

United States Supreme Court—
Trial for Freedom.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Supreme Court was thronged this morning by an audience comprising many distinguished jurists and members of Congress, to listen to the argument in the trial of a suit for freedom. All the judges were present.

The case of Dred Scott, plaintiff, vs. John F. Baudford, came up for argument on questions of law. The plaintiff, a man of color, brought suit to try his right of freedom. He claims to have been emancipated by his master's having taken him to reside in Illinois, which act it is declared by the Constitution of that State operated to emancipate him. The Circuit Court decided against the plaintiff, on the ground that by his return to Missouri his master's right, dormant whilst in Illinois, was revived—that the Constitution of Illinois was a penal law which the courts of other States were not bound to enforce.

The case was argued at the last session, but the decision was reserved, to now argue it on certain points of law. Montgomery Blair appeared for the plaintiff, and Reverdy Johnson and H. S. Geyer for the complainant.

Mr. Blair opened the case by stating that nothing was said at the last session upon one question on which the Court invited argument, viz: whether a plea in abatement of the jurisdiction of the Court is raised by pleading the merits of the case. He quoted the decision of Judge Daniel, to the effect that the act of 1789 did not change the rule of common law requiring a plea in abatement. Unless the final judgment made upon that plea is named, the Court cannot take notice of the evidence when trying the case on that subject. Mr. Blair proceeded to discuss with much ability other questions connected with the case, and, without closing, gave way for an adjournment.

The funeral ceremonies of the late Solomon Juneau, at Milwaukee, were solemn and imposing. The military and fire companies, and an immense concourse of people, were out, to pay fitting honors to the memory of the "Father of Milwaukee." He came there when the territory was untroubled by the white. He left it, grown into one of the noblest States of the Union, standing proudly by the side of the elder sisterhood of States. The wasting remnants of the forest tribes have also lost a true friend in the white-haired trader.

FAMINE IN LIBERIA.—Rev. F. Burns writes under date of Oct. 5th, 1856: "There is now a strong probability that the ensuing twelve months will be rather a serious time throughout Liberia for breadstuff. This has been a very hard year, and produce of all kinds has been high, when it could be had. The misfortune is that in many places, and for some weeks together, it could not be had at any price; hundreds among the natives even have died of want. There is every reason to fear that the next year will be much worse than this one."

POTATOES DISEASED.—The Journal of Commerce learns from a dealer in Washington market that in no previous year has the potato rot been so destructive as during the present season. All varieties of the vegetable are infected, from whatever direction they come. Though they may appear fair and perfect on their arrival, evidence of disease is soon apparent. Even a cargo from Nova Scotia, which arrived a few days ago, bore the same indications.

EX-GOVERNOR REEDER has written a letter expressing his gratification at the Legislative appropriation for Kansas which has been made by the State of Vermont, and hoping that the example may be generally followed in other States. He says if Kansas is left to its natural course under the present rule of Missouri, it will certainly become a slave State, and hence it is necessary for the friends of freedom to bestir themselves in despatching men and means to the Territory in order to secure their freedom.

REV. MR. CONWAY, who was dismissed from the pastorate of a church in Washington, on account of his anti-slavery principles, has received a call from the 1st Unitarian church of Cincinnati.

THE JOURNAL.

CODDERSPORT, PA.
Thursday Morning Dec 18, 1856.

JNO. S. MANN, EDITOR.

W. E. PALMER, the American newspaper Agent, is the only authorized Agent for this paper in the cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, and is duly empowered to take advertisements and subscriptions at the rates required by us. His receipts will be regarded as payments. His offices are—Boston, School-street; New York, Tribune Buildings; Philadelphia, N. W. corner of Third and Chestnut streets. nov. 6.

NO PAPER will be issued from this office next week, as we wish to give our hands the benefit of the holiday recreations; and that they need it, no one acquainted with their arduous task will pretend to deny. We are also entitled to a short respite from our labors ourselves—the readers of our paper will derive benefit from our play-day.

