

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

The halls of National Legislation have, for some years past, been the theatre of disputable assemblies for the public domain. The schemes of spoliation have been co-extensive with the various views of their proposers. At one period the public lands were regarded as a fund for Internal Improvement and Education. At another period they were held, as of right the property of the States in which they lie and to be disposed of accordingly. Then again as if this was an object too limited, all comers were to be permitted to occupy them, without a money equivalent and simply on the condition that they would settle and cultivate. In this way the splendid landed patrimony of this Republic was proposed to be parcelled out by the descendants of those who had purchased them at a large sacrifice of blood and treasure in the better days of the commonwealth the public domain was regarded as a trust fund, to be held as a guarantee for the payment of the public obligations. The diversion of the fund from its original purpose is a violation of the national faith. Except for purposes of sale in open market, the policy that would place these lands in the hands of foreigners, is to be characterized as nothing short of downright spoliation.

What pretence of justice is there for making a gratuity to foreigners of this, the property of the citizens of this republic? What right has the Congress of 1851, or any other Congress, to donate lands, which having been acquired by our ancestors for the common benefit, are among the sacred heritages of their posterity. To alienate them, is to commit an act of undisguised plunder. We are heaping debt on our descendants. If this policy of having the whole world to enter on possession of these lands prevails, the means will be measurably cut off for its redemption. What shadow of abstract right is with the people of foreign states to enter on this patrimony without equivalent? What efforts have they made—what sacrifice have they endured—what perils have they encountered, to have the possessions of our people distributed among them, as a free will offering of equality-loving Americans on the altar of republican fraternization. This would be a glaring injustice to our own people, who have braved the perils of war to conquer—who have taxed themselves to purchase the public domain. It would be even worse. It would be a discrimination in favor of all comers against those whose valuable inheritance, next to their liberty, is the public domain.

But this is not the only, although the most offensive, form in which spoliation of the public lands appears. The scramble for their possession by the new States of the West, in which they lie, is uninterrupted. There appears to be an apprehension they will be absorbed by gratuity to all comers rapidly, that the donees will seize on the best and most eligible tracts. Therefore, it is that there is a constant struggle of the members of Congress to obtain grants for the State they represent, to effect internal improvements.

There is no limit, in fact, to these schemes for parceling out the national territory. It is a race in which cupidity is the incentive and popularity the reward. The Senator or Representative who shall win the largest share—who shall obtain the most liberal appropriations—will be the fortunate demagogue. Between the advocates of a gratuitous distribution among all comers—between the friends of bounty grants to the military of all our wars and the dispensers of tracts to aid internal improvements, the victory will be, we apprehend, with the latter. They will succeed, in engrossing, by a combination, all the most desirable public territory, for as these lands all lie in the new States of the West, they will make common cause, and vote together, in confiscating them to their own use.

The old Atlantic section should unite to prevent this malappropriation of that which is common property of all the State—which has cost nearly equal sacrifices, and which being common patrimony, should be distributed according to federal numbers. We have no hope that this will be done. The West, united, will ultimately engross to itself all that patrimony which the popularity hunters may not succeed in distributing to all in comers from foreign realms.—*Evening News.*

SOUTHERN SENTIMENT IN MISSISSIPPI—CO-OPERATION.

An intelligent correspondent of the Montgomery (Ala.) *Advertiser and Gazette*, writing from Prairie Point, Noxubee County, Mississippi, states that the cause of Southern Rights is in the ascendancy in that section of country, and that although the traitor Foote passed through Noxubee county and addressed a large concourse of people at Macon, the county seat, he could not make the county yeomanry swallow the dose he had prepared for them. Truly, this miserable apostate is meeting with his deserts, and so will all submissionists. South Carolina has only to sever her connection with the Federal Government, and thousands, eye tens of thousands, will, if need be, flock to her standard.

