

side that those laws do not meet with the approval of a majority of the people.

Under these circumstances, what is the duty of Congress? Is it their duty to sit quietly by and behold these alterations in the Territory, without devising any means to avoid them? Is it the duty of Congress, which embodies the sentiments of this whole Republic, to sit quietly by and allow the institution of slavery to extend itself into territory under its exclusive jurisdiction, and which was once consecrated by solemn act to freedom. In 1819, Louis McLane, of Delaware, during the discussion in the Senate that preceded the passage of the Missouri compromise, though himself a slaveholder and from a slave State, declared that—

"Nothing can more gladden the heart than the contemplation of a portion of territory consecrated to freedom, whose soil shall never be polluted by the tread of the slave or degraded by the step of the oppressor or oppressor."

But, to day, the soil whose contemplation so gladdens the patriotic heart is not only moistened with the tear of slave, but is threatened to be drenched with fraternal blood. In this crusade to propagate slavery, not only by changing the construction given to the Constitution for more than half a century, but by force of arms, permit me to call your attention to the almost dying counsel of one of the country's most illustrious names. Though born and reared under southern influences, it is a sentiment that will find a cordial response in the patriot heart everywhere, and is worthy to be inscribed on his tombstone. In discussing the compromise measures on the 5th of February, 1850, as if foreboding the present hour in his country's history, Mr. Clay said:

"But if unhappily, we should be involved in war between the two parts of this Confederacy, in which the one side should be to invade the introduction of slavery into the new Territories, and upon the other side to force its introduction there, what a spectacle should we present, to the astonishment of mankind, in an effort, not to propagate rights, but to maintain the right to propagate slavery. I must say, though I trust it will be understood to be said with no design to excite feelings, nor to propagate wrong in the Territories thus acquired from Mexico, it would be a war in which we should have no sympathies, no good wishes, in which our own history itself would be against us, for from the commencement of the Revolution down to the present time, we have constantly reproached our British ancestors for the introduction of slavery into this country."

From the tomb comes the voice of your sainted dead, to rebuke the efforts making to-day to establish slavery upon the soil of Kansas; and is it for the freedom of this country not only to turn a deaf ear to the safe counsels of the venerated dead, but to stand in indifference to the best interests of the future? Will you carry into Kansas the institution of slavery under the protection of the flag of your country? For it is for Congress to say what shall be done, and what kind of institutions shall exist there during its territorial existence.

On some future occasion I hope to have an opportunity to discuss at length the constitutional power of Congress over the Territories; but at this time the only proper inquiry is, what is the cause of the unprecedented state of affairs in Kansas, and what can be done to save that people from bloodshed and civil war?

The President in his annual message, after reviewing the slavery question, closes with the rather singular summary of the cause of the present excitement at the North:

"If the no-slavery rage of fanaticism and partisan spirit did not force the fact upon our attention, it would be difficult to believe that any considerable portion of the people of this enlightened country should have surrendered themselves to a fanatical devotion to the supposed interests of the relatively few Africans in the United States, as to ally to abandon and disregard the interests of the tens of millions of Americans."

The art of the lawyer and the politician is ever to associate names made odious in the public mind with what they wish to destroy, and upon them attempt to excite the prejudice of men.

Sir, the men of the North have not "surrendered themselves to a fanatical devotion to the supposed interests of the relatively few Africans in the United States," but they desire to gladden the heart of the patriot forever with the contemplation of a portion of territory consecrated to freedom, whose soil shall never be moistened by the tear of the slave, or degraded by the step of the oppressor or oppressor."

The rights of the citizens of Kansas are the rights of the twenty-five millions of Americans, and the wrongs of the one should be adopted as the wrongs of the other. If the rights of one man in this country can be trampled upon by legislative enactment, the rights of all may. When men are disfranchised by law, and deprived of their nearest and dearest rights, and that law rests upon the Government of the country for its validity and its sanction, it comes home to the bosom of every person, no matter in what part of the Republic he lives; and he who would set quietly down and permit wrong and injustice to be done to a citizen of the country when he could prevent it, is guilty of a gross dereliction of duty.

