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LECOMPTON DEFEATED!

According to previous arrangement the House, on meeting, Monday, proceeded to the consideration of the several motions to refer the President's Kansas Message.

The demand for the previous question was seconded by 110 against 105.

The main question was then ordered to be put, by 113 against 107.

The next question announced to be Mr. STEPHENS' motion to refer the message to the Committee on Territories. Disagreed to, by 113 to 114.

The amendment of Mr. Harris, of Illinois, providing for referring the message to a select committee of thirteen, which was carried by a vote of 114 against 111.

A motion to reconsider was then made, and laid upon the table.

This vote, though not final, as to the admission of Kansas, with the Lecompton Constitution, will probably defeat the plans of the Administration. The Committee, by parliamentary usage, will be composed with a majority of Anti-Lecomptonites, who having instructions to investigate the frauds practiced in Kansas and power to send for persons and papers, will make such developments as to damage very materially the prospects of the gross swindle.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

A call appears in the Philadelphia papers, addressed to the Republicans of Pennsylvania, inviting them to meet in informal Convention, at Harrisburg, on the 22d of February, 1858, at three o'clock, P. M., to adopt such measures as may be deemed best calculated to impress upon the legislation of the nation, the principles enunciated by the Philadelphia Republican Convention, of June, 1858, and is signed by some of the most reliable and prominent Republicans of the State.

We heartily concur in the propriety and necessity of the proposed measure. The Republicans of the State should send their best men from every locality, for conference and deliberation. It is time that preparations were making for the approaching State election.—The course to be pursued by the Republicans should be matter of grave and careful conference. This can best be effected by the proposed Convention, and we trust it will be attended by those who have only at heart the good of the Republican party, and the success of Republican principles.

The Lewisburg Chronicle singularly misapprehends our remarks in regard to Pennsylvania interests standing upon their own merits, and demanding as a National measure adequate protection. It was not necessary to abandon New England in 1846, in order to secure for the coal and iron of Pennsylvania, all that was needed, because the manufactories of the East were able to compete with the world, while the furnaces and forges of Pennsylvania were at the mercy of every fluctuation in prices abroad. What we complained of, was that the Pennsylvania delegation should have blindly and stubbornly refused at that time to listen to any modification of the Tariff of 1842, when such modification was inevitable and demanded by the public voice; and when it is undeniable that Pennsylvania, by a more reasonable course might have dictated the details of the new tariff, or at least secured to the interests of this State all that was necessary to develop our resources.

The Chronicle thinks that the different interests must combine in order to thrive. This doctrine may be plausible in theory, but it will not answer in practice. Pennsylvania has entered into too many such combinations. One made in 1846 for the sake of the cotton-lords of New England, has paralyzed our industry, and prevented the development of the mineral riches of our State. Mr. KERR had a proper appreciation of the fact, that the great interests of the country are heartless and selfish, when he used the following language in the House, Jan. 13th:—"This I do know, that these merchant princes and manufacturing princes of New England struck hands with the free-trade interest in the last Congress, and prostrated the industry of my State. I know that the faith of the manufacturing interest of New England, in relation to the other industrial interests of the country, as exhibited last winter, was Punic."

Yet in the face of this, the Chronicle waxes the interests of Pennsylvania linked with protection to the cotton and pins of New England. We do not; while we rejoice in the adoption of any measure which adds to the prosperity of any section of the Union, we are desirous that the interests of Pennsylvania shall be presented in their true light, as being of National importance, and depending more

than any others, upon legislation for their prosperity. Cotton and wool are not as "national" as coal and iron, because the manufacture and price of the former is governed by so many considerations, such as a failure of the staple, and particularly the discovery of new and labor-saving machinery, which enables our manufacturers to compete with the world, because it makes a small item in the cost. The production of iron, on the contrary, requires a heavy investment, and its principal value consists in the labor required in its manufacture. Skill and mechanical ingenuity, are of little avail in lessening its first cost. A system by which the foreign manufacturer, in times of depression abroad, is allowed to throw large quantities into our markets, at prices not remunerative, perhaps, to him, but ruinous to our producers, is the evil we complain of, and which we would have adjusted. It is all folly to expect co-operation from other interests. It cannot and should not be relied upon. When those interests require or seek protection from foreign manufactured goods, they may be ready to combine to procure a high tariff, but when their interests demand the introduction, free of duty, of staples, they will be just as ready to "strike hands" with the free-trade interest. If Pennsylvania has not already learned this fact, she is stolid indeed. She will be nearer the consummation of her hopes when she recognizes and acknowledges the truth, that her interests are of National importance, and as such should be presented for the fostering care of Congress.

