

LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT—A STRANGE REVELATION.

The letter of the President in reply to the New Haven memorialists, contains but a single paragraph requiring comment—in all the rest he simply reiterates opinions which everybody knew he entertained. The Convention thus nominated, and the Party that elected him, recognized the validity of the body of men claiming to be the Legislature of Kansas. We never understood Mr. Buchanan as holding a different opinion. The plain inference was, that if elected, his administration would uphold that body, and if called upon, enforce its acts with all the federal power at his disposal. The letter to Professor Silliman, viewing this policy, is just what might have been expected; could anybody be simple enough to expect that Mr. Buchanan, on his advent to power, would shrink from doing precisely that thing which he had chosen to do?

But there is one paragraph in this document, which may reasonably excite surprise. It announces opinions which we never before proclaimed—opinions which his Northern supporters not only dared not countenance, but felt constrained to repudiate. Referring to the passage of the Nebraska act, he says:

"Slavery existed at that period, and still exists, in Kansas, under the Constitution of the United States. This point has at least been settled by the highest tribunal known to our laws. How is it possible? If a confederation of sovereign States acquire a new territory at the expense of their common blood and treasure, surely one set of the partners can have no right to exclude the other from its enjoyment, by prohibiting them from taking into it whatever is recognized to be property by the common Constitution. But when the people—the bona fide residents of such territory—proceed to frame a State Constitution, then it is their right to decide the important question for themselves, whether they will continue, modify or abolish slavery. To them, and to them alone, does this question belong, free from all foreign interference."

No President of the United States has ever given utterance to doctrines so monstrous as these. Recollect, it was the opinion of Henry Clay, Thomas H. Benton, Daniel Webster, Gen. Cass, Mr. Douglass, and the most distinguished leaders of the Whig and Democratic parties, that the Constitution of the United States does not carry Slavery with it into Federal Territory—that Slavery having been legally abolished in Mexico, the law of Freedom continued to exist in all the territory we acquired from that Power—that slavery could exist in territory only by positive law—that the Territorial Legislature might exclude or allow it, at its discretion. This opinion prevailed throughout the Democratic party in the Free States, so that when the Kansas-Nebraska act was passed, leaving the question of Slavery to be settled by the people of the territories for themselves, it was claimed by that party as embodying a policy which would finally result in the freedom of all the Territories for leave it to the people, said they, and will not the free States always command a majority of the settlers? Mr. Buchanan was understood to coincide in opinion with those distinguished men. No one dreamed that he was a Propagandist, in doctrine or policy.

All that his Southern friends claimed for him was, that he was perfectly conservative in relation to Southern institutions—pledged to the policy initiated by General Pierce in regard to Kansas—committed to the re-union and support of the so-called Legislature of Kansas. Now, examine and analyze the paragraph above quoted:

The Constitution recognizes and treats slaves as property.

The Constitution, by its own force, carries Slavery into United States Territories, and regards slaves therein as property.

Slavery existed in Kansas, under the Constitution of the United States, when the Kansas-Nebraska act was passed.

Neither the people of a Territory, nor its Legislature, so long as it remains a territory, has the right to interdict Slavery.

This point, or rather these points, have been fully settled by the highest tribunal known to our laws."

From all this it follows, in Mr. Buchanan's opinion, the Mexican law prohibiting Slavery in New Mexico and Utah was annulled by the Constitution of the United States, which re-established Slavery therein; that all the acts hitherto passed by Congress, prohibiting Slavery in certain portions of the United States Territory were always null and void; that to-day the law of Slavery exists in Oregon, Washington, Utah, New Mexico, Nebraska and Kansas, and that it is not competent for the people or Legislature of any of them to abrogate this constitutional law, until the moment arrives for the organization of the Territory into a State!

And then, with a boldness almost unexampled, Mr. Buchanan remarks, "How it could ever have been seriously doubted, is a mystery."

When such men as Clay, Webster, Benton, Cass and Douglass, insisted that slavery could exist only by positive law, and that the Constitution did not carry slavery with it into United States territory, we think the mystery is, that James Buchanan should now intimate for the first time, that he did not then agree with them—What are we to believe that, while he was in Washington, laboring to secure the extension of the Missouri Compromise line to the Pacific? He believed that slavery existed by and under the Constitution in all United States Territory, and that Congress had no authority to run such a line? Did he then deliberately seek to pervert a constitutional right by act of Congress? If he held that slavery exists in all the territories of the United States under, and in virtue of the Constitution, and that therefore neither Congress, nor the people, nor Legislature of a territory can prohibit it, then, why did he not proclaim the opinion in his letter accepting the Cincinnati nomination? He knew the great body of his supporters at the North held no such opinion, and did not dream that he entertained it. Why suffer them to vote in the dark, especially when he could hardly doubt that a full disclosure of his own views on these points would have alienated thousands of voters who gave him their support, supporting him to hold the doctrine of Southern Sovereignty, prevalent among Northern and Western Democrats?

