

# THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

DEVOTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, AND THE DISSEMINATION OF MORALITY, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IX.

COUDERSPORT, POTTER COUNTY, PA., JULY 24, 1856.

NO. 10.

## Business Cards.

**F. W. KNOX,**  
Attorney at Law,  
Coudersport, Pa., will regularly attend the Courts in Potter county.

**ARTHUR G. OLMSTED,**  
Attorney & Counselor at Law,  
Coudersport, Pa., will attend to all business entrusted to his care, with promptness and fidelity.  
Office—in the Temperance Block, up stairs, Main-street.

**ISAAC BENSON**  
Attorney at Law,  
Coudersport, Pa.  
Office corner of West and Third streets.

**L. P. WILLISTON,**  
Attorney at Law,  
Wellsboro', Tioga Co., Pa., will attend the Courts in Potter and McKean Counties.

**A. P. CONE,**  
Attorney at Law,  
Wellsborough, Tioga county, Pa., will regularly attend the courts of Potter county.  
June 3, 1848.

**JOHN S. MANN,**  
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Coudersport, Pa., will attend the several Courts in Potter and McKean counties. All business entrusted to his care, will receive prompt attention.  
Office on Main-street, opposite the Court House, Coudersport, Pa.

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Fashionable Tailor. All work entrusted to his care will be done with neatness, promptness, and accuracy. Shop over Lewis Mann's store.

## THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

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### WHAT RIGHT HAD THE PRESIDENT TO DISPERSE THE LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLED AT TOPEKA.

All the powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved by it to the states respectively or to the people. The President must therefore find his authority in the constitution. No doubt he is commander-in-chief of the army and navy, but the command does not involve the power to use it for whatever purposes his pleasure may dictate. The purposes for which this command may be employed must be found in the constitution, no less than the command itself. No doubt, also, it is his duty to see that the laws of the United States are faithfully executed. But no law of the United States commanded that assembly to be dispersed. Congress cannot pass a law infringing the right of people peaceably to assemble. The right of the people peaceably to assemble and discuss anything they please, or enact anything they please, is a law higher than the Constitution. All that the Constitution does, is to provide that Congress shall pass no law infringing it. The members of that legislature peaceably assembled to discuss something which they thought fit to be discussed; to resolve something which they thought ought to be resolved, or to enact something which they thought it their duty to enact. Of course, they were just where they had a right to go, and were doing just what they had a right to do. Now it is very possible that their discussions might be very unwise, their resolves very unsound, and their enactments very unoperative. But it is not one of the President's rights or duties to disperse peaceable assemblies because he anticipates or discovers that their proceedings may be or have been unoperative, unsound or unwise. If for these pretexts, or any pretexts, he can decide one peaceable assembly improper, he can another, he can all; and if by military force he can disperse one, he can another, and all. And the right of the people peaceably to assemble for any purpose, and all purposes, depends only upon executive pleasure. *Quod principi placuit, vigorem legis habet.*

We are under a despotism as unmitigated as that of France, Russia or the Roman Empire.

The right of the people to keep and bear arms has been infringed;

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, has been violated; and now—

The right of the people peaceably to assembled is destroyed;

The men by whom and for whom all this is done, are certainly doing what they can to test the strength of the Union; but they over-estimate their strength when they tell us the Union is in danger.

There is another remedy, which the people will apply in November.—*Exc. Post.*

### Interesting Letter from a Kentuckian.

The New York Tribune of yesterday contained the following remarkable letter from the Hon. Adam Beatty, formerly member of Congress from Kentucky, and a warm personal friend of Henry Clay.

Sir—I have read the speech of the Hon. Charles Sumner on Kansas affairs, in newspaper form, but desire to have it in a form better suited for preservation; and therefore ask the favor of you to send me the worth of the enclosed, (\$1) postage paid including one of the speeches of Gov. Seward.

I have all my life been a resident of a slaveholding State or States, and am the owner of a few slaves, but I feel conscious that I have at all times been able to read the discussions on the slave question with calmness, and without such a degree of excitement as to unfit a person to form cool and deliberate judgment.

I was old enough at the date of the Missouri Compromise to understand and to take a deep interest in that measure, and was exceedingly gratified when Missouri was admitted as a Slave State, with an accompanying legal provision forever prohibiting slavery in any of the then national territory lying north of 36 deg. 30 min. This measure was adopted by the unanimous vote of all the Slave States, and was opposed by part of the Northern representation—only on the ground that Missouri, lying north of the above parallel, was admitted by the provisions of the Compromise bill, as a slave State.

But Missouri having been admitted, all opposition (or nearly so) to the compromise ceased; and it was quietly permitted to remain undisturbed for more than thirty years, until, in an evil hour, the Nebraska bill (as it is usually termed) was introduced by a Senator from a free State; and the South, in violation of a sacred and honorable pledge, caught at the bait, and assisted in overthrowing the wisest measure that was ever adopted to quiet agitation on the slavery question.

