

IS PENNSYLVANIA A FREE STATE?

We understand there are persons, (men they cannot be,) even in Coudersport, who rejoice that Passmore Williamson is confined in Moyamensing jail. Such being the humiliating fact, we feel that it is necessary to discuss that subject more fully than we have as yet done. The facts of that case are briefly these:

Mr. J. H. Wheeler of North Carolina, with three slaves, stopped at Philadelphia, and while there, Passmore Williamson informed them that under the laws of Pennsylvania, they were free, and accordingly the slaves, a mother and two children, took the liberty of practically asserting the doctrine of "personal rights" by leaving the steamer for a more retired locality. Wheeler commenced a suit before Judge Kane. It was not shown that Passmore Williamson had violated any law, assisted in the abduction of slaves, or otherwise laid himself liable to arrest; but the Union was in danger, and Judge Kane determined to save it by wreaking vengeance on Mr. Williamson. So, in default of any law or precedent, Judge Kane decided that Williamson had committed a contempt of the court, because he refused to produce persons there who were free to go where they pleased.

It is now well settled, that as soon as a slave is brought to a free State with the consent of the master, that moment he becomes free. This has been the decision of the courts in every instance that has occurred since the adoption of the Constitution.

The first case of importance involving this principle, that we are familiar with, was the Watson case, decided at Cincinnati in 1845. In this case Judge Reed issued a writ of habeas corpus to one Hoppess, commanding him to produce the man Watson, and show by what authority he restrained him of his liberty. After hearing the evidence, Judge Reed decided *inter alia*, that:

"If a master bring his slave into the State of Ohio, he loses all power over him. The relation of master and slave is strictly territorial. If the master take his slave beyond the influence of the law which creates the relation, it falls—there is nothing to support it, and they stand as man to man. The slave is free by the laws of the State to which he has been brought by the master, and there is no law authorizing the master to force him back to the State which recognizes and enforces the relation of master and slave. At one time I was of opinion he had the right of passage through a free State with his slave. This probably would harmonize with the spirit of the Compromise upon this subject. But upon more careful examination, I am satisfied the master must lose his slave, if he brings him into a free State, unless the slave voluntarily returns to a state of slavery; because the master loses all power over the slave by the law of the State to which he has brought him; and there is no other law authorizing him to re-enslave him. The Constitution of the United States only recognizes the right of recapture of a fugitive held to service in one State escaping into another. The person owing such service must escape from the State where such service is owed, into another State."

"Hence, if Mr. Hoppess brought his slave into the State of Ohio, or permitted him to come here, he has no authority to detain him in custody, or to remove him from the State."

This principle was reaffirmed in the Lemmon case at New York, and in the Dennison case at Cincinnati; and no court in any State has decided to the contrary—so we may conclude it is well settled. Now, Mr. J. H. Wheeler brought his alleged slaves to Philadelphia, and therefore he had no authority to detain them, or to remove them from the State. The slaves were ignorant of the law and of their rights; they sent to Mr. Williamson for advice, and he told them that they were free according to our laws. He told them the truth. He did his duty. He would not deserve to be free himself, if, under the circumstances, he had withheld this information from this poor, ignorant mother and her children; and yet, for telling the simple truth to this woman, he is confined in jail in Philadelphia. Wherefore we ask "is this a free State?"

Will our citizens submit to such despotic outrages upon their rights? We rejoice to know they will not. Even in cotton-bound Philadelphia this outrage is producing a healthy agitation which will soon overwhelm Judge Kane and all his sympathizers in disgrace. Passmore Williamson cannot be immured in any jail in this State very long, for simply telling a slave woman what the Judges have published to the world. If there is not revolutionary blood enough left in Philadelphia to liberate him, the rural districts will undertake the work in due time.

Very fine weather!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE

Every day's experience convinces us more thoroughly of the wisdom of this advice. We sometimes since gave a few reasons which suggested themselves to our mind in support of the proposition. We give in this paper a very interesting letter from Miss Mary E. Hamilton, now in Nebraska, which will make this impression on the intelligent reader. But the *Olean Journal* of the 10th instant has an unanswerable article on this subject, from which we extract the following:

If a man has a good farm in any of the counties of Western New York or Pennsylvania, the inducements for him to "go west" are of a delusive and intangible character. Many parts of the West are undoubtedly equal to the representations we see and hear made of them; but we cannot but regard it in a general way as a bargain in which you get splendid lands very cheap, and fevers and cholera thrown in, gratis. There are a few considerations to which we desire to invite the attention of those who are so sick of this country—many of whom have become wealthy and prosperous within its borders—and who are now so anxious to leave their smiling homes for the toils and privations of a new country.