We cheerfully comply with the request to publish the proceedings of a so-called, "Democratic" Convention held somewhere in this place, last week. We should upon ordinary occasions have permitted the occurrence to pass without a word of comment, but the omission to enunciate any principles, or express any opinions upon the great questions now arresting the attention of the country, is so remarkable, that we cannot, at least, refrain from expressing our surprise at the important and significant omission.

We have yet, in the circle of our acquaintance amongst the Democracy, to find the first person who is willing to endorse the administration measure of forcing upon the people of Kansas the Lecompton Constitution. The most of our Democratic friends, on the contrary, are loud in their professions of sympathy with Douglas in his endeavors to have the will of the majority respected. Yet with all this, the question has been dodged, unquestionably for some ulterior purpose.

If the Democrats who pretend to be so strongly opposed to the Lecompton swindle are sincere in their desire that it shall not be forced through Congress, why have they permitted this legitimate opportunity to pass without contributing to the cause they profess? Now, of all other times, is the voice of a County Convention potential for good or for evil, for there are members of Congress, tempted by the patronage of Government, hesitating and debating—fearing to vote for Lecompton in awe of the masses—and watching for signs which shall indicate that they may make the venture.

If there is a Democrat in the land who is sincerely opposed to the perpetuation of the great fraud and injustice now impending, it is a time now for him to speak out, on every occasion when his voice can reach the halls of Congress to control or influence Representatives. The omission to do so, shows a want of sincerity and earnestness—a disposition to truckle before the behests of party, or a timidity which dares not speak out boldly, for fear the measure may eventually be made a test of party fealty.

Perhaps the Democratic leaders of this County expect at Washington and Harrisburg to support BUCHANAN, while here they are loud in their professions of sympathy with DOUGLAS and FORNEY. This omission to express their sentiments looks very much like it.

On the outside will be found some extracts from a speech recently delivered in the House by Hon. JOHN HICKMAN, of this State. Mr. H. was an ardent supporter of Mr. BUCHANAN's election to the Presidency, claiming (as we have no question sincerely) that his elevation would secure to the people of Kansas the opportunity to form their own domestic institutions according to the will of the majority. Now he finds that he has been deceived, and that "popular sovereignty" only meant the right to "form" slavery into the Constitution.

It is refreshing in these days of servility and truckling on the part of the Democracy to read the manly, earnest words uttered by Mr. HICKMAN. How strikingly his position is in contrast with that of poor BIGLER, who has become execrated by every true man, and dispised by those who use him as a tool.

FIRE AT CHEMUNG.—On Thursday morning last a large wood pile at Chemung, near the depot, belonging to the N. Y. & E. R. R., was set on fire, probably by a spark from a passing locomotive. Neptune Fire Co. of Waverly, went upon a special train and did good service in saving wood and protecting adjoining buildings. About 3000 cords of wood were consumed.

FIREMEN'S BALL.—Tickets are out for a grand Firemen's Ball, at the Ward House, in this place, on Friday evening, Feb. 19. CANNON'S celebrated Band is engaged, and all other arrangements made necessary to have the affair go off with great eclat.

The Court proceedings are unavoidably deferred until next week, to make room for the President's Lecompton Message.

Excitement in Congress!

Mr. Keitt Assaults Mr. Grow, And is Knocked Down!

A GENERAL FREE FIGHT!

Attempt to Refer the President's Message.—The Lecomptonites in a Minority.—Adjournment to Monday, when the Vote is to be taken.

The United States Senate was not in session Friday, having adjourned over from Thursday until Monday.