The fruits of the iniquitous bill introduced by Mr. Douglas, which might have been foreseen, have, for a long time, been presented in a shameful attempt, countenanced by Mr. Pierce's administration, to form a slave State by force out of the Territory of Kansas.

Mr. Sumner is entitled to the thanks of all discreet men: all men who are influenced by the principles of justice and honor, for exposing the abominable frauds, both in the passage of the Nebraska bill and the means resorted to for carrying out its design of forcing Slavery into the Territory of Kansas.

In my judgment the best means of securing the peace of the country and quieting agitation on the subject of slavery will be to admit Kansas as a Free State, according to the spirit of the Missouri Compromise, and reinstating that Compromise, extending the line 36 deg. 30 min. to the Pacific Ocean.

I heartily condemn the brutal attack of Brooks upon Senator Sumner, for which he ought to be expelled from his seat in Congress.

I have always been and still am a warm advocate for gradual emancipation, to be carried out by each State, as its citizens shall direct, by constitutional provision. I regret that public sentiment in my adopted State, Kentucky, is not yet prepared for so wholesome and just a measure.

Respectfully,  
A. BEATTY,  
Washington, Mason County, Ky.,  
June 30, 1856.

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE OF COL JOHN C. FREMONT.

PHILADELPHIA, June 19 1856.

Sir: A Convention of Delegates assembled at Philadelphia on the 17th, 18th and 19th days of June, 1856, under a call addressed to the people of the United States, without regard to past

political differences or divisions, who are opposed to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, to the policy of the present Administration, to the extension of slavery into free territory, in favor of the admission of Kansas as a free state and of restoring the action of the federal government to the principles of Washington and Jefferson adopted a declaration of principles and purposes for which they are united in political action—a copy of which we have the honor to inclose—and unanimously nominated you as their candidate for the office of President of the United States at the approaching election, as the chosen representative of those principles in this important political contest, and with the assured conviction that you would give them full practical operation, should the suffrages of the people of the Union place you at the head of the national government.

The undersigned were directed by the Convention to communicate to you the fact of your nomination, and to request you in their name, and as they believe, in the name of a large majority of the people of the country, to accept it.

Offering you the assurance of our high personal respect, we are your fellow-citizens,

H. S. LANE,  
President of the Convention.  
JAMES M. ASHLEY,  
ANTHONY J. BLEECKER,  
JOSEPH C. HORNBLLOWER,  
E. R. HOAR,  
THADDEUS STEVENS,  
KINGSLEY S. BINGHAM,  
JOHN A. WILLS,  
C. F. CLEVELAND,  
CYRUS ALDRICH,  
To JOHN C. FREMONT, of California.

COL. FREMONT'S REPLY.  
New York, July 8, 1856.

GENTLEMEN: You call me to a high responsibility by placing me in the van of a great movement of the people of the United States, who, without regard to past differences, are uniting in a common effort to bring back the action of the federal government to the principles of Washington and Jefferson. Comprehending the magnitude of the trust which they have declared themselves willing to place in my hands, and deeply sensible to the honor which their unreserved confidence in this threatening position of the public affairs implies, I feel that I cannot better respond than by a sincere declaration that, in the event of my election to the Presidency, I should enter upon the execution of its duties with a single-hearted determination to promote the good of the whole country, and to direct solely to this end all the power of the government, irrespective of party issues and regardless of sectional strife. The declaration of principles embodied in the resolves of your Convention expresses the sentiments in which I have been educated, and which have been ripened into convictions by personal observation and experience. With this declaration and avowal, I think it necessary to revert to only two of the subjects embraced in the resolutions, and to those only because events have surrounded them with grave and critical circumstances, and given to them special importance.

I concur in the views of the Convention deprecating the foreign policy to which it adverts. The assumption that we have the right to take from another nation its domains because we want them, is an abandonment of the honest character which our country has acquired. To provoke hostilities by unjust assumptions would be to sacrifice the peace and character of the country, when all its interests might be more certainly secured and its objects attained by just and healing councils, involving no loss of reputation.

International embarrassments are mainly the result of a secret diplomacy, which aims to keep from the knowledge of the people the operations of the government. This system is inconsistent with the character of our institutions, and is itself yielding gradually to a more enlightened public

opinion, and to the power of a free press, which, by its broad dissemination of political intelligence, secures, in advance, to the side of justice, the judgment of the civilized world. An honest, firm, and open policy in our foreign relations would command the united support of the nation, whose deliberate opinions it would necessarily reflect.

Nothing is clearer in the history of our institutions than the design of the nation in asserting its own independence and freedom, to avoid giving countenance so the extension of slavery. The influence of the small but compact and powerful class of men interested in slavery, who command one section of the country, and wield a vast political control as a consequence in the other, is now directed to turn the impulse of the Revolution and reverse its principles. The extension of slavery across the continent is the object of the power which now rules the government; and from this spirit have sprung those kindred wrongs in Kansas so truly portrayed in one of your resolutions, which prove that the elements of the most arbitrary government have not been vanquished by the just theory of our own.

