



Clearfield, Pa., December 5, 1860.

But one Hope of Averting Dissolution.

Within the last few days one or two suggestions have made their appearance, which, if adopted, and speedily carried into effect, may possibly avert the threatened destruction of the Republic, and all its accompanying horrors.

We see no other plan—no other hope. It is possible this may effect a reconciliation. It is the only chance. If our Republican friends are ready to retrace their steps—if they are ready to go to work, and undo the wrongs they have been blindly committing against the South, in violation of the Constitution, and in contempt of common justice, they can avert what otherwise will be our destruction.

It is idle for them to say, "let the South go; we can do without them." They do not mean this—for they know that one separation would beget another, until we should have, perhaps, as many Republics as we now have States. But even if it were not so, the North separated from the South, would be as weak and impotent as the most insignificant of Nations—without commerce—without revenues—and totally unsupported by direct taxation.

It is for our Republican friends now to say what shall be done. Our fate is, in a great measure, in their hands. What will they do?

The Decree has Gone Forth.

A dark and gloomy future seems to pervade the political atmosphere of our land—discordant notes are being sounded by the leading demagogues in both the North and the South; they are heating the political cauldron to its utmost capacity.

An almost unanimous voice salutes us from the South, calling upon their northern friends and neighbors to live up to and fully execute the constitutional obligations that we look upon ourselves from the hands of our ancestors. They demand of us the repeal of all Personal Liberty Bills which have been unconstitutionally passed by a number of Northern States.

The Boston Traveller, the leading Republican organ in Massachusetts, calls upon her citizens to pass another law more outrageous than the one already upon her statute-book. As an indication of what the law is to be, we publish the form of a Petition which is now being circulated throughout that State, to wit:

"To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

The undersigned citizens of Massachusetts, respectfully ask you to put an end to SLAVE-HUNTING in Massachusetts, by enacting that no person, who has been held as a Slave, shall be delivered up, by any officer of Court, State or Federal, within this Commonwealth, to any one claiming him on the ground that he owes service or labor to such claimant, by the laws of one of the Slave States of this Union.

The same paper states, that if the Personal Liberty Bill is repealed, the Republican party will be broken up. Hear him: "The day on which that law shall be repealed, will see her Republican party go to wreck."

So that double distilled tory and traitor—traitor to his God and his country—Wm. Lloyd Garrison, replies as follows:

That last remark is as true as the gospel. Let the Republican party show any disposition to back down from its anti-slavery professions, at the Southern overseers, and it will be broken as quickly as a rope of sand. It owes its success entirely to those professions, and to abandon them will be certain defeat and an everlasting disgrace.

And then starts off with the following beautiful (?) description of his Southern neighbors:

"They are inexorable as death, and as insatiate as the grave. Their principles are those of burglars, highwaymen and pirates, and their practices are a great deal worse. In support of their selfish slave system they would (if necessary) annihilate the very existence of the North; nor stop at the commission of any crime, however monstrous or devilish."

The italics are ours. The conclusion reached by those two leaders of the Republican party, is, that their party, as a party must be upheld and sustained even

if fire and sword should desolate the whole country.

Such Patriotism no honest citizen of this country can carry in his bosom. We hope to see the day, when such patriotism (?) shall receive its due reward from the American people—a medal manufactured from hemp.

Worthy of Consideration.

A Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Press, says:

"Among the numerous propositions before the country at this time to restore peace and harmony, is one that originated with the Hon. R. J. Walker, to the effect that, the Presidential electors in the several States should be elected in single Districts; similar to choosing a member of Congress."

Should this mode be adopted in the future—and we hope it will—it would most effectually destroy any and all sectional parties, whether in the North or in the South, and would be the death knell to all men's geographical organizations. It will, also, most effectually hold in check large majorities, and is really the only Democratic rule. Minorities, however small, would have their rights equally respected. Had this system been in force at the late election, Mr. Lincoln could never have been elected to the Presidency, nor could hereafter any exclusively sectional candidate succeed.