1. Anxious as many hereabouts are to sell out, they can go to no part of the West without finding a vastly greater number in proportion to the population, who are still more anxious to dispose of their farms and get still nearer "sundown." Go into any county in the West, which has been settled from three to ten years—even those which are most extravagantly praised—and you will find ten farmers nervously bent upon "selling out," to one so disposed in Cattaraugus. Men go to the West to select a home, and come back singing its praises, and all the while telling us how very many are "sick of the country," and ready to take the first offer, thus affording splendid opportunities to eastern buyers.

Why is this? If the West is such a Paradise such an *ultima thule* of prosperity and enjoyment—why are the people so uneasy and discontented?

2. A startling fact to be contemplated in this connection, is that almost every family of five to eight or more persons who remove to the West, lose some of their number before they become "acclimated." What in consideration of this fact, are all the inducements presented by a good soil for raising "boutiques" the ordinary field crops? You can raise corn as high as a man on horseback, and your barns may "burst with plenty"—but will these facts compensate you for the premature loss of a beloved child, parent, brother or sister? Let the reader refer to almost any family whom he knew in former years, who are now in the West, and he will see that this hint is well founded. And how frequently do we see the "legged remnants" of some poor family crawling back to their olden homes, which they left with buoyant spirits, and full of hope and confidence, ruined in fortune and health, and their hearts' fondest treasures sleeping in far distant graves! The parent who takes his family away from this region where they are blessed with health and educational advantages, commits a great moral wrong.

3. Another thing worthy of special notice is, that hundreds who went west years ago, and who have accumulated wealth while there, are returning and providing themselves pleasant healthy homes in New England and New York, in which to pass the evening of their lives. They do not regard it as the best country in the world to live in, very evidently. The common sense inference from this is, that those who are in good worldly circumstances here should stay here.

Mr. T. B. Tyler has followed the example of his patron, H. H. Dent, and resigned his office as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Academy. This is in keeping with the conduct of Dent and his followers, for more than a year past. It is the "rule or ruin" policy, the highest standard of conduct known to hunkerism.—Messrs. Dent and Tyler with their knot of uneasy politicians, failed to elect the candidates selected by them for Trustees, and so, not being able to rule the Board, they resolve to ruin the Academy. This is not the first time since we came to Coudersport, that the same class of men have acted in the same way. This is the third time, disappointed men have undertaken to break down our best institution of learning. They may succeed. What then! Will the people of this county believe that men engaged in such a work are good citizens? Will they give them their aid or support in their high-handed attempts to play the overseer over the county and its institutions.

The *Journal* and its friends have always given the Academy a steady and unwavering support, and this as well when we and our friends were defeated for Trustees, as when successful. We shall continue this line of conduct, and we appeal to the honest masses of the county, to rally to the support of the Coudersport Academy; for without this the common schools of the county cannot prosper. Mr. Bloomingdale, we regret to announce, leaves the Institution, doubtless to the satisfaction of Dent and his followers; but another person well qualified for the station, will be promptly secured by the Trustees.

Mr. E. D. Halbert, who had the misfortune to lose a leg by the bursting of a cannon at this place on the 4th of July last, has, we are happy to state, so far recovered as to be able to ride out. Yesterday morning was his first exercise of this kind, but we hope he will take a daily ride after this, until he has entirely recovered.

GOV. REEDER IS REMOVED.

Yes, freemen of the North, this infamy is consummated; this foul deed is done! Franklin Pierce, the President of the United States, has bowed low his head before a southern mob, and pledged his obedience and allegiance to dealers in men, slaveholding rioters, and law-defying ruffians! He has resisted the just appeals of the North, scoffed at the petitions of freemen, mocked the sacred forms of Justice and Liberty, prostrated himself before the altar of slavery, and become the servile tool of cut throats and villains!

