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From the Philadelphia Daily Register.

Prohibitory Liquor Laws—The Right of Search and Seizure.

The enemies of prohibition have been highly elated for a few days past, by the reports of the decision of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, adverse to the constitutionality of the prohibitory law of that State. In Boston, the friends of the rum traffic burn an enormous quantity of powder, and fired three hundred and sixty-guns in honor of the decision. As the telegraph wires carried imperfect intelligence of the event to all parts of the country, bar-rooms rang with the shouts of toper and trafficker. Not a large beer saloon, or by-way, underground grog shop in this city, has remained ignorant of the report that the Maine Law was broken down in Massachusetts, and the decision has been "affirmed" with all due gravity, by the knights of the toddy stick and the trembling veterans of King Alcohol's bench. Men who have gravely contended for the "constitutional rights" to sell poison and get drunk, exclaim with ecstasy, "I told you it would be so."

But these rejoicings, firing of guns, treating of topers, and resolving to have "free trade," have all been premature. The powder and the extra "treats" are all wasted—gone for naught. The constitutional scruples of men who oppose the right of search and seizure, have received no confirmation from the Supreme Court of the old Bay State. The decision is not against the law—it is not against the right of search, nor against the right of seizure, confiscation, and destruction. These parts of the law are strengthened by the decision. They are virtually pronounced valid, and such as any community may pass for its protection. Justice Shaw says:

"The court does not doubt the competency of the legislature to declare the possession of certain articles to be unlawful, and to provide by due process of law for the abatement of the nuisance and the punishment of the offender. The court comes to the conclusion that the system of seizures authorized by the statute, are so far inconsistent with the principles of justice, and the established maxims of jurisprudence intended for the security of public and private rights, and so repugnant to the provisions of the bill of rights and constitution of this Commonwealth, that it was not within the power of the legislature to give them effect in law, and that therefore the law is unconstitutional and void."

In support of this decision the following reasons are given:

"1. The measure directed by the 11th section of this act is a violation of the 4th article of the bill of rights. That article declares that every subject has a right to be secured from all unreasonable searches and seizures of his person, his houses, his papers, and all his possessions. All warrants, therefore, are contrary to this right, if the foundation of them be not previously supported by oath or affirmation, &c. That the foundation of the warrants is not supported, is shown by

1. Because the act does not require the three persons, who are to make complaint to state that they have reason to believe, and do believe, that intoxicating liquors are kept or deposited and intended for sale by any person named; nor does it require the magistrate to state in his warrant to the searching officer, the name of any person believed to be the owner or keeper of such liquors, nor the name of any person having the custody or possession thereof, or of any person having the intention to sell the same."

2. It does not limit the officer's authority an right of seizure, to the articles described by quantity, quality, or marks; nor does it even restrict the officer's power of seizure to liquors kept and intended to be sold; although it is the avowed purpose of the act to make the keeping of such liquors unlawful, and subject them to forfeiture."

3. Again, if the three persons state that is the belief that any spirituous liquors are kept or deposited and intended for sale, &c., in any store, shop, or warehouse, or in any steamboat or other vessel, or in any vehicle, or in any building or place, &c., then the warrant shall issue, and then the sheriff or constable shall proceed to search the premises—that is, the store, vessel, or place described, and if any spirituous liquors are found therein, he shall seize the same. Under this provision, it is believed liquors might be seized which were not designed for sale, were held legally, or designed for export to foreign countries.

The gist of the whole decision is, that the proceedings before the search and seizure, are not in accordance with the bill of rights respecting the exemption from unreasonable searches. The oaths, and the descriptions of articles to be searched for, are not sufficiently guarded and limited—not unique enough in their designation of articles to be seized. The whole decision "hath this extent, no more." As we have before intimated, the principle of the prohibitory law is affirmed, settled, made secure in Massachusetts. It may have rendered it more difficult to get an exact form of warrant and correct mode of search; but it can be done, and will be done. The Hon. Rods Cheote, an authority fully as good as Justice Shaw himself, long ago gave his opinion that the law is perfectly constitutional as it now is. So think

many of the best lawyers of New England. We think the Judges were quite as nice as wise. Liquor kept in grog shops, in all sorts of vessels, is not easily described. The poison takes every shape, "monstrous and vast," and lurks in vessels of all kinds, colors, and sizes, from a tumbler to a pint jug or lather cup. But Yankee ingenuity is as "cute" in law as in whittling, and will frame an act that will do the work, even more effectively than it has ever been done.

