

5 July 1853

THE SUMTER BANNER
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ONE DOLLAR per square for a single insertion. Quarterly and Monthly Advertisements will be charged the same as a single insertion, and semi-monthly the same as a single issue.

Gen. Thomas Sumter on State Rights.

The following letter, the original of which is in our possession, was addressed by Gen. Sumter when in Congress, to his friend William Murrell, with a request to have it circulated among his friends, as he had not time to write them individually. It will be read with much interest, by all the advocates of State Rights and strict construction, as evidence of prudent foresight in council as well as military prowess, of the Game Cock of the Revolution.—Columbia Banner.

New York, 24th Aug't. 1789

Dear Sir:

I have no doubt but you and many others of my fellow-citizens anxiously wish to know what progress the Legislature of the United States has made for the organization and arrangement of the General Government, both respecting the Laws, and amendments to the Constitution. In each of these very interesting particulars I wish you to be satisfied, this however, is hardly practicable; but the best means in my power, I herewith send you, to wit, the Journals of the Legislature, the public papers and the Congressional registers; and notwithstanding they don't furnish a precise view of all the deliberations and regulations of Congress, yet, it must be acknowledged, that few individuals have leisure (if they possessed the ability) to go so copiously into the subject. Here, you see the public mind pretty fully developed, but not with that candor or fairness as it ought to be, as great part of the objections made in debate, to the Constitution and certain laws, are suppressed, a conduct highly reprehensible, as it deprives the people of that light they have a right to have into the conduct of those they trust. This right and advantage they will be deprived of, while the presses are under a partial, combined influence, as they now are. I don't mean, by any thing I have said to erminate the Government, or to excite any party to themselves to take a comprehensive view of the structure; and as soon as the laws and systems (founded thereon) can be got, to examine and try them; and after they are fairly analyzed, to say how far, or whether they comport with the general and local interest and rights of the citizens of America. Here, I may observe, it is much to be lamented that a people or nation, when going to make, or permit changes and innovations to be made in their governments, are not more guarded and scrupulous of the rights they relinquish and the powers they grant. Power constitutes a machine, so subtle, indefinite and diffusive, that nothing but the great mass, or torrent and convulsive force of the people can check its restless and violent agitation.—Wherefore, it is necessary that those who are about to institute or alter and organize a government should have a clear definite Constitution, and an integral share of the representation, with a full and precise delineation of the power of the First Magistrate and Senate. This would prevent base fictions, implications and constructions, which once admitted, soon assume a thousand shapes, said to be constitutionally sanctioned. Thus the great Charter is perverted, and the rights of the people left floating upon the unstable, insecure ocean of opinions given by interested and partial men.—Here, injustice, fraud and violence spring up, and invade the natural and unalienable rights of the people at large, and thus those great ferments and convulsions so fatal to society are produced. Upon the whole, nothing can be more distressing, as a laborer to a State or Nation, than an obscure and mysterious form of government. Did we then, sufficiently explore the inmost recesses of the form we have lately adopted—events will decide. I ardently wish we may not have been deficient. The adjournment of Congress is to take place on the 22d of September, to convene again the 1st of December ensuing. This is expelling the southern members from their homes, or exposing them to extreme fatigues or danger, and this, perhaps, is not the greatest evil. The public exigencies require a longer recess, which would be attended with a considerable saving, and afford an opportunity for members to mix with their constituents, being prepared to resume and consider the objects of public concern. This however is overruled by the majority, which is composed of members near this place.

Permit me now to observe, it needs little penetration to discover, that the State Governments are not only verging on insignificance, but appear to be hastening to a dissolution. How far this may accord with the wishes or interests of the inhabitants of the States I can't judge. They will, no doubt, give the subject all the consideration that its importance may require, and thereby avoid improperly conceding any more just rights. If I am permitted to return, shall think it my duty to give every useful information I am capable of on these great political points, in which we all are much concerned. The Revenue arising on imposts and tonnage, will, perhaps, amount on the 1st of January to 500,000 dollars.—The annual support and exigencies of the Government require about 15,000,000 dollars. The annual revenue on imposts, &c., in future will amount to about 1,500,000 dollars, so that a deficiency of 14,500,000 dollars exist, must be raised by other modes. If the monies for land sold, and sales of the western territory should hereafter prove productive, the balance to be raised by direct taxes, or otherwise may not be very considerable.—However no tax will be laid this Session, but will at the next, when a more complete estimate can be made, and ways and means better devised. The permanent seat of the General Government is the subject of discussion tomorrow. Jersey and Pennsylvania are making great efforts to have it in one or the other, or between both States, while the New Yorkers appear secure, in buying the possession. Upon the whole, I have no hope that the good of the Union, will, in the least influence the decision, notwithstanding the policy and interest of the Union call loudly for it to be fixed at least as far westward as the Potomac; then it would embrace and conciliate the views of the people, from each extremity, more fully than at any other place.

Most respectfully,
Your obt. serv't,
"THOMAS SUMTER."

Foreign News.

We select the following paragraphs from the news brought by the Niagara, arrived at Halifax last Wednesday: Letters from St. Petersburg state that the Emperor's course on the Turkish question was generally approved.

The Turks and Greeks in Syria and Turkey fully approve of the Sultan's course. Voluntary subscriptions were being made by his subjects towards arming the country.

The latest advices were considered decidedly less favorable to the maintaining of peace.

The messenger sent from St. Petersburg to Constantinople had no discretionary power given to him, but simply was charged with the Czar's demand for the Porte's acceptance of Prince Menshikov's ultimatum in eight days, or submit to the consequences.

Prince Gortschakoff has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army in Bessarabia.

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THE BANNER
SUMMERVILLE, S. C.
J. RICHARDSON LOGAN, EDITOR.
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1853.

COTTON MARKET.
Charleston, July 2, 1853.
During the past week, there has been no material change to notice.—Prices have ranged from 9 to 11 1/2c.

In consequence of the 4th, falling on our publication day, we issue only a half sheet this week.

Rainfall List.
After a season of drought, which has been almost without a parallel, we were visited on yesterday evening with a delightful and refreshing shower, which from the appearance of the clouds we think must have been pretty general. All Nature seems revived this morning, and gives promise of soon awakening from the ill effects of the long spell of hot and dry weather.

Forth of July.
Solemnly and quiet. The boys get the cannons out early in the morning, and wait the fear of Lieutenant, Council, or Marshal before their eyes, they kicked up a considerable racket; and knocked sleep into next week.—The celebration in the afternoon by the teachers, and pupils of the M. E. Church was a very pleasant and instructive affair; and creditable to all parties engaged therein. We regret that the lateness of the hour prevents our giving a detailed account of it this week; should nothing prevent we may do so in our next issue.

The Columbia Banner.
Appeared as last week in a new and handsome garb in honor of the completion of its fourth volume. We thought the Columbia Banner, needed no improvement, but the enterprising editor, and proprietor, Dr. R. W. Gambs, is indefatigable, and seems to think expense and pains of little moment in comparison with the character of his journal.

ROBIN NEW YORK.—On Wednesday evening about six o'clock, a terrible excitement was created in and about the drug store and residence of Dr. J. W. Wheeler, corner of Seventeenth street and First avenue, in consequence of some children discovering some portion of a human skeleton exposed in the cellar of the premises, where they were at play at the time. The Tribune says:

The discovery was soon widely circulated, and in an incredibly short space of time a highly excited mob, numbering some three thousand strong, collected about the premises, armed with