The freedom of Kansas is entitled to your protection. They are entitled to your protection against invasion at the ballot-box, to your protection against unjust laws which violate their rights, your protection in the freedom of speech and the press. The supervision of all their legislation being under the control of Congress, let it, then, do its duty, and remove from the people these odious enactments which they regard as a stain upon the Republic.

The men of the North are not resisting the attempt to subvert the spirit and genius of the institutions of the Republic; and the effort now making to overturn its well-established policy in legislating for the Territories, the effort to reverse the decision of the courts making slavery a local, sectional institution, resting upon local law for its support, and to nationalize it by throwing over it the shield and the protection of the Constitution and the Union, wherever it goes beyond the jurisdiction of the local laws which gave it support—it is against this doctrine that the men of the North war, and not in behalf of "the relatively few Africans" in the country. Their condition, however deplorable in the States where they exist, is beyond our reach. We must therefore leave them to those who have the control of the laws under which they live. But we insist that the flag of the Union shall float, as heretofore, the emblem of freedom, and under its folds, everywhere, the freedom of speech and of the press, and the inalienable rights of men, shall be protected.

LOUISIANA POLITICS.—The following dispatch from the Louisiana Democratic State Convention has been received at Washington, from a private source:—

BATON ROUGE, La., March 13.—The State Convention has elected anti-Buchanan delegates to the Cincinnati Convention. In the contest for delegates for the State at large, Soule led one ticket and Shiloh the other. The Soule ticket is elected by about 50 majority.

## Bradford Reporter.

E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

### TOWANDA:

Saturday Morning, March 29, 1856.

TERMS.—One Dollar per annum, invariably in advance. Four weeks previous to the expiration of a subscription, notice will be given by a printed wrapper, and if not renewed, the paper will be sent in all cases be stopped.

CIRCULATION.—The Reporter will be sent to Clubs at the following extremely low rates: 5 copies for \$5.00 15 copies for \$12.00 10 copies for \$8.00 20 copies for \$15.00

ADVERTISEMENTS.—For a square of ten lines or less, One Dollar for three or less insertions, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent insertion.

JOBS.—Executed with accuracy and dispatch, and at reasonable prices, with every facility for doing Books, Blank, Hand-bills, Ball tickets, &c.

Money may be sent by mail, at our risk—enclosed in an envelope, and properly directed, we will be responsible for its safe delivery.

### REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION

In fulfillment of the duties imposed upon the undersigned, as members of the National Executive Committee for the State of Pennsylvania, (appointed by the Republican Convention held at Philadelphia on the 22d ult.) and in compliance with the wishes of numerous friends, the undersigned hereby gives notice that a REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION will be held in the city of Philadelphia on MONDAY, the 16th day of JUNE next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., for the formation of an Electoral Ticket, and the nomination of a State Ticket, to be supported at the ensuing Presidential and State elections; and generally for the transaction of all such business as shall come before said Convention.

The undersigned would recommend that the Convention be composed of Delegates, twice in number to that of the Senate and House of Representatives; and that the friends of freedom in the several counties of the Commonwealth meet at the county seat, or other convenient place in their respective counties, on Saturday, the 31st day of May next, (unless some other day will better accommodate) and elect delegates to represent them in said State Convention; and also, at the same time and place, three delegates from each several Congressional district, to represent this State in the National Nominating Convention to be held on the 17th of June next, at Philadelphia.

Member of National Exec. Com. for Pa. Towanda, March 15, 1856.

### REPUBLICAN COUNTY CONVENTION

At a meeting of the Republican County Committee, held at the Court House, in Towanda, Monday, March 17, 1856, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That a County Convention be held in the Borough of Towanda, on Tuesday evening, May 6th, to be composed of two delegates from each election district, for the purpose of electing delegates to the Republican State Convention, and for the election of delegates to this Congressional district to the Republican National Convention, and for the consideration of such other matters as may be brought before it.

Resolved, That the Committees of Vigilance be requested to call primary meetings in their respective election districts on Saturday, May 4, 1856, between the hours of 2 and 4 P. M., to elect two delegates from each district to said Convention.

March 19, 1856. Chairman.

### COMMITTEES OF VIGILANCE.

Albany—Wells, Wilcox, M. H. Coddling, John Steriger, Daniel Kellogg.

Armstrong—Alfred Ripley, David S. Becker, Alva Barnham, W. Perry.

