupants, and the tenement next East, was for a time in considerable peril, but escaped with a slight scorching.

Loss about four hundred dollars.

Daily Journal, 28th inst.

☞ The Editor of the Columbus, (Ga.) Sun has been shown several cotton bolls, from the farm of Mr. Wm. Bellamy, near Sand Fort, Russell County, Ga.—They are said to be the first this season in that section, and are of fair size.

☞ The Washington, N. C., *Dispatch* has entered upon its fourth volume. The *Dispatch* is really and truly a neat, well-conducted neutral newspaper, and we are pleased to see that it meets with great favor with the people in eastern Carolina. It deserves an extensive circulation. Price $2 a year, in advance.

ARREST AND ESCAPE OF RUNAWAYS.—We learn from the Washington *Dispatch*, that on the 19th inst., Mr. W. H. Davis, residing near Pantego, Beaufort county, was badly beaten by three runaway negroes whom he had arrested. The negroes made their escape but were pursued by a party of neighbors, and one of them was killed—the other two made their escape. Mr. Davis is said to be severely injured, having received two dangerous wounds upon his head.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held on yesterday by Coroner Jones over the body of a white man named Burrall Poole, who was found dead about five miles beyond Hilton Ferry, on the Long Creek road. It appears that Poole had left here the day previous, taking liquor with him, and it is supposed that he became intoxicated, which, together with the extreme heat, caused his death, as he was found exposed to the sun. Verdict in accordance with above facts.

DEEP RIVER COPPER.—We learn that there has recently been considerable stir in regard to the copper mines known to exist in the Deep River Country, not far from Haywood, and that offers to purchase at high figures have been made, although no trade has yet been concluded. It is understood that these deposits of copper ore are very valuable and extensive.

Closing Exercises.

The closing Exercises of the Wilmington Institute, L. Meginney, Esq., Principal, took place at Town Hall last evening, (Wednesday, June 27th.)

The attendance was very large. The spacious hall was crowded to excess by the parents and relatives of pupils, who expressed much delight at the proficiency of the scholars, as exhibited in the recitations as well as the rendering of the concerted pieces.

The exhibition was in every way "a success"—gratifying to Mr. Meginney and to those who had placed their children in his charge. The exercises closed about 11 o'clock.

☞ The costs of the Central Park, New York, are—for land, $4,019,798 74,—for laying out, adorning and decorating the Park, $4,500,000, being $8,519,789 74 in all. Of this $2,500,000 are yet to be expended. About half the work has been done.

☞ Some leading Missourians, now in Washington City, favor the holding of a Democratic Convention in Jefferson City, on the 17th September, to adopt measures to secure united action in Missouri, in view of the present divided condition of the Democratic party.

Protest of the President Against Proceedings of the Covode Committee.

The following Message from the President of the United States was laid before the House of Representatives previous to the adjournment of Congress:

WASHINGTON, June 22, 1860.

To the House of Representatives:

In my message to the House of Representatives of the 28th March last, I solemnly protested against the creation of a committee, at the head of which was placed my accuser, for the purpose of investigating whether the President had, "by money, patronage, or other improper means, sought to influence the action of Congress, or any committee thereof, for or against the passage of any law appertaining to the rights of any State or Territory." I protested against this because it was destitute of any specification, because it referred to no particular act to enable the President to prepare for his defence, because it deprived him of the constitutional guards which, in common with every citizen of the United States, he possesses for his protection, and because it assailed his constitutional independence as a co-ordinate branch of the Government.

There is an enlightened justice as well as a beautiful symmetry in every part of the Constitution. This is conspicuously manifested in regard to impeachments. The House of Representatives possesses "the sole power of impeachment;" the Senate "the sole power to try all impeachments;" and the impeachable offences are "treason, bribery, or other high crimes or misdemeanors." The practice of the House from the earliest times had been in accordance with its own dignity, the rights of the accused, and the demands of justice. At the commencement of each judicial investigation which might lead to an impeachment, specific charges were always preferred, the accused had an opportunity of cross examining the witnesses, and he was placed in full possession of the precise nature of the offence which he had to meet. An impartial and elevated standing committee was charged with this investigation, upon which no member inspired with the ancient sense of honor and justice would have served had he ever expressed an opinion against the accused. Until the present occasion it was never deemed proper to transform the accuser into the judge, and to confer upon him the selection of his own committee.

