

**THE LOST PRINCIPLE; OR THE  
SECTIONAL EQUILIBRIUM: HOW  
IT WAS CREATED - HOW  
DESTROYED - HOW IT MAY BE  
RESTORED**

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The Lost Principle; Or the Sectional Equilibrium: How It Was Created - How Destroyed - How It May Be Restored by Barbarossa

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**BARBAROSSA**

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HOW IT WAS CREATED—HOW DESTROYED—HOW IT  
MAY BE RESTORED.

By "BARBAROSSA."

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"And therefore it is ever good to rely upon the books at large, for many times  
*compedia sunt despendia and melius est videre factos, quam sectari stultos.*"

[COX—LITTLETON.]

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## DEDICATION.

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I wish to dedicate this little volume to the memory of the Hon. JOHN MACPHERSON BERRIEN, late Senator in Congress from the State of Georgia; not for his eminent abilities, his private worth, nor yet for his great public character, but as an humble tribute of gratitude for an important service which he rendered to me.

It chanced some years ago that I was introduced to that distinguished statesman at one of the public tables in Washington city. The conversation turned on the question of slavery, then vexing Congress, and in terms stronger than good manners would warrant, I expressed my aversion to that form of labor. The sentiment which I uttered elicited no response, and the conversation glided on to other topics. When I was about to depart, Judge Berrien, in the most polite and obliging manner, invited me to remain and take wine with him, an invitation which I gladly accepted, for already I felt strongly attracted to him.

With some abruptness, he turned to me and expressed his surprise that I, a young man from Virginia, should entertain sentiments of so remarkable a character about slavery. I attempted to defend them, and he listened to me with respectful attention. In the ablest manner, the Senator then explained the whole subject to me, in its social, political and economical connexions, and after illustrating its conservative and ameliorating influences on the Federal Government, de-

monstrated its absolute necessity, in a democratic society, to preserve the empire of law, of virtue and of religion, and predicted that for the want of that restraining power the Northern Republics, so soon as they should be disconnected with the Slave States, even if not sooner, would fall into anarchy, and, treading the old circle, would, to escape the despotism of the mob, seek refuge in the despotism of a single will.

His discourse produced on me the most profound impression; and when I arose to withdraw, I grasped his hand cordially and thanked him for redeeming me from so weak and dangerous an error. I had never seen Judge Berrien before; I never saw him again. A few years later I heard that the Hunter Death had struck him down, and sure he never struck a nobler quarry.

BARBAROSSA.



TO THE  
YOUNG MEN OF THE SLAVE-HOLDING SECTION.

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I presume to address this publication to you, though it is not without trepidation that I appeal to so intelligent a tribunal. It broaches a new theory of the Constitution. If it shall be considered well founded, upon your courage and intelligence must the Southern people rely for its vindication; but if it shall be deemed fanciful and pleasing from its novelty, rather than valuable for its truth, my apology is a conviction of its importance to the South, and that here in Virginia, we all have a proclivity towards politics, and, in the words of Sir Francis Bacon, where "every one plays the philosopher out of the small treasury of his own fancy."

But let it be remembered that *youth* is not always determined by the period of life. There are old young men, whilst there are those who like Hecla wear crowns of snow, and yet like Hecla have souls of flame.

Respectfully,

BARBAROSSA.



## PREFACE.

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Soon after its establishment, by Mr. Pryor, in Richmond city, I communicated to *The South* newspaper the theory of an equilibrium in the Federal Constitution, which is the principal subject of this volume. As far as I am informed, the intention on the part of its framers to introduce that principle, had not been suggested by any one since the government went into operation. Subsequent examination confirmed me in the belief of the sectional nature of the compact, and the intention of the Federal Convention to balance power between the North and the South. The means by which that end was to be achieved, together with the means adopted by Congress to prevent it, I thought worthy of a more extended investigation, and therefore have written this book. In the chapter which relates to the ratification of the Constitution by Virginia, several threads of history have been woven in, together with an enquiry into the cause of the decline of that Commonwealth; and in this connection I beg leave to acknowledge the advantage that I have derived from consulting the pages of Mr. Grigsby—I mean with reference to the source from which the bulk of the population of Virginia was derived.

The different parts have been written at different times, as inclination might prompt or business allow, and are now hastily thrown together because of a supposed application of this subject to the present state of public affairs.