

FOR THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE.

To the Citizens of Columbia County,  
(CONCLUDED)

It is curious, it may be observed, that almost all the counties this writer has described as paupers, or rather as the home of paupers, are adverse to him in politics; and these are the very counties which he would deprive of their equal representation in the Legislature which they now enjoy under the Constitution, and would give additional influence to certain other rich counties, the wealth and political bearing of a majority of which he is better pleased with. Although the statement of Atticus relative to the taxes of each county, is a part of the Report of the Committee on Finance in 1824, as I have shewn above; yet he takes no notice of the other part of that Report, which declares the flourishing condition of the Treasury; and which conduct in him, was the more uncandid, as the Report described the fiscal affairs of the State, at the time it was made, and the statement of the taxes paid by each county was for a previous year. Nothing can be more unfair than thus to search back into the taxes of former years, to shew the present condition of our Finances. He would have you believe that the State has no permanent source of revenue but taxation; but the time has never been, since he came into this world, when the Government did not derive money from other sources than taxation, and it will continue to receive revenue from other sources, long after Atticus and all his writings shall have sunk forever in the abyss of oblivion. All that he has said about the State being in imminent danger of soon falling into bankruptcy, and the necessity there soon will be of imposing ruinous taxes upon the people; and all that sort of cant and cunning, are only electioneering scare-crows, which this office seeks causes to flit incessantly before our eyes, the mere abortive spawning of his sickly imagination irritated into throes by disappointed ambition, and the qualms of political longings. If what Atticus has said, that the whole of the taxes are taken to pay the Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, &c. be true, then, it follows, that not one dollar is left in the Treasury, derived from taxes; and of course the great amount there must have come from other sources; and, therefore, that the money to pay Jurors, could not have come from the taxes at all, but from funds arising from other means of revenue; so it is plain, that Atticus contradicts himself, when he takes all the taxes, and more too, to defray the ordinary expenses of Government, and then, in the next breath says, the money to pay Jurors, would be taken from these very taxes. But the Bill did not require the money to be taken from the taxes, nor from any other particular fund, but from the general Treasury; and as the revenue derived from taxes is for the smaller part of the whole revenue, it follows, that the smaller part of the money to pay Jurors, would have come from taxes, and it may be seen by a plain calculation which any one can make, that the amount of money which the Jurors of Columbia would have received under the Bill, would have been a great deal more than the portion of taxes of Columbia, which would have been taken under that Bill to pay Jurors, & of course the advantage would have been on the side of this county. But I will admit for argument sake, what Atticus and Mr. Crawford say, that the whole of the money which the Bill required, would have been taken from the taxes of the 24 rich counties; and from their own statements, prove with the certainty of demonstration, that Columbia would have been benefited by the Jury Bill, even in a pecuniary point of view.— The amount of the taxes of Columbia is

\$1,515 00; the whole amount of the taxes of the 24 counties is \$45,387 00; then a plain division will shew, that Columbia pays about one thirtieth of this sum—Atticus says, these 24 counties pay to the members for the poor counties \$12,310 00, of this sum Columbia, to bear her proportional part, must pay one thirtieth which is \$410 00; which subtracted from the tax of Columbia, leaves \$1,105 00; from this take the pay of our own members, which is \$862 00, and it will leave \$243 00—Now it would be fair to take at least, a part of this sum, to support Government; but if we allow that, all the taxes of Columbia that is left after paying her part to the members of the Legislature, would have been taken by the Bill to pay Jurors; it is plain that Columbia would have received more under that Bill, than she would have paid; that is, she would have paid \$243 00, and would have received \$288 00, that being the amount apportioned to her by the Bill, which is \$45 00 more than she would have paid; would this have been oppressive to Columbia?

Although Atticus is contradicted by official records, and the mere comparison of his statements with each other, proves them wrong, if there is truth in figures, and if axioms are not false; yet, I do not flatter myself, that every one who reads, will yield assent to the proof. There are men who choose to look through jaundiced eyes, and therefore will not see subjects in their true light—men, who will cling to errors when they are shewn in their own nakedness, rather than embrace truth, when it is offered to their bosoms in its own loveliness.— I will advert to one subject more, which Atticus has advanced; but I shall be compelled to treat it briefly, as this address has already extended to a length greater than was intended:—He says “It is a universal principle, upon which representative republics are founded and especially our own, at the formation of our Constitution, that representation should be regulated, by taxation and population”—what Constitution does he mean? He must allude to that of Georgia, or that of the United States—neither of these contains any such principle as he asserts: so far from it, both of these Constitutions expressly declare that the number of Representatives shall be regulated by the number of inhabitants alone; that a given number of people shall have a given number of Representatives without the remotest regard to the taxes they pay.— This principle of regulating representation by the amount of wealth, would do for the owners of Bank Stock, when money alone is at stake; but ought the Constitution of a Republic to be formed on the same principle as a Bank charter? It is enough if the laws protect property. It is an old maxim, that wealth is power. It always gives its owner as much influence as it ought to give, and any additional influence given it by law, is so much tyranny upon the less wealthy. If property ought to have some influence in Government, it already has it, to as great an extent as it ought to have.— The following sentence from the Federalist, written by Hamilton, Jay, and Madison, on the Federal Constitution conveys my meaning: “If the law allows an opulent citizen but a single vote in the choice of his Representative, the respect and consequence which he derives from his fortunate situation, very frequently guides the votes of others to the objects of his choice; and through this imperceptible channel, the rights of property are conveyed into the public representation.”

Atticus may attempt to disguise the object of his doctrine, but still it is the doctrine of Aristocracy. It is not to be supposed that those who entertain such principles, will openly acknowledge the consequence of carrying them into practice.— It is not any open attack upon their liberties the people have to fear, but insidious approaches. Perhaps the race of man had not fallen, if its great enemy had been open and undisguised; but he came not in his own character, but with dissimulation, tempted even the Angel-guarded mother of mankind, to become dissatisfied with the government of Heaven, and to make a rash experiment, and thereby involve herself and posterity in one common calamity. If you suffer yourselves to be tempted to become dissatisfied with this part of our Constitution, guaranteeing to you an equality in the elective franchise; and to make a rash experiment by adopting a new principle, the principle of regulating representation by wealth, you may thereby involve yourselves and posterity in a political ruin, not less damning in this life, than was the moral catastrophe in the GARDEN OF EDEN!!

WARREN.