It would have been singular indeed if Judges of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts had decided against the seizure and confiscation of rum, thereby making alcoholic poison the only article in the world sacred from such a process. Not a State in the Union exists without similar laws, confiscating articles under certain circumstances. Rhode Island confiscates a fisherman's boat, seine, and all apparatus, if he be a citizen of Massachusetts found fishing in the Seckouk river, that divides the two States for some distance. Those confiscated articles can be sold or destroyed, at the option of the authorities. In the same State the article salaratus, mixed with chalk, for the purpose of cheat, is confiscated and destroyed. In Massachusetts, and we think, all New England, a pedlar must have license in order to sell certain kinds of goods, and if he violates the law, his goods, horse, wagon, and all, are confiscated.

In New-York, if liquor be sold to any of the Seneca Indians, and a gun or other article pawned, the article is forfeited and the pawnee has it to pay for, with a fine besides. And, above all, the laws of the United States long since sanctioned the seizure and destruction of liquor when it was kept for the purpose of selling to certain Indian tribes; and that law has repeatedly been executed.

The general government recognizes the same principle in numerous instances, and always has, from the foundation of the government. The right to search for and seize counterfeiters' tools and machinery, and gambling instruments, has never been disputed in any State, unless where gamblers and counterfeiters are the majority of society. With what consistency, then, would a court pronounce this liquor confiscation, or search and seizure, unconstitutional?

This writer expresses himself as unused to newspaper composition, but desires earnestly that this small tribute from him, in opposition to the accomplishment of the infamous Nebraska outrage, may be extensively read by our interior citizens.

The name of the writer is with me, and though he is personally unknown to me, yet I am assured, not only by his name, (a name of which the old Dominion has some reason to be proud,) but also by the high standing of the gentleman who introduces him to me, that his opinions are worthy of great regard.

But, having been for more than twenty-five years thoroughly conversant with the movements of the enemies of Slavery in the North, I, of course, cannot assent to his charges against them; neither do I find in that series of outrages, called the compromises of 1850, any cause of rejoicing on the part of the friends of universal Freedom.

The gentleman should know, and he would know, if he lived here, that the old stories that the people of the North who, now or in past times, have been opposed to Slavery, have sent emissaries to the South, to stir up the slaves to insurrection, are completely exploded, and no one who pretends to any intelligence will attempt to reiterate them.

The writer it seems is no abolitionist; he is, however, wide awake to the great evil of the extension of Slavery, and I trust his faithful warning may not be lost upon our citizens, but that we may, indeed, be aroused ere it is too late, to utter our indignant protest against this most high-handed outrage upon our rights as freemen, and upon that solemn agreement, entered into by our predecessors, not to suffer this institution, at war alike with the justice of Heaven and the laws of Nature, to extend itself farther North than it then existed.

Yours truly, J. G.

To the Citizens of Pennsylvania:

The following lines are penned by a man of Southern birth, whose interests whether of property or family are entirely Southern. He is conscious that he differs from the general sentiment here which inclines to accept a demand now offered by Northern Politicians; but he is deeply impressed with the danger to all sections, and particularly to the South which will follow the disturbing of questions formerly settled and desires to give utterance to his sentiments, however feebly, in opposition to the extension of Slavery beyond its present limits.

When, after the Mexican treaty was ratified by the President and Senate of the United States, a vast territory was acquired in the West, the momentous question was forced upon the Country for adjustment, whether it should be allowed to carry slaves and hold them there. The difficulty of a settlement was increased by the course which had been pursued systematically by many citizens in the North and West, for a number of years, under the influence of a mistaken zeal. They flooded the tables of Congress with memorials calling upon them to pass measures which they had no constitutional authority to do and which the Southern people deemed offensive and even dangerous to them.

