

United States were admitted free. Besides, sir, in reference to this tariff of 1857—I supposed it was designed for protection. While in some of its features it was very liberal, it was really a compromise to those large manufacturing interests of the North which required protection. I am opposed to this tariff law, and I am daily receiving letters from experienced and intelligent merchants and commercial men of Charleston who urge grave objections to this tariff. They think a duty of 10 or 15 per cent. will be sufficient, as they expect a large increase in the imports, and that we will be able to raise more revenue from a moderate tariff than by a high rate of duties. I trust that a reduction will be made at an early day.

Mr. WITHERS, of South Carolina. I have not heard of any proposition in this Congress that I approve of more heartily than the one which has been submitted by the gentleman from Mississippi, (Mr. Harris.) I do not know that I should be in favor of an enlargement of the articles on the free list to any very great extent. I am aware that the proposition of the gentleman is confined to that description of articles, the collection of duties on which will be out proportion to the expense of their collection. But the best and most just standard of a tariff is one which will make every consuming interest pay its equal and proportionate share to the necessities of the government. Now of course, Congress will notice that when I look at this subject it is through South Carolina eyes. We think that low duties have a material bearing upon the liberties, the enjoyments and the political rights of the people of that State. Those of us who passed through the years of 1828 to 1832, in South Carolina know well what was the opinion prevalent at that period. I had an humble part in the scenes of that crisis, and I have seen no occasion since to change the opinion I entertained and expressed at that time. We were willing then to engage the powers of the general government for what was then denominated free trade: not meaning thereby a total exemption of duties from all imported articles, but that the tariff should be constructed on a just and equal basis, and not with a view to foster one interest at the expense of another. Now, it is said that Congress should give no instruction on this subject to the committee no finance. I can see no objection to expressing in the language contained in the resolution the opinion that that committee should enter upon consideration of the reduction of duties and the enlargement of the free list, at as early a day as practicable. The opinion which this body may entertain is thus invited, and it seems a fitting occasion for expressing their sentiments on so grave a subject. My own opinion is that that the tariff should be strictly and honestly for the purpose of revenue. By a generous course on our hand towards some of the governments of Europe, we shall command the amiable and gracious consideration of those prominent powers. How do you expect to command this esteem? King cotton you say is your power, and yet you lay a burden on him for his protection. How do you expect to gain the good will of foreign government? Do you expect that a theory or policy which, in its operation, militates against the interests of foreign nations will accomplish desirable results? Sir, you never will, by that course, secure the good will of a nation. If Mammon be one of the gods of this world—if he have a hundred worshippers to one for the true and living God—if it be true that nations, like individuals, are actuated by the principles of self-interest, you never can, in that way, secure their good will. How do you expect the Commissioners you send to Europe are to secure the gracious consideration of the powers to which they are sent? Give those powers to understand that our policy is fixed—that there shall be a gradual reduction of duties, at the earliest practicable period—let them express to Lord Palmerston and Louis Napoleon that such is the fixed policy of this government, and let them say to them, "here is free trade, the olive branch which we extend for peace, and to promote our common interests." I believe such will be the natural fruits of this policy: it will inevitably obtain for us the favor of the powerful government of Europe.

Mr. BOYCE—I am somewhat indifferent as to the present tariff. I look upon it as a temporary measure. I think it is a matter of great importance that we raise sufficient revenue, and I look upon the present one as adequate for that purpose. I do not approve of it in all its features, and I think that it is susceptible of modification. I think that a reduction might be made on some articles, and there are some that are now on the free list, such as tea and coffee, which might be made to yield a handsome revenue by a tax of from 15 to 20 per cent. I trust that the committee will devote attention to the modifications desired.

Mr. HARRIS—I have been informed that the Committee on Finance will be ready to report on Monday. It will then be discussed, and I am satisfied, for the present, to withdraw the resolution on that assurance.

Mr. TOOMBS—(interrupting)—The gentleman must not act upon a wrong supposition. I cannot say that the committee will be ready to report on Monday.

Mr. HARRIS—I so understood the announcement. The debate continued for some time longer, in which Messrs. Toombs, Withers, Miles, Rhett, Conrad and Harris participated, but as the debate was clearly out of order, after the withdrawal of the resolution, we omit it. The President stated that he did hear the mover withdraw the resolution, nor did he know of its withdrawal until so informed by Mr. Conrad, or he would not have allowed the debate on it to proceed.

— TWENTY-FIFTH DAY. —

MONTGOMERY, ALA., March 4, 1861.

Congress met to-day at 10, a. m. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Manley.

The journals of Saturday were read and confirmed.

