INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN.

CHARLES F. READ AND H. H. FRAZIER, EDITORS

MONTROSE, PA.

Thursday, August 2, 1855.

Gov. Reeder Removed.

The President has removed Gov. Reeder. His offence was simply obeying the laws of the land, and desiring to prevent their violation by others. As the Missouri mob who call themselves the Kansas Legislature express it, he has proved a 'clog' to their pro-slavery legislation, and therefore they despatched one of their number to Washington to ask President Pierce to remove him—and he promptly complied with their demand.

The intelligence of this new outrage, though anticipated, will fall like a thunderbolt among the people of the North. Whatever may be the reasons assigned for his removal, the real one is his resistance of the unlawful acts of the slave-drivers. This everybody feels, and so perfectly justifiable does his conduct with almost as much unanimity as their party appear, that the Democratic papers of Pennsylvania have ventured to endorse his course endorsed that of President Pierce, in the State Convention. And the people of Pennsylvania, of every party, have felt a pride in the exhibition of manly courage made by him during his brief career; and to see him struck down and punished for doing his duty, will excite their deepest indignation. This removal places two facts in a clear light, both of which, however, were evident enough before. It shows that the Southern politicians will stick at no means, fair or fo ul, to extend and strengthen the institution of slavery, till it fully and forever secures the control of the General Government; and it shows as plainly that the administration of Franklin Pierce, whom State Conventions at the north are one after another endorsing anew, is the head of these pro-slavery outrages, aiding and abetting their commission. Low as the administration had before sunk in the eyes of mankind, in the removal of Governor Reeder it has found a lower depth of infamy.

E. B. Chase and his New Party:—A Trap to catch Free Soilers.

Since the Harrisburg Convention Chase despairs of making the Free Soilers believe that the Democratic party is opposed to the Nebraska bill. His only hope now of saving his darling party from utter ruin is to keep it out of the field entirely, and organize a new party, the main body of which is to consist of Nebraska Democrats. To effect this he is using a few pretended Free Soil Democrats, who joined the Republican party for any reason but principle, and who are now ready to sacrifice it for *personal considerations*. These he proposes to thrust forward in a *new Free Soil move*, while he and the Hunker Democrats lie back in the shade until election day when they are to come out and elect the caudidates. By this game Chase hopes to bring the Democratic party out of this Fall's campaign whole and in good condition to rally on a Democratic President, while the Republican party will be so crippled as to be ineffective in the Presidential canvass. In this operation Chase is the wire-puller, and men who have "*axes to grind*" are the tools. We trust no true Republican, no man who is a Free Soiler from principle, will be caught in this trap. The Republican party of this county is now in connection with similar parties forming in every county of the State, and sympathizes with the Free Soil movement throughout the entire North.—The integrity and success of this party, is the only hope of Freedom in the Territories.

☞ One of the coolest things we know of is the invitation the sham Democracy have extended to the Whigs, since the late Harrisburg Convention, to come over and join them. One of their organs declares that "an honorable Whig is as much superior to one of these Democratic Know-Nothing Abolitionists as an angel of light is above Satan himself;" and they generally profess to believe that the Whigs, except a few who are engaged in playing some fantastic tricks upon the Democracy, are a pretty good set of fellows, and invite them to turn in and help the unterrified. Sure enough—why not?

It must be confessed that these same papers were ready enough to abuse the Whigs, when they did not want their help, but times have altered. By passing the Nebraska bill, the Democratic has killed the Whig party, and got itself into trouble. The Northern Whigs separated from their Southern friends, because the latter were determined to go for the Nebraska bill—what more reasonable than that they should now unite with the party that originated and carried through that bill, and still upholds it?

Those who last Fall denounced Free-Soil Democrats as traitors for acting with Whigs, now express their willingness to do the same thing—only on a pro-Slavery platform.

Bout Face!—The last *Montrose Democrat* has an article under the head of "The Fanaticism of Know-Nothingism," containing the astounding intelligence that "the board of overseers of Harvard College have refused the degree of L. L. D. to Samuel A. Elliot, *because he voted for the Fugitive Slave law*," and that the men who did this thing, the overseers, except two or three, *are Know-Nothings!* Oh, those awful pro-Slavery Know-Nothings! Oh, that glorious Free-Soil *Democrat!*

As is remarked in the *Democrat*, this is about as bad as their State Legislatures' passing "personal liberty bills;" or, we may add, as their State Conventions' passing resolutions against Slavery extension, contrary to the example of the Democratic party.