They used the Post Offices, they paid

expressions of discontent among our slave population—they violently op-

posed the master who pursued the "per-

sons held to service or labor" and forced

them to their delivery to "the par-

ty to whom such service or labor may

be due." The southern mind was ex-

asperated—the dissolution of the Union seemed at hand. But strong minds and patriotic hearts lent their powerful aid,

and in the session of 1840—1850, a se-

ries of important measures, commonly called the Compromise, was passed.—The principal were these:

California in her entire length and breadth was admitted as one State with a constitution forbidding slavery.

Sale of slaves forbidden in the District of Columbia, except by citizens thereof who are the owners.

Fugitive slave law passed.

Territory boundary adjusted.

The extensive wild country acquired from Mexico to be organized into Territorial Governments; and when possessed of sufficient population, to be admitted as States with or without slavery into the Union as their constitution THEN framed might provide.

It was and is now extensively believed that slavery having been prohibited in that country by Mexico, it would so pass into the possession of the United States, and continue subject to the same, unless the said conditions were changed by Congress; and accordingly several attempts were made to induce Congress to interfere. Some proposed to extend the line of the Missouri Compromise act of 1820, viz: 39 deg. 30 min. of north latitude, westward to the Pacific; others, to declare that the land was acquired by common efforts and treasure, and all citizens had equal rights to remove there with their property, but all such propositions were voted down. Northern members could not then be induced to yield anything by which they would sanction the introduction of slavery there. But southern pride then unusually sensitive, was also sayed the humiliation of the Wilmot Proviso. The utmost that Congress would do was, when Mr. Soule's motion to allow, that at the time for applying for admission into the Union a constitution should be presented, allowing slavery, such State should not notwithstanding be admitted.

The nation having passed through a perilous agitation, accepted these measures as a settlement, and hoped for a return of peace and harmony, when we are astonished by a proposition to abrogate the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and admit slavery into Nebraska north of 36 deg. 30 min.—and by the announcement that it has the support of the President and his administration.

The refusal of Congress, in 1850, to change the status of the country acquired from Mexico, was a great point gained for the non-slaveholding portion of our Union. Few slaveholders will carry slaves there, and settle plantations with such uncertainty of being able to hold them, and the country will be filled up by the hardy population of the North and by European emigrants friendly to the equal rights of mankind. California was a sufficient proof of this. Should the peopling of these countries be effected under the circumstances now supposed, it requires no prophet to foretell that in the constitutions they would present to Congress slavery would find no favor.

Let no one blind you by deceitful declarations that this is a question of no practical importance, for that slaves will not be carried into Nebraska and Kansas—it is too far north—the products are not profitable enough. Believe them not. Nebraska and Kansas lie just west of Missouri, and that new State has already one hundred thousand slaves. Look at the fertile belt of country, nearly in the same latitude eastward to the Atlantic. It contains Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and Maryland—a region where slave labor in the fertile portions is found profitable, and from the poorer portions of which thousands of slaves are annually sent to people other regions, but alast without diminishing the number of our black population.

Pennsylvanians be aroused. A daring effort is now making to force through Congress a measure new to the country before the people have had time to examine and condemn it. Assemble in your counties, in your towns and villages, without distinction of party, and let your representatives in Congress be without the excuse that they were ignorant of the public sentiment. Warn them that you cannot be deceived and will not be betrayed.

A Lover of the Union,  
Prince William County, Virginia, March 1.

\* Expressions in the Constitution of the United States.

Preparations for War.

The preparations for war are unceasing, but call for no special detail. The workmen labor in the navy yards night and day, and each ship as fitted hastens to join the rendezvous at Spithead. The crews of the fleet are daily practiced in gunnery and naval maneuvers. No day is appointed for the sailing of the fleet for the Baltic. The Queen will review the fleet ere its departure.

In the land service all is activity. Vol-

untary enlistment keeps the ranks full,

and Government is, on its part, doing all that

can be done for the good of the men.

