The Permanent Constitution of the Confederate States of America.

The prompt and almost unanimous ratification, by five of the Confederate States, of the Permanent Constitution recently framed by the Provisional Congress sitting in Montgomery, will go far to assure the world of the earnestness of purpose actuating the people of those States which have seceded from the American Union, and cannot fail to inspire the breast of every true lover of his country, with bright hopes for the future of a government thus harmoniously and auspiciously inaugurated. Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, have all proudly and eagerly hastened to place the seal of their approval on an instrument so admirably adapted to their wants as to wring reluctant expressions of admiration even from their most bitter enemies, and we entertain no doubt, but that South Carolina and Florida will at the earliest practicable moment endorse it as heartily and unanimously as have their sister States. The Constitution having provided that the ratification of five States should be necessary to give it validity, and that number having endorsed it within one month after its adoption by the Provisional Congress, nothing now remains but to choose the proper officers required by the provisions of the Constitution, when it can at once go into effect, and become the supreme law of the land.

We may safely challenge mankind to search the pages of its history, ancient or modern, to find a parallel to this movement of the Confederate States. Their people had borne the insults and wrongs of those who should have been their brethren of the North, until forbearance ceased to be a virtue, when in the calm strength of conscious rectitude they loosed the bonds which bound them to a people, false to all their constitutioual obligations, and resolved to establish a government of their own—a government founded in right and justice—the only true basis on which republican institutions can permanently rest. Every step taken in this, thus far, bloodless revolution, has been marked by the most consummate wisdom and prudence. When it became known that Northern sectionalism had triumphed, and that there was, therefore, nothing to hope from the justice of those who were henceforth to administer the government, the people of the Gulf States, without passion or bluster, called together State Conventions, composed of their best and wisest men, to determine what action was necessary to meet the emergency which had arisen. Those Conventions, fairly representing the views of their constituents, after full and free discussion, passed, almost unanimously, ordinances dissolving connection with the government at Washington, and resuming the powers which their States had delegated to the Federal Government. Measures were at once taken to form a Southern Confederacy; members to a Provisional Congress were chosen; this Congress on assembling adopted a Provisional Constitution, and placed at the head of the new government those pure and well tried statesmen and patriots, Jefferson Davis and Alexander H. Stephens. In all this there was no bravado; the rights of the people to life, liberty, or property, were not interfered with; the wheels of society moved forward as usual, and there was nothing on the surface which indicated that a mighty political revolution was in progress, but cool judgment, an enlightened statesmanship, and an unbending patriotism was apparent in the acts, not only of the Provisional Congress, but of the Conventions of the people which gave that Congress an existence.

The people of the Confederate States may justly congratulate themselves on the proud position they occupy before the country and the world. They can safely challenge the severest scrutiny to discover in the doings of their representatives any act of imprudence calculated to impair in the slightest degree the elevated stand they have chosen, and the Constitution which they have so unanimously ratified, though not absolutely perfect, is as near to perfection as any instrument ever framed by human wisdom. With such an auspicious beginning, with the prospect of speedy recognition by the great powers of Europe; with a system of labor forming the strongest and most enduring basis on which the fabric of society can be reared; possessing a territory stretching through several degrees of latitude and embracing the finest qualities of soil and climate, capable of producing in almost unlimited quantities the staples which control the markets of the world; with a people united, brave and intelligent; with statesmen experienced, capable, high minded and patriotic, to guide the wheels of government, it needs no prophecy to foretell for the new confederacy a career of prosperity, wealth and future greatness.—Demagogues and fanatics of the North and elsewhere, may affect to sneer at this, the most sublime revolution the world has ever known, but reasoning men everywhere are beginning to see and acknowledge that nothing in the future is more certain than the absolute independence and immense political and commercial influence of the Confederate States of America. Its successful progress thus far; the unparaled unanimity of its people, and the admirable provisions of its permanent constitution, all preclude the idea that the government is ephemeral in its character. Some of the States still adhering to the constitution of the old United States may and doubtless will hereafter ask for and obtain permission to become members of the Confederacy, but never again will the sovereign States now composing it consent to place their destinies in the hands of a government which they have deliberately and successfully repudiated.