

What is Democracy?

DEMOCRACY represents the great principles of progress. It is onward and upward in its movements. It has a heart for action and motives for a world. It constitutes the principle of diffusion and is to humanity what the centrifugal force is to a revolving orb of a universe.

THE BEDFORD GAZETTE.

Bedford, MAY 8, 1857. G. W. Bowman, Editor and Proprietor. Democratic State Admnistrations.

GOVERNOR: Gen. Wm. F. Packer. CANAL COMMISSIONER: Hon. Nimrod Strickland.

We invite attention to the highly important opinion of Attorney General Black, published on the first page. Like all papers emanating from his pen, it is clear, powerful and convincing, and will be read with general interest.

Several new names are added to the list of candidates this week, but we have not had a particle of excitement touching the nominations, nor an angry word uttered by any body. And we now predict, and call upon the people to note the fact, that the successful aspirants will be among the most enthusiastic supporters of the Ticket.

The President Boomed.

Under this head the Cincinnati Commercial and Harrisburg Telegraph shock the sensibility of their readers with the declaration that Mr. BUCHANAN is most likely to add one more name to the list of the National Hotel victims—that in a few more weeks he will be no more. A vain young orator from Kentucky will be the acting and his friend Stephen A. Douglas the actual President of these United States.

A more cold-blooded and brutal paragraph never found its way into a newspaper. Those who could perpetrate so gross an outrage, exhibit hearts black enough to commit any crime in the calendar of vice. That some agency of Black Republicanism designed to poison the President elect, seems to be now generally believed—and such paragraphs are well calculated to impair the impression.

Mr. BUCHANAN, we are gratified to be able to state, is in excellent health, and walks as firm and erect as he did twenty years ago. That a merciful Providence will vouchsafe to him health and strength to perform the duties of the exalted trust which has been conferred upon him by the freemen of America, is the sincere prayer of every truly Christian heart in the land.

County Superintendent.

By reference to the proceedings of the County School Convention, it will be seen that Rev. H. HERRICKMAN has been chosen Superintendent of the Common Schools of Bedford County for the ensuing three years at a salary of \$500 per annum.

This intelligence will be gratifying to the people of the whole county, for, in addition to the moral worth of Mr. H., he possesses qualifications of the very highest order for a faithful discharge of the duties of the office. This fact will secure general confidence and give permanency to the institution.

Mr. TRESSEY, the leader of "Black Republicanism" in Middle Woodbury, the "supernatural" correspondent of the Blair County Whig, and the "practical teacher," by the aid of the wire-workers of his party, actually received five votes, a compliment entirely corresponding with his merits.

The SLAVERY AGITATION now disgracing the country, implored that a Minister might not be chosen Superintendent, but rather a "practical" Abolitionist. Their influence is manifested in the result stated—and it is now evident that the highest recommendation a man can have in this county is to be slandered by this small tribe of small fry.

THE JUG LAW.

We repeat what we have always heretofore said, that the Know Nothing Jug Law was among the most infamous and disgraceful measures ever enacted by this or any other Legislature—that Jordan, in giving the casting vote in the Senate in its favor, after the people had decided by an overwhelming majority against it in his own county and District, as well as in the State, exhibited a contempt for the sovereign voice that has scarcely a parallel in political degradation.

The Senate has engrafted a section in the appropriation bill, giving to the members of each House, two hundred dollars additional pay.

Democratic County Meeting!

Pursuant to notice, a Mass Meeting of the Democratic Party of Bedford County assembled at the Court House in Bedford on last Monday evening, and organized by the appointment of the following officers:— President—MICHAEL WERTZ, Esq.

Vice Presidents—Matthew Murray, Elias Gump, F. D. Beagle, Nicholas Kegg, John Amos, Geo. W. Powell, Denton Stevens, and Andrew Collins. Secretaries—John T. Gephart, Geo. Reimund, Henry Fluke, and Charles Adams.

The meeting thus organized, it was addressed by GEO. W. BOWMAN, Maj. S. H. TATE, Hon. JOHN CASSMA, and O. E. SHANNON, Esq.

