

Confession of a Wife Murderer.

[From the Toledo Commercial, April 6.]

Through the politeness of our worthy Sheriff, S. J. Springer, esq., we last evening paid a visit to R. J. M. Ward, who gave us the following confession in relation to the murder of his wife: Ward seemed to be deeply affected, frequently interrupting his disclosure by exclamations of deep sorrow and regret for the crime he had committed, and giving us a full and complete disclosure of the same. After taking down his confessions, we read the same to him, when he pronounced it correct. We give it to our readers as we had it from his own lips, in the presence of the Sheriff and others:

CONFESION.

"On Tuesday evening, Feb. 3, Mrs. Ward and myself had some words, during which Mrs. Ward struck me on the head with a fluid lamp also on the right side of the nose, causing the same to bleed freely. I begged her not to strike me, took the lamp away from her, and went to bed. We arose between 6 and 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning. I spoke to her about the blow she had given me, showing her where she had struck me on the evening previous, also the blood on the bolster and tick. She said she wished I had led to death, and, picking up a stick of hickory wood, she attempted to strike me. I warded off the blow, which fell upon my right thumb, laming it severely. The stick fell from her hand, and as she stooped to pick it up I seized a flatiron, and in the heat of passion struck her with it on the right side of the head, upon and under the ear, driving the ear-ring into the flesh. She fell to the floor, exclaiming, 'Oh! Ward you have killed me!' I dropped the flatiron and went to her; she was lying on her side; I turned her over on her back, and placed a petticoat under her head, supposing she was only stunned. I used all means in my power to restore her, but in half an hour she died, having only spoken once, 'O, my Nellie,' meaning, as I suppose, her little girl."

"After she was dead, I wrapped her head in a petticoat and drew the body under the bed, to conceal it in case any one should come in. About 8 1/2 o'clock, Wm. H. Nathan, a mulatto boy, came to the door with some milk; came into the shop; took the milk from him and he left. I then went to Liba Allen's grocery bought a pound of sugar; told him I was going away. I then returned to the house, and after a short time commenced cutting up the body. I tore the clothes open from the throat down. I then took a small pocket-knife and opened the body; took out the bowels first, and then put them in the stove, upon the wood; they being filled with air, would make a noise in exploding, as I took my knife and pricked holes through them, to prevent the noise; then took out the liver and heart, and put them in the stove; found it very difficult to burn them; had to take the poker and frequently stir them, before they could be destroyed; found the lungs very much decayed. I then took out the blood remaining in the cavity of the body, by placing a copper kettle close to the same, and scooping it out with my hands. I then dipped portions of her clothing in the same, and buried it together, fearing, if I put the blood in the stove alone, that it might be discovered. I then made an incision through the flesh, along down each side, broke off the ribs and took out the breast bone, and throwing it into a large boiler, unjointed the arms at the shoulders, doubled them up and placed them in the boiler; then severed the remaining portions of the body, by placing a stick of wood under the back and breaking the backbone over the same, cutting away the flesh and ligament with a knife; then tried to sever the head from the body; it proving ineffectual, and I put the whole upper portion of the body in the boiler; then took a large carving-knife and severed the lower portions of the body, unjointed the legs at the knee, and again at the hip-joint; cut the thighs open and took out the bones and burned them up; they burned very rapidly."

"On Thursday night I commenced burning the body, by placing the upper and back portions of the same, together with the head, in the stove. On Friday morning, finding it had not been consumed, I built a large fire by placing wood around and under it, and in a short time it was wholly consumed, except some small portions of the larger bones and of the skull. The remaining portions of the body were kept in the boiler and in tubs, under the bed, covered up with a corded petticoat, and were there at the time the first search was made on Saturday by Constable Curtis."

"Hearing on Saturday evening that the citizens were not satisfied with the search made by Mr. Curtis, I proceeded on Sunday morning to destroy the remainder of the body, by burning the same in the stove, cutting the fleshy parts of the thighs in small strips, the more readily to dispose of them. On Monday morning I took up the ashes in a small keg, sifting out the larger pieces of bone with my hands, placing the same in my overcoat pockets, which I scattered in various places in the fields at different times. Also took the major portion of the trunk nails, together with the hinges, and scattered them in different places. I then burned her trunk and every vestige of her clothing, disposing of small portions at a time, to prevent their creating too much smoke."