It is true Mr. Lincoln has been elected. One million seven hundred thousand citizens of these United States have declared for him through the popular voice;—on the other hand, two million seven hundred thousand votes have declared against him—thus electing him President with a majority of one million of votes against him in the popular count. Upon the other hand, the electoral college gives him three million two hundred and fifty thousand—because all the electors are counted for him. Representing this vote, in short, the popular vote for Lincoln is about 1,700,000, while the electoral College gives him 3,250,000, or nearly two to one.

When we view the case from a Democratic point, we must come to the conclusion that Mr. Lincoln is not entitled to the whole twenty-seven electors of Pennsylvania; from the principle above indicated he at least have twenty-one; which we believe is the number of opposition members of Congress from the State. If it is just and proper to elect Presidential electors by a general ticket, it is equally just to elect the Congressional delegation in the same way; but upon the other hand, if our mode of electing members of Congress is just and Democratic, let us so amend and change our laws in reference to the election of Presidential electors, as to have our system of Government more perfect and harmonious.

The subject is well worthy the attention of every citizen who feels a desire to have justice and harmony prevail among us as a nation.

A Genuine Republican.

That Black Republican enthusiast, Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, made a speech last week in Boston, in which he became more boisterous and threatening than ever before. Republican political theology was duly unmasked by him in the following lucid style:

To-night, thanks be to God, to-night we stand with the slave power beneath our feet.—(Applause.) That laughable party which corrupted the Whig party, strangled the American party, and used the Democratic party as a tool, has crushed to the dust tonight, and our hat is upon it. (Wild and uproarious applause, and cries of "Good, God!") And sir—said the Senator—that power never rises again; it can never more away the destinies of the Government of the United States. We have crushed it and ground it to powder.

This is the language at which our Southern friends become offended: this is what we are to accept as conciliation—harmony—peace! If hearing ridicule and abuse upon the South these times will bring about peace, we are entirely mistaken in their character.

The camp-followers of this great chief insist that they are not Abolitionists; that Gerrit Smith, Wm. L. Garrison and Wendell Phillips are the Abolitionists; that they are the especial and warm friends of the South. If this is the fact, why are not such men as Wilson, Giddings and Doellittle denounced by the Republican leaders and Press?

Carl Schurz, the Red-Republican destructive and demagogue, delivered a speech last week at Milwaukee, in which he uses the following language:

"We have pretended nothing we did not actually believe in. We have promised nothing that we did not mean faithfully to perform; we have appealed to nothing but the reason and patriotism of the people. There never was a political contest in which the questions at issue were more plainly or unequivocally stated and more thoroughly discussed."

This, we believe, an honest statement of the case. A few days after the delivery of this speech by Schurz, the leading Republican organ of Milwaukee gave vent to the following declaration of principles:

"It is true, we have as yet only succeeded in driving our opponents to the south side of Mason & Dixon's line, but let them not be impatient. We don't propose to pause there. We calculate to drive them to the Gulf of Mexico and convert the whole country to freedom before we get done with the question. It is not our fault that the country is geographically divided, but the fault of those who maintain a geographical boundary to slavery. We shall sooner or later wash it out entirely in the waters of the Gulf."

It is an undeniable fact, that the leaders of the Republican party all play upon the same string, and their followers dance to the same with a gusto.

Major James S. Brisben.

This gentleman, who has for several years been trying to bring himself into notice, has eventually succeeded. His recent letters to Gov. Letcher, of Virginia, are well calculated to elicit inquiry; and people will now look upon him as something, at least. Men admire natural curiosity, and in Brisben they have found it of the largest type.

The truth is, this creature has been heated and cooled, until it considers itself a man of some importance, with just brains enough to be made the tool of bold bad men. For several years she has been doing their dirty work; weak and willing, he has long been their dupe. To some, an object of ridicule; to others, an object of extreme commiseration. Looking through a false medium, he has mistaken the Skunk for the Lion; and consequently considers himself a hero—while others regard him as an ass.

Satisfied of his own greatness, he believes the country cannot do without him; and failing to secure a seat in Lincoln's Cabinet, he has resolved to take the tented field.