Tons, this seems the darkest chapter in

THE ISSUE.

WILMOT ON THE PUBLIC WORKS.

Is there in our present State canvas any real living issue? Is any great principle involved, whose fate will be decided or influenced by the event? Will any leading interests of the Commonwealth be affected by the triumph of either party?

It is a strange peculiarity of the "Democratic" journals and orators that they continually strive to persuade the people that there is no such an issue. Their effort is to enroll in their ranks as many votes as possible, and thinks to make every election a mere question of party success, apart from the measures of government involved.

And we may notice that whenever they have succeeded in burying all issues, their party strength has given them victory; while, when they were defeated, it has been because the great principles endangered, have engrossed the popular mind, and broken the power of allegiance to the party name. It is not surprising that the slave driving newspapers, and their side-kicks are endeavoring to keep every question of principle out of sight in the present State canvas, and resolve it into a conflict of party discipline.

The issue in the State election this year is simply this. Is Pennsylvania a Free or a Slave State? The "Democratic" party has set forth a new interpretation of the Constitution, carrying the right of property in slaves wherever it extends. As it is the practice, so it establishes slavery there, it establishes it here also. If the Constitution recognizes man as property in one square mile of the Union it does so everywhere. The "Democratic" party affirms both propositions. The Committee on this subject in our legislature last winter reported that slaves might be brought into our State, and held here by Constitutional right, anything in our Constitution or laws to the contrary notwithstanding. On the other hand, the Republican party denies that the national constitution acknowledges slavery, affirms that it is an institution not of the Nation but of the several States in which it exists, and claims that Pennsylvania has the same right to exclude and prohibit, that South Carolina exercises to institute and uphold it. Here then is the true issue, brought to our very doors.

If we elect a "Democratic" Governor, we have an executive pledged to support and uphold slavery in Pennsylvania; if we elect a Republican Governor, we have an executive pledged to resist its aggressions, and execute our own laws fearlessly.

If we elect "Democratic" judges to the Supreme Bench, we will have our laws prohibiting slavery pronounced unconstitutional and void, and the blasting, withering institution interpreted into the State, against her time honored, God approved law, and the will of her people. If we elect Republican judges we will have the old and settled interpretation undisturbed, which gives frequent the right to pronounce their own soil free.

If we follow the recent Kansas measures of the administration, and the Dred Scott decision, with the rate of Pennsylvania endeavoring them, we invite slave drivers to bring their negroes back on our soil, and call their roll of chained varlets on the Brandywine Battle Ground, and over the graves of Valley Forge; if we meet them with an overwhelming rebuke at the Ballot box, we declare our determination not to submit to the encroachments of slavery on our sides and on these pilgrim shores of Liberty.

Bigler had assailed him because he had spoken largely of the question of slavery—instead of State policy. Bigler alleging this to be wrong as the question of slavery was settled by the Dred Scott decision. But his opponents had made this the entire subject of the speech. If it was right for Mr. Bigler it was certainly so for him."

JUDGE WILMOT ON THE TARIFF.

Among the many charges made against Mr. Wilmot by our political opponents, is that he is not sound on the Tariff question; and that he is opposed to Pennsylvania interests, so far as that question is concerned.

In reply to this charge, we will give an extract from Wilmot's Clarion speech, made on the evening of the 9th inst.

He would discuss the question of Slavery and the Tariff along with State issues. All great questions of State policy should be spoken of. His opponents should not take expectations to his views, nor has that party any right to arraign him on the Tariff question. They have followed the supply of specific. There was also a meeting of the Cashiers, and their action is not yet known. It is understood that application will be made to the Governor for the call of an extra session of the Legislature with the view of according relief to the Banks from the penalty of forfeiture imposed by the law of 1850. Several of the Banks, however, are not acting under this law, viz: The Pennsylvania, Farmers' and Mechanics' Banks.

Believing as he most conscientiously did believe, that the Constitution would not be violated in the least, by the adoption of the pending resolutions, he has entered his solemn protest against the solemn protests which had been made on the other side, and which went almost the length of implying that he and the advocates of these resolutions, were knowingly and of design in support of his position:

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Mr. Buchanan was at that time a Senator of the United States from Pennsylvania, and on the day of the passage of the resolution, he exulted in the consciousness of having done a good service to his constituents, and in the belief that he had done a good service to the country.

He was the true issue, the one great issue, free white men of Pennsylvania; look at it, see it like frenemy, like white men,

and speak in such a tone that the negro, master, slave driving black democracy of the South will never again ask you to endorse their aggression.

Maize and Vermont.

Maine sends greeting to her sister States the joyful tidings of an overwhelming Republican victory. She echoes back the notes of triumph in her glorious sister VERMONT. The Green Mountain State gives the Republicans over THIRTY-THOUSAND majority and the old Pine State responds to the tune of TWELVE THOUSAND for Freedom. Republicans of PENNSYLVANIA? If you would find the "Key-State" firmly on the side of Freedom, then come up to the polls by hundreds and thousands, let no man lag behind, and rally 'TEN THOUSAND' majority for the gallant WILMOT—the champion of FREE SOIL, FREE LABOR and FREE MEN.

