



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...

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...

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.

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.

This is the language at which our Southern friends become offended; this is what we are to accept as conciliation—harmony—peace!

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.

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

And then starts off with the following beautiful (?) description of his Southern neighbors: 'They are inexorable as death, and as insatiable as the grave. Their principles are those of burglars, highwaymen and pirates, and their practices are a great deal worse.'

Reached by those two leaders of the Republican party, is, that their party, as a party must be upheld and sustained even

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 some thing, at least. Men admire natural curiosities, 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 trousers. 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.

A man of brass cannot always brook disappointment. Delays will make him desperate, and such the Major has become. He has unheathed his sword; his voice is for war, and his motto is *Catchpenny* often, 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 *dash*, but brilliant consummation of his life now that his political faith has been crowned by contentment 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 Republic's 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 mule ear, and use it for a scabbard for your reeking sword.

'Who are the Disunionists?' 'We 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.

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 Doollittle 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.'

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.

BY LADY 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 15th 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 13th 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.

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.'

Gen. Cass.—General Cass 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.

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 Blindness 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 uncontrovertible as was 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 Octavian piece, and after it is consummated find ourselves prospering and to prosper as we were before the disruption.

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 the creation of a conflict of discordant interests among themselves.

Who should care 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 diving on. Influated 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 material 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 a 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 its 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 hiding, 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

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 law, more fully than they otherwise could.

For our part, we hope the day may be abolished, for the reason that opportunity is always embraced by the generation of vipers, led on by Beecher, Chapin & Co., to spread themselves in their pulpits, it is a kind of license granted to this class of preachers, who crowfully up to the standard of their predecessor—we mean Judas Iscariot, for the both betray their master and insult his hearers, and assist to trail the banner of their divine master in the dust. But we presume they act from the same that the wretched prototype did—for money, and we expect to hear of them closing the 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 hear the Gospel preached. But upon assembling their cars are treated with 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 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. The law was approved by Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Millard Fillmore, John C. Calhoun, and the whole Democratic party, by the most eminent jurists of the country. An article in the *Leveur*, yesterday assumes that there is something peculiar and invidious in that provision which forbids to this law the support of the *pro confidant*. The fact is simply this: many of the States, among them Pennsylvania prohibiting their magistrates from enforcing the act of 1793, it became necessary for Congress to provide new functions before whom should be conducted proceedings necessary to give effect to IV Article of the Constitution of the United States:

'No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escapes into another, shall, in consequence of a 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, 1850 authorized the appointment of U. S. Commissioners to exercise the functions of magistrates; to the Commissioners to the Marshal, or constable appointed to execute his process, it was necessary, they were newly created officers, expected to give the power invested in similar functionaries, to call upon the *pro confidant*, in case of resistance to their authority.

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

To repeal this provision, as the *Leveur* proposes, would be to stigmatize a clause in the constitution and the act its enforcement, as unworthy of their 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 the eye of the States, the object of hostile legislation, the intent of which, carried out to its very degree, is to stigmatize and nullify what is entitled to the same respect, the same support as any other law of the United States. It is also to be noticed in the objection in question is a sheer pretext. The call upon the 'pro confidant,' 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 always 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 a call on him for assistance. For the fulfilment of no special penalty is provided by the act of Congress of 1850, as any one may see who will examine it, though contrary is often asserted. The penalty imposed by the law is upon those who 'knowingly and wilfully' obstruct arrest, or attempt the rescue of a fugitive *Pennsylvanian*.

'Has a Republican ever been threatened, advocating or justifying Union?'—*Raftsmen'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 of Massachusetts with the United States.

'Resolved, That Texas being annexed to the United States, the State of Massachusetts is out of the Union.

Is the Journal answered?

Adam, who seceded from Paradise by refusing to obey the law of the Lord, was the first Secessionist.—*Boston Herald*.

He was turned out for not obeying law.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.