Since our neighbor attended the Harrisburg Convention, he is becoming "National." The anti-Slavery fanaticism of the Massachusetts Know-Nothings he cannot away with; but a platform that endorses Pierce & Nebraska he thinks "not particularly objectionable." And so freedom loses a champion.

—A Binghamton paper states a Yellow Bird was recently shot, which had over 200 of the Wheat Weevil in its crop and four grains of wheat with weevil in them.

ADDRESS.

The County Republican Committee to the Electors of Susquehanna County.

Fellow Citizens:—The events of the past year prove, beyond all question, that the formation of the Republican Party—a party pledged to resist the extension of Human Slavery over the free territories of this nation, was not premature. The point assumed by that party, at the time of its organization in this county, "that the old parties, Whig and Democratic, are both superseded, and that the people expect and demand a new organization," is fully sustained by subsequent developements. The Whig party has ceased to be a political power in this country. In every Northern State the people have arisen in mass to condemn and repudiate the Democratic party, which, under the specious pretext of Popular Sovereignty, lends its whole power and influence to propagate and extend Southern Slavery. In violation of a solemn compact entered into between the North and the South, and in defiance of the rights and consciences of the people of the entire North, that party repealed the Missouri Compromise, and permits Slavery to extend over a vast territory, that has, for thirty-four years, been consecrated to freedom. To oppose this action of the Democratic party and to save, if possible, the territories from the blighting influence of Slavery, is the mission of the Republican party.

Since its formation, less than one year ago, fresh outrages have been committed, a territory, consecrated to freedom by a time-honored compact, has been invaded and subjugated by a band of armed ruffians and delivered into the hands of the Slave Power.—Its Ballot boxes were seized and held by armed men, and the lawful voters denied the elective franchise and prevented from giving expression to their free principles. This gross outrage upon the rights of the people of the territories, this illustration of the practical workings of the Democratic principle of popular sovereignty, is winked at by the National Administration. The administration not only refuses to legislate for the territories, which are placed by the Constitution under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, but it also refuses to protect the inhabitants in the exercise of their lawful rights and permits them to remain, against their will, under the arbitrary rule of desperate men, who were placed in power over them by means of illegal votes cast by armed invaders. This unjust action of the administration is sustained by the party which placed it in power. Even in Pennsylvania, the Democratic Convention, composed, in part, of delegates from Susquehanna county, promptly refused to consider resolutions condemning the Kansas outrage, and, by a unanimous vote, expressed entire confidence in the administration of Franklin Pierce. This action of the party, at once and forever disproves the allegation that the party is still in favor of free principles. The Genius of Liberty, which once presided over its councils, has long since departed. The spirit of '76 has died out from the hearts of its members. The banner inscribed with LIBERTY or DEATH, is hauled down, while CHAINS and SLAVERY stream out from the top of its flag staff.

It is now left with the Republican party to sustain and carry out the principle of our Revolutionary fathers and re-establish the government upon the principles of '76 and '87 when Freedom was National, and Slavery sectional. Then Slavery remained quiet within the limits assigned it by the Compromises of the Constitution, and threatened no danger to the peace and prosperity of the country. Fostered and encouraged by the kind attentions of the Democratic party, it has now grown strong and insolent, and obtrudes itself upon the attention of the country by its unjust and arrogant demands. It usurps free territory, breaks solemn compacts, invades Northern rights, and demands existence and encouragement wherever the Constitution is recognized, and, when resistence is offered to its insolent aggressions, it threatens to dissolve this glorious Union.—Nothing can now save this country from impending ruin but an immediate return to the ancient Democratic principle, promulgated and carried out by the immortal Jefferson, Slavery Restriction. That was once the acknowledged policy of the Democratic, and is now the distinguishing feature of the Republican party. By confining Slavery, as was done in '87, to the States in which it exists, and relieving the Federal Government of all responsibility for its existence or continuance, we quiet the agitation of the question and it ceases to be a subject of National concern—Then, and not till then, will it cease to disturb the peace and harmony of the country.