What the result of this rash act may be, we are unable at this time to determine; but we hope, for the sake of the country, that the gallant Major, in his desperate engagements with Southern fire-eaters, will come off victorious without tearing his breeches. Knowing him to be as brave as he is simple, we would not be surprised to hear of him taking some Southern Fort without powder or ball, and then celebrate his victory on a rope or halter. "Blood will tell," and if somebody does not help Brisben to notoriety, he may help himself, and do the world a kindness, by committing prairie suicide.

A man of brass cannot always brook disappointment. Delays will make him desperate, and such the Major has become. He has unsheathed his sword; his voice is for war, and his motto is *Carthago delenda est*, but conquered never.

Two hundred Virginians, await the approach of their valorous chief. Whether these devoted followers are black or white we are not informed; but from the antecedents of their professed commander, and his woolly proclivities, we can have no doubt as to the color of his soldiers.

Having for years fought for negroes in the North, it would be no great sacrifice of either person or his principle for him to go South and fight with them. Having served them here, he surely could command them in Virginia. Having contended for their civil, social, and political equality here, he might now with great credit to himself, illustrate it there; indeed, it would be a dark, but brilliant consummation of his life now that his political faith has been crowned by contention and civil war—to go down South and place himself at the head of his dearly beloved "Black Brigade."

The Major, since his flattering invitation from two hundred Virginians, feels that negroes are grateful, if Republics are not; and we know of no man better qualified by nature or education to illustrate negro equality. Try then, Major, where your services will be appreciated. Fools seldom secure glory in civil pursuits, a truth of which you no doubt have frequently felt the force. Letters will not make a man of you, though Gaskill may write them, and come what will, you cannot gather glory around your brow until you get your head shaved. Go, then where glory waits you; and if you cannot fall with your back to the foe, you may yet immortalize yourself and show your devotion to both kindred and country, by cutting off a mules ear, and use it for a seaboard for your reeking sword.

"Who are the Disunionists?"

"An answer, without fear of successful contradiction," the Republican Abolition party of the North. Their professions of attachment and loyalty to the Union are not worth the paper it takes to print them. They are to be judged by their acts.—Do their acts condemn them? Where? and how? Is there any cause of disturbance between the North and the South that they are not the authors of? Are they not the authors of nullifying the Constitution? Do they not support and endorse every dogma calculated to offend and aggravate the South? are not the principal plank's of their party's platform avowedly and notoriously founded upon hostility to the South, such as the South cannot brook without dishonor?

The events of the last few months and years are fresh in the recollections of every reader, and we desire them to answer these questions—perfectly confident that the unanimous response of every candid mind will be that they, the Abolitionized Republican party—notwithstanding their professions to the contrary—are the real Disunion party—and that is the rational and inevitable consequence of the principles and measures with which they have triumphed in the recent election.

GEN. CASE.—General Case is reported to have kept the other day during a Cabinet meeting at which the impending dangers to the Union were under consideration. None will doubt the sincerity of his grief, or wonder that he, one of the few remaining links between the generation of men who made the Union and the generation who are likely to witness its disruption, should be affected to tears over the impending calamity.

A man may be called poverty-stricken when knocked down by a beggar.

BY LAST NIGHT'S MAIL.

Our dispatches from Washington given this morning are of a highly important character. During the whole of yesterday the greatest excitement prevailed, and many of the most extravagant rumors were current. A plan, which appeared to find favor, had been proposed, to refer that portion of the Message of the President discussing the secession movement to a committee of one from each of the different States, to be appointed by the delegations thereof, who shall have full charge of the subject, and report within thirty days an amendment to the Constitution which shall settle all present and future difficulties.—This, it was thought, would give time for reflection and friendly conference. Mr. Cobb resigned his position as Secretary of the Treasury on Saturday, to take effect on Wednesday next. This, it was believed, would be followed by the resignation of the Georgia Senators and Representatives. The South Carolina delegation were all in Washington yesterday, but had not determined whether they would take their seats. During the day several consultations were held between Northern and Southern members, and conservative men were of the opinion that some plan would be adopted to preserve the disruption of the Union. The President's Message will not be sent in until Tuesday. Its tone is said to be calm and conciliatory, but firm and clear. N. Y. Herald, Dec. 3d.