House.—In the House, it was the most exciting day of the session thus far. It was voted inexpedient to allow further time to take supplementary testimony in the Ohio contested election case—VALLANDIGHAM vs. CAMPBELL. J. D. WILLIAMSON, the witness in the Tariff Investigation, submitted his amended answer, and it then appearing that he had answered all the Committee's questions promptly, he was, on motion of Mr. STANTON, the Chairman of the Committee, discharged from custody.—The Lecompton question then came up. Mr. HARRIS, of Illinois, withdrew the resolution he had previously submitted for sending the Message and Constitution to the Committee on Territories and submitted another in its place, calling for a Select Committee, with the view of obtaining all the information possible relative to the formation of the Lecompton Constitution—the Committee to consist of fifteen, to be appointed by the Speaker, and to have power to send for persons and papers. The Speaker decided that the resolution could only be offered as an amendment to the motion of Mr. HUGHES, of Indiana, for a Select Committee of thirteen, whereupon Mr. HARRIS unexpectedly acquiesced in the ruling of the Speaker, and in order as he said, to ascertain the fate of his resolution at once, moved the previous question. This was the signal for the utmost confusion. Mr. HARRIS was in vain appealed to to withdraw his resolution, and moved a call of the House. Counter-motions, motions to adjourn, and motions for almost every conceivable purpose, were then the order—this being the method taken by the factious Lecomptonites, who found themselves in a decided minority, to stave off a direct vote. Finally at 6 1/2 o'clock Saturday morning, Mr. QUITMAN submitted a resolution that the House adjourn till Monday next, when the subject now under consideration (the Kansas Message) shall be resumed, and the vote on the pending proposition shall be taken without being farther delayed by debate or dilatory motions.

Unanimous consent was given to the introduction of the resolution, which was agreed to, and the Speaker announced the House adjourned till Monday, when the subject will come up as the special order.

During the session, at about two o'clock in the morning a rencontre took place between Mr. GROW and Mr. KEITT, of South Carolina, which is thus described in the New York papers:—

Mr. GROW objected to Mr. QUITMAN's making any remarks. Mr. KEITT said, "If you are going to object return to your own side of the House." Mr. GROW responded, "This is a free hall and every man has a right to be where he pleases." Mr. KEITT then came up to Mr. GROW and said, "I want to know what you mean by such an answer as that." Mr. GROW replied, "I mean just what I say.—This is a free Hall and a man has a right to be where he pleases." Mr. KEITT—(taking Mr. GROW by the throat)—said, "I will let you know that you are a d—d Black Republican puppy." Mr. GROW knocked up his hand, saying, "I shall occupy such place in this hall as I please, and no nigger driver shall crack his whip over me." Mr. KEITT then again grabbed Mr. GROW by the throat, and Mr. GROW knocked his hand off, and Mr. KEITT coming at him again, Mr. GROW knocked him down.

(Correspondence of the New York Times.) WASHINGTON, Saturday, Feb. 6, 1858. The telegraph has already given you a general statement of the fact that we had a grand row in the House of Representatives at about 4 o'clock this morning, but some additional particulars may be found of interest. The Anti-Lecompton men yesterday determined to have a vote at once upon the proposition of Mr. HARRIS to refer the Constitution of Kansas to a Select Committee, with instructions to investigate the frauds alleged to have been committed in connection with the formation of that instrument and the elections held under it. The Lecomptonites, upon counting noses, found themselves decidedly in the minority, and so determined to stave off the vote until they should have had time to consult, and, if possible, effect changes enough to save defeat. So they began the game of factious opposition, resorting to calls of the Yeas and Nays on motions to adjourn, calls of the House &c. &c. This they kept up from 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon until 6 this morning, the Anti-Lecompton men pressing steadily for a vote on the previous question, and expressing their determination never to yield it. The Douglas Democrats were as firm and unyielding in the contest as the most faithful of the Republican leaders, and deserve all praise for their conduct.

Everything passed off, however, in excellent temper, and with less excitement than is usual to night sessions, until nearly 4 o'clock this morning. Mr. GROW, who is the recognized Republican leader in the House, went over to the Democratic side of the Hall to talk with Mr. HICKMAN, of Pennsylvania. As he turned to leave, Mr. QUITMAN rose and asked to make an explanation. Mr. GROW objected to any speeches which were out of order, and then started down the aisle with a view of returning to his own seat, when Mr. KEITT, of South Carolina, called out to him, asking, "Why don't you go over on your own side, God d—n you, if you want to object? What business have you on this side, anyhow?" or something to that effect.