To the Patrons of the Journal.

In view of the fact that the People of this county are a reading community, and in order to facilitate that desire for information which is peculiarly characteristic of our patrons, we have the pleasure to announce that we have made arrangements with Messrs. Fowler & Wells, of New York, by which we are enabled to offer to the patrons of the People's Journal the following inducements to subscribe for it, with any of their three popular journals:—

We will furnish the People's Journal and the American Phrenological Journal, for \$1.75 per year; or the People's Journal and the Water Cure Journal at the same price—or we will furnish our own and both of those Journals for \$2.25. These are each large, illustrated monthly papers of 16 pages each. Single subscriptions \$1 each. We will furnish our paper and Life Illustrated (an excellent family weekly paper, of eight pages, printed in handsome style for binding in semi-annual volumes,) for \$2.25. The prospectuses of these papers will be found in another column, by which our readers will be enabled to see the advantages we offer them by this arrangement. No subscriptions will be received unless accompanied by the cash as we have to pay them in advance.

Specimen numbers of the papers may be seen at this office. Those desiring to subscribe now will be furnished with the back numbers to the commencement of the present volumes. If the friends of the Journal will add 300 subscribers to its present list, they may safely count on 1000 Republican majority in 1860. We think we are fairly and honorably entitled to this addition to our list, and we ask a personal favor, that Mr. CUNY may be cheered with a general effort throughout the county to increase his patronage. J. S. M.

The Republican Meeting on Tuesday evening of court was well attended, and will exert a good influence. The people themselves took the control of it, and therefore we have the more hope of its usefulness. Steps were taken, as will be seen from the proceedings to organize the county, and we trust that this work will be so faithfully done, that when the next County Convention for the nomination of candidates is held, every township will send a full delegation. A good working county committee was appointed, who will be glad to correspond with the friends of the good cause throughout the county.

Our hunter friends have much to say of what Governor Geary is doing for Kansas, but they forget to mention that he has not arrested, or attempted to arrest a single one of the mob that sacked Lawrence on the 21st of May.

Over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of property was destroyed and stolen from the citizens of Lawrence on that day. Ex-Senator, Ex-Vice President Atchison was a prominent leader of that mob, and was seen with a box of stolen cigars under his arm—he is now and has been for months in Kansas, but no attempt has been made to bring him to justice.

Nearly every house and store in Lawrence was entered by some of this mob. Trunks were broken open, and such articles as were not wanted were scattered about the streets—family pictures and private letters were sto-

red and destroyed—buildings were fired, and all manner of outrages committed; and yet not one of the villains engaged in this outrage has ever been arrested, while free state men, for no offence whatever, have been arrested by hundreds—this is democracy, and such is the fairness of Governor Geary.

No More Fusion.

These papers in this state, that desire to look up another fusion, may as well abandon the effort at once for it can't be done. In the late contest whenever the Republicans acted boldly on their own platform they succeeded, but when they fused with Americans they were beaten. The masses understand this perfectly well, and it is nonsense to talk about their willingness to form another fusion in this state. The truth is, it is only those who think they are leaders that favor such a movement.

The great body of the Republican voters say, we have tried to fuse with other parties three times—and each time have been beaten, we will have nothing more to do with such a system of action. We do not know a single Republican voter, but what demands a clean Republican State Ticket. Such is clearly the part of wisdom. So long as we attempt to fuse with other parties there is a failure to present to the people the true issue; and therefore a failure in securing the cooperation of the voters.

If our American friends, who agreed with us on the slavery question, prefer defeat to uniting with the great party of Freedom which has carried eleven of the most intelligent and most popular States, we can't help it, but for ourselves we have resolved to vote a clean Republican ticket hereafter or none at all.

Such a ticket is the only one that can succeed against pro-slavery democracy, and it may as well be brought out this year as to put it to a more unpropitious time.

THE SLAVE INSURRECTION.