The following resolutions, offered by the editor of the Gazette, were, on motion of Mr. CASSMA, unanimously and enthusiastically adopted at the opening of the meeting, when the house was full:

Resolved, That the duty as well as the privilege of Freemen to assemble together, and peaceably express their sentiments on all subjects affecting the public welfare—therefore, be it

Resolved, That the cabinet selected by Mr. BUCHANAN does honor alike to his head and his heart. Better men, in every respect, for the posts they hold, could not have been found in the Union. They have few equals and no superiors.

Resolved, That the appointment of our former District Judge and neighbor, Hon. J. S. BLACK, to the distinguished office of attorney general of the United States, is a compliment eminently due his great worth, and is properly appreciated by the people of Pennsylvania in general, and Bedford County in particular.

Resolved, That the nomination of NIMROD STRICKLAND, for Canal Commissioner, meets our hearty approval. Among the honest men of the State, he occupies an exalted position, and his fitness for the trust is admitted by all.

Resolved, That the low trickery and falsehood governing the acts of the Know Nothing Abolitionists, are alike repulsive to morality and the true interests of the country. Having abandoned all the issues they formerly advocated, they are now banding together in factions, under various names, and inviting every element, no matter how degraded or loathsome, to unite with them in their unrighteous war against the Democratic party—a party to which they are exclusively indebted for all the good things they have enjoyed as a Nation.

Resolved, That the conduct of the party assuming to be "American," has proved itself to be a faction of the lowest origin, destitute of every principle justly attributable to the American name—a mere fraud-trick-gull-trap—or anything else you please to call it—intended to minister to the appetite of the passions, and to lead the masses of the Nation into a ruinous and ruinous career.

Resolved, That the disgusting treachery of our opponents in Bedford county, last year, as in other parts of the State and Union, should forever warn us against putting any faith in their professions and promises. Through the entire campaign they had at their mast-head the name of Wilmot (who professed to be a national man), as their candidate for President—and when the Democracy asserted that this was a trick—a fraud—a lie—all remember how we were denounced by JOHNSON, who made the especial monopoly of the Know Nothing faction. All remember how they paraded a Filmore Flag in the square of this town on the eve of the State election—the old Cass & Butler Flag, which they had disgracefully altered—how they marched under it to Schellburg—how they invited us to stick to it—and how JOHNSON, the Chairman of their County Committee, was at that very time, in correspondence with CHARLES GIBBONS, the Fremont Abolition leader, a fact he will not deny.

Resolved, That the failure of the "Republicans and Abolitionists" to carry out the promise of the late decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, (the highest judicial Tribunal known to the world,) by the Black Republicans, is conclusive proof that, had they the power, they would trample beneath their feet all law, and place the life, liberty and property of the people at the mercy of a mob. If our Courts should be abolished, and the lawless mob, as they propose, and the titles to land, &c., were placed at the mercy of Township meetings, then and only would the people be made to feel the full force of Abolitionism!

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Somerset, with the express view of disfranchising our people of their rights, is just what might have been expected of one who has reduced himself so low politically, that it is impossible for him to go any lower.

Resolved, That the charge preferred against Gen. Packer, our candidate for Governor, of having voted for the infamous Jug Law, is so destitute of truth, that it could only have emanated from men bound together by oaths, the very essence of which requires them to lie.

Resolved, That we rejoice in the numerous accessions to our ranks from the old Whig Party, who have become disgusted with the aims and factions controlling the opposition—and congratulate those who have abandoned the oath-bound order, and joined the Democratic column, as having performed a work of which they will forever hereafter feel proud—and we cordially invite all others who have become nauseated with the loathsome doctrines of Abolitionism, to come and go with us in defence of honest and correct principles.

Resolved, That we are not the advocates of slavery. The Democratic Party have never recognized any such doctrine. We, in Pennsylvania, abolished Slavery of our own free will, and would not submit to have it fastened upon us by the act of any other power than that of the will of the sovereign freemen within our own limits. The Democrats are for allowing all the states and Territories to do as we direct for themselves in this matter—and this is the sum and substance of the pro-slavery sentiment of the Democratic Party. Let no man be deceived by the falsehood that we are in favor of forcing slavery into Kansas of any place, else it is not the Democratic Party.