As Col. R. H. Garland, in his response to sundry queries addressed to the gentlemen nominated as Delegates from this District to our State Convention, well remarks: "Organization and united action never precede but follow after revolution has begun. Let South Carolina secede, and the now so despicable minorities of Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Virginia will be with her, heart and hand. We want no further assurance—their co-operation is certain, and all sufficient. Let us once strike for our rights, and the timid and time-serving will fall into our ranks—and the majorities grow so thin and beautiful by less, as no longer to exist. On South Carolina the true friends of Southern interests now look with anxiety; to her has devolved the high honor of leading at this crisis, and her fair escutcheon would be forever tarnished, were she to allow any false ideas of courtesy to cause her to shrink from the proud position assigned her.

Let us not then be deceived by the syren voices of those who bid us wait for co-operation; such delay is but procrastination of the most perilous nature; the glorious minorities of our sister Southern States are with us, and

were they not, it were better far for South Carolina to lead the forlorn hope, even were she to perish in the attempt, than oblivious of her past pledges, any longer to remain in a state of ignominious inactivity.—*State Rights Republican.*

Immigration to the United States in 1850.—The Secretary of State has furnished to Congress a statement of the number of immigrants which have arrived at the ports of the U. States for the year ending 30th September, 1850, the general aggregate of which is 315,333, opposed to 299,610 last year. This shows an increase of 15,723, notwithstanding New York has fallen off nearly 14,000. The increase in California has been between 70 and 80,000; but omitting that new State, the decrease has been proportionate with New York throughout the Union. At the rate of 315,000 per annum, the immigration to occur from 1851 to 1861, ten years, would amount to three millions and one-eighth—or equivalent to the white population of the whole South in 1840. It is remarkable, too, that of the numbers last year, nearly one-fourth came here prepared to engage in useful branches of industry, with means at hand, and but a moiety of that population denominated paupers.

THE RIGHT OF SECESSION.—The Louisville Journal has contained several articles denying the right of secession, but admitting the right of Revolution. When Mr. Webster was pressed by Mr. Hayne and Mr. Calhoun to explain what was meant by the right reserved by several States to resume the powers they had granted the federal government—what was meant by the right asserted in the Virginia and Kentucky resolutions of 98, for the States to interpose against Federal usurpation—what was meant in the Declaration of Independence, when it asserted the right of the people to alter or abolish their Government at pleasure—he said it was the right of revolution, which he admitted also.

This was simply a retreat into a high sounding phrase which meant nothing, for it is a contradiction of terms. There is no such thing as a right of revolution. A revolution is a mere trial of strength, in which right and not right decides. According to Mr. Webster, a State has a right to resist, if she thinks herself oppressed but the oppressor has the right of resisting her resistance. The Declaration asserted the right of a people to alter or abolish governments at pleasure. It asserted that right for those colonies, and consequently the attempt of Great Britain to resist that right was a wrong. Mr. Webster meant the right of might. The Declaration of Independence meant no such thing, for if it had, it would have been a defence of the British forces as much as of our own.—*Southern Press.*

TENT LIFE IN CALIFORNIA—FREE AND EASY EXPERIENCES.

CALIFORNIA, Saturday, Nov. 23, 1850. We are here at the old place, Dwight city, making enough to get our grub, without begging; that is pretty much all. For my part, I am not very miserable; it makes little difference where I am; I do not know that I have any children crying or suffering for my absence. As you say I have no wife to write to me, neither have I any to trouble herself at my absence, nor to curse me because I do not make my fortune and come home. If I had a wife she would be here with me, to wash my shirts and do my mending. I could make one very useful as well as ornamental, and where I could live, she could live also. The fact is, we are not so badly off in our tents as you may imagine; they are quite as comfortable as your three and four story bricks. One important feature in favor of our houses, is, there is no getting up stairs. We eat, drink, and sleep on one floor, (beg your pardon) on the ground—it is all the same. If a snake or a mouse wishes to share with us the same floor, we never dispute their right. They probably have the best right being the oldest settlers. We have no history by which one can tell when they first took possession. They might have come in Solomon's ships which he sent here to get gold, when he was building the temple.

