

The Gleaner:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

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Nec araneorum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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THE GLEANER.

UNITED STATES.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

The institutions of a free people, says the New York Courier and Enquirer, are not exempt from the casualties of human nature, and human passion.—The most durable monuments of art or of greatness are mouldered to dust in the lapse of ages. Are we to expect that social liberty can always be quiet and safe amidst the contest of men's passions—the throes of ambition—or the workings of avarice?

It is now nearly half a century since the present government of the United States sprung into existence under the labors of the patriots, who fought and bled in the Revolution. A cluster of separate and independent colonies, antecedent to the Revolution, became after that event, associated together as a great and united people, under the limits and restrictions of a written constitution. In the lapse of time that has occurred since 1789, this written constitution—this charter of union—this social brotherhood of free people, have been several times in imminent danger of disruption, disunion, and dissolution. Light, knowledge and wisdom are supposed to make men wiser—and better and freer. Is it always so? By no means. The passions of the human heart exist in as great force in a civilized as in a rude age. We may construct checks and balances upon private and political ambition—we may curb the madness of passion—the exuberance of man's heart—we may put avarice and the propensity to public robbery under a check; but we cannot and never will eradicate the seeds of these excesses, by any human laws or written constitutions.

Since the organization of the government, this country has never been in as critical a situation as it is at this moment. The contest between the Federal and Republican parties in 1798-9 and 1800, was severe and dangerous. Violent menace, daring principles and disunion feelings were frequent, but it was child's play to the deep passion for revolution which exists at this day in South Carolina. Even during the last war, when a party in New England threatened to break up the Union and dissolve the confederacy, the country was by no means in so critical a situation as it is at this time. When foreign war rages without, there is always within a spirit of patriotism strong enough to sustain the government, constitution and laws. But it is in a state of profound peace, in a period of general tranquillity and happiness, that free institutions are most in danger from the mad and excited passions of nullifiers and revolutionists. In such a time the Cataline propensities of man's passions are craving for food peculiar to their appetite. Ambition prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, and the peaceful, the enterprising, and the industrious, are disturbed in their daily avocations by the political agitators that spring up among a free people.

At this moment there is a powerful, talented and intelligent party in the South hurling menaces against the union of these states; and here we are either idling our moments in sloth, or engaged in a contemptible scramble for office, or the hope of public plunder. By one of the most singular fatalities of human affairs, the very law which it was supposed would cut up by the roots nullification and revolution, has only given an additional strength and force to its existence. The Tariff law of 1832 was expected to conciliate South Carolina. It has only widened the wound—increased the exasperation. The leading and talented men of the South, are urged onward in the cause of disunion by accelerated impulses. Mr Hayne in two eloquent harangues—one in Columbia, the other in Charleston—has openly and unequivocally advised nullification. Mr McDuffie,

whose name is a host, made one of his powerful addresses in favor of the same cause. In Georgia, where we had reason to hope revolution would never find a foothold, a serious movement has been made with a view of leading to the same dangerous gulf. Judge Clayton of that state has undisguisedly adopted the revolutionary doctrine and begun the revolutionary movement.—In South Carolina there is a little skirmishing about the causes and consequences of the late Tariff law—but the tone and spirit of their leading orators and speakers are—*Separation of the States—Dissolution of the Union.*

There is no equivocation—no disguise about this matter. It is a deep and settled feeling, pervading large masses of society—all ranks and ages—all sexes and conditions. The very boys, at schools, as we are told, proudly avow themselves “nullifiers,” and are determined to fight for what they call their liberties. They compare and assimilate the contest between the South and Congress to that between the thirteen Colonies and England in 1776. Warm and energetic appeals are made to the pride of glorious ancestry—to the deeds of the revolution—to the glory of dying for liberty—to the fame that follows brilliant deeds in arms. The General Government is assailed by every opprobrious epithet—is called tyrant, plunderer, murderer—is represented as the destroyer of the prosperity of the South—the task master of the Carolinas—the autocrat of the fair fields that formerly smiled with plenty, but which now are desolated and deserted. However erroneous, false and preposterous all this declamation may be, it acts as a charm upon a large and rapidly growing party in the South. One of their principal leaders, R. J. Turnbull, in his last oration not only objects to the tariff laws, but to the Constitution itself, and to the whole current of legislation under it, since 1789.