Oh, that is a dark day of our nation; a day of shame and disgrace for America! Slavery is no longer sectional; it has become nationalized and is universal throughout our land. Slavery, indeed, rules our republic. What a humiliating spectacle we this day present to the world! We stand pledged, by our chief ruler, to recognize the propriety of riots, to protect the instigators of mobs, to deny the freedom of speech, to refuse the right of independent suffrage, to ignore the sanctity of the ballot box, and to obey the behests of slavery. Freemen of the North, have you no voice in this matter? Are you prepared to assume this degrading position? Will you have your necks unsensitively to the yoke which the South, aided and abetted by Franklin Pierce, would fain impose upon you? Have you become tired of being FREE? Are you willing to surrender the rights of FREE MEN? and are you ready to become the slaves of a hoard of petty tyrants? These questions must be practically answered, and that right soon.—Warren Ledger.

True enough, every word of it; but how are you answering it? The *Ledger* talks fair on this subject, but stultifies its testimony by supporting the nominee of a convention which laid on the table the following resolution which was offered by Mr. Chase of Montrose:

Resolved, That the taking possession of the polls at the election for the organization of Kansas, by large bodies of men from Missouri, for the purpose of overawing the bona fide residents of the Territory, was a gross infraction of the laws, and an outrage that calls for the severest reprobation of the American people, and we therefore most heartily endorse the course pursued by the Hon. A. H. Reeder in his patriotic efforts to enforce its laws and protect the rights of the people of Kansas from violence and usurpation.

We are surprised the *Ledger* should affect to doubt that the above resolution was offered to the Convention and laid on the table; for it appeared in the *Bradford Reporter*, a democratic paper, as a part of the proceedings of the Convention. If the *Ledger* really desires information on this point, why not ask the editor of the *Montrose Democrat*, who offered the resolution, instead of the mere tool of a creature who has not a single sympathy for freedom.

The Convention was the ally of slavery. It endorsed President Pierce and thereby placed the party on the side of the Missouri mob. No man can vote for Arnold Plummer without becoming a party to the outrage committed on A. H. Reeder and the rights of freemen.

LOCAL NEWS.

We have long desired to make the *Journal* more interesting as a county paper. To do this we need the assistance of some friend in each township, who will undertake to communicate with us regularly every two weeks, and who will report whatever occurs in his township of any interest, embracing accidents, deaths, marriages, and more particularly such information as relates to the business of Farming.

Our financial condition will not permit us to pay very liberally for this service; but we make an offer to furnish the *Journal* to one person in each township who will render this service for the readers of our paper, and we will pay all necessary postage.

Any person who will undertake this work, may send us a letter as soon after reading this article as he may choose. Don't wait till you can write a long letter. No matter how short it is, so it reports an item of news, or an event of interest to the public. Now then, friends of the *Journal* and of a home newspaper, shall we hear from you?

A Truth Worth Knowing.

The late election in Kentucky was attended with terrible riots. The *N. Y. Evening Post* accounts for these outbreaks as follows:

Outbreaks and outrages are not unusual at times of election, especially in the south and southwest, where popular passions are less under the control of law; but the use of firearms, the parading of cannon in the streets and the firing of houses are unusual. The cause of it is to be sought for in the intense personal hatred given to political controversy by the rabid appeals of Know-Nothing orators.—While politics is a question of principle, there is very little room for these violent exhibitions, but when it is made a question of mere national prejudice, the most dangerous conflicts become inevitable.

There is doubtless much truth in the above. We have had in this place for a year back some experience on this subject. Mr. Dent and his followers conducted the last campaign entirely on "personal hatred" and no "question of principle" is ever introduced into the discussion of politics by his organ. The result has been most unfortunate for the harmony of our village, and is well described by the *Post* in the above paragraph.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

The citizens of Pennsylvania, without regard to former party distinctions, who are willing to unite in a new organization to resist the further spread of Slavery and the increase of the Slave power, are requested to meet in Mass Convention at Pittsburg, on Wednesday, the 5th day of September, 1855, at 11 o'clock, A. M., to organize a REPUBLICAN party in this State, which shall give expression to the popular will on the subjects involved in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and co-operate with other organizations of a similar character in other States.