The charges made against me, in vague and general terms, were of such a false and atrocious character that I did not entertain a moment's apprehension for the result. They were abhorrent to every principle instilled into me from my youth, and every practice of my life; and I did not believe it possible that the man existed who would so basely perjure himself as to swear to the truth of any such accusations. In this conviction I am informed I have not been mistaken.

In my former protest, therefore, I truly and emphatically declared that it was made for no reason personal to myself; but because the proceedings of the House were in violation of the rights of the co-ordinate executive branch of the Government, subversive of its constitutional independence, and, if unresisted, would establish a precedent dangerous and embarrassing to all my successors. Notwithstanding all this, if the committee had not transcended the authority conferred upon it by the resolution of the House of Representatives, broad and general as this was, I should have remained silent upon the subject. What I now charge is, that they have acted as though they possessed unlimited power, and, without any warrant whatever in the resolution under which they were appointed, have pursued a course not merely at war with the constitutional rights of the Executive, but tending to degrade the Presidential office itself to such a degree as to render it unworthy of the acceptance of any man of honor or principle.

The resolution of the House, so far as it is accusatory of the President, is confined to an inquiry whether he had used corrupt or improper means to influence the action of Congress, or any of its committees, or legislative measures pending before them. Nothing more, nothing less. I have not learned, through the newspapers, or in any other mode, that the committee have touched the other accusatory branch of the resolution, charging the President with a violation of duty in failing to execute some law or laws. This branch of the resolution is, therefore, out of the question. By what authority, then, have the committee undertaken to investigate the course of the President in regard to the Convention which framed the Lecompton constitution? By what authority have they undertaken to pry into our foreign relations for the purpose of assailing him on account of the instructions given by the Secretary of State to our Minister in Mexico relative to the Tehauntepec route? By what authority have they inquired into the causes of removal from office, and this from the parties themselves removed, with a view to prejudice his character, notwithstanding this power of removal belongs exclusively to the President, under the Constitution, was so decided by the first Congress in the year 1789, and has accordingly ever since been exercised? There is in the resolution no pretext of authority for the committee to inves gate the question of the printing of the Post Office blanks; nor is it to be supposed that the House, if asked, would have granted such an authority, because this question had been previously committed to two other committees, one in the Senate, and the other in the House.—Notwithstanding this absolute want of power, the committee rushed into this investigation in advance of all other subjects.

The committee proceeded for months, from 22d March, 1860, to examine *ex parte*, and without any notice to myself, into every subject which could possibly affect my character. Interested and vindictive witnesses were summoned and examined before them; and the first and only information of their testimony which, in almost every instance, I received, was obtained from the publication of such portions of it as could injuriously affect myself, in the New York journals.—It mattered not that these statements were, so far as I have learned, disproved by the most respectable witnesses who happened to be on the spot. The telegraph was silent respecting these contradictions. It was a secret committee in regard to the testimony in my defence; but it was public in regard to all the testimony which could by possibility reflect on my character. The poison was left to produce its effect upon the public mind, whilst the antidote was carefully withheld.

In their examinations the committee violated the most sacred and honorable confidences existing among men.—Private correspondence, which a truly honorable man would never even entertain a distant thought of divulging, was dragged to light. Different persons in official and confidential relations with myself, and with whom it was supposed I might have held conversations the revelation of which would do me injury, were examined. Even members of the Senate and members of my own Cabinet, both my constitutional advisers, were called upon to testify, for the purpose of discovering something, if possible, to my discredit.

The distribution of the patronage of the Government is by far the most disagreeable duty of the President. Applicants are so numerous, and their applications are pressed with such eagerness by their friends both in and out of Congress, that the selection of one for any desirable office gives offence to many. Disappointed applicants, removed officers, and those who for any cause, real or imaginary, had become hostile to the Administration, presented themselves, or were invited by a summons to appear before the committee. These are the most dangerous witnesses. Even with the best intentions they are so influenced by prejudice and disappointment that they almost inevitably discolor truth. They swear to their own version of private conversations with the President without the possibility of contradiction. His lips are sealed, and he is left at their mercy.—He cannot as a co-ordinate branch of the Government appear before a committee of investigation to contradict the oaths of such witnesses. Every coward knows that he can employ insulting language against the President with impunity, and every false or prejudiced witness can attempt to swear away his character before such a committee without the fear of contradiction.