Resolved, That, as the Canal Commissioners are elected by the people of the whole State, and as the Democratic Party is responsible for all their public acts, it will not be out of place for us, in mass county meeting assembled, to say that we have the best reason to believe that Mr. Bryden, the present Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Canal, is totally disqualified for the high and important trust—that he is not a reliable Democrat, a fact which he clearly exhibits by employing Know Nothings and Abolition Republicans in preference to men who aided to elect the Canal Board, and who are ardently devoted to Democratic men and measures.

Resolved, That the Know Nothingism has proved itself an organization more disgraceful and infamous than any other in the history of the Nation. Although, we were boasting assured that it was to be the only lever by which this Union was to be controlled in the future, it already lies buried beneath the rotten carcass of Abolitionism, and it would require a search warrant to find half a dozen men in any county in this State, who will admit that they ever followed a dark lantern, through a dark alley, into a dark hole, cellar, garret, or stable, and there took the blasphemous oaths and entered into the mysteries of the secret order. And yet this is "Americanism" as promulgated by our opponents, which, added to the doctrine that a negro is as good as a white man, and a little better, who will admit to nominate men to fill the various offices in Bedford County. Who will stand upon such a platform? Certainly not the honest farmers who inhabit our beautiful valleys.

Resolved, That the tactics made upon a late decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, (the highest judicial Tribunal known to the world,) by the Black Republicans, is conclusive proof that, had they the power, they would trample beneath their feet all law, and place the life, liberty and property of the people at the mercy of a mob. If our Courts should be abolished, and the lawless mob, as they propose, and the titles to land, &c., were placed at the mercy of Township meetings, then and only would the people be made to feel the full force of Abolitionism!

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house of Commons to inquire into the adulterations of all articles sold for food, &c., Dr. Taylor, the celebrated Professor of Chemistry at Guy's Hospital, made the following statement in regard to colored confections:

"In red candy vermilion and red lead were used; and in the yellow oxide of lead and chrome of red, which was very dangerous, and had been known to be the cause of the death of a child in 1853. The extracts of bitter almonds, which was very much used in confections, was a most powerful poison, as it contains from six to twelve per cent. of prussic acid. Twenty drops of the oil killed a woman forty-nine years of age in half an hour. A compound of it called 'almond flavor' was much used, but was very dangerous. There was an instance in which half an ounce had killed a woman thirty-six years of age in half an hour."

Correspondence of the Public Ledger. Letter from Harrisburg. Sale of the Main Line—Sunbury and Erie Project.

HARRISBURG, April 25th, 1857. The bill for the sale of the Main Line of the Public Works having passed the House of Representatives, it will be well to recall some of its provisions, and show what the Commonwealth sacrifices to effect a sale. The point and gist of the bill may be embraced in a few lines. The main line is valued at \$7,500,000. The purchaser is to give bonds for the purchase-money, at five per cent. interest, and no part of the principal is to be paid until 1890, more than thirty years hence. If the Pennsylvania Railroad Company become the purchaser, and consent to give \$1,500,000 in addition, they are to be released from the tonnage tax, and all other taxes, on bonds, dividends and property, and the Harrisburg and Lancaster Company are also to be released from the tonnage tax.

Now in case the Pennsylvania Railroad Company purchase—and there is no use to contemplate any other contingency—the State will release the following items of taxation: Tonnage on Pa. R. R. \$226,018 51

Harrisburg and Lancaster 23,002 91 Tax on loans of Penna. Railroad 14,486 83 Taxes on Corporation Stock Pa. R. 42,065 52 Total \$305,573 77

No account is here taken of the taxation on property, one of the items released, because there are no means of ascertaining precisely what it would amount to. Doubtless, it would materially swell the total of these items. Without including it, or pretending to make any estimate of what it is, the above figures show the release of taxation to an amount which would pay the interest, at five per cent. on six millions of State debt, and thus upon the supposition that the tonnage tax will remain stationary. For what consideration does the State release the large and growing source of taxation? For this sum of one million and a half of dollars, or rather for the interest on that sum.