It would be out of place here to pledge myself to any particular policy that may be suggested to terminate the sectional controversy engendered by political animosities, operating on a powerful class, banded together by a common interest. A practical remedy is the admission of Kansas into the Union as a free state. The South should, in my judgment, earnestly desire such consummation. It would vindicate the good faith—it would correct the mistake of the repeal; and the North, having practically the benefit of the agreement between the two sections, would be satisfied, and good feeling be restored. The measure is perfectly consistent with the honor of the South, and vital to its interest.

That fatal act which gave birth to this purely sectional strife, originating in the scheme to take from free labor the country secured to it by a solemn covenant, cannot be too soon disarmed of its pernicious force. The only genial region of the middle latitude left to the emigrants of the northern states for homes, cannot be conquered from the free laborers, who have long considered it as set apart for them in our inheritance, without provoking a desperate struggle. Whatever may be the persistence of the particular class which seems ready to hazard everything for the success of the unjust scheme it has partially effected, I firmly believe that the great heart of the nation, which throbs with the patriotism of the freemen of both sections, will have power to overcome it. They will look to the rights secured to them by the Constitution of the Union as their best safe-guard from the oppression of the class which, by a monopoly of the soil and of slave-labor to till it, might in time reduce them to the extremity of laboring upon the same terms with the slaves. The great body of non-slaveholding freemen, including those of the South, upon whose welfare slavery is an oppression, will discover that the power of the general government over the public lands may be beneficially exerted to advance their interest and secure their independence. Knowing this, their suffrages will not be wanting to maintain that authority in the Union which is absolutely essential to the maintenance of their own liberties, and which has more than once indicated the purpose of disposing of the public lands in such a way as would make every settler upon them a freeholder.

If the people entrust to me the administration of the government, the laws of Congress in relation to the territories will be faithfully executed. All its authority will be exerted in aid of the national will to re-establish the peace of the country on the just principles which have heretofore received the sanction of the federal government, of the States, and of the people of both

sections. Such a policy would leave no alibi to that sectional party which seeks its aggrandizement by appropriating the new territories to capital in the form of slavery, but would inevitably result in the triumph of free labor—the natural capital which constitutes the real wealth of this great country, and creates that intelligent power in the masses alone to be relied on as the bulwark of free institutions.

Trusting that I have a heart capable of comprehending our whole country, with its varied interests, and confident that patriotism exists in all parts of the Union, I accept the nomination of your Convention, in the hope that I may be enabled to serve usefully its cause, which I consider the cause of constitutional Freedom.

Yours respectfully,  
J. C. FREMONT.

### MORE BOLTING.

The Ripon Spur, whose editor has always been a Democrat, supports Fremont.

It says: For ourselves, we are satisfied that thousands of votes will be cast for Fremont, which no other candidate nominated at Philadelphia could have received. The platform we like as well as Buchanan claims to like the one set up for him, and the South, at Cincinnati.

Two years ago we stood with the Democratic party of this State, in opposition to the formation of a Republican party. At that time all the Democrats in the Senate and House of Representatives from Wisconsin were opposed to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise—and this was the only action, as we thought, which could indicate the position of the party of the State upon that question. At that time we did not believe that the party would ever stand upon a platform which would endorse the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. Further than this, we did not believe that Slavery would be extended into Kansas.

How much we were deceived in all this, no one understands more than we do. To-day the Democratic party have for their main object and purpose the enforcement of the laws and statutes of human bondage in Kansas. To-day the Democratic platform, on which all those who claim to be Democrats in the State and Nation are to stand, endorses the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. To-day freedom of speech is denied in Kansas, to half the citizens of the Republic, and faith in Slavery, and the support of the most debasing and degrading laws that ever disgraced an enlightened age or a country, is made the test of citizenship. Free men, in the sunshine of the nineteenth century, in a territory for twenty-four years consecrated to freedom, are forced to stand up and call heaven to witness that they will support the abominable Fugitive Slave Act, of forfeit all the rights of Americans.

No one can deny that the excitement of the last two years is in consequence of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, or that Slavery sustaining acts have been extended over Kansas from the same cause. This repeal, with all its results, and consequences of evil, is now made the standard of Democracy. For one, we believe that this is all wrong—that Slavery is a national curse and ought to be restrained, and ought to be confined to the States where it exists—and cannot endorse measures for its extension. We see before us a country no question except that of Freedom or Slavery which, like the rod of Aaron, swallows up all other is of the extension of Slavery—on that question we are with the Republicans, and not with the makers of the Cincinnati Platform, or the enforcers of the laws made by the Missouri Invaders. This question of the extension or restriction of Slavery is now before the country for its action, and it is vain to attempt to force it away. Like the ghost of the murdered Banquo, it will not "down at our bidding."