Thus for months, whilst doing my best at one end of the avenue to perform my high and responsible duties to the country, has there been a committee of the House of Representative in session at the other end of the avenue spreading a drag-net, without the shadow of authority from the House, over the whole Union, to catch any disappointed man willing to malign my character—and all this in secret conclave. The Lion's mouth at Venice, into which secret denunciations were dropped, is an apt illustration of the Covode committee. The Star Chamber, tyrannical and odious as it was, never proceeded in such a manner. For centuries there has been nothing like it in any civilized country, except the revolutionary tribunal of France in the days of Robespierre.

Now, I undertake to state and to prove that, should the proceedings of the committee be sanctioned by the House, and become a precedent for future times, the balance of the Constitution will be entirely upset, and there will no longer remain the three co-ordinate and independent branches of the Government—legislative, executive, and judicial. The worst fears of the patriots and statesmen who framed the Constitution in regard to the usurpation of the legislative on the executive and judicial branches which will then be realized. In the language of Mr. Madison, speaking on this very subject, in the 48th number of the Federalist:

"In a Representative Republic, where the Executive magistracy is carefully limited, both in the extent and duration of its power, and where the legislative power is exercised by an assembly which is inspired by a supposed influence over the people, with an intrepid confidence in its own strength; which is sufficiently numerous to feel all the passions which actuate a multitude, yet not so numerous as to be incapable of pursuing the objects of its passions by means which reason prescribes; it is against the enterprising ambition of this department that the people ought to indulge all their jealousy and exhaust all their precautions."

And in the ex pressive and pointed language of Mr. Jefferson, when speaking of the tendency of the legislative branch of Government to usurp the rights of the weaker branches:

"The concentrating these in the same hands is precisely the definition of despotic government. It will be no alleviation that these powers will be exercised by a plurality of hands, and not by a single one. One hundred and seventy-three despots would surely be as oppressive as one. Let those who doubt it turn their eyes on the republic of Venice. As little will it avail us that they are chosen by ourselves. An elective despotism was not the government we fought for, but one which should not only be founded on free principles, but in which the powers of Government should be so divided and balanced among several bodies of magistracy as that no one could transcend their legal limits without being effectually checked and controlled by the others."

Should the proceedings of the Covode committee become a precedent, both the letter and spirit of the Constitution will be violated. One of the three massive columns on which the whole superstructure rests will be broken down. Instead of the Executive being a co-ordinate, it will become a subordinate branch of the Government. The Presidential office will be dragged into the dust. The House of Representatives will then have rendered the Executive almost necessarily subservient to its wishes instead of being independent. How is it possible that two powers in the State can be co-ordinate and independent of each other, if the one claims and exercises the power to reprove and to censure all the official acts and all the private conversations of the other—and this upon *ex parte* testimony before a secret inquisitorial committee; in short, to assume a general censorship over the other? The idea is as absurd in public as it would be in private life. Should the President attempt to assert and maintain his own independence, future Covode committees may dragoon him into submission by collecting the hosts of disappointed office-hunters, removed officers, and those who desire to live upon the public treasury, which must follow in the wake of every Administration, and they in secret conclave will swear away his reputation.

Under such circumstances he must be a very bold man should he not surrender at discretion, and consent to exercise his authority according to the will of those invested with this terrific power. The sovereign people of the several States have elected him to the highest and most honorable office in the world. He is their only direct representative in the Government. By their Constitution they have made him commander-in-chief of their army and navy. He represents them in their intercourse with foreign nations.—Clothed with their dignity and authority, he occupies a proud position before all nations, civilized and savage. With the consent of the Senate he appoints all the important officers of the Government. He exercises the veto power, and to that extent controls the legislation of Congress. For the performance of these high duties he is responsible to the people of the several States, and not in any degree to the House of Representatives.

Shall he surrender these high powers conferred upon him as the representative of the American people for their benefit to the House, to be exercised under their overshadowing influence and control? Shall he alone of all the citizens of the United States be denied a fair trial? Shall he alone not be "informed of the nature and cause of the accusation" against him? Shall he alone not "be confronted with the witnesses" against him? Shall the House of Representatives, usurping the powers of the Senate, proceed to try the President, through the agency of a secret committee of the body where it is impossible he can make any defence, and then, without affording him an opportunity of being heard, pronounce a judgment of censure against him. The very same rule might be applied for the very same reason to every judge of every court of the United States. From what part of the Constitution is this terrible secret inquisitorial power derived? No such express power exists. From which of the enumerated powers can it be inferred? It is true, the House cannot pronounce the formal judgment against him of "removal from office," but they can, by their judgment of censure, asperse his reputation, and thus, to the extent of their influence, render the office contemptible. An example is at hand of the reckless manner in which this power of censure can be employed in high party times.—The House, on a recent occasion, have attempted to degrade the President by adopting the resolution of Mr. John Sherman, declaring that he, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Navy, "by receiving and considering the party relations of bidders for contracts, and the effect of awarding contracts upon pending elections, have set an example dangerous to the public safety, and deserving the reproof of this House."