GEORGE DARRIE, Alleghany Co., JOHN W. HOWE, Crawford Co., JOHN S. MANN, Potter Co., JOHN ALLISON, Beaver Co., JOHN M. KENNEDY, Philadelphia Co., WM. B. THOMAS, " JOSEPH MARBLE, Westmoreland Co., BENJAMIN FRICK, Northumberland Co., MARTIN BELL, Blair Co., H. H. FRAZIER, Susquehanna Co., H. H. CORN, Tioga Co., THADDEUS STEVENS, Lancaster Co., ALEX. K. McCLURE, Franklin Co., ALFRED MATTHIAS, Indiana Co., T. H. MADDOCK, Delaware Co.

Arrangements are making to secure the attendance from abroad of eminent speakers whose names will be duly announced.

Above we publish the call for a Republican State Convention. The work goes bravely on, and we feel more encouraged than ever before, at the prospects for a speedy triumph of our cause. As this has long been the banner county in the State, we presume arrangements will be promptly made for carrying the Republican banner in triumph through the coming campaign in little Potter.

The Williamsport and Elmira railroad is opening a new trade between Southern New York and Philadelphia. Elmira, on the Erie railroad, has a population of 10,107, by a census just taken. The *Advertiser* of that place, says that the merchants of that town find Philadelphia a more desirable place than the city of New York for the purchase of goods. The *Advertiser* shows, by its advertising columns, that the Philadelphia merchants are availing themselves of the advantages of these facilities, and are giving a publicity to their business which cannot fail to be profitable to them.—Ledger.

If it is better for the Elmira merchants to go to Philadelphia, it must be better for the merchants of Coudersport to do the same thing, and we should think some of our Market-street friends would do well to try the experiment of making known to the people of this county, that they have goods to sell.

The old stagers of the Hunker party of this village, are unusually active in their endeavors to secure delegates to their convention next week. We do not blame them for this. "Misery loves company," and as the leaders are too much hardened to change their course, it is very natural they should desire as many of their followers as possible to remain in subjection to the rule of slavery. We shall soon see how many in this county, of the rank and file, are willing to go into the convention of a party that is under the control of Atchison, Stringfellow, and Douglas. Those who desire to rebuke the outrages committed in Kansas, will turn their backs upon old parties, and will unite with their fellow-citizens of all parties, for the protection of Freedom.

Imitation is the sincerest kind of flattery.

MESSRS. EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL:—I notice in the *Patriot* of the 8th an article entitled "Our Academy and our Village Disgraced." This was a most startling announcement; and as I felt somewhat interested in the weal or woe of both the Academy and the village of Coudersport, I very naturally perused the article with much interest, to learn what impending cloud of blackest infamy had burst upon your devoted Academy and village. But judge of my surprise, gentlemen, when I remembered that this article, with such a terrific heading, was merely written to extol the virtues of H. H. Dent; and to vilify two very respectable citizens of your Borough, Messrs. Ross and Overton. And of what atrocious crime have they been guilty?

What means this terrible onslaught, this attempt to send them swift to the tomb of all the Capulets? The offense seems simply this: they chose to become candidates for the office of Trustees of the Coudersport Academy without the permission of H. H. Dent; and Oh! most guilty stockholders, you have dared to elect them without the same permission. Was e'er such conduct known before? When such wisdom, such experience, such profundity in every department of human learning, kindly offers to control your municipal affairs, your morals and your religion, your churches and your schools, will you reject the proffered aid, and turn your backs upon your would-be benefactor? Oh, most ungrateful of all ingrates!

It may be that this virtuous individual himself is not the author of the article alluded to; but the frequent occurrence of his name is extremely suggestive to those who understand his habit, to use a huckneyed phrase, of "blowing his own horn." Does it follow as a necessary deduction that the village and Academy are disgraced because Dent's candidates for Trustees were not

electd! Is it certain that Ross and Overton are villains of the deepest dye because they received a large majority of the votes polled at your annual election? It may be they are the incarnate fiends they are represented to be; but they are electd, and what does this prove for Dent's candidates? We are bound to suppose that the stockholders acted rationally, chose between two evils, acted to wit: Dent's candidates and the candidates electd. But Dent's candidates were not bad men, perhaps; nothing can be said against them, except that they were in very bad company; that they were run by a bad man, to be used by him in forwarding his purposes, if necessary. They were held up as the exponents of a man who is obnoxious to all honorable men—a man who openly boasts that revenge is the sweetest impulse of his soul—a man who to-day puts at defiance all law, morality, and religion, and to-morrow assumes the canting hypocrite and whines in piteous tones, because freemen in this vicinity and county are not as subservient to his whims as the chattels upon his Southern plantation.