Mr. GROW replied, quietly and coolly, saying, "This is a free hall, and I have the right to object from any part of it, when I choose." Then, in response to an appeal from Mr. HARRIS, of Indiana, Mr. GROW withdrew his objection, in order to permit Gen. QUITMAN to go on. By this time, KEITT, who seems to have supposed that he had only to look furiously at a Northern man to wilt him—and who presumed, perhaps, upon the fact that he is a more athletic man than the gentleman from Pennsylvania—had crossed over to meet Mr. GROW. As the latter was about to pass, KEITT inquired in a ruffianly tone, "What did you mean by that answer which you gave me just now?"

"I meant precisely what I said—that this is a free hall, and I will object from whatever part of it I see fit," was Mr. GROW's reply, as he looked his assailant in the face. The chivalrous and gentlemanly South Carolinian returned to the charge, saying: "I'll show you, you d—d Black Republican puppy!" Mr. GROW, still unexcited, "You may think what you please, Mr. KEITT; but let me tell you that no nigger-driver shall come up from his plantation to crack his lash about my ears!" "We'll see about that," said Mr. KEITT, as he caught Mr. GROW by the throat. Mr. GROW threw his assailant's hand off, and Mr. KEUBEN DAVIS, also of Mississippi, who had followed Mr. KEITT, evidently with the intention of restraining him, interposed at once for peace.

This ended the difficulty for an instant, but almost immediately KEITT broke from Mr. DAVIS and rushed upon Mr. GROW, seizing him again by the throat, when the latter planted a blow under the ear of "the gentleman from South Carolina," which sprawled him fairly upon his face upon the floor. Mr. KEITT picked himself up and after some ineffectual and random passes, left the hall and was seen no more until after the adjournment, except by some friends who sponged his bruises. I understand he is under the impression that he "stabbed his toe, and so fell!" The mistake, certainly, is excusable, for the blow which finally provoked Mr. GROW's long-suffering patience, was so severe that he would hardly be expected to have any clear recollection of the circumstances.

These transactions, which take so much time to relate, were the work of a very few minutes, and all occurred on the Democratic side of the House. When the blow was struck, a dozen Southern men rushed towards the parties some doubtless to keep the peace, and others to have a hand in the fight. BARKSDALE, of Mississippi, McQUEEN, of South Carolina, CRAIG, of North Carolina, and REUBEN DAVIS were prominent in the scrimmage. BARKSDALE specifically states, and I do not truly that his only object was to separate the combatants. He and other opponents seized upon GROW at once, as KEITT was already hors du combat. To gentlemen on the other side of the hall, it looked very much as though the gentleman from Pennsylvania was about to be cut into mince-meat, and the Anti-Lecompton men rushed over in a body to the rescue. Foremost came Mr. POTTER, of Wisconsin, a very athletic, compact man, who bounded into the centre of the excited group striking right and left with tremendous vigor.—Washburne, of Illinois, and his brother, of Wisconsin, also were prominent, and for a minute or two it seemed as though we were in a Kilkenny fight on a magnificent scale. BARKSDALE had hold of GROW, when POTTER struck him a severe blow, supposing that he was hurting that gentleman. BARKSDALE turning around and supposing it was Eliza Washburne who struck him, dropped GROW, and struck out at that gentleman from Illinois. Cadwallader Washburne perceiving the attack upon his brother, also made a dash at Mr. BARKSDALE, and seized him by the hair, apparently for the purpose of drawing him "into chancery," and punning him to greater satisfaction. Horrible to relate, Mr. BARKSDALE's wig came off in Callawader's left hand—and his right fist expanded itself with tremendous force against the unresisting air. This ludicrous incident unquestionably did much to restoring good nature subsequently—and its effect was heightened a little by the fact that in the excitement of the occasion BARKSDALE restored his wig wrong side foremost.