Now what is to be done in this state of things?—Can we reason with such men? They are beyond the reach of argument. They are filled with enthusiasm and heroism for their own peculiar views and ultimate purposes. Is it not time for the whole union to take the case of South Carolina into their serious consideration? Is this fair fabric of a government—this happy country, to be plunged into civil war and bloodshed, by the passions of a small section of the Union? The leading men around us are busy with the most contemptible affairs of state or county or city politics, when the Union itself is in danger. Conventions and counter conventions are held almost every other week for the purpose of putting up one sort of office-seekers, or pulling down another—but the disorder, the radical disease which threatens the wide expanse of the republic with this most dreadful evil, is left to work its way to the very vitals of the Union. Until every monument of the revolution is effaced—every stone that tells its deeds to posterity is thrown down—every memorial of our glorious ancestors is annihilated—until the whole is reduced to one dark, solitary, inhospitable waste—the black banner of nullification and revolution never ought to find a congenial field to float over—or a country that will own it as its national symbol.

The birth day of Daniel O'Connell, the Irish Liberator, was celebrated at Washington on the 6th ult. by a military display, a public dinner, and other demonstrations of respect.

BRITISH AMERICA.

Copy of the Presentment of the Grand Jury of Montreal, on returning, ignored, the bills of indictment charging Colonel M'Intosh and others with murder, by firing on the persons in St. James street, 21st May last:

“The Grand Jury humbly represent to the Court, that in the investigation of the occurrence upon which were founded the Bills for murder against William

Robertson and Pierre Lukin, Esquires, Colonel M'Intosh and Captain Temple, they have fully and impartially examined into all the circumstances of the case, and the result of their proceedings is the conviction, that no ground exists for any criminal charge against those individuals. In such an instance as the present, where violent agitation has convulsed society, the Grand Jury are impelled by a sense of duty, beyond the mere rejection of the Bills, to endeavour at allaying excitement by an expression of the knowledge at which they have arrived after a severe inquiry into the transaction.

“The facts disclosed to the Grand Jury are briefly these; that during the latter days of the election of a Member of the Provincial Assembly for the West Ward of the City of Montreal, in April and May last, much excitement prevailed, which occasionally terminated in breaches of the peace; that on the twenty-first day of May, the Magistrates seeing a disposition towards violence in the crowd assembled at or near the poll, at the request of the Returning Officer had caused a number of special constables to attend there, and fearing from previous occurrences that this power would be inadequate to repress any tumult, determined upon providing a military force to act in case of need; that, accordingly, a requisition for troops, addressed to Col. Temple, was made and signed by William Robertson and Pierre Lukin, Esquires, Justices of the Peace for the District of Montreal, that upon this requisition, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon of that day, a body of troops was posted in the vicinity of the place where the poll was held; that a short time afterwards an increased disposition to riot having manifested itself the Magistrates tried to restore order by reading the riot act; that the assemblage not having dispersed at the close of the poll a conflict arose, in which various acts of violence were committed; that a body of the rioters having assailed with stones and other missiles a house occupied by one Mr Henderson, with the evident design of injuring individuals who had taken refuge there, and the civil power being insufficient to protect the persons and property of His Majesty's subjects against the imminent danger with which they were threatened, the interposition of the military force became necessary; that in subduing the riot the troops were obliged to advance; that being assaulted and resisted in that movement, they were commanded to fire, and in the execution of this order, three individuals were killed.

“However much the Grand Jury may deplore the fatal consequences, which flowed from the introduction of an armed force on that occasion, they feel persuaded that it was fully justified by the conjecture, and its timely interposition in their behalf averted the calamities which must have ensued, if the rioters had been suffered to pursue their impetuous and destructive course. With this view of the case, the Grand Jury cannot withhold the public declaration of their opinion, that the conduct observed, as well by the magistrate as by the military authorities, during those events, is worthy of commendation at the hands of those who love peace and respect the laws, while the inhabitants of the City of Montreal, in particular, are deeply indebted to the firm discharge by those gentlemen of their respective duties, for restoration to a state of security, and for the protection of their lives and property.

CHAS. PENNER, Foreman.

A private letter states that fourteen of the twenty-one jurors voted for ignoring the bills, six were for finding true bills, and one did not vote, considering that, as a member of the Assembly the matter might come hereafter before him in that capacity. Colonel M'Intosh, Captain Temple, and Messrs. Robertson and Lukin, were discharged after proclamation made in Court whether any one had or not any thing to charge them with.