Mr. T. R. R. COBB, of Georgia offered the following: Resolved, That the members of the Alabama State Convention be invited to seats in this hall during the open sessions of Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. CURRY, of Alabama—Mr. President, I have been requested by three citizens of the State of Alabama, whose residence is in Taladega county, to present to you, sir, as the President of the Congress of the Confederate States of America, this inkstand, manufactured by them from Alabama marble. As an inkstand it may inculcate the lesson that while sitting as a Congress, we should not rely on unwritten law or prescription to define the powers of this Government, and the relations between it and the separate States: but that the delegated powers should be so clearly expressed as to avoid all dangers of ambiguity in their construction and interpretation.

It seems to me, Mr. President, not altogether fanciful that the material out of which this inkstand is constructed typifies in some degree our present political condition. Marble is of such consistency as to yield readily to the delicate touch of the artist moulding it into a thing of beauty, and yet not so ignobly soft as to cause it to moulder away before the corroding tooth of time, or be dissolved by the exposure to the elements. Our Government, like it, will yield readily to the suggestions of wisdom and patriotism, but will resist, like a rock, alike the invasion of foreign foes or the still more dangerous attacks of treason and corruption. In our Constitution true Republican principles, like the constituents of marble, will crystallize into durable form. This marble may also indicate our strength and indissolubility; in its compactness, the value and duration of our Union; in its polish, the prosperity and progress that spread out so invitingly before us; in its marketable value, the inducements to liberalize and unfetter trade; in its present shape, the insecurity of free institutions without popular intelligence; in its Parian whiteness and purity, the inseparable connexion between virtue and freedom; in its origin, our dependence on a common Creator, for whose glory all things exist.

It may not be deemed improper, in this connection, to state that while Alabama is the first cotton-producing country in the world, agriculture is not her sole reliance. Immense water-power abounds, which can be cheaply and profitably applied to machinery. No equal area of the earth's surface probably combines a greater variety and extent of valuable minerals than that portion of this State lying between the Tennessee river and a line of latitude, drawn thirty miles North of this city. Besides slate, sandstone, soapstone, flag-stones, porcelain clay, granite, gold, copper, lead, manganese and tripoli, there is iron-ore inexhaustible in quantity, and equal, if not superior, to any in North America. Bituminous coal of the richest formation, cropping out on the surface or embowelled in the earth, covers an area of hundreds of square miles. Limestone, sufficient for the world's wants, exists in various localities, and Alabama lime is displacing the Northern and furnishing a lucrative trade. Marble, white, black and variegated, invites the touch of genius and enterprise to spring forth into imperishable statues or architectural decorations of the rarest beauty. Rather may it ever be applied to purposes of Peace and Science than furnish monuments for war and tyranny.

I am honored in being the medium of presenting this offering of patriotism. I am rejoiced that to you personally, to whom an emancipated South is so much indebted, I am privileged to bear this token of confidence and esteem.

The PRESIDENT—I would request the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Curry) to return to the donors his thanks for this consideration taken of him in his official position.

Mr. CHILTON, of Alabama—Mr. President, I have just received from two young ladies of decided genius and taste, several models for a flag for these Confederate States, and I know the house will indulge me in a few remarks, explanatory of the patriotic designs of the fair contributors. They are but school girls, sir, yet they have early imbibed the spirit which animated the matrons of the Revolution. These models have been produced by them in the prosecution of their studies in the art department of the Tuskegee Female College, and I submit, sir, that several of them for originality of design and the artistic skill displayed in their execution reflect great credit upon the excellent institution of which they are members. These young ladies are not singular in their devotion to our new Republic. They hail from the county of Macon, a people among whom I have long lived, and where I feel confident, not a man, woman or child, can be found who would be willing to endanger our liberties, by a longer submission to Northern domination—a people who have long been preparing, by the erection of Schools and Colleges, equal to any in the late Union, for Southern emancipation from the anticipated thralldom of sectional numerical majorities and for Southern independence. When I say this for the county of Macon, allow me, sir, to say, that the same love of equal rights—the same devotion to the cause of independence—the same unwavering faith, that the Confederacy which you have formed will secure the blessings of well regulated liberty and transmit them to the latest posterity, animates and inspires the hearts of the great mass of the people of our State.

Sir, as the State I have the honor in part to represent has been represented as divided and disloyal to our new government, I take this occasion to say, that if the time shall ever come, as I pray God it never may, when our infant liberties must be baptised in the blood of our people, in the language of a gallant commander speaking to the soldiers of my native State, Kentucky, "none will repair to the post of danger with more alacrity, fight more bravely, or bleed more freely, than the brave and patriotic sons of Alabama."