"On the 6th inst., R. J. M. Ward, the murderer, was brought in, dressed as usual in a full suit of black, appearing much downcast, and as the Court commanded him to stand up, he arose breathing heavily, his eyes fixed upon the floor, and only momentarily seeking the face of the Judge. With one hand he leaned heavily on the chair, while the other hung trembling at his side."

"After the Judge had pronounced sentence of death, Ward knelt down, and, leaning on the chair, buried his face in his hands, weeping and groaning. He was suffered to remain thus a few moments, as the forms of adjourning Court till afternoon were gone through with, when Sheriff Springer touched him on the shoulder, and he arose, apparently much more composed, and was taken to the Jail."

"KANSAS.—At a meeting in New-Haven, Conn., last Saturday evening, Senator Wilson stated that it was a fact within his certain knowledge, that Governor Geary wrote to President Pierce, some time before the latter went out of office, that the sufferings of the early Christians from persecution did not exceed those of the Free-State people of Kansas."

"The two horses who were urged through one hundred miles from Albany, on Monday, are both alive and kept in one stable. The Judges will award the \$350 to Mr. Taylor, the winner. He says that his horse did the last half mile in two minutes."

The Policy of the Free-State Party in Kansas.

The late Free-State Convention at Topeka decided, and we think, wisely decided, the future policy of the Free-State party in Kansas. Their position of unyielding resistance to usurped authority at every hazard, rather than compromise their rights as American citizens and jeopard the interests of Kansas, is one which challenges the approval and admiration of the friends of free territory in every part of the Union.

As certain exceptions, from apparently friendly quarters, have been taken to the course of the free-state party, in refusing to participate in the election of delegates to the Constitutional convention, provided for in the Lecompton legislature's census and convention act, we here subjoin the reasons given by them in support of their policy. These are:

1. That the organic act does not authorize the territorial legislative powers, even when legitimately convened, to pass any enabling act to change the government of the territory.

2. That the Convention and Census act of this irregular assembly at Lecompton is paragon in its character, clearly contemplates the fraud, against the recurrence of which it offers inadequate security; which deprives the Executive of the Territory of the power to prevent or remedy such fraud, leaves the control of the census and election in the hands of pretended officers, not chosen by the people of Kansas, who are of violent characters and are hostile to the best interests of the territory.

3. That said act purports to disfranchise certain bona fide settlers of Kansas, who have filed their declarations of intention to become citizens, and are recognised as voters by the organic act.

4. That there is no provision in said Convention and Census act for submitting the constitution which may be framed by the proposed Constitutional convention to the people.

These reasons appear to us satisfactory. But some of our contemporaries still inquire, why not submit to the action of the bogus legislature for once? Why not, since the free-state party is largely in the majority, vote, under protest, for delegates to the Constitutional Convention, in order to save freedom in the territory.

In the first place, it is very uncertain whether the free-state men have a majority sufficient to overcome the invasion of Missourians which the Convention act was intended to facilitate. With the unscrupulous agents of the Missouri-Kansas Legislature to execute the act, and to issue certificates of election, and with an election law which, in order to secure the success of fraudulent voters, requires in one section, as a condition of voting, registration without residence, and in another, residence without registration, and which cuts off from the right of voting all free-state men who arrived after the third Monday of last March, the chances are certainly adverse to a result fairly expressing the will of the people. Indeed, we have the impartial testimony of Gov. Geary, during his late visit in Washington, that a clear majority of ten thousand would not give the victory to the free-state men.

But allowing it to be possible for the friends of freedom to obtain a preponderance in the proposed Constitutional Convention, and thereby to frame a Constitution according to their own wishes, they would gain no practical advantage, immediate or remote, adequate to justify such a departure from consistent and sound policy as is involved in a compliance with usurped and lawless power. There is hardly a possibility that the constitution will be accepted by Congress. The Democratic party, which will be in the minority in the next House, cannot unite to sanction a constitution which, like the one in question, contrary to almost every precedent, will not have received the ratification of a popular vote. The want of the requisite ratio of population for the choice of a representative in Congress (93,420) is another objection under which the friends of Senator Douglas may cover their opposition to this, as they did their opposition to the Topeka Constitution; and numerous other reasons may be mentioned for the belief that the labors of this illegitimate constituted convention of Kansas will prove abortive. Whether they adopt a pro-slavery or an anti-slavery constitution, there is nearly an absolute certainty of a sufficient combination in Congress to reject it.