It is certain if you do, that the law will be frequently determined to be free.—Eric Coates.

IMPORTANT PENNSY Decision.—The telegraph informs us of the following important opinion of the Attorney General.

The Secretary of the Interior recently submitted to the Attorney General the question whether the practice heretofore prevailing in the Post Office, of allowing the children of Revolutionary soldiers to receive the pensions which their deceased parents might have received, was according to law? The Attorney General to day rendered his opinion, declaring that the practice has no legal foundation, and that neither children nor grand-children have any right under the acts of Congress. The consequence of this will be to reverse a practice which the pension office has maintained for twenty-five years. The Attorney General gives the law, but declines to say whether the law should abolish the practice or the practice defeat the law, leaving that as an administrative question to the Secretary himself.

The Eric Atton Case.

CINCINNATI, Sept. 25.—In the case of the steamship *Erie Atton* vs. Rock Island Railroad Bridge, which has been on trial for three weeks, the Circuit Court Jury failed to agree and were discharged last night.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—External injuries, as well as external diseases, may be truly said to have lost half their terror since the introduction of Holloway's Ointment. The worst bruises, burns, and scalds, the severest flesh wounds, and the most dangerous fractures, are treated successfully with this Ointment in the hospitals of London and Paris. The first dressing subdues inflammation and relieves pain, and, these symptoms removed, the process of restoration is rapid almost beyond credibility. The Pills are the standard specific for diseases of the stomach, liver, and bowels throughout Europe and America.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 25.—A general conference of the Presidents of all the banks was held this afternoon, and after carefully canvassing all the circumstances of the pressure and their resources, a temporary suspension of specie payments on checks, and also bills, exceeding \$100 by all the banks of this city was resolved upon, to go into effect to-morrow.

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THE FALL IN THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

A cargo of wheat arrived at Buffalo last week, says the *Republican*, consigned to a house with instructions to sell it at \$1.15.

When it arrived all that was offered was \$1.10, the consignee telegraphed the owner to come down and sell it himself. On the day of his arrival it had gone to \$1.05; he offered at that figure and was offered \$1.05, but he thought he would look about before selling at that price, and when he went to make the trade it had fallen to 95¢; he waited till the next day, when he was offered 90¢ for it, and took it.

Dr. Tubbs will be at his rooms in

Bridgewater on Monday next.

LARGE BEET.—Francis Scott, Esq., of

Otio township, has shown us a beet raised

by him, which measures 13 inches in

circumference, and is 18 inches in length.

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CONSOLIDATION.—The Rock Islander,

heretofore published in part by H. C. Connelly, Esq., formerly of this place, and the

Argus of the same place, have been consolidated under the title of the "Rock Islander and Argus." The new firm is Connally, Shurley & Co. It is a large sheet and looks well.

Sept. 30, 1857.

LIST OF CAUSES.

For Trial at Special Court on 3d

day of October 1857.

R. C. Holmes vs Susan Cochran's Esq.

George K. Ritter vs John M. Crawford

M. S. Quail, Esq.

Sept. 30, 1857.

THE LIST OF BANKS DISCREDITED.

The following is a list of Banks which

are discreditied by the Brokers in Pitts-

burgh:

Bank of Hallowell, Hallowell, Maine.

Conton Bank, South China, Maine.

Edwards Bank, Matiné.

Exchange Bank, Bangor, Maine.

Exeter Bank, New Hampshire.

Damby Bank, Vermont.

South Royalton Bank, Vermont.

Bank of the Republic, Providence, R. I.

Bank of South County, Wakefield, Rhode Island.

Farmers' Bank, Wickford, Rhode Island.

Mount Vernon Bank, Providence, Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Central Bank, East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

Tiverton Bank, Pawtuxet, Rhode Island.

Wardwick Bank, Wardwick, Rhode Island.

Merchants Exchange Bank, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Bank of Orleans, Albany New York.

Clinton County Bank, Botscherville, N. Y.

Partners' Bank of Saratoga County, New York.

Hudson Bank, Buffalo, New York.

Hudson Bank, New Jersey.

Niagara River Bank, Tonawanda, New York.

Oliver Lee & Co's Bank, Buffalo, New York.

Ontario County Bank, Phelps, New York.

Ontario Bank, Utica New York.

Reciprocity Bank, Buffalo, New York.

Sackett's Harbor Bank, Buffalo, New York.

American Bank, Trenton, New Jersey.

Bank of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Bergen County Bank, Hackensack, New Jersey.

Catskill Bank, Patterson, New Jersey.

Union Bank, Frenchtown, New Jersey.

Partners' & Mechanics' Bank, Kent County, Maryland.

Farmers & Mechanics' Bank, Greensburg, Maryland.

Cumberland Saving Bank, Maryland.

Bank of Kanawha, Virginia.

Trans-Allegany Bank, Virginia.

Canal