But there is another interesting view of this question. I have shown above the very least loss that the State can sustain. Let us look at the great gain of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company by this bill, and the fact will be apparent, that under its provisions, they will get the Main Line for nothing. The tonnage tax has grown with amazing rapidity within the last few years. On the Pennsylvania Railroad alone, it was:

In 1854, \$112,880 50 In 1855, 129,230 56 In 1856, 226,018 51

Showing an increase of one hundred per cent. in three years. It would be a fair calculation to estimate that this tax would amount in 1859 to over \$450,000 or double its present amount, for while there is an increase of a little over ten per cent. between the years 1854 and 1856, there is an increase of over 70 per cent. between 1855 and 1856. A corresponding ratio of increase would swell the amount to an enormous figure in ten, twenty, or thirty years, when the first instalment of ten per cent. on the purchase money is to be paid; but I do not propose to pursue the calculation, although it might very fairly enter into the estimate of the advantages of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company under this bill.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company then, are interested to an amount beyond any other Company or Association of individuals, much greater than one million and a half of dollars. Take the items above given, viz:

Tonnage tax past year \$226,018 51 Tax on loans 14,486 83 Tax on corporation stock 42,065 52 \$282,570 86

and we have the interest of \$5,000,000 in round numbers. To this amount the Pennsylvania Railroad Company are interested in the purchase of the Main Line above and beyond any other Company in the State. To put them on an equality with others, they would have to give \$15,000,000 for it, while in reality, under this bill, they will give but \$2,500,000. This calculation shows the position of the Company in the most favorable light. The item of \$12,065 52, tax on corporation stock was paid for the first time into the Treasury in January last, and is most probably but a part due the State from this source. The tonnage tax will double itself in a few years, and the tax on real estate owned by the Company is entirely omitted. So it will be seen that the taxes released would in a few years amount to more than the interest on the purchase money, (\$450,000.) The bill proposes nothing less than a gift of the Main Line to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

that the proceeds of the sale shall be applied directly to the payment of so much of the State debt, and to no other purpose. What advantage is there in a sale, if we are to embark immediately in another public improvement?—Those interested in the Sunbury and Erie Road insist, with much earnestness, that there can be no possible danger in this measure, because the State would be secured by a first mortgage on five millions of property. This may sound very fair, but who does not know that such mortgage never would be executed, and that the deeper the Company is plunged in debt and difficulty, the louder would be their claim for sympathy and relief. The end would be that the State would be forced into finishing the Sunbury and Erie Railroad.

From the Daily Pennsylvanian. The Kansas Case Stated. If we had not been accustomed to very odd ideas in politics, we confess we should be not a little, but a great deal astonished at the course of the New York Tribune, and a few other papers of the Republican stamp, upon the question whether the people of Kansas ought to vote at the coming election.

We will just state the case. There are in Kansas what is called the Free State party, and a Slave State party. We choose thus to designate them in order to make ourselves understood. Well, the Free State party, acting without any color of law, organized a year or two ago, with a view of having a State constitution. It is only necessary to say they elected, in their way, delegates to a constitutional convention, and that convention deliberated subsequently and framed a State constitution. It was submitted by the Free State men and adopted by them, the whole number voting for it being something over a thousand persons.—Meanwhile Congress had organized what is called a Territorial government in Kansas—not dissimilar to the Territorial Governments organized in Michigan, Wisconsin and Arkansas in their respective periods of pupillage. A Legislature under such Congressional organization was elected, and a Judiciary established. A Governor and Secretary were appointed, the public lands surveyed, an Indian Department established. What we mean, in short, is this: That a complete Territorial Government was put into operation.

Now we make these points: 1. The Government established by Congress, under which the people were called upon to elect their own Legislature and to make their own laws, was, and is, the only legal government in Kansas. It has all the legal sanctions and it has equally all the moral sanctions of an American Territorial Government. Congress assumed only to take such measures, under the constitution, as would indicate its general jurisdiction and right of federal control: leaving to the people all special legislative power—all such facilities of government as are enjoyed by the States. This principle is so just, so obvious, so self-evidently in harmony with our federal system, that we cannot comprehend how it has ever been opposed. But it has been opposed, and this brings us to the next proposition:

2. A class of fanatics, as we have noticed above, took it into their heads that they would set up an independent government in Kansas, and so they established the Topeka Constitution which received the sanction, as we have said, of something over a thousand men. The movement, to say the least, was in utter contravention to the government referred to in our first point. Its legality is claimed, we believe, on the ground that the people have an independent and absolute right to do what they please, and that, of course, the federal authorities have no rights at all. This right thus absolutely asserted, it strikes us, carries with it something more than a sanction of the Topeka Constitution; it makes Kansas an independent nation, like Mexico, and draws to itself all the property in the Territory. Of course the assertion of such a right is an effort at revolution—a barren effort, to be sure, because the government, established under the Topeka Constitution, has never gone beyond a mere newspaper existence, and its executive is a wandering mount-bank, who travels about the country loaded with titles, but wholly bereft of the least authority. The movement so far has been a sheer blunder. There is not a sane man in Kansas, and not an honest man in the whole Union, who attaches the least weight to the movement or concedes to the Topeka Governor and Legislature the smallest amount of authority. Indeed, those mock functionaries, though acting treasonably, have been regarded as almost harmless traitors, in the fact that nobody has given them sufficient credit to enable them actually to perform overt acts of treason. Perhaps it would be more accurate to justify their conduct under the general doctrine of liberty of speech; for they have done little else than speak, and that very absurdly and foolishly.

3. Granting the regularity of the Topeka movement in the organization of a State Government—a concession that can hardly be made even for the sake of the argument—that proceeding at best, and this all most plainly seen, was a mere snare judgment, which is unworthy of the least notice or credit. The idea of a thousand men forming a State Constitution for ten times their number, at this very day, and attempting to force their labors upon the people, is worthy only of such abolition presumption and self-constituted wisdom and morality as we are taught to reprobate and hate as the very bane of our society. Even if the Topeka proceedings could be regarded as regular, they ought to be set aside as premature, and utterly unjust to the people of Kansas at the present time.

These points present the case, and leave us to consider what ought now to be done. Meanwhile, there is a regular Territorial Government in Kansas—a Governor, Legislature, Judges, Secretary, Land and Indian systems.—Emigration is rapidly filling the young State with bona fide inhabitants and citizens. The time approaching when, in obedience to settled principles, a State is to be organized and admitted into the Union. The constituted authorities there have provided means for taking the census, and for electing delegates to a convention, with a view of adopting a State Constitution.—The aforesaid corporals guard, composed of it may be of the whole Topeka people, reinforced by others of kindred sympathies, still urge that their snap-judgment has concluded the people and that all are bound by the proceedings of the irresponsible town meetings which you sanction to the Topeka constitution. The New York Tribune is foremost in urging that sham tribune as the organic law of the people of Kansas; and it devotes about half its space to the enforcement of this idea. It advises the Free State men, which means all the abolition emissaries, to withhold their votes at the coming June election, and to fall back upon the Topeka humbug, as the Malakoff of abolition strength in

and out of Kansas. We remember nothing in American politics more absurdly ridiculous, or more absolutely unjust than this proceeding. A paper which professes friendship for the people, and sets up an almost arrogant claim to be their peculiar organ and defender, is thus engaged in the work of disfranchising nine-tenths of the bona fide residents of Kansas, and under the captions plea that on a former occasion the tenth of their predecessors took the work of establishing their government into their own hands. Did folly ever go farther? Did presumption and injustice ever before so seek to enforce its own impotent behests upon any portion of the American people.

The practical point in this whole matter is simply here: The people of Kansas, mistaking equally their own rights and their own interests, now that they have the necessary means, will form for themselves a State Constitution. They are required to do so by every consideration of patriotism; and such consideration points to the necessity of administering to the Abolitionists a rebuke such as will hereafter satisfy them that they cannot be used as stool pigeons for such gamblers as Mr. Greeley and Mr. Weed.

THE POSITION OF WILMOT.—The following resolution, among others, was adopted at the recent Republican convention: Resolved, That we are yet Freemen, and that while we retain the inestimable right of Freemen, secured to us by the sacrifices, sufferings and blood of our Revolutionary fathers, WE WILL NOT SUBMIT to have a new constitution imposed upon us by the extra judicial opinions of the Judges of the Supreme Court—opinions subversive of the rights of human nature—in conflict with the truth of history, with the unbroken action of the Government and the law of the land, as heretofore pronounced by the federal Judiciary, and the Courts of nearly every State in the American Union.