There seems to be very little method in the struggle, and it was hard to tell who was in for earnest, and who is trying to restore order. The Speaker yelled and rapped for order, without effect. The Sergeant-at-Arms stalked to the scene of battle, mace in hand, but his "American eagle" had no more effect than the Speaker's gavel. OWEN, LOVELLY and LAMAR, of Mississippi, were pawing each other at one point—each probably trying to persuade the other to be still. Mr. MOTT, the gray-haired Quaker representative from Ohio, was seen going here and there in the crowd.—DAVIS of Mississippi, got a severe but accidental blow from Mr. GROW, and various gentlemen sustained slight bruises and scratches. A Virginia representative, who thought MONTGOMERY, of Pennsylvania, was about to "pitch in," laid his hand upon his arm to restrain him, and was peremptorily ordered to desist or to be knocked down. Mr. COVODE, of Pennsylvania, caught up a heavy stone-ware spittoon, with which to "brain" whoever might seem to deserve it, but unfortunately did not succeed in getting far enough into the excited crowd to find an appropriate subject for his vengeance and all over the Hall everybody was excited for the time.

Fortunately it did not last long, and no weapons were openly displayed. When order was restored, several gentlemen were found to present an excessively tumbled and disordered appearance, but their remained little else to recall the excitement. Gentlemen of opposite parties crossed over to each other to explain their pacific dispositions, and they got into a fight where their only purpose was to present a fight. Mutual explanations, and a hearty laugh at the ludicrous points of the drama, were followed by quiet and a return to business. Disgraceful though all such scenes are, it must be admitted that Mr. GROW was in no degree responsible for this. He was brutally assaulted, and defended himself at last only after forbearance had ceased to be a virtue. If the lesson which he impressed upon his assailant shall have the effect of restraining henceforth Mr. KEITT's exhibitions of insolence, and his offensive affectations of superiority over his equals, I don't know that the result will have been too dearly purchased. He seems to have labored for many years under the impression that a man who don't own negroes can be trodden upon with impunity, and it is to be hoped that his present discomfiture will inspire him with the respect for his colleagues which is their due.

J. HOTTENSTINE has been appointed Post-master at Overton, in place of G. W. HOTTENSTINE, resigned; and J. BUTLER at South Hill, in place of —BARNES moved away.

We make room, this week, for the President's Lecompton Message, in view of the absorbing interest now taken in the momentous struggle against usurpation and fraud.—We have not room, and hardly patience, to speak of this abominable document as it deserves. We ask our readers to peruse it carefully; that they may see to what lengths a President can go, who sets out to uphold fraud, and attempts to deprive the people of their rights.

In Philadelphia, there has been a bitter contest between the FORNEY men and the Lecomptonites, for the election of delegates to the 4th of March Convention. The former are for PORTER for Supreme Judge, and the latter for SHARPSWOOD. The delegates elected are for PORTER. Resolutions were offered endorsing Lecompton, and amidst indescribable confusion declared adopted. The Press declared they were not passed, and do not represent the feelings of the Democracy of the city—while the President of the Convention insists they were adopted.

Pursuant to custom, a Convention of Democracy of Bradford met at the Court House, in the Borough of Towanda, on the 21st inst., when E. W. BAIRD, Esq., was called to the chair and D. A. OVERTON appointed Secretary.

On motion, H. J. MADILL and Col. V. E. FIOLETTE were elected representative delegates to the Democratic Convention, to be held at Harrisburg, on the 4th of March next, with power to substitute in case of their inability to attend.

On motion, the delegates were instructed to vote for WM. ELWELL, Esq., as the candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court.

Col. J. F. MEANS, E. W. BAIRD, C. S. RUSSELL, H. B. M'KEAN and D. A. OVERTON were appointed conferees to meet the conferees of Susquehanna and Tioga counties.

On motion, the Chairman was authorized to appoint a Standing Committee for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were appointed to compose that Committee: Col. J. F. MEANS, Col. Addison M'KEAN, John Baldwin, Frank Smith, Col. WM. E. BARTON, Jacob Reel and F. WHITMAN. On motion, it was resolved, That the newspapers of the county be requested to publish the proceedings of this Convention, and that a copy thereof be furnished the Montrose Democrat.

