

"BACKING OUT."

Mr. FARMER:—It seems that the tone of some of your brother Editors, who two or three weeks ago, zealously vindicated Mr. Adams' election, and in editorial articles warmly espoused the Tariff, up in principle as a blessing in the end to the people here, so dark and benighted as not to be able to perceive it, is now evidently lowered. This is certainly the case, if we may judge from the calm, quiescent appearance of their columns; and especially the absence of bitter personal extracts and articles, in some of whom, rebuking all anti-Tariffing, they have to meet, for the purpose of declaring their constitutional rights. These were lately, I think, denounced as Unionists and disorganisers. Is it because Mr. Adams' and Mr. Clay's prospects of success begin to be a little overshadowed on the one hand, and because, on the other, the Tariff-cause has fewer friends in Georgia, even among the advertising mercantile custom, than was at first expected? Why do not your stout and ardent brothers who so lately gave us "line upon line, and precept upon precept," in favor of their darling Tariff policy, now valiantly breast the storm against such public meetings as those held at Athens, at Oglethorpe, at Milledgeville, at Columbia, &c. &c. wherein such personages as Crawford, Troop, Barries, Wayne, Lumpkin, Clayton, Holt, &c. &c. were the principal actors? Why do not these editors now rebuke that settled purpose and spirit in opposition to the Tariff-policy, now manifesting itself in almost every county in Georgia? I know it is now said, the Athens, Oglethorpe, and Columbia county resolutions are more temperate, mild and dignified than those of some other meetings, especially in South Carolina. This may appear to be so to a superficial observer, and may serve as an excuse for some blind and prejudiced men who are real friends to the Tariff, who have lowered their tone, and now wish to "back out;" but is the fact really so? I believe not. It is true that none of the Georgia resolutions go for disunion; nor do any resolutions in any State which I have seen. So far from it, all hold fast to the Union as the very last thing to be given up or sacrificed, except liberty itself. But are not the Athens, Oglethorpe, and Columbia resolutions as strong in substance as any others? Surely they are—they all go for organized and orderly resistance, although a constitutional one; and indeed there is very generally one resolution adopted at our meetings, which is more strong, and more hazardous, than any I have seen adopted even in Carolina, (except at one meeting alone) I mean an excise or tax on all goods or stock coming from the Tariff States. Although for one I am heart and head opposed to the Tariff and never will yield any resistance till the whole protection system is repealed—which I fervently hope and pray, may be the fixed course of every Southern man, and indeed of all North and South, East and West, who agree with us—yet I believe an act laying an excise, is one of the most strong and hazardous measures yet recommended:

First, because very able men doubt its constitutionality—at least they think it may invade the "spirit and intent" of the Constitution—and we who are honestly and justly complaining of the oppression of an unconstitutional act of Congress, should be the last to oppose it by any unconstitutional act of our own, and especially as the Supreme Court would, in all human probability, declare such a legislative act unconstitutional.

Secondly, because such an act would be more likely than any other, to bring us into collision, not only with the federal government, but with our sister States—and

Thirdly, because any one who will carefully examine the matter, will very much doubt the practicable efficiency of such a measure as an excise.

With profound respect for the opinions of others, I verily believe our remedy must not be one of quackery and empiricism—it must be one upon principle and under the Constitution, or the dreadful malady will never be purged from the system. The remedy is pretty plainly indicated, in Madison's resolutions of '98; Jefferson's adopted by the Kentucky legislature many years ago; and those adopted by the legislature of South Carolina at its last session. Every State should feel its own equality as to its sovereign reserved rights, and ought never to feel it so strongly as when it demands from Congress a fulfilment of the original compact, which bound the States together.