Ashtabula—John F. Dodge, J. H. Morrow, Geo. W. Ingham, Frank Terry.

Athens township—S. W. Park, John Griffin, David Gardner, Erastus Wolfert.

Athens township—N. C. Harris, C. Hunsicker, L. S. Keeler, D. B. Cotton.

Barrington—Ezra L. Lathrop, J. W. Spencer, D. M. Alexander, James Nichols.

Barlingham—Philetus Long, Chester Kingsley, Charles Lewis, N. T. Dickerson.

Columbia—James Bullock, Dunham Lewis, Andrew Gerret, Ben Strat.

Canton—S. Newman, M. H. Case, S. Owens, Lawrence Durel, R. Bell, D. L. Statton, O. Moody, Edw. H. Hunt.

Chautauque—C. Cooper, H. Brown, W. Stevens, J. D. Hammon, F. F. Fairchild.

Granville—Luman Putnam, William Brown, Benjamin Saxton, Harrison Ross.

Herkank—J. P. Park, E. Carr, A. B. Brown, Abel Bolles, Littlefield, Milo Merrill, Cyrus Woodcock, Stephen Evans, Homan Moore.

Jefferson—A. P. Pass, S. Bailey, Charles Lamb, John Cole, Monroe township—Freeman Sweet, Daniel Decker, Chas. G. Hallon, Rowland Rockwell.

Monroe township—E. B. Coughlan, S. S. Hinnam, Anthony Miller, J. L. Rockwell.

Orwell—S. N. Bronson, John W. Payson, Henry Gibbs, A. G. Mathews.

Overton—James M. Hareley, William Waltman, Orange Chase, George Hottenstein.

Pike—E. Crandal, B. B. Bailey, E. S. Sked, G. W. Brink, R. P. Forbes, O. Young, J. G. Towne, F. W. Maynard.

Randolph—C. Cooper, H. Brown, W. Stevens, J. D. Hammon, Sheshegin—O. H. P. Kinney, Charles Chaffee, C. W. Bullis, A. J. Cole.

Springfield—G. H. Campbell, Andrew G. Brown, Amos Knapp, Isaac E. Bullock.

Southfield—G. K. McVannan, Orpheus K. Bird, Clinton E. Wood, E. G. Dingley.

South Creek—W. Y. Glines, Ira Crane, J. F. Gillet, Lina Williams.

Standing Stone—William Griffin, Henry Noble, William Kingsley, George Peter Moore, N. H. McCullon, L. N. Thibault, James H. Nash.

Townsend—Edw. H. Wells, A. J. Cuswell, Henry Montgomerie, Davis Gray.

Towanda township—Jere Culp, Frank Overton, Wallis Bull, Percival Powell.

Towanda—Hiram G. Fox, Samuel C. Means, J. H. Decker, L. J. Bowman.

North Towanda—George Mills, A. D. Kingsbury, Ezra Ratty, Samuel Stratton.

Troy township—E. B. Parsons, George P. Newberry, Danl. Dobbin, B. S. Dart.

Troy township—Alonso Thomas, Ezra Loomis, Amasa Greeno, J. M. Smith.

Clear—C. H. Hovey, D. J. Chubbuck, J. L. Goodeline, S. N. Haves.

Wysox—Moses Caulfield—M. J. Coughlan, L. P. Spalding, George Strope.

Wysox—J. A. Ingham, Francis Homet, Eliza Lewis, Harry Clark.

Warren—Miles Prince, Jacob Rogers, James Cooper, Mirand, Charles.

Wells—Levanzo Grinnell, John Brownell, Newell Leonard, John Brasted.

Windham—Rat Vanhook, James M. Peck, James Olmsted, William S. Bullock.

Wilmot—Jonathan Battles, J. H. Torrell, J. L. Jones, Hiram Stone.

### THE LEGISLATURE.

Amendments to Senate amendments to House bill No. 333, further supplement to the act to establish a ferry across the Susquehanna River at or near Ulster, Bradford county, were concurred in by the Senate.

The House Committee on Banks, after mature deliberation, have come to the determination—

1st. To report no bill, with a favorable recommendation, for the charter of any new bank or new savings institution.