What we here urge is in reply to the objection raised on the ground of expediency. It fortunately happens that the question of expediency agrees with the dictates of a straightforward and consistent policy. With a population hardly numbering 30,000, just recovering from disastrous civil feuds, burdened with a heavy indebtedness, and as Gov. Geary says, without money enough in her treasury to pay the expenses of a convention, and needing the aid of the general government for the settlement of her land titles and the erection of her court houses and jails, Kansas can well afford to remain for a year or two to come in a territorial condition. Such is the advice of her late Governor, and we believe that it is prompted by a correct understanding of the necessities, and a sincere interest in the welfare of her people.

Meanwhile the great Northern hive of free-labor will add her multitudes to the ranks of the free-state party, and before long its immense numerical preponderance and superior prosperity, will give it in the eyes of the country such a proud pre-eminence, that even the administration at Washington will be ashamed to lend its sanction to the few omnibus loads of pro-slavery usurpers who may be hopelessly struggling against those laws of population, climate and soil, which, when allied, as they are, with the indomitable energy of a brave and slavery-bating people, must insure the ascendancy of freedom in Kansas.—*Evening Post.*

"The Kansas appointments of Mr. Buchanan indicate a policy by no means friendly to the Free-state settlers. Frederick Emory, who has just been appointed Register of the Land Office for the Western District of Kansas, according to the Cincinnati Gazette, is the Capt. Emory—the noted border ruffian—who drew his men up in line before Phillip's house, and ordered him to be shot. He was arrested for the murder under Geary, but released on bail, and now rewarded with an office from Mr. Buchanan."

"RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—On Monday night of last week the night express train on the Catawissa Williamsport and Erie Railroad, ran into a rock that had slid on the track, between Muncy and Williamsport. The cars were much damaged, and the Sunbury & Erie train was detained some three hours on Tuesday morning before the track could be cleared."

Bradford Reporter.

E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

TOWANDA:

Thursday Morning, April 16, 1857.

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 in all cases be stopped.

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



FOR GOVERNOR, DAVID WILMOT, of Bradford Co.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER, WM. MILLWARD, of Philadelphia.

FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT, JOSEPH J. LEWIS, of Chester Co.

JAMES VEECH, of Fayette County.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

The Convention of School Directors for the purpose of electing a County Superintendent, is advertised to take place on Monday, May 4th, and we desire to direct the attention of the Directors generally to an excellent article from the Pennsylvania Common School Journal, which we publish on our first page, and also to awaken such attention to the importance of the election to be held, as seems to us due, under the circumstances.

There can be no question but that the office of County Superintendent will be retained a sufficient length of time to give its efficiency and usefulness a fair trial, and whatever difference of opinion there may now be in this County in regard to the usefulness of the office, it becomes the duty of the Convention soon to assemble, so to conduct their deliberations as to give to the office of County Superintendent, an opportunity to accomplish for our Common Schools all the good possible, and to gain for itself all the credit which it fully deserves. This only requires the election of a proper man for Superintendent, and the fixing of such a salary, as shall pay him for discharging the duties with fidelity.

Between the candidates, it is not our place nor purpose to choose. We trust that when the Directors assemble in Convention, they will endeavor to lay aside all personal, political and other prejudices, and be guided in their choice, only by a desire to benefit the schools of our County. The only point of inquiry should be, who is best qualified to discharge the arduous duties of the office, in such a manner as shall confer the greatest good upon the schools. As to the Salary—it must be apparent to every one, that the time of a County Superintendent who faithfully discharges his trust, will be wholly occupied. As there has been some discussion of this question in this County, we may add, that the State Superintendent has adopted a system by which the pay of County Superintendents is taken from a fund specially set apart for the purpose, and the amount paid in Bradford for County Superintendent does not increase nor diminish the appropriations for schools.