I have often heard people say they had found the place where Solomon dug his gold, and I think I have found one of them, for there is none left. There are mighty few Solomons left now-a-days, or this country would not have so many fools coming to it. I was one of the fools, yet I came here with my eyes open, expecting nothing, and I have not been disappointed. But I am not troubled; I would as soon live here as anywhere in the country. There is no part of the world that I have seen that is pleasanter than this same California, or where a man can make a comfortable living easier. Any man with two hands can do it, wherever he may be placed, and pay \$3 a day for board.

The rainy season we conclude has commenced, as it has rained since Tuesday evening last, and we have, like the squirrels, put in our winter provisions and gone into our holes. The weather is not cold; were it not for the rain we should need no fire. I have seen many colder days than this at home in August. Yet there has been no time during the summer, when the mercury stood at 100 that we could not go on the top of a hill near us and see the mountains covered with snow, which I suppose has been there ever since Adam was a little boy, and will last as long as the world does.

From sickness we have been remarkably free this season. There has been much of the cholera at Sacramento during the last six weeks, but it has not reached the mines.—*Correspondence Tribune.*

The Washington Movement.—In aid of this work, the Chickasaw Indians have, in council, contributed \$200. During the discussion of the matter, it was stated by the members that the Nation had never shed the blood of white men in war, and that they venerated the memory of WASHINGTON as much as their white brethren.

Death of a Heroine.—Mrs. Bailey, who is renowned for her patriotism in furnishing means for prosecuting the battles of the revolution, was burned to death, a few days since, at her residence, in Groton, opposite New London, Ct. She was upwards of 80 years of age.

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THO. J. WARREN & C. A. PRICE, Editors.

FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 31, 1851.

There will be a meeting of the Southern Rights Association for Kershaw District, on the first Monday in February.

JOHN CANTEY, President.

Our Market.

Since our last, the Cotton Market has been tolerably active, prices ranging from 10 to 12 5-8.—The recent reduction of this staple, has had a tendency somewhat to depress the market, but we have reason to hope that this will be of brief duration, and that former prices will be again resumed and remain firm.

Corn is worth, from the wagons, \$1; Oats 75c. Of the Charleston Cotton Market, the Mercury of yesterday says—

The market yesterday continued depressed and quite irregular, but without material change in prices, the sales footed 1200 bales at 11 1-2 to 12 3-4.

Change.

Every day and every hour we see change written on the face of nature—the mutability of human affairs is constantly, to our minds, a self-evident proposition. One day the genial rays of a delightful spring may be shed upon us but alas! how soon a change comes o'er the spirit of our dreams, and we find ourselves taking "fair days in winter for the Spring," shivering with cold, trembling like the Aspen bough, when rudely shaken by a regular north easter. We have our hands full to keep from freezing. Again has

"Winter come to rule the varied year
Sullen and sad with all his rising train,
Vapors and clouds and storms."
or as our *Jeems* would remark, the Thermometer is decidedly below Zero, and no where else.

Election Notice.

At 11 o'clock, on Saturday, (to-morrow) the polls for the election of Captain of Beat No. 2 will be opened, and continue until 3 o'clock.

The notice advertising the election to be held on Monday and Tuesday, the 10th and 11th days of February next, for three delegates to represent the District of Kershaw in the State Convention, will be found in our advertising columns. It will be seen that the same regulations are to be observed as in the election of Senator and Representatives to the Legislature.

Last week, we spent in Charleston, and if we had space, would like to fill out a column relative to this, our city of the South. But we can only notice one or two things—and first, of course, we would notice the

PRESS.

We think no city, North or South, can boast a higher toned or abler press than Charleston. We forbear to particularize—they are all above mediocrity, and some very far above.

