

comprehending more different species, than perhaps came within the knowledge of the generality of planters.—This alteration was warmly patronized and opposed, and a variety of arguments were adduced on both sides of the question.

In favor of the different columns it was urged that foreigners would be encouraged to purchase, from a knowledge of the particular kind of tobacco which was offered for sale, more especially as the different European markets required tobacco of very various qualities.

With respect to this argument, it must be acknowledged, that the want of foreign purchasers, which had been one cause of the very general consignments from the State, was an object which required the most speedy and effectual remedy.

On the other side was objected the inconvenience which would result to the planters, especially those of the lower order, many of whom, were under the necessity, of packing in one hoghead, tobaccos of very different qualities, the whole product of their labour and industry.

Another inconvenience was suggested:—The difficulties which would arise in the payment of rents and other contracts in tobacco, which, without a previous agreement, could not possibly be settled to the satisfaction of the parties, when notes were to be given for tobacco of so many different species.

This objection was partly obviated by an amendment proposed by the Senate, limiting a time for the commencement of the act.—The amendment however was not received, and after considerable debates, there appeared to be a necessity for passing the law in the form, in which it now stands, which, except in the article I have already mentioned, and the mode of appointing inspectors, does not differ very materially from the former regulations.

With regard to this, our great staple commodity, it would be well if the people, without the assistance of the Legislature would pay a proper attention to their own interest.

This certainly dictates, that the greatest degree of care should be used in its preparation; but it is probable that not only the neglect of this precaution, but the want of commercial knowledge, has been the means of rendering it at present of so little value.

I am led to these reflections, by considering the conduct of the people since the establishment of peace.—Admitting for