2d. To favor the extension of the charter of no bank which has not kept its notes at par, agreeably to the existing law of this Commonwealth.

The bill in regard to the public printing has passed finally, and only needs the Governor's signature to become a law. It provides for the election in joint Convention of the two Houses of a State Printer, and fixes the rate of compensation.

The election is to take place ten days after the bill becomes a law, to be for three years from the first day of July next. Thereafter the election is to take place on the first Monday in February in every third year.

The prices are forty cents per thousand ems composition, and 50 per cent. additional for rule and figure work, and forty cents per token for press work. Bills sixty cents per page, to contain about 1100 ems—200 copies.

For blanks—foolscap and flatcap, forty cts. per quire; folio-post, fifty; demi, sixty; medium, eighty; royal, \$1.25; super royal, \$1.50, including fine lining. Printer to find paper for blanks—State to find paper for laws, journals, documents and bills.

A Superintendent of Printing to be appointed, as now at a salary of \$800 per annum, who is to purchase paper and superintend work generally.

The House has under consideration the general appropriation bill, and passed it to second reading. In the Committee the section increasing the salaries of the law judges of the State was stricken out.

The Judiciary Committee in the Senate has reported adversely on the bill changing the venue in Col. PROLET'S libel suit.

The Senate has passed two Bank bills—the Union Bank of Philadelphia, and the Tioga County Bank.

Mr. BUCKALEW, on leave, read a bill in place to prevent the interference of Judges in partisan politics; which,

On motion of Mr. CRABB, was read and taken up for consideration.

Mr. KILLINGER enquired what was the object of the bill? Was it not intended to apply to a judge of a particular district?—(Alluding to the Hon. DAVID WILMOT.)

Mr. BUCKALEW disclaimed any intention to apply it to any particular case. It was a general bill, which applied to all the President Judges—Common Pleas, District and Supreme Judges.

Mr. TAGGART expressed himself in opposition to the bill. It was an interference with the freedom of the highest privilege—the right of speech.

Mr. BUCKALEW then spoke in defence of the bill. He argued that it was nothing more than right that a judge, in whose hands the most delicate and important interests of the people are frequently placed, should abstain from participating in the proceedings of political meetings. There was nothing in the bill to deprive them from the full enjoyment of the right of suffrage, and all other rights, except taking part in political meetings and haranguing the people on the stump. Under the present elective feature of the Constitution, this was a great evil, and it was proper to guard against it. Perhaps under the old constitution a provision of law of this kind was not necessary, but under the present system he believed it was not only necessary, but would prove highly salutary.

Mr. STRAUB inquired whether it would prevent a judge from becoming a candidate for office?

Mr. BUCKALEW. Certainly not. It simply prohibited the public participation of judges in political assemblies.

Mr. PIATT had no idea that the bill was intended to meet any special case. So far as the bill itself was concerned it was right and proper. He referred to the fact that Judge Wilmot had frequently interfered in political meetings. He had not unfrequently held court in the day time in the county of Susquehanna, and at night came down from the bench and addressed the people on the exciting political questions of the day. The effect of this was evil. It was calculated to excite political prejudices, and interfere with the courts of justice. He was not actuated from political feeling. He desired to remedy an evil, and would go for the bill.

Mr. TAGGART objected to the bill, because it was aimed at an individual—with malice, aforethought—a single man two hundred miles away.

He referred to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which guaranteed freedom of speech to every citizen. He asked the Senator from Wyoming, [Mr. PIATT], if DAVID WILMOT was so mighty—or his words so terrible to the foes of right and truth, that the legislative power of the Commonwealth must be invoked to shut his mouth? How loudly must he speak, and to how many shall he speak to come within the operation of this bill? To-day we enact that he shall not speak loudly to a multitude—to-morrow that he shall not speak in a moderate tone to an individual—and next day, that he shall not whisper in a corner to his wife, and then we will deprive him of his vote. It is the same in principle. Thousands of men—and the best men, would reject with scorn an office that would muzzle them in the declaration of their

sentiments, whenever and wherever and however they choose to utter them. There are emergencies which require the best talent of the land for their discussion, and that talent is frequently found upon the bench. Some men would rather surrender their right to vote, than their right to speak. Doubtless the Senator for Columbia, [Mr. BUCKALEW], is among them.