In passing by the splendid stores on King-street, we dropped into the enchanted store of Mr. Oates. Pianos, Harps and Lutes lay around as if Sapho and Jubal had scattered their instruments, attempting to strike a note of discord—and then such splendid fancy Escritoirs, Port Folios, &c., upon which the seraph of the jewelled isle might write her lays of love, or pen the soft embodiment of her affection to the light haired knight of Obla. His splendid Tables, like the rest too, imported directly from England, and without a taint of Yankeeism attached to them. Never pass Mr. Oates when you are on King-street, and be sure to read his music advertisement in the Journal.

We had the pleasure too, of hearing the truly scientific and interesting Lectures of

MR. WILLIAM C. RICHARDS, delivered in the South Carolina Hall. We do not recollect of ever hearing a more agreeable and pleasant Lecturer than Mr. Richards, nor one who seemed better acquainted with his subject. Sure we are, that the large houses he draws will be pleased as well as edified. But we will say more of Charleston and Charlestoners hereafter. Our corner in the editorial column is out.

Where will we be Found.

On the tenth of February, the election for Delegates to the State Convention comes on. It is an election of momentous interest to the People of South Carolina, and its action will seal the doom of Southern Rights, or unfurl the Flag of Freedom to the breeze. We believe that the candidates should be pledged to a certain course for various reasons. One we have before mentioned—that individuals are more apt to change than communities—and if the people now elect a separate State action ticket, they will be less apt to change than the individual electors. Another reason—we believe that the people should know where the State was—in what sea she was navigating, and know how to steer clear of the shoals and quick sands, and should know if secession is our course, in order that she may be preparing for it. We have been long enough an uninformed mass—our purposes a chaotic substance—if the term is admissible—sailing without compass or quadrant. It is time for us to see some headland in view—for our prow to point toward some port, and if it be rocky, stormy and sterile, or narrow and uninviting, why let us decide whether or not we land. But we are pressing, and with justice too we think, that there will be a Submission Party in this State. They will term themselves the "watch and wait," or "anti-separate State action party," but if you will analyze those names, you will find in them but one ingredient, and that *submission*. And why will they submit? Forsooth, because they are afraid to resist—some afraid of losing dimes, some afraid of losing quiet and ease, and we verily believe, some afraid of losing blood. They have cursed too, with dreadful ire, the bribed demagogues who voted for the South for the compromise measures, and said they were bought by Federal money.—And here are men scared by Federal arms—and for fear of losing their dimes, which is equivalent

to being bought, they submit to the compromise. Aye, and worse, they have been threatened with force, they have been laughed at, they have been booted, and still they are going to submit! They say, "why we cannot go alone; they will blockade our ports; let no cotton go away from the State; our people will leave the State and emigrate to Georgia, and South Carolina will be reduced to a desert." Grant it—that it is all this, and worse, how much would you lose? One hundred or a thousand, or five thousand dollars? And for this much you will submit, with all the eternal weight of disgrace upon you and your State! Why, Clay, Foote, &c., we suppose, got five times that amount and the hope of honorable office, and the credit of being ostensible patriots. They were not forced into it; did not do it blubbering with the rod upon their backs, but were simply bought. You are bought, beaten and degraded. But would the picture that we have sketched (it is not original with us, but we have heard it from those who are opposed to separate State action) be as bad? We say no.

As Journalists, we should honestly say what we think the probable consequences would be. This we think, is far from so dark a picture. Suppose the General Government blockade Charleston, and it was impossible for us to break it, the result would be, that our trade would be more among ourselves—our foreign debts would be by this act, paid, and though we suffered some from it, yet we might soon learn to get along very well—for we could raise within ourselves, every thing we want, and it is but natural to suppose that in less than one century, the General Government might get weary in keeping up its blockade, and it would look about as ridiculous hauling up its ship anchors and leeing off, as South Carolina would knocking for re-admittance into the Union. Certain we are, that she would do it first. But that would be unnecessary. We believe England would acknowledge us as an independent Republic, and come in and trade with us simply passing these blockading ships by and coming in, and if, in their passage those ships should fire in them, why a broad side from an English steamship would settle it, we think, rather to the disadvantage of a Yankee revenue blockade cutter. Recollect, our ships that have done good service against English ships have had some Southerners aboard, and in their crews no disaffected persons. This would be different. England has never shirked a war, for fear of crippling her commerce, for it seems to flourish by war. She would clear the blockade, for the reason that she would be glad to see this Confederacy broken up—because she would be fighting against the North, her natural rivals of the loom. She would do it, because then she would have an open and free American port. She would do it, in short, because interest would drive her to it. And we think too, that we—South Carolina—might gather up a few little sloops, and like Paul Jones, throw some hot shot into the Yankee blockaders. The other states would then fall in with us. Unless we do it, they never will.—They will look upon us as the example; if we go alone and stand, they will all come in with us—if the Government attempts to coerce us by blockading our ports, they will be with us at once. But if we basely yield, and when the true-hearted patriots in other states awaiting to help us ask us where we are, and we tamely whine out, "we are watching and waiting," then will we be what the veriest galley slave would scorn to be—

