

slavery shall be stricken from the constitution by the President of this convention; and it is expressly declared that "no slavery shall exist in the State of Kansas, except that the right of property in slaves now in the Territory shall in no manner be interfered with;" and in that event it is made his duty to have the constitution thus ratified, transmitted to the Congress of the United States for the admission of the State into the Union.

At this election every citizen will have an opportunity of expressing his opinion by his vote, whether Kansas shall be received into the Union with or without slavery; and thus the exciting question may be peacefully settled in the very mode required by the organic law. The election will be held under legitimate authority, and if any portion of the inhabitants shall refuse to vote, a fair opportunity to do so having been presented, they will be their own voluntary act, and they alone will be responsible for the consequences.

Whether Kansas shall be a free or a slave State must eventually, under some authority, be decided by an election; and the question can never be more clearly or distinctly presented to the people than at the present moment. Should this opportunity be rejected, she may be involved for years in domestic discord, and possibly in civil war, before she can again make up the issue row so fortunately tendered, and again reach the point she has already.

Kansas has for some years occupied too much of the public attention. It is high time this should be directed to far more important objects. When once admitted into the Union, whether with or without slavery, the excitement beyond her own limits will speedily pass away, and she will then for the first time be left, as she ought to have been long since, to manage her own affairs in her own way. If her constitution on the subject of slavery, or any other subject, be displeasing to a majority of the people, no human power can prevent them from changing it within a brief period. Under these circumstances, it may well be questioned whether the peace and quiet of the whole country are not of greater importance than the more temporary triumph of either of the political parties in Kansas.

Should the constitution without slavery be adopted by the votes of the majority, the rights of property in slaves now in the Territory are reserved. The number of these is very small; but if it were greater the provision would be equally just and reasonable. These slaves were brought into the Territory under the constitution of the United States, and are now the property of their masters.

This point has at length been finally decided by the highest judicial tribunal of the country—and this upon the plain principle that no man can acquire territory or sovereignty in the United States, and that no man can acquire territory or sovereignty in the United States, and that no man can acquire territory or sovereignty in the United States.

The convention to frame a constitution for Kansas met on the first Monday of September last. They were called together by virtue of an act of the territorial legislature, whose lawful existence had been recognized by Congress in different forms and by different enactments.

This convention proceeded to frame a constitution for Kansas, and finally adjourned on the 7th day of November. But little difficulty occurred in the convention, except on the subject of slavery. The truth is that the provisions of our recent State constitution are so excellent—that the difference between them is not essential. Under the earlier practice of the Government, no constitution framed by the convention of a Territory preparatory to its admission into the Union as a State had been submitted to the people. I trust, however, the example set by the last Congress, requiring that the Constitution of Minnesota "should be subject to the approval and ratification of the people of the proposed State," may be followed on future occasions.

I look for granted that the convention of Kansas will be in accordance with this example, founded, as it is, on correct principles; and hence my instructions to Gov. Walker in favor of submitting the constitution to the people, were expressed in general and unqualified terms.

In the Kansas-Nebraska act, however, this requirement, as applicable to the whole constitution, had not been inserted, and the convention were not bound by its terms to submit any other portion of the instrument to the election, in which the question of a "domestic institution" of slavery. This will be rendered clear by a simple reference to its language. It was "not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way."

According to the plain construction of the sentence, the words "domestic institutions" have a direct as they have an appropriate reference to slavery. Domestic institutions, in relation to the Territory, are those which relate to the relation between master and slave, and a few others are "domestic institutions," and are entirely distinct from institutions of a political character. Besides, there was no question then before Congress, nor indeed has there been since any serious question before the people of Kansas or the country, except that which relates to the "domestic institution" of slavery.

The convention, after an angry and excited debate, finally determined, by a majority of only two, to submit the question of slavery to the people, though at the last, forty-three of the fifty delegates present affixed their signatures to the constitution.

A large majority of the convention were in favor of establishing slavery in Kansas. They accordingly inserted an article in the Constitution for this purpose similar in form to those which had been adopted by other territorial Conventions. In the schedule, however, providing for the transition from a territory to a State government, the question has been fairly and explicitly referred to the people, whether they will have a constitution "with or without slavery." It declares that, before the constitution adopted by the convention "shall be sent to Congress for admission into the Union as a State," an election shall be held to decide this question, at which all the white male inhabitants of the Territory above the age of 21 are entitled to vote. They are to vote by ballot; and, if only two, to submit the question of slavery to the people, though at the last, forty-three of the fifty delegates present affixed their signatures to the constitution.

It is a great portion of this may be the feeling; but yet no man can acquire territory or sovereignty in the United States, and that no man can acquire territory or sovereignty in the United States, and that no man can acquire territory or sovereignty in the United States.

