The Feliciana Democrat.

☞The following able and patriotic letter from a distinguished Whig of Virginia, Thos. J. Michie, is published in the Enquirer;

Nothing, I assure you, would give me more pleasure than to address the intelligent people of Richmond, on the interesting questions of the present canvass—to tell them how blighting to the free spirit of our country the secret mystery of Know-Nothingism must prove—how demoralizing it will be to our own children, the high-minded, open-hearted, bold youths of Virginia, to be educated in the sneaking arts of secrecy and espionage—to be taught by their fathers to spy out all the political actions of their fellow men, and yet to keep their own actions and "objects," in reference to matters which necessarily concern all, a profound secret—to publish platforms of *pretended* principles suited to every latitude and every taste, for the purpose of gaining proselytes, while they feel the degrading consciousness that they are prohibited, by horrible oaths, from ever revealing ther real objects and principles outside of their Order—and while a disgusted world is forced to conclude, either that their platforms are filled with false profession, intended to mislead, or that those who publish them are perjured.

Has any party a right to political secrets? In private associations men may conceal matters which concern them alone. But politics, relating necessarily to the affairs or conduct of a government, in which every citizen has an equal stake, how can a party be tolerated in withholding, from any portions of our citizens, information on a subject which vitally concerns every one of them? In a small partnership, if a portion of the partners were to conceal from the rest their designs in reference to the social funds, their associates so excluded, would be justified in forming a conclusion of dishonesty, and a court of justice would interfere. In the ordinary intercourse of life, an honest man of ordinary humanity, possessed of a secret which concerns his neighbor's interests, feels bound by a high moral obligation to disclose it to him whom it interests. Yet, here is a political party intermeddling in the dark with the affairs of government, which involve your and my life, liberty and property, and those of our children and of millions of others, and yet they coolly refuse to let us know what their objects are until we shall be informed by such result as they may hereafter produce. By their own showing they are enemies of popular government—for in such a government the whole community participates.

But they show their enmity in various other forms. They practically deny the capacity of the people to govern, and therefore establish aristocratic councils, with a great consolidating and controlling head, located most fitly, somewhere near "the five points" in the city of New York.—Power with them, instead of being vested in the people and emanating from them, is vested in these aristocratic councils. The theory of our government requires an appeal from aristocracy to the people. Know-Nothingism reverses that theory, by providing in all cases an appeal from the people to aristocracy.

If the people had capacity for self-government this self-styled American (quære, Aboriginal?) party deny their honesty.—Therefore they are never trusted except under oath. And again, while the spirit of our institutions requires every citizen to exercise his own best judgement in voting for all officers of government—this wonderful invention of Yankeedom requires him to bind himself by solemn oath, not to exercise his own judgment at all, but to give his vote as the majority of a caucus, itself subservient to the mandate of a superior caucus, may order. These are startling novelties to an American ear. Yet, Know Nothingism, bold in this respect alone, in all others skulking, denying its name, denying its association, refusing to make known its objects, hiding in dark caverns with bats and owls, denounces all as anti-American who will not adopt its dogmas! I should like to discuss and dissect the monster, not only under the preceeding head, but many others and especially its federalism. I should like to show the people of Richmond, and the whole south, the cunning device of the Know Nothing nominee for Governor, instilled into him, no doubt, by the same master who learned him his "Americanism," by which he asks the people of Virginia to deprive themselves of all ground of resistance hereafter, to the Northern plan of intervention in our domestic affairs—by intervening in a crusade against Catholics and foreigners, not because she is suffering any inconvenience from them herself, but in order to rid her sister states of the nuisance.

But I console myself under my inability to obey your call, by the reflection that if I went, it would only contribute the feeble light of a candle to that glorious sun which has shone and which continues to shine among you and enlighten you till the day of election. Wise and Douglas and a host of others, have told you more than I can tell. But as I have been a Whig—only say for me to my old Whig friends, that I have looked carefully under the cloak of Know Nothingism—have lifted with a daring hand the veil that covered the face of the prophet Sam, and satified myself well that it is not Whiggery, as I always understood it, and as I knew it was understood and professed by patriotic men, but *monstrum horrendum informi ingens cui lumen ademptum.* Yes, as blind as a bat, and as dark as Erebus. Let them beware of it, as they love their lives and high reputation. History informs us of many secret politicaal parties but not of one that I remember, which has not been damned by impartial posterity.—This party has much besides its secrecy to give it an earlier and deeper condemnation than that which has fallen to the lot of its predecessors.

☞Mrs. Patterson says she has suffered enough in consequence of her association with the "smelling committee," and wishes it particularly understood that she is not a member of the Legislature.

Her friends say, in palliation of the fact that she was found in company with such men as compose the "nunnery committee," that she was not aware of their character at the time of her introduction to their acquaintance.—*Boston Post.*

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.—The Baton Rouge Gazette of Sunday last says:

We understand that Capt. Barry, commanding the U. S. troops at the barracks, received last Friday evening a telegraphic despatch from the War Department directing him to send, without delay, a detachment of troops to reinforce the garrison of Key West. The detachment left yesterday under the command of Lieut. Smalley.

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CAPITOL CITY ART UNION.

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	5 gold watches, $500 each,....	2,500
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10	do do 400.....	4,000
10	do do 300.....	3,000
50	Gold Watches at $150.....	7,500
100	do do 100.....	10,000
100	do do 75.....	7,500
100	do do 40.....	4,000
300	silver do 20.....	6,000
300	do do 15.....	4,500
1000	Ladies gold breast pins at $4	4,000
200	do Brocha shawls, at $25	5,000
500	do silk dress patterns, $20	10,000
5000	Gold pencils, at $3.....	15,000
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12084	do do 1 00 each,...	12,084

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Office Southern Quarterly Review, Law range, Broad St., Charleston, S. C. a 14

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