E. W. BAIRD, Pres't. D. A. OVERTON, Sec'y.

PRESIDENT'S LECOMPTON MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, February 2, 1858.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I have received from Gen. Calloun, the President of the late Constitutional Convention of Kansas, a copy, duly certified by himself, of the Constitution framed by that body with the expression of a hope that I would submit the same to the consideration of Congress, with the view of securing the admission of Kansas into the Union as an independent State. In compliance with this request, I herewith transmit to Congress, for its action, the Constitution of Kansas, with the ordinance respecting the Public Lands, as well as the letter of Gen. Calloun, dated Lecompton, 14th ult., by which they were accompanied.

Having received but a single copy of the Constitution and Ordinance, I send this to the Senate.

A great delusion seems to pervade the public mind in relation to the condition of parties in Kansas. This arises from the difficulty of inducing the American people to realize the fact that any portion of them should be in a state of rebellion against the Government under which they live. When we speak of affairs in Kansas, we are apt to refer merely to the existence of two violent political parties in that Territory, divided on the question of slavery, just as we speak of such parties in the States. This presents no adequate idea of the true state of the case. The dividing line there is not between two political parties, both acknowledging the lawful existence of the Government, but between those who are loyal to this Government and those who have endeavored to destroy its existence by force and usurpation—between those who sustain and those who have done all in their power to overthrow the Territorial government established by Congress. This Government they would long since have subverted, had it not been protected from their assaults by the troops of the United States. Such has been the condition of affairs since my inauguration. Ever since that period a large portion of the people of Kansas have been in a state of rebellion against the Government, with a military leader at their head of the most turbulent and dangerous character. They have never acknowledged, but have constantly renounced and defied the Government to which they owe allegiance, and have been all the time in a state of resistance against its authority. They have all the time been endeavoring to subvert it, and establish a revolutionary Government under the so-called Topeka Constitution in its stead. Even at this very moment, the Topeka Legislature is in session. Whoever has read the correspondence of Governor Walker with the State Department, recently communicated to the Senate, will be convinced that this picture is not overdrawn. He always protested against the withdrawal of any portion of the military force of the United States from the Territory, deeming its presence absolutely necessary for the preservation of the regular government and the execution of the laws. In his very first dispatch to the Secretary of State, dated June 24, 1857, he says: "The most alarming movement, however, proceeds from the assembling of the so-called Topeka Legislature, with the view to the enactment of an entire code of laws. Of course, it will be my endeavor to prevent such a result as would lead to an inevitable disastrous collision, and, in fact, renew civil war in Kansas."

This was with difficulty prevented by the efforts of Governor Walker, but soon General Harney was required to furnish him a regiment of dragoons to proceed to the City of Lawrence; and this for the reason that he had received authentic intelligence, verified by his own actual observation, that a dangerous rebellion had occurred, "involving open defiance to the laws, and the establishment of an insurgent government in that city." In the Governor's dispatch of July 15th, he informs the Secretary of State "that the movement at Lawrence was the beginning of a plan, originating in that city, to organize an insurrection throughout the Territory, and especially in all towns, cities and counties, where the Republican party have a majority. Lawrence is the hot-bed of all the abolition movements

in this Territory. It is the town established by the Abolition Societies of the East; and whilst there are respectable people there, it is filled by a considerable number of mercenaries who are paid by the Abolition Societies to perpetuate and diffuse agitation throughout Kansas, and prevent the peaceful settlement of this question. Having failed in inducing their own, the so-called Topeka State Legislature, to organize this insurrection, Lawrence has commenced it herself, and if not arrested, the rebellion will extend throughout the Territory."

And again: "In order to send this communication immediately by mail, I must close, assuring you that a spirit of rebellion pervades the great mass of the Republicans of this Territory, instigated, as I entertain no doubt they are, by Eastern Societies, having in view results most disastrous to the Government and the Union. And that the continued presence of General Harney is indispensable, as originally stipulated by me, with a large body of dragoons and several batteries."