Our fair artists assure us that their efforts at originality were rendered difficult by constantly recurring visions of the "Stars and Stripes" which floated so proudly over the late United States. Sir, you must not understand this expression as I see some of the papers in the North did the speech made a

short time since in this body by the honorable gentleman from Mississippi, (Mr. Brooke,) as containing in its undertone, a desire for reconstruction with the United States Government.

Mr. President, no one had a more sincere attachment for the Union which our fathers gave us, or rejoiced more in the triumphs of that banner which symbolized its glory and its greatness, than the humble individual who now addresses you. No one strove more earnestly to preserve its integrity and to allay the sectional agitation which foreshadowed its destruction. But the sectional issue was at last forced upon us, and a policy affirmed at the ballot box denying us equality, endangering our security and destructive of the chief ends for which that Union was formed. Since that period I have had no hope of preserving the structure of Southern society, and of carrying out the grand scheme of civilization so deeply embedded in its frame-work, except by the formation of a Confederacy of States whose peoples are harmonious, and whose institutions, interests and pursuits, are so closely allied and harmoniously blended, as to prevent that attrition from jars and discordant elements, in the operation of the government as would ultimately destroy it. That government, in its primeval structure, has been formed, and is now in full operation—we have passed the Rubicon—and if there be one individual connected with it in either of its departments, who contemplates a reconstruction with the United States, even the finger of Rumor has not pointed him out. No, sir, I believe this government possesses as many of the elements of perpetuity as any the sun now shines upon, and will pass into its permanent organization without a jar.

This is the day when our Northern brethren inaugurate their President—the grand gala day which consummates their triumph and enables them to carry on their government without being partakers of what they esteem our sin of African servitude, but which we regard as the God-ordained auxiliary to Christianity and civilization. We bid them God speed, and wish them all the blessings they are capable of enjoying. We are brethren, and since we cannot harmoniously live together let us part in peace. We tender them the olive branch, and upon them will be thrown the terrible responsibility of rejecting it, if it be rejected.

Here is the letter to which I have referred:

TUSKEGEE, ALA., March 1, 1861. SIR—The undersigned, pupils in the Art Department of the Tuskegee Female College, conscious of weakness but ardently desirous to do something for their country, have employed their pencils to produce various designs for a flag for the Southern Republic. They have found a pleasure in trying to mix the patriot's with the artist's flame. You will appreciate the difficulty of their task, when you reflect that amidst all their efforts at originality, there have ever danced before them visions of the star-gemmed flag, with its parti-colored stripes that floated so proudly over the late United States.

In the designs submitted, we have endeavored to secure simplicity with an intelligible symbolism and striking conspicuousness of color.

Let us snatch from the eagle of the cliffs our idea of independence, and cull from the earth diamonds, and gems from the heavens, to deck the flag of the Southern Confederacy. With cotton for king, there are seven States bound by a chain of sisterly love, that will be strengthened by time as onward, right onward, they move up the glorious path of Southern independence.

No. 1—The seven seceding States represented by seven rings, bound together by golden links.

No. 2—The opposite side of the above, a large cotton bale.

No. 3—Field gules, eagle in or on a blue shield, bearing in its beak a scroll, with our representative political ideas.

No. 4—Eagle nest, seven eaglets, representing seven seceding States.

No. 5—An eagle perched upon a lone rock, in the midst of a tempestuous ocean, stars in semi-circle, sun rising.

No. 6—Eagle on a field of blue, diamond shaped, olive branch in one claw, arrows in the other, scales in his beak.

No. 7—A circle, within it seven diamonds tangent, forming a seven pointed star, in the centre a cotton bale.

With our best wishes, respectfully,
REBECCA C. FERGUSON,
MOLLIE A. D. SINCLAIR.

P. S.—We would beg to observe, in addition, that should either of the designs meet the approval of the Committee, we will cheerfully correct, recombine, or modify them in any desired manner, as well as engage to produce a seal corresponding to the flag.

Very respectfully,
R. C. F.—M. A. D. S.

Mr. CHILTON said, in conclusion, I move to refer the models and the letter to the Committee on the Flag and Seal of the Confederacy.

The reference was accordingly made.

Mr. T. R. R. COBB, of Ga., offered the following:

Resolved, That the mints at New Orleans and Dahlonega shall be continued and the proper arrangements be made as soon as possible to procure suitable dies for the coin of the Confederate States of America.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to estimate and report to Congress the lowest amount of appropriation necessary to carry out the above resolution.

Mr. COBB said that he desired that the resolutions be read a second time and put upon their passage.

Mr. PERKINS—I think Mr. President that it would be the better policy for those resolutions to be referred to the committee on finance. I am satisfied there is some information which should be presented to this body before action is taken, which information can only emanate from the finance committee. A move, then, that the reference be made to that committee.