His right to speak was worth ten times as much to himself and to his party, as his vote. This was not flattery, but the truth. The Constitution embraced all, even judges, within its protecting arms, and it would require more than a simple enactment to disfranchise them. The Senator had better include it among his constitutional amendments.

Mr. PRICE said his sympathies were with the purposes of the bill. He thought the interference of judges with the partisan politics of the day a great indecorum. But he thought they should pause before enacting a measure of so much importance. The bill ought to go through the usual order of legislation. Though he sympathized with the movement, he was opposed to too hasty action. He moved to refer the bill to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. KILLINGER opposed the bill. At a first guess he thought it was aimed at the judge referred to—Hon. David Wilmot—but as the Senator who introduced it disclaimed this, he was bound to accept the explanation. He could see no necessity for the bill. It was throwing a stigma upon the judges, and he was not prepared to vote for it.

Mr. CRABB said when he made the motion to proceed to the consideration of the bill, he had no idea that it was aimed at any particular judge. It appeared to him to be right in principle. The judges certainly ought not to participate in political meetings. It was in favor, and voted to increase the salaries of the judges, in order to make independent of the Legislature, and he thought it proper to compel them to be independent also of political parties. He had no feeling against any particular judge.

Mr. BUCKALEW was willing that the bill should lay over for examination, but he thought there was no necessity for referring it to a committee. It was a plain and simple proposition, that the judges shall not mingle in political meetings and make stump speeches.

After some further discussion by Messrs. BUCKALEW, PRICE and TAGGART,

Mr. BUCKALEW called a division of the question on the motion to postpone, and refer to the Judiciary Committee.

The first division—to postpone, was agreed to.

The second division—to refer to the committee, was then also agreed to—yeas 16, nays 14, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Browne, Crabb, Ferguson, Finney, Flenniken, Frazer, Gregg, Jordan, Knox, Mellinger, Pratt, Price, Tellers, Shuman, Southern, and Taggart—16.

NAYS—Messrs. BUCKALEW, Cresswell, Ely, Evans, Hoge, Ingram, Killinger, Lambach, McClintock, Straub, Walton, Welsh, Wilkins and Piatt, Speaker—14.

So the bill was referred.

In the House, the section of the appropriation bill appropriating \$10,000 to the Towanda Bridge being under consideration, an amendment was offered and agreed to, making the amount \$7,500. Soon after, Mr. MCALMONT informed the House that a proviso had been handed him by the Canal Commissioners, which he wished to add to the section. The vote was reconsidered, and he offered the following proviso:

"That in case the Canal Commissioners deem the said bridge the best means of crossing the Towanda dam, then so much of the said sum only shall be drawn from the treasury as the Canal Commissioners may decide as the proper proportion which the State ought to pay towards the rebuilding of said bridge; but if, on examination, should decide that the river could be crossed by other means affording equal facilities to transportation, with more safety and at less cost to the Commonwealth, then the said sum of \$7,500, or so much thereof as may be required, is hereby appropriated to the construction of such crossing as may be decided upon by said Canal Commissioners."

This proviso was agreed to; and the section as amended then agreed to.

The Committee of Conference on the license bill, have agreed upon a bill, which will be reported in a day or two. It fixes \$25 as the minimum of hotel licenses in the country; \$50 in county towns and other boroughs with over 200 taxables; \$75 in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and one hotel to be licensed in the cities for every 100 taxables, and one for every 150 taxables elsewhere. It also allows one restaurant or eating-house to be licensed for every four hotels everywhere; the license not to be less than \$20, and to be granted by the courts.

LIQUOR LAW SUSTAINED IN MICHIGAN.—The Supreme Court of Michigan has pronounced its opinion on the liquor law, deciding that the legislature has a perfect right to pass a prohibitory law. Judge Pratt alone dissented—the other seven judges affirming the decision. The search and seizure clause was pronounced unconstitutional on the ground of fatal defects in its form of proceeding. The question of principle in it was not passed upon.

KANSAS INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.—Speaker BANKS, on Monday, appointed Messrs. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, HOWARD, of Michigan, and OLIVER, of Missouri, as the Kansas Investigating Committee. Mr. CAMPBELL subsequently declined, and Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, was appointed in his place.