We trust that in the next three years the office of County Superintendent will have a fair trial in Bradford. There is no denying the fact, that during the term about to close, there has been no opportunity to test its utility. Whether justly or unjustly, the present incumbent at the outset of his career, unfortunately incurred so much odium and opposition, that however able he may have filled office, it has been of no avail because of the popular prejudice, extending in some cases, even to the office. It has been unfortunate for the cause of education, and particularly so for the office of County Superintendent. We earnestly entreat the present Directors to attend the Convention, carefully select a good and capable man for Superintendent, and vote him a liberal salary. We shall then be in a situation, at the end of the next term, to form some judgment as to the propriety of continuing this office.

DEATH OF CHARLES B. PENROSE.—CHARLES B. PENROSE, one of the Representatives of the city of Philadelphia in the Senate of the State, died at Herr's Hotel, about two o'clock on Monday the 6th.

During the session of Monday, both Houses of the Legislature appointed Committees to accompany the remains of Senator PENROSE to his late residence in Philadelphia.

Messrs. WRIGHT, of Philadelphia; LEWIS, of Delaware; FLETCHER, of Green; BREWER, of Franklin; SLOVEN, of Elk, were appointed on the part of the Senate, and

Messrs. GILDEA, of Philadelphia; CLEAVER, of Delaware; BISHOP, of Philadelphia; INNES, of Northampton; and STRUTHERS, of Warren, were appointed on the part of the House of Representatives.

The funeral of Mr. PENROSE took place on Friday morning, at Philadelphia, and was attended by the Legislature, the bar of that city, and many citizens.

President Buchanan has appointed John W. Whitfield, (late Border Ruffian Delegate to Congress) Register of the Land Office, and Daniel Woodson, (late Border Ruffian Secretary of the Territory) Receiver of Public Moneys for the "Delaware Land District," Kansas territory.

A dispatch from *The Tribune* correspondent at Lecompton gives some further insight into the means whereby the enslavement of Kansas is to be consummated. Charles Robinson and George W. Dietzler, Governor and Secretary of the State of Kansas under the Free-State Constitution, appeared at Lecompton on the 6th inst. as their bail bonds required, to stand trial on the charge of High Treason involved in accepting those offices, but were off till next month, on account of certain changes in the laws effected by the Bogus Legislature at its late session. As they are to be tried by Lecompte, before a Jury of his choice, they may possibly be convicted.

The Census lists by bogus law were to be posted by this time, but have not been. No poll is to be held in Lawrence containing nearly half the population of Douglas County; but four polls are to be held in so many obscure hamlets. A Pro-Slavery Postmaster has just been appointed for Lawrence, where the people are at least fifty Free-State to one Pro Slavery.

"GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK," for May comes to us long in advance of that "smiling month," and is filled with its usual amount of interesting matter, and engravings. This periodical now occupies the first rank of monthly publications, and keeps its hold upon the affections of the females with wonderful tenacity. The secret lies in GODEY'S long experience, and his endeavor to please.

JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT.—Gov Pollock has appointed James Armstrong Esq., of Williamsport, to fill the seat vacated on the Supreme Bench by the resignation of Judge Black. This is a good appointment. Mr. Armstrong is a good sound lawyer and in every respect well qualified for an able discharge of the duties of the office.

The "Columbia County Republican" is the title of a paper just established at Bloomsburg, by PALEMON JOHN. It is, as its title indicates, devoted to the rights of free labor, and the success of the Republican party. The first number is a capital one, well printed and well edited. The friends of freedom in Columbia can support the Republican, if they determine to do so. We trust they will.

Ex-Presidents Van Buren and Pierce are both sojourning at present at Philadelphia.—Mr. Van Buren being the guest of Hon. Henry D. Gilpin.

DIFFICULTY AMONG THE CANAL BOATMEN.—Several hundred boats, says the *Miners Journal*, many of them loaded at \$175 a \$180 per ton, have been detained at Schuylkill since during the week, in consequence of dissatisfaction among the boatmen, who demand \$190. Some that are loaded at the first named prices, were will go to start on their trip, but were afraid to go for fear of personal violence from those unwilling to load at a less price than \$190 per ton. It appears that dealers ordering coal refuse to pay higher price than \$180.

The scenes attendant upon the accumulation of so many boats at Schuylkill Haven have, during the week, in some instances, been of the most lawless character. Two boats belonging to Mr. Bartlett, of Reading were injured. One was set on fire and partially destroyed, while the other was scuttled. Depredations were committed on property in the neighborhood, and in one instance a store was broken into and robbed.