An extra supply of under-clthing is

provided, provisions of the best quality,

medical and surgical attendance of the best that has ever been sent into the field—spiritual consolation for the different services is provided—and last, not least, as an Englishman is caught without his beer, a contract has been entered into to supply the camp in Turkey with the best quality of Porter at three pence per quart—half price. Beyond this parental Government could not go.—Cor. Trib.

gentry planned a scheme to entrap Glover. They got hold of a miserable colored man, named Turner, liquored him up, supplied him with liquor and cards and sent him up to get Glover drunk, and be on hand to open the door when they came at night to take him.

Turner did as requested, got Glover into the house of a colored neighbor; but Glover drank sparingly. About 8 o'clock in the evening, Deputy Carney, and Holon, of Racine, the slave-catcher and his master, Marshal Cotton, of this city, knocked at the door. The owner said,

"Don't let us open the door till we know who they are." But Turner, the master, according to promise, rose and opened the door, and they all rushed in, and Deputy Carney, with a strong club, struck Glover on his head, as he was sitting in his chair, and felled him to the floor.

This was the first service or process made by deputy Marshal Carney, under United States authority. This club, covered with blood, and hair from Glover's head, is in possession of the friends of freedom, at Racine, and will be a swift witness against the kidnappers.

As soon as this event was known at Racine, the bells were rung, and great excitement ensued. Parties started off in pursuit, and were put all night, searching in different directions. When it was telegraphed to Racine that Glover had been lodged in jail, a large meeting of the citizens appointed one hundred delegates to proceed by steam boat to Milwaukee with the Sheriff and a warrant for the arrest of Gardner and his assistants for the assault on Glover.

When the Racine delegates arrived at Milwaukee, a body of 5000 men were in council, and great excitement prevailed. The Democrat says, "the heart and voice of the multitude were as the heart and voice of one man."

The Free Democrat says:

"As we were leaving, a rush was made for the jail. A man quickly kicked in the outer door. Pickax's broke through the wall by the side of the guard door, lined with iron and strongly bolted, the castings were removed, and the door taken out—the cell door was soon opened, and in about fifteen minutes the prisoner was brought out amid great cheering, placed in a two horse buggy, and taken to Walker's Point bridge in double quick time—the crowds in the streets from the Court House to the bridge cheering him. At the bridge, Glover left this buggy and took another, and soon disappeared."

A Battle in the Dark!

On the 17th of February a conflict took place by mistake between two columns of the Russian army. The Turkish positions are extended in an easterly direction as far as the village of Cuipercon, which is about a mile distant from Kalafat. For several days the Turkish corps, 4,000 strong, under the command of Col. Miroit, had been posted in front of this village and in the direction of the Russian outposts. On this corps the Russians determined to make an onslaught during the night of the 18th.

For this purpose two Russian columns were brought up, each from 4,000 to 5,000 strong, one by the road which leads to Kalafat from about the village of Seiberzi, and the other from the left side of it from about Poisna, (Prince Milosch's property,) to advance unexpectedly upon the Turks, to surprise, inclose them, and cut them to pieces. The Russian column commenced their march at 3 o'clock in the morning, and by 4 o'clock reached a position from whence they were only half an hour's march from the Turkish pickets.

The second column seems either to have missed the direction by mistaking the road, or to have come up long after its time. Be this as it may, the latter column, in the obscurity of a foggy night, concluded the former one to be a body of hostile Turks, and instantly opened upon them a terrific cannonade, which the others, who labored under the same mistake, returned with yet more deadly effect. Pressing toward each other, it came ere long to a close fire of small arms. This ill-omened combat lasted for an hour and a half until, when day dawned, the combatants saw with horror the error they had committed. The loss in killed and wounded in the course of this night's encounter is reckoned by the Russians themselves, at several hundreds. The Turks were naturally alarmed at every point; and at Widdin, which is but a league and a half distant, Omer Pasha, on hearing the cannonade, took all the requisite measures for defense. The Turkish corps stationed at Cuipercon stood to arms in a readiness for action at any moment, but did not advance, as it was at a loss to imagine or comprehend what the Russians were about, murdering one another in that style. It was not till between 7 and 8 A.M. that the Russian column withdrew to their respective positions, carrying their wounded along with them.

From Asia we are quite destitute of advices.—N. Y. Tribune.

The increase of the price of newspapers beginning to be agitated all over the country.