If the condition of the slave is so comfortable and he is so contented, as the slaveholders and their allies so frequently assert, what means the alarm now so prevalent through all the South.

We clip the following interesting item in relation to the disturbance from the Boston Telegraph:

A correspondent of the New York Courier des Etats-Unis, writing from Clarksville, Tenn., and giving an account of the slave insurrection in excitement in that region, says:

"They [the slaves] imagine that Col. Fremont with a large army is waiting at the mouth of the River Cumberland until the night of the 23d or 24th of December. Then all this army will help to deliver the slaves. They have been struck by the sudden swelling of the river, and attribute this circumstance to the great assemblages of men and ships at its mouth. Certain slaves are so greatly imbued with this fable, that I have seen them smile while they are being whipped, and have heard them say that 'Fremont and his men can hear the blows they receive.'"

This writer states that iron works along the Cumberland river have suspended operation, in consequence of the panic. These works were carried on chiefly by slaves superintended by white men; and some 800 slaves owned by one man, are employed in an iron mine in the neighborhood. It is likely that the slaves took this strange notion of Col. Fremont from the talk about him among their masters and others. The mad denunciations of the Republican party which have been so prevalent in the slave States have furnished abundant material for exciting the imagination of the ignorant negroes to stranger dreams than this. It does not appear that they have harmed anybody. Meanwhile it is evident that the slaveholders, frightened nearly out of their wits, have greatly exaggerated the matter. In more ways than one, "men are led by their imagination." This excitement furnishes a very significant commentary on that Southern "Sociology" (so they call it) in behalf of which the Southern press is so constantly denouncing free society.

At the recent laying of the corner stone of Pilgrim Church in London, England, a note was read from Mrs. Abbot Lawrence, of Boston, enclosing £100, and promising another £100 hereafter, towards the erection of the building. The church was established by the suggestion of her late husband while Minister to England.

Insurrections of the Slaves.

In the last number of our paper, we gave a brief account of some slave insurrections in Kentucky and Tennessee. Later accounts confirm those statements, and indicate that an intense excitement exists throughout the entire South in regard to the matter. Slaves are being hung in scores, and whipped by the hundred, almost daily. Vigilance committees have been organized, having the most absolute powers, and a trial before whom is sure death to the white or black man whose fate it is to be charged with abolitionism. In another place will be found an extract showing the extreme sensitiveness of the F. F. V's in regard to the objects of the assemblages of their slaves. They live in dread—they fear the shadow of their own works. And now let us inquire what is the cause of this insurrection? Slaves have ears and eyes—they can hear and reflect with, perhaps not the same vigorous comprehension of their masters, but with that slow and measured awakening of the mind which is permanent. Southern politicians have made their characteristic speeches during the late campaign—denouncing and scoffing at the measures of the Freemen of the North, and declaring that should Fremont, with his abolition doctrines, be elected President, the Union would be dissolved. The slaves of course were often present during these harangues—and the more intelligent ones at once conceived the idea that upon the result of the late election depended their eternal bondage or their early release. They were aroused to a sense of their degraded position by the very means adopted to secure them more safely in the bonds of servitude—and naturally resolved to make an effort to throw off the yoke. But, like all other private organizations their designs were defeated by traitors—by those who designedly become acquainted with them to defeat them—by the spies and emissaries of their trembling masters.

We deprecate all such uprisings, and place upon them the seal of our most positive disapprobation. We do not conceive how the cause of the most ultra abolitionism can derive any benefit from it—while measures which are constantly alarming slaveholders, can only make them the more cautious of their system, and sensitive of encroachments upon it. They themselves hate the very system which a false interest requires them to foster and practice; and only can be brought to a sense of their duty to themselves and their country by the gentle but firm principles, advocated by the Republican Party. Violent measures are always more injurious to the party practicing them, than those against whom they are adopted—a fact eminently established by the slaveholders themselves. But those who are indirectly concerned, but not active operatives in measures, are often the greater losers by the violent actions of the contending parties. Thus, the Republican party of the North, being only a "looker on" in the contest between the ultralists of either section, suffers more by the reaction of the battle than by the immediate result of it.