As many of the freemen of Susquehanna County as can gather to the rallying cry, No more Slave States and no Slave Territory, are invited to meet in Mass Convention at the Court House on Monday evening of the first week of August Court, at which time measures will be taken to secure the nomination for office, of men who are pledged to adhere to and sustain the principles of the Republican Party.

Charles F. Read, Chairman.

Montrose, July 27, 1855.

The Waters Moving.

Pennsylvania is awake, at last. *The Philadelphia North American*, whose position gives it superior facilities for ascertaining the feeling and observing the movements of the people throughout the State, says: "The Republican movement seems to spread like wild-fire all through the interior, western and northern parts of the State, and, so far as we can judge by the indications, it will absorb Free Soilers, Whigs, Know Nothings. Since the call for a State Convention of the new party has been issued, the responses are becoming quite general."

Mr. Seward Plays his Card.—For six months we have steadily predicted that there would at last be a complete union between the Seward Abolitionists and the Know-Nothings of the North. Our declarations have been answered by the howls of indignant denial from the dens of the 'order.'—But we are already in the midst of the ample fulfillment of this prophecy.—*Washington Union.*

Compare the Platforms.

As a matter of general interest to our readers, now that another election is approaching, we re publish the last adopted platforms of the two opposing parties, the Republican and Democratic. We invite a careful and candid comparison of the principles of the two. It is believed that the Republican platform is broad enough for all the friends of freedom to stand together upon, and that, appreciating the importance of the present crisis, and the imminent peril to which the rights and dearest interests of the North are subjected by the aggressions of Slavery, and turning a deaf ear to the poisonous councils of the traitors who would provide the only possible way for the success of the pro-Slavery party by producing dissensions among Free Soilers, all true men will be found united in solid phalanx under the Republican banner.

But let every man read and compare for himself, and then choose.

Platform of Principles adopted by the Republican Party of Susquehanna County, Nov. 28th 1854.

Resolved, That this meeting, in connection with, and as the representatives of the majority in this county at the late election, deem it proper to organize the Republican Party.

Resolved, That we pursue this course from the conviction that the late elections in this State and the other Northern and Western States have determined that the Old Parties, Whig and Democratic, are both superseded, and that the people expect and demand a new organization.

Resolved, That the principles upon which we stand are, first and primarily, decided, unswerving, uncompromising hostility to Slavery extension under whatever guise it may be presented. 2nd, A modification or repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law, so that full and entire preservation shall be given to the rights of the citizens of the Free States.

Resolved, That we will sustain no man for any office whose views are not beyond dispute or question on this great subject.

Resolved, That the members of this State Legislature from this District, are requested to vote for no man under any circumstances whatever, for U. S. Senator, whose position as a friend of freedom is in the least doubtful; and they are hereby requested and urged to vote only for known, tried and incorruptible opponents of the policy of Slavery extension and aggrandizement.

Resolved, That the Public Domain belongs equally to all the States of this Union, and ought to be used for the mutual benefit of the whole; as a means of carrying out this principle and of securing the early and permanent settlement of the Public Lands, "The Homestead Bill," so called, meets our most full and entire approbation.

Resolved, That the Compromise which secured territory to Freedom, having been abrogated by the Nebraska-Kansas Bill, we are released from all compromises with Slavery, and we shall claim not only the annulling of the act repealing the Missouri Compromise, but shall oppose any further Slave territory or Slave States as parts of this Union.

Resolved, That we hold most fully by the principles of equal rights and equal privileges, and proscribe no man, or set of men, for the exercise of their religious opinions or conscientious scruples,—liberty of conscience being an inalienable right.

Resolved, That we hold to universal education for all, of every class and nation, and that we shall use all proper efforts to promote the diffusion not only of elementary knowledge in common schools, but the opening of higher schools to poor and rich alike.

Resolved, That an economical administration of the finances of the General and State Governments, is indispensable to the purity and well-being of the country; and we look with alarm at the progress of corruption, peculation, and fraud practiced by the employees of the State and Nation—that we will seek as the surest means of prevention, a proper reduction of the exorbitant patronage of the General Government and the speedy sale of the Public Works of the State.

Resolved, That we hold ourselves bound by no previous party ties or obligations, we organize anew,—and we cordially invite all who hold by our principles to unite with us in this organization.