Submission fire-eaters—Secession slaves.

Missouri Senator—Benton Defeated.
We have reliable intelligence from Missouri, that Mr. Benton has been defeated in the election for United Senator. On the party ballot, Geyer (whom) was elected—beating the Colonel twenty-five votes.

We see it stated that there are no less than forty candidates for the office of U. S. Senator from Rhode Island.

For the Camden Journal.

The great body of the people of South Carolina, would rather be out of the Federal Union, because they believe in the language of the Lancaster resolutions: "that the Federal Union having failed to answer the end for which it was formed, and therefore, they are ready and willing, and feel it to be their duty, to withdraw from it."

There are some, however, who are unwilling to separate without a co-operation of the other Southern States, because they believe that the State could not do so, without great danger of annihilation, and even if she could do so, that she is too poor to support a separate government, and without the power to maintain her independence. To that class of persons who demand a co-operation of the other States of the South, I would write, that the only means by which it can be brought about, is for the people of South Carolina to elect for the Convention, men who are known to be decidedly in favor of a separation by the State alone, should the Southern Congress fail to insure a co-operation of the other States. Nothing could be better calculated to compel them to this Congress, than the publicly declared fact, that this State had elected men for the Convention, who are committed to separate State action. Should the people of this State, on the contrary, elect men, who have no definite views; who are not committed to any particular measure of resistance, or who are declared to be opposed to separate State action, in reason, who could expect that a Southern Congress would ever take place? The other Southern States having made submission, should South Carolina, like Georgia, also elect submission men to the Convention, would it not be well calculated to make these States, now too tame, as gentle as lambs, and moreover, afford them consolation in their degradation, and convert, in their opinion, that, which they once believed to be the most awful tyranny, into nothing more than the compelling power of a kind superior by law—and thus the loud, clamorous discontent of the South, be made "to pass away swiftly, like the morning dew, and the early cloud." People of Carolina! are you willing to forget your past high estate, and with content, submit to past wrongs, when this submission will render you base and ridiculous and

and advance you far into irretrievable ruin? Should you also, bow down your once proud necks to the yoke of a most galling tyranny, where is the State to lead in future, in the effort to throw it off? Where is the State, that would lead in future, relying upon you to back her, should you now, after this grand parade of resistance, signalize and even legalize your submission by the form and decency of a solemn act of a Convention of *sovereigns*?

People of Carolina! let us review in brief our acts. We have exhausted the whole vocabulary of Resolutions and held all kinds of meetings and Conventions, that have ever perhaps been adopted by a resisting people—and all with years of deliberation, and a clamor for war has been raised in every part of our State, and this has been gratified by the means of a high military preparation, and the old and the decrepid, as well as the young and the vigorous, have bounded into ranks with hearts of fire for the battle-field—and behold it all to become a dream, a mere Quixotic prank for the amusement of children? The members of a submission Convention with new shining clothes on, trot to Columbia, and cast in their high resolves—to submit! and paid out of your taxes their daily wages for their noble services, return to their constituents, having relieved themselves of their vast load of valor and patriotism. Shall the figure, so nobly commenced years ago and lately made pregnant with all the lofty elements of liberty and the dire spirit of war, the very embodiment of desperate resistance to Federal tyranny, finish with the lowest and humblest of beasts? And should this take place, what State, I again would ask, could ever rely on us, and from this signal failure of ours, take courage to oppose Federal aggressions? And ye, dear lovers of the Union; you, let me ask, how far would this empty parade—this harmless wive serve to quell the spirit of the Northern fanatic, and tend to preserve the Union?