Black Band Iron Ore.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger describes recent discoveries of the above famous ore at McKean Co., Pa.

"Black Band iron ore is found in Scotland, and has obtained celebrity for the peculiar quality of the metal it produces. It makes iron which is much more fluid when melted than any other, and therefore it makes castings much finer, and with less weight of metal.

The closest search has been made for it in America—but up to the month of October of this year, it had not been found of such extent and quality as to be worthy of remark.

But in October, 1856, Prof. Owen, of Indiana, and Newham, of Lackawanna, while examining the new bituminous coal in McKean county, Penn., discovered the regular seam of this most valuable mineral, forming the roof of a five foot vein of canal coal, and giving undoubted evidence that it covers a great portion of that coal field. They suspected that some of the slates of the coal veins might be saturated with iron, because in no other part of our State is limestone of other varieties so plentiful as in McKean county. The vein is five feet thick, and one bench of it, eighteen inches in thickness, yields, by the analysis 43 1-2 per cent. of iron." Scientific American.

We are very glad to see the mineral resources of Northern Pennsylvania

attracting so much attention. At present, very little is said about this County, and no effort has been made to ascertain the extent of our coal deposits. But we learn from a reliable source, that portions of this County are rich in mineral wealth. We hope a thorough survey will be made during the next season.

The Gubernatorial Chair.

The Erie Constitution, speaking of the different persons whose names have been placed before the people by the Republican press, as suitable Candidates for Governor, has the following language:

"Among other names mentioned we notice Gov. Pollock, David Wilmut Judge Kelly, R. G. White, and Wm. Millward, all good and worthy men, whose ability, integrity, and popularity are unquestioned. There are scores of men in our ranks who possess the proper qualifications for the office, any of whom we will take pride in supporting in the canvass. Personally we desired to have a good man from this section of the State, but we care nothing about the locality, so that a staunch, unflinching, tried and popular friend of human rights be chosen as our standard bearer."

The Republican press of the State seem to be unanimous in their willingness to throw aside all considerations of locality, and join heart and hand in putting forth a name which will concentrate the entire strength of the party upon the issue. By doing so only can they secure a victory—but even then, there is a vast amount of work to be performed, which can not be done in conventions, or by the mere prestige of nominations. It is the duty of every member of the party to commence now, and work faithfully, till the end of the campaign; and that, too, without any effort to form a fusion with any other set of men or party, whose principles in any manner conflict with the broad platform of the Republican Party. More can be done by their thinking and intelligent advocates in farm-houses and work-shops, than in public assemblages and conventional displays. Every voter should use his influence upon his neighbor, and spread wide the principles and objects of our party. Thus only can our work be effected.

We observe that the Chairman of the Democratic State Committee has published a call for a Democratic State Convention at Harrisburg on Monday the 2d day of March, 1857, to nominate candidates for Governor, Canal Commissioner, etc.—Erie Gazette.

Why can't the chairman of the Republican State Committee act with equal promptness? The allies of Slavery have set their opponents an example in the matter of energy and promptness which they would do well to follow. Let our State Convention be called without further delay.

THE NATIONAL ERA.

To those of our Republican friends who desire to take a paper published at the National Capital, we would say that there is but one published there which reflects the sentiments of Republicans, and that one is the National Era. It is a large, handsome sheet, of thirty-two columns, but three of which are devoted to advertisements, thus leaving twenty-nine columns of the most excellent reading matter, made up of the best materials in the literary and business world. As it is the only organ our party has at the seat of government, it should have a liberal support throughout the north. The subscription price is but \$2, per year, and as the volume commences with January, now is an excellent time to send in your names. To the friends of Freedom in Potter County, we would say, subscribe at once for the National Era.

Our freshest last week froze up suddenly. Several rafts started but very few got through. Probably fifteen or twenty million feet of boards are stuck between here and Pittsburg.—Warren Mail.