The miners have turned out at a number of collieries for higher wages. This is rather than later in the season, when the business is fully under way. The miners are scarce in this region, and nothing but an advance in the price of wages will bring many back who have gone away.

TROUBLES IN MINNESOTA.—Considerable violence and trouble are prevailing at and around Wabasha, Minnesota, arising out of claim jumping and all the other difficulties incident to settlers in a new territory. Murders and shooting and burning occur constantly.—The latest outrage is thus reported in the *Winnona Argus* of March 19th:

Mr. Polhemus was shot near Tepotah on Dr. Enright's claim, last Friday night. The facts in the case seem to be, that the deceased had been employed by Dr. Enright during his absence to take charge of his house and claim. In the absence of Dr. Enright, a Mr. Brown entered a suit, contesting the right to it, and obtained a writ of restitution, which was executed; but subsequently an irresponsible gathering of the friends of Dr. Enright, dispossessed him, and left the possession in the care of Mr. Polhemus. He being alone, and unarmed, retired for the night as it seems, (for he was in his shirt and drawers,) and to appearances was driven out and shot some ten steps outside the house, and staggered a few feet and fell on his face; no straggling was apparent in the snow, indicating that he had died almost instantaneously.

Scarce an arrival from this place fails to bring intelligence of murder and contest relative to claims in that troubled vicinity.

The difficulties attendant upon the settlement of the Half Breed tracts have but just commenced, and we fear that we shall be called to herald a long catalogue of violence and bloodshed ere the troubles are appeased.—*Chicago Times.*

PRESERVATION OF A CORPSE.—The following remarkable statement appears in a late number of the *Vicksburg (Miss.) Sentinel*.

"We were present on the 27th of February at the disinterment of the remains of Mrs. Mary Jane Tompkins, first consort of Hon. P. W. Tompkins, former member of Congress of this district, and a sister of Ex-Governor Helme of Kentucky. She had been interred seventeen years on the 4th inst., enclosed in a zinc coffin which was filled with alcohol, which was re-enclosed in a wooden coffin, and all carefully packed in charcoal. The wooden coffin and the top of the zinc coffin were somewhat decayed, but the corpse itself was in a perfect state of preservation, the features natural and the hair as flexible as in life."

Washington Items.

The administration has completed its arrangements relative to China, and William B. Reed, Esq. of Philadelphia, who is now here, has been tendered the mission. In addition to other vessels, the steamer Minnesota will proceed to China.

The land officers in Minnesota have been directed to continue the withdrawal of lands falling within the probable lines of the railroad routes established under grants of Congress. Preemption claims based upon actual settlement and not for speculation, made up to the time when the lands or routes were definitely fixed on any of the lands withdrawn, will be allowed, provided the testimony is clear and explicit. The officers of the newly-created Land Districts will be established at Brownsland, in Dakotah and Nebraska Cities.

Charles G. Greene, of the Boston Post, is reported Navy Agent at Boston.

The case of Commander Ogden has been taken up by the Naval Court of Inquiry.

The President has re-appointed Joseph W. Gray Postmaster at Cleveland, and Thomas Miller Postmaster at Columbus, Ohio, vice Sparrow, whose commission has expired.

The correspondent of the Boston Journal says:

"The Hon. John Appleton, of Maine, has withdrawn from the Washington Union, and has (at the repeated request of the President and Gen. Cass, it is understood) taken the chair of Assistant Secretary of State. The paper will remain about a week under the charge of the gentleman who aided Mr. Appleton during his illness, and then pass into the hands of Hon. William A. Harris, of Missouri, who was once a member of Congress from Virginia, and afterwards Charge d'Affairs at Buenos Ayres. He was also editor (with Mr. Hart, now of the Charleston Mercury,) of the Constitution, a Calhoun paper published here when 'Tyler too' was at the White House. Charles Maurice Smith, Esq., formerly editor of Rey. Tucker's Washington Sentinel, will be associate editor."

Lord Napier has removed from Georgetown to Washington, and has taken the house occupied during the past season by Senator Fish, having a new ball-room added expressly for his use. As it is understood that he has a large allowance of "table money," metropolitan snobism is jubilant with the hope of dinners and dances.