Union Sentiment in Boston.—The John Brown Meeting Broken Up.

Boston, Dec. 3.—The John Brown meeting was called to order by James Redpath this morning, at the Temple. The place of meeting was immediately taken possession of by a body of Union men, who chose Richard Sullivan Fay as President. The meeting, as newly organized, passed resolutions denouncing John Brown, justifying his execution, and lauding the State of Virginia.

Fred. Douglass, Redpath, Frank Sanborn, and other well known Abolitionists, vainly endeavored to be heard.

Much confusion existed; the police were called in, the Hall was cleared, and the Temple closed by order of the Mayor.

The Kansas Troubles.

The latest accounts from this Territory, state that Montgomery, and his band of robbers, are encamped near Fort Scott, and he defies the world to take them. It is thought, when he hears of the approach of Gen. Harney and the U. S. troops, that he will leave. Large numbers of families in the border counties have passed into Missouri for protection.

From California and Oregon.

The latest news from California and Oregon is to the effect that Lincoln has carried the former by from 700 to 1000 over Douglas, and the latter by 318 over Breckinridge.

Legislative Duties.

The approaching session of the Pennsylvania Legislature will partake of more than ordinary interest.

The newly elected Governor, Col. Curtin, will be inaugurated on the third Tuesday of January—the 16th day of the month.

A United States Senator is to be elected on the second Tuesday of January, the 7th day of the month.

A State Treasurer is to be elected on the third Monday of January—21st, and the Legislature are required to meet on the first Tuesday—being the first day of the new year.

We hope an effort will be made by every citizen who desires the welfare of his country, to that of mere party, to have that iniquitous Personal Liberty bill repealed during the present session, and to this end let every citizen call upon his Representative, either by letter or petition.

We intend to print a large number of petitions to this effect, as soon as we conveniently can, and of which due notice will be given.

We hope every friend of justice and equal rights under the Constitution, will bestir himself in this matter; let a united voice go forth for Repeal!

By their Acts ye Shall Know them.

The Republicans say that none are disunionists but the "Breckinridge Democrats of the South, aided and abetted by allies of the same stripe of politics in the North." This is in fearful keeping with the leaders of that party. To deceive, mislead, and conceal the truth from the people, appears to be their chief aim.—They know that there is no division—but perfect union among all classes of Southern men in favor of secession, unless certain obnoxious laws now on the Statute books of some of the Northern States are repealed, and certain assurances given that the Southern States and people are to have equal rights in the territories, and in all other "common property." We repeat, that whilst they know that the people of the South, from Maryland to Texas, are a perfect unit in favor of secession, unless these conditions are complied with, they continue in the attempt to deceive the people by representing that the only disunionists are the "Breckinridge Democrats."

The depreciated Illinois currency is now generally known among bankers and brokers as "Lincoln money."

On the Verge of Revolution.

We transfer to our columns this week, a letter from the Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, dated Nov. 25th, 1860. The present frightful condition of our country is here presented without any attempt at embellishment, and the awful truth announced that we now have a "revolution already inaugurated,"—which, if not checked in the only way possible to check it, may lead to such excesses as will entirely eclipse the horrors of the French Revolution of 90. Then the historian, in writing our epitaph, can speak of us as "a nation who lost her liberty in a vain effort to set the negro free."

But we have no space for comments, and only give this letter to our readers to show them that the most imminent danger threatens our beloved country. If it was before the election, our neighbor over the way would, as he has previously done all summer, charge us with doing so "merely for political effect." Let all such be held responsible for our present difficulties:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28, 1860.

The March of the Revolution—Public Business and Apathy.—The Hidden Danger.—The Effect of Secession North and South.—A Remedy for Existing Evils.—The Personal Liberty Bills Must be Repealed, &c.