Our freshest froze up before it got here, and, instead of running rafts, we are running good horses and sleighs ever a fine, white-carpeted "turf." Our lumbermen, who do all their running in the spring, are in good spirits in view of the fine prospect for getting "stock" to their mills.

One man in California plowed seventy-five acres with a cow team, and at the same time milked them every day.

NEWS ITEMS.

The London Times is valued at \$3,740,000. Its chief editor has a salary of \$25,000 a year, and its Paris correspondent, \$10,000.

There are 35 Presbyterian churches in Virginia, without pastors. It takes a doughface to preach where free speech subjects a man to Lynch law.

No one in Jail in our County.—Lebanon Chronicle.

Our Jail is in the same condition; and what is better, but one person has been lodged in it more than one night at a time during the last five or six months. Reason—"honesty is the best policy," and the people of Potter have adopted it.

Letters received from London, bring discouraging accounts of the health of Dr. Kane. He is very pale, much reduced in flesh, and has night sweats. His cough is alarming. His Physician has enjoined him to leave for a warmer climate as soon as possible, and he was accordingly to sail, on the 17th November, for St. Thomas and Havana.

The Albany Journal says Mr. Delavan who subscribed last winter one thousand dollars for the relief of Kansas; has invested the donation in clothing. Miss Pellatt goes out to see to its distribution. The following are the articles sent off: 164 coats, 150 pairs pantaloons, 82 vests, 204 shirts—making in all 600 garments.

TELEGRAPH TO CUBA.—It is stated that parties have been for some time in correspondence with the Cuban and Spanish authorities for the privilege of laying a telegraph line between Cuba and the United States. It is proposed to lay a cable from the point of Cape Sable, the extreme southern point of Florida, to Havana, the distance being a little over 70 miles—about the same stretch as that across the Gulf of St. Lawrence.—New York Tribune.

THE SUGAR TAX.—Gen. Houston, of Texas, not long since, gave notice in the Senate of a bill to suspend the sugar tax for two years.

Mr. Colfax, Monday, in the House, introduced a bill to repeal the tax.

The Public Ledger says: "Sugar, which has advanced so highly in price in consequence of its scarcity, pays thirty per cent. ad valorem duty on its importation into the United States. The public, who use it think it is about time to make it duty free, for now, the higher the price, the greater the duty. The duty operates as a tax upon the entire consumption of the article, and therefore amounts to nearly twelve millions. Sugar, if duty free, would be worth 84 cents where it is now 12, or 64 where it is now 9."

THE ORIGIN OF THE TAPE-WORM.—This worm, for the fishing of which from the human stomach we published an illustrated description in vol. 10. Scientific American, is described in the Paris Gazette Medicale to have its origin as follows: "The Hebrews are never troubled with it, and dogs that are fed on pork are universally so afflicted; in fact, it turns out that a small parasite worm, called 'cristeceras,' (from two words signifying a small sect and tail, which much affects pork) no sooner reaches the stomach than, from the change of diet and position, it is metamorphosed into the well known tape-worm; and experiments upon a condemned criminal, have established the fact beyond contradiction.

FEAR IS CRUEL.—Thirty or forty colored people, men and women, assembled last Saturday night at the place of the late Dr. Alexander, near Four Mile Run, not far from Alexandria, to eat a grand supper, and have a good time generally. Despatches were exchanged at once between the Departments at Washington, the Mayor of Alexandria, and the Governor of Virginia. Patrols started out, made a sudden descent, broke up the festivities, captured the company, and carried them off to Alexandria, where they were whipped and fined according to law—and thus a most formidable insurrection was nipped in the bud!

What next? Mercury, of the Baltimore Sun, who relates these facts, states that all of the party were young, and only one of them armed—and his weapon was a pistol. We shall sleep in peace now, if the Departments at Washington, the Mayor of Alexandria, and the Governor of Virginia will continue to keep a bright look out.—National Era.