MAT LAUGHLIN, at the Post Office, advertised in another column, a valuable book entitled "Lardner's One thousand Things worth knowing," containing much information beneficial to all classes of community, in most all of the departments of life.

### SUICIDE OF A WOMAN BY HANGING.—The

Honesdale Herald says:—Coroner Patton favors us with the particulars of the suicide of Mrs. CATHERINE CURTIS, a widow, which occurred in the township of Cherry Ridge, a few miles west of our borough, on the 14th inst.—She was living on a small farm, left her by her husband, in comfortable circumstances. She was the mother of three children, one being married, and the others living with her at the time of her death. On the morning of the 14th, when the children got up, they found their mother hanging in the stairway to one of the upper floor sills. They gave the alarm to their neighbors who hastened to the house, and took her down, but she was past resuscitation—she was dead. She had tied a handkerchief around her neck, and from all appearances, had tied it to a rope which was fastened above, while standing on the stairs, and then stepped off. Her feet were but a few inches from the floor. The children were not awakened by any noise, nor knew nothing of the sad affair until about 7 o'clock in the morning.

No cause is assigned by her neighbors for this act, other than that of trouble about some of her property, which was in dispute between herself and her son-in-law. She had appeared strangely for several days, but no one anticipated any such melancholy result. She was about 50 years of age.

The editor of the Wayne County Herald, having given an endorsement to CHASE'S libels upon Judge Wilmot, now voluntarily makes the amendment honorable in the following manner:—"On the 22d of November last we hastily copied in the columns of the Herald an editorial article from the *Montrose Democrat*, edited by E. B. CHASE, Esq., and published in the adjoining Judicial district over which Hon. DAVID WILMOT presides, in which he was charged with divers official partialities and wrongs, and for so doing was threatened with impeachment; but recently we have been credibly informed that they were not warranted from the facts of the case, and accordingly make the amendment honorable in our columns without delay, upon receiving the said information. However widely we may differ with the Judge politically, we have no desire to detract from his personal character or judicial reputation, and consequently we correct in this place any undue impression the former publication may have made upon the mind of our readers."

Having but a slight acquaintance with the Judge, and no personal knowledge of his official administration, we cannot be considered moved by any designs upon his personal or official character by the publication referred to, and regret the copying it into our paper—and more especially that we should have been so incautious as to give its truthfulness our endorsement."

[For the Bradford Reporter.]

MR. EDITOR: The following, from a young man, formerly a school-boy in Towanda, now in Nottingham, England, may possibly be of some interest to your readers. It is dated March 7th, 1856.

"Spring has made her appearance here with all the freshness of the month of April in New York and Pennsylvania. The farmers are in the midst of their spring work. You would be astonished to see them prepare the land to receive a crop. They take more pains to get their fields into good condition than many in the states do with their gardens. I pass a field daily that had wheat in last year, and which they are now preparing for a spring crop. I had often heard of good farming, and thought I had seen some before now, but since I have witnessed the manner of preparing land here, I renounce all ideas of good farming that I ever before entertained. Even the stubble of the wheat fields is raked off, and buried, before they plough the land."

"The winter has been extremely mild here; but a very few days sufficiently cold to require an overcoat."

Speaking the peace conference in session in Paris, he adds:—

"Now, as John Bull thinks he is nearly through with Russia, he begins to curb and shake his horns at us. An Englishman said to me a few days since, 'that we had better keep quiet, or they would send their bull-dogs across the Atlantic to silence us.' I very coolly remarked, 'that before doing this it would be well for them to remember that we had sent them yelling home, with their tails between their legs, twice already.'"