I have conversed with a large number of persons here of all grades in political and private life, and it is astonishing how few understand the true character of the revolution already initiated; all are engaged in the self-deceit that attends the not calling of things by their right names. Instead of recognizing the fact that we are advancing rapidly in a revolution that strikes at every interest in the whole country, and whose development may soon become as uncontrollable as that of France after 1790, everybody is discussing the absurd fallacy of constitutional secession, and talking of it as though it were a thing that we can march to through an Arabian pacha, and after it is consummated find ourselves prospering and to prosper as we were before the disunion.

In this ignorance of the true movement that is hurrying us on lies the real danger that attends the country. It flatters all men, North and South, with the idea that there is no necessity of making any mutual concessions, and lulls them in the vain confidence that the path of empire can be trod with the same greatness and glory by separate confederacies that has been exhibited by nearly a century of Union.

Northern men instead of trying to seek a remedy for the present evils and the present intolerance which the anti-slavery oligarchy is inculcating toward the South, say, "if they wish to go let them go." In this they forget that they are admitting the remedy of revolution, which cannot possibly bring any gain to their own section, while it will strike a deadly blow to thousands upon thousands of private interests there. The natural operation of a revolution, even a peaceable one, which should erect two governments where only one now stands, would be the creation of antagonistic political interests, to be followed by the inevitable train of tariffs for revenue purposes, the agitation of protection for home industry, and eventually by the creation of a conflict of discordant interests among themselves. Why should the meat and grain of the West be forced in its seeking of Southern markets to share with the domestics of the East the fate of a hostile commercial policy?

The Southern men are equally blind to the true import of the revolution they are driving on. Infatuated with the idea of independence, they begin to believe, that secession is a constitutional right and nothing more; that every State can go off on its own hook—Governors become Presidents, with cabinets, national revenues, armies, and all the paraphernalia of ambassadors and ministers—plenipotentiaries to foreign courts, not only without disturbing, to any great extent, existing mutual interests, but with a possibility of subsiding again into the shorn position of members of a Southern Confederacy, and that, too, with States having diverse interests and tendencies. To show how impossible such a confederacy would be, we need only refer to the recommendation of Governor Gist in relation to hostile legislation toward those slave States that do not follow the lead of South Carolina.

The fact is that the revolution already inaugurated, and if not controlled, will develop itself in courses which its instigators little imagine, and which will carry them to destruction as inevitable as was that of Robespierre and his revolutionary associates.

There is but one remedy for the evils that are before us. That remedy is a National Convention, which shall recreate the fraternal spirit between the North and the South, and provide for it new constitutional guarantees. The old bond of union and brotherhood has been eaten away by the steadily advancing spirit of anti-slaveryism at the North, and fear by the South of its obtaining political power in the federal government. This sentiment proclaims an "irrepressible conflict," which has no other issue than a brutal and bloody one. Already the Southern people are roused to look upon self-defence at all hazards as the point of honor, and this blinds all men to the counsels of interest or safety. There must, then, be mutual concessions on both sides. The North must put down the intolerant spirit which has instigated it to proclaim that "slavery is an evil and a crime" in the South, where eight millions of whites and four millions of blacks are under the necessity of living in community, and the superior race is forced to seek the social form most conducive to the interests of all. The South must seek every remedy for the evils it fears before it resorts to the paramount but dangerous right of revolution.

The right should be exercised only in the last resort, and should not be appealed to under the fallacy of calling it by another name, and ignoring the true import of the appeal. Let the members of Congress avoid this pregnant error, this dangerous self-deceit, of calling things of mighty import by wrong names, and thus lulling even from themselves, the true meaning and tendencies of their speeches and actions. Secession is revolution. Revolution is the destruction of all material and moral interests. If the statesmen and best intellects of this country have not sufficient abnegation of self to reconstruct the great confederacy their fathers left them, and under whose forms they still live and act, they have not a

sufficiency of that feeling to construct Northern and a Southern confederacy, but will plunge all the States, which the federal bond is once broken, into a conflict of antagonistic interests, from which neither Northern fanatic nor Southern fire eaters can extricate them.

Thanksgiving Day.

We learn from our exchanges that the day, having been set apart by a large majority of the Governors of the several States, as a day of general thanksgiving and praise, for the innumerable blessings bestowed upon us by the "Giver of every good and perfect gift. The day was generally observed in a becoming manner, excepting by that class of men, who wear the livery of heaven to serve the Devil more fully than they otherwise could.