It will scarcely be credited that the sole pretext for this vote of censure was the simple fact that in disposing of the numerous letters of every imaginable character which I daily receive, I had, in the usual course of business, referred a letter from Col. Patterson, of Philadelphia, in relation to a contract, to the attention of the Secretary of the Navy, the head of the appropriate Department, without expressing or intimating any opinion whatever on the subject; and to make the matter, if possible, still plainer, the Secretary had informed the committee that "*the President did not in any manner interfere in this case, nor has he in any other case of contract since I have been in the Department.*" The absence of all proof to sustain this attempt to degrade the President, whilst it manifests the venom of the shaft aimed at him, has destroyed the vigor of the bow.

To return after this digression. Should the House by the institution of Covode committees, votes of censure, and other devices to harass the President, reduce him to subservience to their will, and render him their creature, then the well-balanced Government which our fathers framed will be annihilated. This conflict has already been commenced in earnest by the House against the Executive. A bad precedent rarely if ever dies. It will, I fear, be pursued in time of my successors, no matter what may be their political character. Should secret committees be appointed, with unlimited authority, to range over all the words and actions, and if possible the very thoughts of the President, with a view to discover something in his past life prejudical to his character, from parasites and informers, this would be an ordeal which scarcely any mere man since the fall could endure. It would be to subject him to a reign of terror from which the stoutest and purest heart might shrink. I have passed triumphantly through this ordeal. My vindication is complete. The committee have reported no resolution looking to an impeachment against me; no resolution of censure; not even a resolution pointing out any abuses in any of the Executive Departments of the Government to be corrected by legislation. This is the highest commendation which could be bestowed on the heads of these Departments. The sovereign people of the States will, however, I trust, save my successors, whoever they may be, from any such ordeal. They are frank, bold and honest. They detest delators and informers. I therefore, in the name and as the representative of this great people, and standing upon the ramparts of the Constitution which they "have ordained and established," do solemnly protest against these unprecedented and unconstitutional proceedings.

There was still another committee raised by the House on the 6th of March last, on motion of Mr. Hoard, to which I have not the slightest objection. The resolution creating it was confined to specific charges which I have ever since been ready and willing to meet. I have at all times invited and defied fair investigation upon constitutional principles. I have received no notice that this committee have ever proceeded to the investigation.

Why should the House of Representatives desire to encroach on the other Departments of the Government?—Their rightful powers are ample for every legitimate purpose. They are the impeaching body. In their legislative capacity it is their most wise and wholesome prerogative to institute rigid examinations into the manner in which all departments of the Government are conducted, with a view to reform abuses, to promote economy, and to improve every branch of administration. Should they find reason to believe, in the course of their examinations, that any grave offence had been committed by the President or any officer of the Government rendering it proper in their judgment to resort to impeachment, their course would be plain. They would then transfer the question from their legislative to their accusatory jurisdiction, and take care that, in all the preliminary judicial proceedings preparatory to the vote of articles of impeachment, the accused should enjoy the benefit of cross-examining the witnesses, and all the other safeguards with which the Constitution surrounds every American citizen.

If in a legislative investigation it should appear that the public interest required the removal of any officer of the Government, no President has ever existed who after giving him a fair hearing would hesitate to apply the remedy.

This I take to be the ancient and well-established practice. An adherence to it will best promote the harmony and the dignity of the intercourse between the co-ordinate branches of the Government, and render us all more respectable both in the eyes of our own countrymen and of foreign nations.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

For the Journal.

"Equality among equals is equity, but equality among unequals is not equity."—*Principle quoted by Hon. Geo. E. Badger in his recent speech at Wilmington.*

It is not necessary that I should offer an apology for asking attention, for a short time, to the consideration of a particular aspect of the question of *ad valorem* taxation. The Opposition leaders contend that taxation being unequal, the Constitution of the State should be amended for the purpose of equalizing it. They say that under the present Revenue system land pays, in proportion to value, a much larger tax than slave property; they contend that this is wrong. Slave property and land, they say, should be placed on an equality in regard to taxation. Let us see how far this view of the question is correct.