There is reparation for you! Won't submit! The Republican party of Pennsylvania openly proclaim that they are above the law, and will refuse to obey. They appeal to a "higher law" than the Constitution, viz: to arms! They refuse to submit, i. e., they rebel against every law that does not suit them, and will, if necessary, inaugurate an era of civil war and blood! How many law-abiding citizens, who believe that the foundation of all government is respect and submission to the laws, will vote for a candidate, who stands upon a platform which advocates practical treason?—Norrington Defender.

The Reaction in Michigan.—We have already noticed in general terms the large gains made by our Democratic friends in Michigan at the recent election held in that State. The following gratifying intelligence, which we find in the Detroit Free Press of the 22d inst., may be taken as an earnest of what may be expected by the Democracy of Michigan at the next general election: The Democracy of the first Congressional District have done well. This District is re-elected. Three years ago we were defeated by between eleven and twelve hundred votes, and last year the opposition by between eight and nine hundred. Now, how stands the case?—Wayne has given nearly one thousand Democratic majority, and Livingston nearly one hundred and fifty; Washtenaw has given about two hundred Black Republican majority, and Jackson about two hundred and fifty. Total Democratic majorities over eleven hundred; total Black Republican majorities, some four hundred and fifty. Democratic majority in the District over six hundred and fifty!

We repeat, the Democracy of the first Congressional District have done well. For three years they have been in the minority; they are now in a majority; and will doubtless continue so. "Bleeding Kansas" has had its day, and the "Dred Scott decision" has marked not the slightest benefit to the niggerity. "Truth crushed to earth," has risen again; and the individual of fanatical notoriety who now misrepresents us in the lower branch of the national legislature will experience insuperable difficulties at the next election in convincing the people that he is the proper person to whom should be intrusted their Congressional interests.

Wagonmiller, the defaulting Cashier of the New Castle Bank, has been released on a bail of \$3,000 for his appearance for trial at the Sessions in May next. He left New Castle with his family for the east, on the 20th ult.—It is believed the notes of the Bank will all be fully redeemed.

EX-SENATOR FOOT, who has been for some time associated with the Know-nothings in California, has withdrawn from the organization and returned to the Democratic party—so says the San Francisco papers.

CORNER-STONE LAYING. By Divine permission, the corner-stone of a new Lutheran Church will be laid, near Fisherton, six miles north-east of Schellburg, on the road leading to Hollidaysburg, on Sabbath, the 17th of May.—Services to commence at 10 o'clock A. M. The friends of Christ's cause, and the public generally, are most cordially invited to be present on that solemn and interesting occasion.

MARRIED. In Friends Cove, at the house of the Bride's father, on the 30th April by the Rev. C. F. Hoffmeier, Mr. Philip J. Shoemaker, to Mrs. Mary Caroline Comber, daughter of Mr. Philip J. Shoemaker Sr., both of the Cove.

On the 19th day of April by A. Blair, Esq., Mr. George W. Zimmerman to Miss Sarah A. Harding, all of Cumberland Valley Bedford County Pa.

On the 25th inst at Marietta, by Rev. N. E. Gilds, Mr. Isaac Corle to Miss Elizabeth Corle, both of Bedford County.

NOTICE. Letters of administration on the Estate of Frederick Clair, late of Union township, Bedford County, deceased, having been granted to the subscriber residing in said township, notice is therefore given to all persons indebted to said estate, to make payment to the subscriber immediately, and those having claims will present them properly for settlement. JACOB G. DIVELEY, Adm'r.

GREAT EXCITEMENT! The Elegant Assortment of SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS Just received and opened at REED'S CHEAP STORE IN BEDFORD

having created quite an excitement in our usually quiet town, the subscriber feels confident that he can exhibit such a stock of goods as will meet the general wants of both town and country, at fair prices. As it will cost nothing to examine his Stock he invites all in want of either substantial or Dress Goods to give him a call before purchasing elsewhere. JACOB REED.

May 7, 1857.

Colored Candy is Poisonous.—At a recent meeting of the Select Committee of the British