Our system for the disposal of the public lands originated with the fathers of the republic, has been improved as the progress of the country has advanced, and its growth and settlement of our western States and Territories. It has worked well in practice. Already thirteen millions of acres have been sold, and the proceeds have amounted to over a hundred millions of dollars. It is a source of revenue to the Government, and it is a source of revenue to the people.

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Actual settlers under existing laws are protected against other purchasers at the public sales, in their right of pre-emption, to the extent of a quarter section, or 100 acres. The remainder may then be disposed of at public or entered at private sale in unlimited quantities.

Speculation has, of late years, prevailed to a great extent in the public lands. It is a source of revenue to the Government, and it is a source of revenue to the people. It is a source of revenue to the Government, and it is a source of revenue to the people.

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SHERIFF'S SALES.—By virtue of Sheriff's writs of test, vend. exp. lra. facias, & f. fa. to me directed, I will expose to public sale on outcry, at the Court House, in the borough of Huntingdon, on Monday, the 11th day of December, 1857, at 10 o'clock, a. m., the following described real estate, to wit:

All defendant's right and interest in and to the following described tract of land situated in the township of Green, Huntingdon county, on the north by lands of Peter Shoenberger, dec'd, on the east and south by lands of Jacob Russell, on the west by lands of Lewis Krugger, and Peter Trier, containing 41 acres, more or less, having thereon a large two-story stone house, frame station and other buildings and improvements, about 20 acres of cleared land, and a valuable iron ore bank which has been opened and worked. Seized and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of William Fisher.

Also—all the right, title and interest of defendant, of, in and to the undivided one-fourth part of a certain tract of coal land, situated in the township of Huntingdon county, adjoining the Heuck coal tract and other lands, containing in the whole 400 acres, more or less, the same being that part and interest in said tract heretofore described by George W. Spear, to the deft. Seized and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of the Cassville Seminary.

Also—all that certain messuage and tract of land, situated in Barrow township, on the east branch of Stone Creek, bounded and described as follows, viz: beginning at a sugar tree; thence north by land of Thomas Kyles, heirs south forty degrees east, two hundred and thirteen perches to a black oak; thence north fifty degrees east, forty-eight perches to a black oak; thence north fifty degrees east, thirty-two perches to a post; thence west by land of John H. B. Leas, on the west by Isaac Sharrer, and the Aughwick creek on the north and east. Also, a two acre lot of ground, bounded and described as follows, viz: beginning at the corner lot of ground 60 feet front, extending back 140 feet to an alley or street having thereon erected a large two-story brick store, and a young apple orchard. Seized and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of James G. Lightner.

Also—two lots of ground in the borough of Shirelyburg, fronting on Main street 160 feet and extending back 100 feet, more or less, having thereon erected a large two and a half story brick house 48 feet front and extending back 35 feet, with building back 17 by 28, wood sheds and iron house, and a large lot of ground, containing a corner lot of ground 60 feet front, extending back 140 feet to an alley or street having thereon erected a large two-story brick store, and a young apple orchard. Seized and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of John Lutz on the north, and back street on the east, cleared and under fence.

Also—about 25 acres of land, more or less, situated in Shirely township, and adjoining lands of F. Praker's heirs on the north and east, and the heirs of John H. B. Leas on the west, and back street on the north, and back street on the east, cleared and under fence.

Also—about 25 acres of land, more or less, situated in Shirely township, and adjoining lands of F. Praker's heirs on the north and east, and the heirs of John H. B. Leas on the west, and back street on the north, and back street on the east, cleared and under fence.

Also—all that certain plantation tract, piece or parcel of land situated in Shirely township, Huntingdon county, containing 170 acres, more or less, having thereon erected a frame bank 35 by 45 with corn crib and wagon shed, and a young apple orchard. Seized and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of James G. Lightner.

Also—all that certain plantation tract, piece or parcel of land situated in Shirely township, Huntingdon county, containing 170 acres, more or less, having thereon erected a frame bank 35 by 45 with corn crib and wagon shed, and a young apple orchard. Seized and taken in execution and to be sold as the property of James G. Lightner.

Also—a tract of land situated in Porter township, Huntingdon county, bounded by lands of Gen. A. P. Wilson on the east, John S. East and William D. Gold's heirs on the north, and the heirs of John H. B. Leas on the west, and of Thomas Whitaker, Geo. Lamp and estate of John McChas. deceased, and other lands of defendant on the south, containing about 100 acres, more or less, and a half story high, and under fence.

Also—a tract of land in same township of Porter, adjoining the lands of the heirs of William D. Robb, dec'd, and other lands of defendant on the north, and the heirs of John H. B. Leas on the south, and the heirs of John H. B. Leas on the west, and of Thomas Whitaker on the south, containing about 100 acres, more or less, and a half story high, and under fence.

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