In the first place, what reason is assigned by the Opposition party for the agitation of this question at this time? It is said by them that when the expenditure of the State Goverment was small, the taxes not being burdensome, it was not very important that they should be imposed equally, but that the State debt having become large and burdensome the necessity of a system of equal taxation becomes urgent. I will here inquire how the taxes have of late years been so largely increased. The answer is, that the State, having entered upon a general system of internal improvement, has been obliged to incur a debt corresponding in amount with the expenditure.—A sufficient amount of revenue has to be raised to meet the ordinary expenses of the State Government and the interest on the debt. The whole amount of taxes collected and paid into the State Treasury for the year ending Sept. 30th, 1859, was $633,432 97. Of this amount about $530,000 goes to pay the interest on the State debt which is now something less than nine millions. The next step in the investigation is to ascertain as between land and slave property, which has received the principal benefit from the expenditure of the public money. And first, how much have internal improvements added to the value of slave property? The great demand for slaves as articles of trade is in the Cotton region of the South West. There they are more profitable than elsewhere, and there they attain their highest market value. The prices established in the Cotton States regulate the prices in North Carolina. The *intrinsic* value of slaves in our State is far below their *exchangeable* value. Or in other words slaves will generally sell for more than they are worth *intrinsically* to their owners. There is a wide margin between the two values. The higher value which fixes the price is regulated, as I have said, by causes existing outside the State. It is true that slave property has received some small incidental benefit from the temporary demand for labor caused by the building of railroads. But this benefit has been transient and inconsiderable, and has not influenced the price of slaves.

On the other hand what has been the effect of internal improvements on the value of land? In 1847, before the State had entered upon a general system of internal improvement, the valuation of land and town property was $66,430,823, as shown by the report of the public Treasurer. The Legislature of 1848-'9 entered anew upon the work of internal improvement by chartering the N. C. Railroad—a road 223 miles in length, running through the heart of the State, and receiving from the public treasury $3,000,000, or three-fourths the cost of its construction. The State then owed almost nothing. The system then begun has been prosecuted until now, and we have already built one continuous road from the seaboard to the mountains, and another is in course of construction, besides numerous other roads and other works of internal improvement. Five years after the inception of this policy there was an assessment of the land throughout the State, and it was found that it had increased from the above valuation of 1847 to nearly ninety-eight millions of dollars, an increase of about thirty-one millions in eight years, or nearly forty-eight per cent. This increase in value is constantly going on as the public works progress. We have no official statement of the present value of real estate in North Carolina. Intelligent persons have estimated it at $130,000,000. This is the lowest estimate we have seen; some put it as high as $150,000,000.—We will assume the lowest estimate as correct. We have then this remarkable fact presented, that within twelve years from the assessment of 1847, the real estate in North Carolina had increased from a valuation of sixty-six millions to a valuation of one hundred and thirty millions, a clear increase of nearly sixty-four millions. That this enhancement in value has been due mainly to internal improvements is a proposition too evident to require demonstration. We come now to the practical application of these facts. By a general system of internal improvement the landed property throughout the State has been nearly doubled in value, and is constantly increasing in value. Slaves have received no perceptible increase in value from this cause. Meantime it has cost nearly nine millions to build up these great public works, and five-sixths of the taxes paid into the State Treasury go to meet the interest on the debt incurred in their construction. At this juncture a proposition is introduced to tax slave property equally with land. Is it right that the burden of this debt should be imposed equally upon these different kinds of property? Is it right that slave property, which has received no increased value from railroads, should contribute equally with land to the payment of a debt incurred in the building of these works? Had the benefits to both kinds of property been equal, it would have been right that the burdens should be imposed equally on both, for according to the principle quoted at the head of this article "*Equality among equals is equity.*" But inasmuch as the benefits of internal improvements have mainly accrued to the landed property throughout the State, conferring no additional value on slave property, it is right that land should bear a much larger share of the burden than slave property.—The benefits to land and to slave property not having been equal, the burden should not be made equal, for, according to the principle heretofore quoted, "*equality among unequals is not equity.*" Land now pays about $195,000 into the Public Treasury, or the interest on about $3,500,000 of the Public debt. Nine millions have been borrowed and spent by the State for Railroads, &c., which have added sixty-four millions to the value of land in North Carolina, as I have shown. The tax on land is a little more than sufficient to pay the interest on one-third of the public debt thus incurred, and yet the Opposition leaders tell us that land is taxed too heavily. Their sympathy with the land-owner has generally been greater, it seems, than with those who own no land, for we find them a few years ago contending against Free Suffrage, and in favor of retaining in the State Constitution that clause which required a voter for State Senator to own fifty acres of land. *Then*, they treated the Free Suffrage movement as an attempt to encroach on the rights of the land-owner. *Now*, they have just discovered that the land owner is a badly-treated man, because he is taxed somewhat more to pay for the Railroads built for his benefit than the owner of slaves.

