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DEMOCRATIC STATE NOMINATIONS. JAMES A. PORTER, Philadelphia.

WILLIAM A. PORTER, Philadelphia. GERALD COMPTON, Fayette.

A WORD TO DELINQUENTS. There are hundreds of persons indebted to us for subscription, advertising, or job work—varying in sums from one dollar up to twenty dollars—which ought to be paid, and which we will not pay until they are paid.

A HANDSOME COMPLIMENT. Vice President Breckinridge has won general opinions from every body, on account of the dignity, ability and impartiality with which he presided over the Senate during the late session of Congress.

THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS. The closing scenes of the late session of Congress, which terminated on Monday evening the 7th inst., at 6 o'clock, P. M., presented one of the characteristics of hasty legislation and tumult so often seen at the close of past sessions.

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OPPOSITION STATE CONVENTION.

The Erie Constitution, decidedly the ablest Republican paper in North Western Pennsylvania, whose editor is one of the most influential of his party, is out in strong terms against the proposed Union State Convention.

After announcing the project, and the means by which it was obtained, it uses the following language: For one we enter our protest in advance against any affiliation, coalition, union or fusion with such political renegades and traitors as Swope and Flannigan.

They have the freedom of the State struck hands with them and thence they have been betrayed if they honestly desire a union of all the opponents of the administration in the present campaign, they ought, in view of the past, to have the prudence to keep their names from any published calls.

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WILLIAM A. PORTER.

Some curiosity is usually felt to know the private history of men who are proposed for public office. Judge Porter spent a considerable portion of his life in this town.

He was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, and is now about thirty-seven years of age. He is the son of the Hon. David R. Porter, whose name has long been familiar to our people.

His father was a distinguished lawyer and statesman, and his mother was the daughter of Mr. McDermott, who emigrated from Ireland to this country for the purpose of engaging in manufacturing iron in western Pennsylvania.

Being Irish on one side and Scotch on the other, Judge Porter has a good right to the title of Scotch Irish, so much enjoyed in his life by Judge Gibson.

His early education was in the common schools of his native county, and he was educated in the College on several occasions. He became proficient also in moral and intellectual philosophy.

In 1839, Mr. Porter commenced the study of the law in the office of Hon. J. M. Porter, who has turned out more lawyers than some of our best statesmen.

He was admitted to the bar in 1841, and has since that time been engaged in the practice of his profession. He has been a member of the bar since that time.

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AN IMPORTANT STATE PAPER.

An important letter of the Hon. HOWELL COBB, the able Secretary of the Treasury, has been published, and attracts general attention, as it will necessarily do, coming from so distinguished a Southern statesman.

It appears that a firm in Charleston, S. C., Messrs. Lafitte & Co., applied to the Collector of that port for a clearance of an American ship for the coast of Africa, for the purpose of taking on board African emigrants, in accordance, they said, with the United States passenger laws, and with the design of bringing those negroes to this country; and the Collector asked instructions from head quarters, on the subject of granting this request.

In reply to this request the Secretary states that the object of the applicants must be either to import Africans to be disposed of as slaves, or to be bound to service, or to bring them, like other emigrants, to be entitled to the rights of freemen. The two first contingencies are first examined, and the conclusion arrived at that the introduction of negroes, either as slaves or apprentices, is clearly in violation of both the spirit and letter of the law; and the clearance cannot be granted.

Here the reader will find positive instructions against any and all forms of the African slave trade. Anybody who desires to know how the administration think and act on the question of the restoration of this trade will find the information in full; it opposes all attempts to revive it, in whatever shape they present themselves. It meets every phase of this question, and is conclusive on every point.

We have only room for the following paragraphs from this excellent letter: The motive cannot be mere philanthropy, for it would confer no benefit upon those who grog to bring them to our shores, were they permitted to land at all, it would only be to occupy our past houses, hospitals and prisons.

To believe, under the circumstances, that the United States would voluntarily violate the laws of the most civilized nation, to bring African emigrants to this country, to enjoy the rights and privileges of freemen, would require an amount of credulity that would justify the person so believing to the charge of mental imbecility. The intention of the law is to bring those "African emigrants" into the country, with the view either of making slaves of them, or of holding them to service or labor.

It is not to be supposed that the laws of the country on the subject of African importation, to which I have called your attention. Ordinarily, it would be an unsafe rule for a public officer to act upon the supposition of a violation of the laws of another country, but in this case it is put so clearly beyond the reach of doubt, that I think that you not only can, but that you are in duty bound to act upon the presumption that the laws of the United States, and you should accordingly refuse their vessel the clearance asked for.

I am, very respectfully, HOWELL COBB, Secy. of the Treasury. W. F. COLEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Customs, Charleston, S. C.

U. S. SENATE—SPECIAL SESSION. WASHINGTON, June 16, 1858. Shortly after the meeting of the Senate, the galleries were filled with a large number of young men, who were engaged in a discussion of the subject of African importation.

Resolved, (as the judgment of the Senate,) That the African vessels on the high seas, in the possession of the United States, be retained in the custody of the United States, until they have been cleared by the United States, and until they have been cleared by the United States, and until they have been cleared by the United States.

Resolved, That the Senate fully approves the action of the Executive in sending a naval force into the infested seas with orders to protect all vessels of the United States on the high seas, and to prevent the same from being used as a base of operations for the slave trade.

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CITY AND COUNTY AFFAIRS.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE.—The coming Anniversary of American Independence will be celebrated in an appropriate manner, at Watank on Monday, the 4th of July, by the Lancaster Families, and the Lancaster Militia, who will be accompanied by the Lancaster Band, and the Lancaster Artillery.

A GROSS LIE.—The Lancaster correspondent of the *Manchester Standard*, in that paper of Friday last, perpetrated an outrageous libel upon the *Mozer Society* of this town, by stating that it was a "free association," and that it was a "free association," and that it was a "free association," and that it was a "free association."

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RAWLINSVILLE AFFAIRS.

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ST. LOUIS CORRESPONDENCE.

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