There were over 100 applicants for the six Land offices in Nebraska. Mr. Chapman, delegate from the territory, recommended residents only, and secured three of the offices for them, but the outside prevented the entire accomplishment of his wishes.

The following persons are said to have been appointed: Ducotah District—John C. Turk, Register, and John N. H. Patrick Receiver. South Platt District—Isaac L. Gibbs Register, and Edward Desford, of Alabama, Receiver. Nehama District—George H. Nixon, of Tennessee, Register, and Andrew Hopkins of Pennsylvania, Receiver.

There is little doubt that Governor Izard will be removed. His successor has not yet been designated.

The Administration War Against Geary.

[From the Washington Star, (Administration Organ) April 7.]

THEIR GAME NOT PLAYED OUT.—GOVERNOR Geary, according to the newspapers, is engaged at the North in retailing to the letter writers of the abolition press his budget of slanders upon the people of Kansas who would not or could not see the propriety of throwing overboard those who had proved themselves worthy, and uniting upon him, as one of their candidates for the United States Senate from Kansas when admitted into the Union as a State.

In Chicago, according to one of his correspondents, he went a few inches further than when in Washington, and abused the administration, while here, he contented himself with abusing those whose offence was demurring to his plans of personal advancement and to his efforts to palliate the murder of the poor young Sherrod, and to screen the band of his immediate coteries who were aiders and abettors as well as principals in the perpetration of that cowardly and heartless act.

He evidently aims to become a second Reeder in the estimation of abolitionism; the "original Jacobs" having died out politically like the dirty snuff of a dip candle. His (Reeder's) light is no more seen (in the newspaper) while even the offensive odor of his career in Kansas generated in the nostrils of all honest people who are not crazed on the slavery question, is well nigh forgotten. Geary is to be their next grand agitator; and not having been endowed, like his distinguished predecessor, with a gift of gab, he essays to make his desired abolition capital through the pens of writers for the free-soil press, rather than upon the stump. That he is in the course of the current year to be bubbled into a hero—though he did run away from Kansas on the first occasion wherein the stuff he was made of was tested—is already apparent.—Our impression is that he is destined to make even a poorer hero than Reeder was; that he will never become more than a five days'—not a nine days' wonder.

By the by, he tells the truth in asserting that the administration rejected his advice in reference to Kansas affairs. That's evident in the selections so recently made of new federal officers for the territory, every man of whom is a democrat of the right stamp, entertaining no sympathy with abolitionism, and evidently opposed to all Geary's schemes for his personal political advancement.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Friday last, Mr. Adam Belcher, of Oakland, in this County, met with a fatal accident while cutting railroad ties in the woods. Attempting to step over a tie, he rested the broad-axe which he held in his hand, on it, with the edge towards him, when his foot slipped, and he fell upon the edge of the axe, cutting a deep wound in his side and lungs. By the aid of a young man with him, he succeeded in reaching home, but not till he had lost a great quantity of blood. He died on Saturday morning April 4th. He was a married man, aged 37 years.—*Montrose Republican.*

FATAL CASUALTY.—Philadelphia, April 10.—Susan Colwell, of Mystic, Connecticut, was killed last night in the house of her brother-in-law, the Rev. Mr. Cappers, by accidental discharge of a pistol which fell from the mantle-piece while she was in the act of taking another article down. The ball entered her head.

The Response to the Nominations.

[From the Washington (Pa.) Commonwealth.]

We raise, at our mast head this week, the names of the nominees of the Harrisburg Convention intending to keep them there until they are defeated or triumphantly elected.—Of the gentlemen personally it is scarce worth while to speak. They are well known throughout the State.

They are men well fitted to lead the advancing columns of the freemen of the land of Penna to victory—to a glorious triumph at the ballot box. We have an abiding faith that the free of the State—aye, of the nation—are almost unanimously in favor of the spread of freedom and the curtailment of the bounds of slavery. They only need to see that this is the question at issue. Circumstances being developed led us to think that the true issue can no longer be concealed, and that no portion of the people can be longer misled. When that time does come, as come it must, woe to the miscreants who have betrayed the trusts confided to their keeping. The inhuman decision in the Dred Scott case, by which slave property is protected the same as property in horses throughout the Union—the expulsion of Geary from Kansas because he was willing all parties should have fair play; the probable opening of another serious and more bitter war between the slavery and liberty parties in Kansas—the probable adoption of a slave power—this monster of evil must be caught by the neck and choked to death. We much mistake the sentiments of the People of Pennsylvania if they are not ready for the question. They will answer in October next.