STREET FIGHT IN ERIE.—An unfortunate and discreditable encounter took place in this city on Tuesday, the 11th inst., between Mr. J. R. Thompson and A. H. Caghey, Esq., one of the editors of the Constitution, in which the latter was very severely, and some say, fatally injured. We trust, however, this last is incorrect. As there are a dozen conflicting accounts of this affair, the true one of which will most likely be elicited in a legal way, we state either of them authoritatively. It is said upon the one side, that Thompson met his antagonist, and felled him with a club, and then jumped upon him with his fist, thus injuring him internally. It is claimed upon the other side that no club was used, but that it was a mere street fight, in which our cotemporary came off second best. In either case, the affair is very discreditably, though we confess not unprovoked. We say this with no design of extenuating the outrage, for there can be no possible circumstance where resort to personal violence is justifiable. We say it, because we have read the article which is supposed to have produced this sad result, and we have the very best authority (obtained within the last week) that the insinuations it contains against Judge T. (the father of one of the parties) are basely false. And being so, that they should have aroused the feelings of young Mr. T., we can well understand; but that such fact is any palliation for an attack upon a person so physically inferior as Mr. C., we deny.—*Erie Observer*, 15th.

### From Washington.

[Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, March 18, 1856.

After all the parade and pompous assurance of the alleged strength of Mr. BUCHANAN in the Cincinnati Convention, it turns out, upon inquiry, that there is not one Southern State pledged to his support. The Virginia delegates are yet to be elected; and while the recent State Convention was claimed to be partial to the "favorite son of Pennsylvania," there was no better authority than the wish which was father to the thought. The shrewd calculators are now confident, and upon the best evidence too, that Gen. PIERCE will command a much larger vote than Mr. BUCHANAN; and while they do not claim 198—the two-thirds necessary—they insist, and with some plausibility, that no other named candidate can approach his aggregate. The defection of Louisiana from Mr. BUCHANAN, which was reckoned to be as sure as Pennsylvania, has diminished confidence, and impaired the seeming prestige of success, which hitherto attracted hosts of nominal friends. The desperate effort of Judge DOUGLAS to extinguish the claims of the President's Kansas Message has proved abortive. No practical result has thus far followed that demonstration, and the pondered speech, which he made in the Senate on Thursday, was attended by no better success. The very desperation with which the object is pursued by the Senator from Illinois proves how hopeless has become the chance, and, in consequence, how irritated his passion. He may as well retire from the contest, for an indefinite adjournment is inscribed opposite his name. Nor will he fall alone. Old and Young America will descend into a common political grave.

### First day of Action on Kansas—Full Investigation Ordered!

[Editorial Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, March 19, 1856.

The House took up the Kansas question very soon after meeting this morning, and Mr. BOWIE of Md. made the last speech on the side of Slavery and Non-Investigation. Mr. I. WASHINGTON then, in accordance with the previous understanding, moved the Previous Question, and there was a second. Mr. HENRY of Pa. then, before the vote on ordering the MAIN QUESTION, exercised his right of closing the debate on behalf of the Committee on Elections and in defense of the Report made by him from that Committee.

Mr. HICKMAN reviewed the whole controversy, the arguments of all the leading champions of Whittfield and Slavery, and replied to them with crushing power. He regarded the course of the Slavery men as a virtual confession of fraud and usurpation in the Kansas Elections—fraud which is here sought to be covered up—usurpation which is sought to be upheld and perpetuated. He closed with an earnest appeal for investigation—full, thorough and conclusive—and avowed his willingness, to that end, to accept Mr. DEX'S substitute for the Committee's proposition. He apprehended that a single vote might decide this day's contest, and he would accept any proposition which could be carried, provided it would secure a full investigation. His appeal to the House for light and liberty was most effective.

He closed, and the Southern proposal to recommit was strongly voted down, the Yeas and Nays not being called.

The question now recurring on the proposition of Mr. DEX, as a substitute for the Southern proposal, to appoint two lawyers there named to go to Kansas as Commissioners and take testimony.

On motion of Mr. L. D. CAMPBELL, the Yeas and Nays were ordered.

Some time was now spent in stating and explaining the question; when the House proceeded to vote on substituting Mr. DEX's for Mr. OAK's proposition, which was carried by the 104 Yeas to 91 Nays.

Mr. HOWARD then inquired as to the state of the question, and was informed by the Chair that the vote now taken had killed OAK's proposition, and brought the House to a choice between DEX's and the Committee's. Thereupon Mr. C., being opposed to both, moved that the whole subject do lie on the table—Yeas and Nays ordered, and motion defeated: Yeas 93; Nays 100. So the subject was not laid on the table.

Messrs. H. WINTER DAVIS of N. Y., Past of N. C. and WHITNEY of N. Y., who had voted Yeas before now voted