On the 20th of July, 1857, General Lane, under the authority of the Topeka Convention, undertook, as Governor Walker says, "to organize the whole so-called Free State party into volunteers and take the names of all who refuse enrollment. The professed object was to protect the polls at the election in August, of the now insurgent Topeka State Legislature. The object of taking the names of all who refuse the enrollment is to terrify the Free State conservatives into submission. This is proved by the recent atrocities committed on such men by the Topekaites. The speedy location of large bodies of regular troops with two batteries is necessary. The Lawrence insurgents await the development of a new revolutionary military organization."

In General Walker's dispatch of July 27th, he says: "General Lane and his staff everywhere deny the authority of the Territorial laws, and counsel a total disregard of these enactments." Without making further quotations of similar character, from other dispatches of Governor Walker, it appears by reference to Acting Governor Stanton's communication to Secretary Cass, under date of the 19th of December last, that "the important step of calling the Legislature together was taken after the Governor had become satisfied that the election ordered by the Convention on the 21st inst., could not be conducted without collision or bloodshed." So intense was the disapprobation among the enemies of the Government established by Congress, that an election which afforded them an opportunity, if in the majority, of making Kansas a free State, according to their own professed desire, could not be conducted without collision or bloodshed. The truth is, that until the present moment, the enemies of the existing Government still adhere to the Topeka Revolutionary Constitution and Government. The very first paragraph of the message of Governor Robinson, dated the 7th of December, to the Topeka Legislature, now assembled in Lawrence, contains an open defiance of the Constitution and laws of the United States. The Governor says: "The Convention which framed the Constitution at Topeka, originated with the people of Kansas Territory. They have adopted and ratified the same by a direct vote, and also indirectly through two elections of State officers and members of the State Legislature, yet it has pleased the Administration to regard the whole proceedings as revolutionary." This Topeka government, adhered to with such treasonable pertinacity, is a government in direct opposition to the existing government as presented and recognized by Congress. It is an usurpation of the same character as it would be for a portion of the people of any other State to undertake to establish a separate government within its limits for the purpose of redressing any grievances, real or imaginary, of which they might complain, against the legitimate State Government. Such a principle, if carried into execution, would destroy all lawful authority, and produce universal anarchy. From this statement of facts, the reason becomes palpable why the enemies of the government so glorified by Congress have refused to vote in Delegates to the Kansas Constitutional Convention, and also, afterwards, on the question of slavery submitted by it to the people. It is because they have ever refused to sanction or recognize any other Constitution than that framed at Topeka. Had the whole Lecompton Constitution been submitted to the people, the adherents of this organization would doubtless have voted against it, because if successful they would thus have an obstacle out of the way of their own revolutionary Constitution. They would have done this not upon consideration of the merits of the whole or part of the Lecompton Constitution, but simply because they have ever resisted the authority of the government authorized by Congress, from which it emanated.

Such being the unfortunate condition of the affairs of the Territory, what was the result, as well as duty, of law-aiding people? Were they silently and patiently to submit to the Topeka usurpation, or adopt some necessary measure to establish a Constitution under the organic law of Congress? That this law recognized the right of the people of the Territory, without the enabling act of Congress, to form a State Constitution, is too clear for argument. For Congress "to leave the people of the Territory perfectly free," framing that Constitution, "to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States," and then to say they shall not be permitted to proceed and frame a Constitution in their own way, without the express authority from Congress, appears to be almost a contradiction in terms. It would be much more plausible that the people of a Territory might be kept outside the Union for an indefinite period, and until they might please Congress to permit them to exercise the right of self-government. This would be to adopt, not "their own way," but the way which Congress might prescribe.

It is impossible that any people could have proceeded with more regularity in the formation of a Constitution than the people of Kansas have done. It was necessary first, to ascertain whether it was the desire of the people to be relieved from a Territorial dependency, and establish a State Government. In this purpose, the Territorial Legislature in 1855, passed a law "for taking the sense of the people of this Territory, upon the expediency of a Convention to form a State Constitution," at the general election to be held in October, 1855. The "sense of the people" was accordingly taken, and they decided in favor of a Convention. It is true that at this election, the enemies of the Territorial Government did not vote, because they were then engaged at Topeka, without the slightest pretext of lawful authority, in framing a Constitution of their own, for the purpose of subverting the Territorial Government.

In pursuance of this decision of the people