For our part, we hope the day's sanctity may be abolished, for the reason that the opportunity is always embraced by the generation of vipers, led on by Beecher, Chapin & Co., to spread themselves in their pulpits, in a kind of license granted to this class of preachers, who come fully up to the standard of their predecessor—we mean Judas Iscariot, for they both betray their master and insult their hearers, and assist to trail the banner of their divine master in the dust. But we presume they act from the same that their wretched prototype did—for money, and we expect to hear of them closing their lives in the same manner.

This class of men, like all wrong doers, succeed by false pretences, they arise in their pulpits and announce preaching next Sunday at the usual hour, from the position they occupy and the book they hold in their hands, the public expect to hold the Gospel preached. But upon assembling their ears are treated with a subject not found between the lids of the Bible—negroes and American Slavery.

It seems to us that this class of hypocrites will not cease until they have destroyed both Religion and Liberty in this country. They are a blighting curse to our land, and everything that is just and right.

The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850

There is a great deal of misconception current in relation to the Fugitive Slave Law enacted by Congress in 1850. That law was approved by Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Millard Fillmore, John P. Kennedy, and by the whole Democratic party, and by the most eminent jurists of the country. An article in the Ledger, yesterday, assumes that there is something peculiar and invidious in that provision which alludes to this law the support of the *pro se constitutus*. The fact is simply this: many of the States, among them Pennsylvania, prohibiting their magistrates from carrying out the act of 1793, it became necessary for Congress to provide new functionaries before whom should be conducted the proceedings necessary to give effect to the IV Article of the Constitution of the United States:

"No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor; but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due." The Federal Courts and their Marshals, of course, had authority to act, but they are "few and far between," and could not supply the place of the State magistrates whose services had been withdrawn. Under this necessity, the act of Congress of 1850 authorized the appointment of U. S. Commissioners to exercise the functions of magistrates; to the Commissioner and to the Marshal, or constable appointed to execute his process, it was necessary, as they were newly created officers, expressly to give the power invested in similar functionaries, to call upon the *pro se constitutus* in case of resistance to their authority.

This and nothing more was done by the act of 1850. It simply gives "authority to such Commissioners, or the persons to be appointed by them, to execute process as aforesaid, to summon and call to their aid the bystanders or *pro se constitutus* of the proper county, when necessary to ensure a faithful observance of the clause of the Constitution referred to, in conformity with this act."

To repeal this provision, as the Ledger proposes, would be to stigmatize this clause in the constitution and the act for its enforcement, as unworthy of that support to which all other laws are entitled. This is, in truth, the just cause of complaint which the South has against the North. A law for the fulfillment of an express constitutional obligation is, in many of the States, the object of hostile legislation, the intent of which, carried out to various degrees, is to stigmatize and nullify what is entitled to the same respect, the same support as any other law of this United States. It is also to be noticed that the objection in question is a sheer pretext. The call upon the "pro se constitutus," which in all cases is antiquated and unusual, has never, we believe, been resorted to in aid of the Fugitive Slave Law. This law, like other laws, has all ways been executed by paid officers, and we venture to say that in no single instance have the feelings or prejudices of any private citizen been wounded by even a call on him for assistance. For the refusal of it no special penalty is provided by the act of Congress of 1850, as any one may see who will examine it, though the contrary is often asserted. The penalty imposed by the law is upon those who "knowingly and wilfully" obstruct the arrest, or attempt the rescue of a fugitive. *Pennsylvaniaian*.

"Has a Republican ever been heard threatening, advocating or justifying Disunion?"—*Refugee's Journal*.

The following resolves stand recorded upon the legislative journals of Massachusetts:

"Resolved, That the annexation of Texas is *ipso facto* a dissolution of the Union."
"Resolved, That Texas being annexed, Massachusetts is out of the Union."

Is the Journal answered?

Edw. Adam, who seceded from Paradise, by refusing to obey the law of the Lord, was the first Secessionist.—*Boston Traveller*. He was turned out for not obeying the law.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.