Mr. T. R. R. COBB—I have no objection, Mr. President, to the reference to the committee on finance, if the gentleman insists upon it. But as there is but a single idea in those resolutions, namely, that the mints at those places should be continued, I can see no reason why action should not be had on them now. I am aware that there is a suspicion in the minds of some of the people of Georgia that the mint at Dahlonega is to be discontinued, and I wish for the benefit of the citizens of New Orleans and Dahlonega, and especially on account of the depositors of money in those mints, that the question should be put to rest at the earliest period. I will here take occasion to say that the mint at Dahlonega may be continued at much less expense than when it belonged to the government of the United States; and I suppose the Secretary of the Treasury would be the best officer to decide upon the proper appropriation to continue it in existence; consequently one of the resolutions refers that question to him. I have, however, no objection to their taking the course suggested by the gentleman from Louisiana, if he still persists in his motion. My desire was to settle, this morning, the question of the continuance of those mints.

Mr. PERKINS, insisting on his motion, the resolutions were referred to the finance committee.

Mr. HILL, of Georgia.—I hold in my hand, Mr. President, a very carefully prepared description of a proper flag for the Confederacy. It may be too late to present it. I think sir, the remarks contained in this communication, written by a lady of the highest taste and intelligence should receive proper attention. The design of the flag is different from any yet presented. I will not detain the time of Congress with remarks upon it. I will simply give one of the features in the proposed flag. It preserves the stars and stripes, and yet provides that when their number shall be increased, to any extent, the arrangement shall be equally beautiful with the one containing seven stars. The flag gives the six States which first went out of the Union, in valiant defence, and threw themselves into the breach, a distinct and conspicuous position. I will not read the communication from this lady, but I will remark that she resides in Darien, Ga. She seems to have a regard for the fifteen slaveholding States—a greater regard for the six which first seceded—and a very especial consideration for that State which took the lead,—the one represented by the members from South Carolina. I move the reference of the communication to the Committee on the flag and seal. Congress then went into secret session.

JUDGE COLEMAN.—We had the pleasure of meeting upon our steets a few days since Judge Coleman who had just returned from Montgomery, whither he had been sent by the people of this county as their representative to the State Convention. We have watched the proceedings of the Convention closely to see what course he would pursue, as he went there untrammelled; not that we had any doubt of his loyalty to the cause of Southern independence, but because we knew that a man possessing the mental endowments and active energy of Judge Coleman would never remain a silent and passive member of the Convention. Nor were we disappointed; Judge Coleman took the earliest opportunity to introduce a resolution into the Convention which was at once calculated to test the feelings of the representatives of the people and place Alabama in a line with her sister Southern States.

The citizens of Sumter have reason to be proud of their Delegate, for nobly and truly has he discharged his duty. What commends him as much as anything else to our admiration and esteem, is the fact of his being one of the noble thirty-eight who cast their votes for that brave and ardent champion of Southern Rights, Wm. L. Yancey.

The following complimentary notice of Judge Coleman we copy from the Mobile Mercury, which will show how his services are appreciated by one who had an opportunity of witnessing the proceedings of the Convention:

A Delegate to the Convention.—The Convention Delegate from Sumter county, Judge A. A. Coleman, has arrived in our city on his way home from Montgomery. For the proud position Sumter occupied in the great canvass for Southern independence, we are indebted much to the fearlessness and ability of Judge Coleman. Early in the discussion of the great questions in the Presidential contest, he threw himself bravely into the front ranks of the Southern Rights men, and was due to meet any foe that came. It was men, and hard for Sumter to send him to the Convention, to consummate the work he had helped her to begin, and right well has he discharged the trust.—Sumter Democrat.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN JOURNALS FROM THE QUESTION OF THE DAY.—The journals of the South, and those of Louisiana in particular, show themselves much superior to the press of the North in the manner in which they perceive the economical consequences of disunion. They bring to the discussion of this question, as delicate as it is essential, a spirit of moderation, a certainty of calculation, a knowledge of facts much superior to the disdainfully absolute conclusion which we see every day promulgated around.—N. Y. Courier des Etats Unis.

SERENADE TO MRS. JEFFERSON DAVIS.—A detachment of about fifty members of that gallant corps, the Louisiana Guards, under command of Capt. Girardey, proceeded last Saturday night, with a fine band of music, to serenade the accomplished consort of the President of the new Southern Confederacy, recently arrived here.

The compliment was most gracefully acknowledged by Mrs. Davis, who, thanking Capt. Girardey, said that she could not be expected to make a speech, but wished to make the only acknowledgment in her power, handing at the same time to the Captain a magnificent bouquet, tied in a tasteful knot of gold fringed ribbon.

The Guard will treasure dearly this memento of their first interview with this distinguished lady.—N. O. Picayune.