[From the Lancaster Whig.]

By our exchanges over the State, we learn that the nominations of the Union State Convention have been received with the most decided approbation. We have never known a more cordial and general response given to the nominees of any convention at the outset; and this itself is calculated to inspire confidence in its favorable result.

The "Old Guard," on the second Tuesday in October will roll up a majority in favor of Freedom that will again place in her front rank, as the banner County of the State.

[From the Blair Co. Whig.]

We take extreme delight in placing the names of the gentlemen nominated by the late Union State Convention at the head of our editorial column. It is a tower of strength, and can be elected if we give a strong pull, and a pull altogether. With DAVID WILMOT we have a candidate that we can be justly proud of.

[From the West Chester Review.]

The nominations combine indeed, rare literary as well as intellectual powers. Mr. Wilmot is not only one of the first men of the State but of the whole country. He possesses the rare faculty of self-reliance—having refused to bow subserviently to the sinister and corrupt demands of party and to sacrifice his own independence when party was clearly wrong. Few men have the courage to be true to themselves when party leaders threaten with their vengeance. The love of justice, of right,—obedience to the dictates of their own conscience—all have yielded to the demands of party. Judge Wilmot has a powerful and persuasive eloquence, and upon the question of Slavery he occupies the position of the democratic party of Pennsylvania, from the days of Jefferson down—until it was assumed that Slavery was national and Freedom a mere sectional institution. He occupies the position on this subject which has been uniformly held by the Whig Party of Chester county and by a great majority of the Democracy. He has not swerved from the ancient landmarks—His sole and only fault is that he has refused to smother the convictions of conscience—to forget the traditions of his Fathers—the doctrines of Penn.—at the demand of those who desired more Slave Territory—more Slave States—more Slave Senators in Congress.—Instead of abandoning a great principle, because his party was drifting away from it, he chose rather to embody it in the law of the laws of the land—and hence the famous "Wilmot Proviso."

The separation of the questions involved in the coming election, from party trammels—their consideration from another and independent stand-point—is a "consumation devoutly to be wished." The tyranny of party aims to shut out the light of history—to darken the horizon—to lead and mislead the judgment—to fetter men who boast of freedom. As the conductor of an independent newspaper, aiming only to build up the prosperity of the country, and to foster the institutions of our fathers in their purity, we shall solicit the attention of our readers, without respect to party distinctions, as we shall venture from time to time, to a discussion of the questions involved in the canvass. The cry of "Democracy" and of "Abolition" will doubtless be heard, and men who are controlled by prejudice will be governed thereby; but the sound reasoner, the true patriot and good citizen, will treat them as an imposture practiced upon his understanding.

How the Border-Ruffians take the Census.

[From the Chicago Press.]

LECOMPTON, Kansas, March 22.—As the law of the bogus legislature for taking the census allows sheriffs and their deputies four dollars per day for their trouble, there is a large number of them at work. They do not take much trouble with this census operation, getting all the information they want from their pro-slavery friends, and setting down only such as they want. They refuse to insert any of the names of the free-state emigrants who have come in this spring, even of those who arrived early. They call them "transient." The country courts instruct them to take no names unless the party has been a resident previous to the 15th instant. While this is the rule they observed toward free-state men, they are putting thousands of names on the list who have never lived in Kansas, and who never will. The names of all the members of the Shawnee Association, some thirty-five hundred, are on the list of voters. It is the same elsewhere. It is now seen that all suspicions and fears about the law are confirmed. The law itself will even be grossly violated whenever it suits.

The Hon. Frederick P. Stanton, the Secretary of the State of Kansas, took his departure for Kansas, and will reach Lecompton the seat of government, next Monday.—R. J. Walker will not, it is said, stay in the territory longer than August, if he goes on all. So determined is he reported to be on making short work, that he will not prolong his stay beyond that period, even to insure the pacification of Kansas.