But what are the facts in relation to the election held on the 3d inst.? The writer alluded to says: "The successful candidates were elected in the know-nothing style, the ticket being formed and elected before the publication of the stockholders generally knew what was going on." The barefaced falsehood contained in this statement again suggests the writer of the article, the first ticket in the field being Dent's ticket, the first man at the polls soliciting votes being that detectable individual himself. The successful ticket was formed afterwards, after the voting had commenced, and was formed openly, was supported openly, the opposition knowing well the ticket they were opposing. Is it possible that H. H. Dent was so active all that afternoon in fighting a Quixotic battle with an imaginary foe? Some give him credit for greater sagacity!

Again, the writer tells us that Dent & Co. acted all oblivious of political distinctions, two of their ticket being of opposite politics. Tiro of them, forsooth! Did Dent vote for Lewis Mann? How is it, Dent—didn't you scratch that ticket? Is Pradt opposed to Dent in politics? Pray, Mr., are you ignorant of the politics of this community, or are you indebted to a fertile imagination for this discovery? It is charged that this election was a mere attempt to whitewash the character of Ross and Overton. They need no whitewashing; they ask no endorsement. Judge Ross has been long and favorably known in this community. He was born among the hills of Potter. He was contending against poverty's branny arm, and gallantly struggling for the position which he now occupies in this community, long before a streak of fortune had put it in the power of his traducer, H. H. Dent, to do him harm; and he will be respected here and elsewhere when there is none so poor as to pay respect to his vile calumniator.

Mr. Overton is comparatively a stranger, particularly to people living in remote parts of the county. He came among us two or three years since, about the same time that the "blight of Bleeker" fell upon us. He has taken no extraordinary pains to foist himself into notice. He has no hired newspaper scribblers to trumpet his fame. He has no weekly publication with two-thirds of its columns devoted to an exposition of his virtues, or his troubles. He has placed no sounding brass in steeples here to hourly herald his wonderful, disinterested benevolence. He expects like other rational men to stand or fall upon his own merits. He is sincerely attached to the interests of this county, being the agent of a large landed interest here. He makes no empty boasts that he shall ere long make every citizen of this county a Croesus or a king. He leaves all such empty self-flattery to the virtuous up-town baby-whipper. He only begs of his friends to save him from the humiliation of a comparison with such a creature.

In all the malign bitterness legitimately spawned in the weak and morbid intellect of H. H. Dent against them that they are not good men to fill the station to which they have been electd; Judge Ross has already acted for several years in that capacity. The public can say how well he has executed his trust. Can Dent or any of his automaton priests to a single act of his unbecoming incumbency at that station? If Mr. Overton neglects to discharge his duty faithfully, it will then be time to call him to an account.

I will bring this communication speedily to a close. I see from the same paper that a dire calamity has fallen upon us. Now, be it remembered, that on Saturday, the 4th day of August, 1855, Mr. H. H. Dent, peacefully, without a struggle or a groan, resigned the office of President of the Board of Trustees of the Coudersport Academy. I read some time since in the *Patriot* these words: "Hold no office of public trust except that of President of the Board of Trustees of the Coudersport Academy." Hereafter it will read: "I hold no office of public trust except that of poor-master of the Borough of Coudersport. Oh! how painfully my money flows to prevent starvation here. Oh, what a fall there was, my countrymen! I was ambitious to be a Congressman. I have seen the travail of my soul, and am obliged to be satisfied with the poor laurels I merit as overseer of the poor." This resignation and withdrawal is merely carrying out the rule or ruin doctrine. Milton aptly describes a character of the same kind:

"He ceas'd; and next him Moloch, scorpined king, Stood up; the strongest and fiercest spirit That fought in Heaven, now fiercer by despair: His trust was with th' Eternal to be deem'd Equal in strength, and rather than be less, Cared not to be at all; with that care lost Went all his fear: of God, or Hell, or worse, He reck'd not."

Well, Mr. Dent, fight on; perhaps you can ruin the Academy, if you cannot rule it. "We shall see what we shall see."