JUSTICE.

LIGHT HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS.—From the Light House Appropriations Act, as officially published, we take the following sections:

North Carolina.—For re-establishing the Beacon Island light house and constructing in connection therewith a beacon light to form a range for running the Ocracoke Inlet, five thousand dollars.

For a beacon light at a suitable point at or near Cape Hatteras inlet, five thousand dollars.

For a new light house at the mouth of Cape Fear river, in lieu of the present structure, forty thousand dollars.

For buoying Beaufort Harbor and Bogue Sound, one thousand dollars.

For the erection of a light house at the mouth of North river (Albemarle Sound) ten thousand dollars.

The Postmaster General has determined not to enter into any contract for carrying the mails via the Isthmus, which shall stipulate for any payment for such service other than by postage, as the law provides. All letters will go by the overland routes, the principal one being that of Butterfield, whose contract is for carrying letters alone. As newspapers and congressional franked documents cannot go by that route, they can only reach the Pacific coast by being sent as freight.

The pay of that class of postoffice employees whose service is the most laborious and hazardous of any, has been reduced to the mean sum of from $600 to $800 per year.

Spalding's Prepared Glue!
"A Stitch in Time saves Nine."
ECONOMY! Dispatch! Save the Pieces!

As accidents will happen, even in well-regulated families, it is very desirable to have some cheap and convenient way for repairing Furniture, Toys, Crockery, &c.

SPALDING'S PREPARED GLUE

meets all such emergencies, and no household can afford to be without it. It is always ready, and up to the sticking point. There is no longer a necessity for limping chairs, splintered veneers, headless dolls, and broken cradles. It is just the article for cone, shell, and other ornamental work, so popular with ladies of refinement and taste.

This admirable preparation is used cold, being chemically held in solution, and possessing all the valuable qualities of the best cabinet-makers' Glue. It may be used in the place of ordinary mucilage, being vastly more adhesive.

"USEFUL IN EVERY HOUSE."

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Wholesale Depot, No. 48 Cedar Street, New York.
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Put up for Dealers in Cases containing four, eight, and twelve dozen—a beautiful Lithrograph Show-Card accompanying each package.

☞ A single bottle of SPALDING'S PREPARED GLUE will save ten times its cost annually to every household. ☜
Sold by all prominent Stationers, Druggists, Hardware and Furniture Dealers, Grocers, and Fancy Stores.
Country merchants should make a note of SPALDING'S PREPARED GLUE, when making up their list. I will stand any climate.
Feb. 1, 1860. 126&23-1y

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NEVER DEBILITATES.

IT IS COMPOUNDED ENTIRELY FROM GUMS, and has become an established fact, a Standard Medicine, known and appproved by all that have used it, and is now resorted to with confidence in all the diseases for which it is recommended.

It has cured thousands within the last two years who had given up all hopes of relief, as the numerous unsolicited certificates in my possession show.

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Let the dictates of your judgment guide you in the use of the *LIVER INVIGORATOR*, and it will cure *Liver Complaints, Billious Attacks, Dyspepsia, Chronic Diarrhœa, Summer Complaints, Dysentery, Dropsy, Sour Stomach, Habitual Costiveness, Cholic, Cholera, Cholera Morbus, Cholera Infantum, Flatulence, Jaundice, Female Weaknesses*, and many other symptoms. It will cure *SICK Ordinary Family Medicines*, (as thousands can testify) in *twenty minutes, if two or three Teaspoonfuls are taken at commencement of attack. All who use it are giving their testimony in its favor. MIX WATER IN THE MOUTH WITH THE INVIGORATOR, AND SWALLOW BOTH TOGETHER.*

Price One Dollar per Bottle.

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Pure Vegetable Extracts, and put up in GLASS CASES, Air Tight, and will keep in any climate.

The *Family Cathartic* PILLS is a gentle but active Cathartic which the proprietor has used in his practice more than twenty years.

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