But to impress you, Carolinians! more forcibly with what is before us, should you be invited to march under a flag with a picture with your conduct for the last twenty years—your Meetings; your Conventions; your Resolutions; Military preparations; your Brigade Encampments on it and on it a statue of your great champion with a scroll in his hand, and on it inscribed "The admission of California is the test; if you admit her, we know what you mean,"—and on the same flag, in-erbed in large golden letters, "submit! God! my blood curdles in my veins," and then close beneath, submitted! signed by a Convention of free white men of Carolina! with this flag over you, how would you feel, and who would expect you to co-operate with them in deeds of noble daring—in the redress of Southern wrongs? Let those then, who earnestly desire a co-operation of the other States, vote for men, who are committed to separate State action, in case the Southern Congress should not insure a co-operation of the other States, and afford this stimulant to these States, to send delegates to this Congress.

But there are some, who are afraid to separate; they are afraid of Federal arms, should the State act alone. Let us see how those stand. They admit that the Federal Government, instead of being the protector of our rights, as our agent, has become an unjust and severe master; but they are afraid to resist, lest they might be slain, or subdued again. These individuals acknowledge then, that they are subjects of a hard master, and, through fear, they tolerate him. Are they right? Let us see it. Suppose a flag should be raised and on it inscribed, "give me liberty, or give me death," how many Carolinians, on a parade day, would refuse to march under it? How many would fail to fall in under this motto of our ancestors, themselves comparatively few, fighting the most mighty and brutal people in the world? People of Lancaster district! what did one of your humblest fellow citizens do in the war with Mexico? He marched up voluntarily with Capt. Lilly, of Chester, to aid Capt. Drum in firing a cannon at a Mexican battery, not more than a hundred yards off; yes! he marched up three times after the body of one individual was cut in two, close by his side, and the head of another was shot off—he marched up until Capt. Drum himself was shot! Now, here was danger braved by one of your most unpretending fellow citizens, and braved successfully—here was all the danger braved, that could, in the worst supposition, be put upon our case—and braved by James Barr, one of the most unassuming of our fellow citizens! Ye men of epaulettes! Ye men of houses, and lands, and negroes! Ye men of wives and children! Ye men! whose father's graves are before your eyes! will ye be overawed by present danger, from contending for all these, and be surpassed by your humble fellow citizen, James Barr, fighting in a foreign country, not immediately for his home and his fire side; not for a wife, or children; not for property? will you be surpassed by other individuals, who, in the same war, from this district, stood up against showers of bullets? I appeal to those, who have grown grey in the military service of their country at home, and to our honored families, don't you admire the valor of James Barr, and other Mexican soldiers from this District; and don't you think it worthy of imitation, and ought we not to imitate it, when called on to defend all that is dear to a freeman? Who should not rather do what James Barr did, than live under a despotic government—than see his country, at no distant day, ruled by those, that are now his bondsmen; ruled eventually by "Cuffey the Second!" But people of Carolina! the State can act alone, without much danger. The Federal Government cannot exercise much force, should she attempt to coerce; and should we be well prepared, we can triumph—we must triumph!—the God of battles is on our side!

But some say the State is too poor for separate existence. There could be no greater mistake. She has eight or ten millions of exports, a duty of 30 per cent would afford her a revenue of nearly two and a half, or of three millions of dollars, enough to support a grand Government. Our present Federal Government has been administered with seven millions, and when it first started, it was administered with less than the half of that sum. But our State could increase her imports by lower duties, than those imposed by the Federal Govern-