Democratic Platform, adopted unanimously at Harrisburg, July 4, 1855.

Resolved, That the Democratic party need not on old and settled issues to declare its principles in detail. It is sufficient for us to say that we belong to the Democracy of the Union, and recognize no geographical lines between the North and South. The interests of all parts of the country are the same to us, and so far as in our power, we will maintain the constitutional rights of every State, and recognize in its widest extent the principle of popular sovereignty in the territories.

Resolved, That we are opposed to any change in our State Constitution conferring upon negroes the right of suffrage. We are not willing that this class of Americans shall rule this part of America, conceding to the other States the right to gratify their own tastes in this particular, however much we may differ from them in opinions.

Resolved, That every one who makes our country his home, and loves the Constitution, the laws and the liberty of the Union, is, in its largest sense, *a true American*. His birthplace was not of his own selection, and should do him neither good nor harm—his religion is between himself and his God, and should be left to his own judgment, conscience and responsibility.

Resolved, That we regard the secret order, commonly called "Know Nothings," as an organization dangerous to the prosperity and peace of the country. We consider its designs unconstitutional and void of patriotism; being at once opposed to the spirit of true Christianity and a just and manly American sentiment.

Resolved, That the Democratic party reiterate and reassert their confidence in, and adherence to, the political creed as promulgated by Thomas Jefferson, in his first inaugural address, and practiced by Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Van Buren, Polk, and Pierce, in their administrations—that these principles require no concealment, and that experience has fully determined their applicability to all the interests of the American people.

Resolved, That we have undiminished confidence in the ability and integrity of Franklin Pierce, and his administration of the government of our country.

Resolved, The the views and principles of the present State Administration, as embodied in the acts passed by the recent Legislature, and approved by the Governor, by which the interests of the State have been, or are proposed to be, seriously affected, contrasts strongly with the wise and judicious management of the government by Governor Bigler, and tend to show the danger of entrusting the control of the Commonwealth to the hands of men who are swayed by fanaticism and governed by prejudice.

Resolved, That we pledge our party and united efforts to the election of Arnold Plumer, the candidate for Canal Commissioner, whom we have this day nominated without a dissenting voice.

Judge Wilmot's Views.

Thinking it might be useful, at this time, to recall the opinions of Judge Wilmot on the position of parties, we make the following extract from his speech in Montrose, in January last. The Judge is in favor of a union of freemen in the Republican organization, as the hope of the country in 1856, and so, we venture to assert, is every other true friend of freedom:

"If the people of this district would unite in the cause of freedom, he believed they could exert such an influence as would cause the State to change its old position on this question of human rights. But so long as support of slavery leads to political success and place, ambitious men will support it. The history of the last few months is instructive. In consequence of the Nebraska outrage, the Republican party was organized in the West, and has uniformly triumphed. That party was there as here organized on Free-Soil principles. The Whig party is there disbanded. He believed the Republican party of the West to be the hope of the country in 1856. In the organization of the party in this country he had deeply sympathized, and was anxious to see all unite in it. If it should ever happen that the party should be wrested to the support of pro-slavery measures he should oppose it. But he could see no grounds for disturbing those who have joined in it. There may be ambitious and bad men in it. There always have been such in the Democratic and Whig parties. There always will be men in every party who desire to use it for selfish purposes. But he believed the great body of men who have united together in the Republican party in this country, are honest and sincere, and earnestly desire the success of true principles. There will be some dishonest men in every party. If all the dishonest men had been driven out of the Democratic party, he believed it would have been in the minority for the last twenty years. But the mass of the people, who composed both the old parties are honest.

If any body thinks the Democratic party is going to fight the battles of freedom, he would say, bring it up to the work quick.—On that question, the organization has only helped the South to break down the bulwarks of freedom. If they are going to fight for freedom, let them commence at the next State Convention of Pennsylvania."

The Evening Post on Platforms.

There is much wholesome truth in the following extract from that old and able Democratic paper, the New-York *Evening Post*.

In a Convention of the Democrats of our State, called just before the nomination, and but little more than a year before the election of a President of the United States, is the Slavery controversy to be treated as if it had no existence, or is to be slurred over with ambiguous words that bear a double meaning? We are pretty confident that the Convention will not be guilty of the madness of approving the course of the Administration in the Nebraska affair; its members will understand that the public opinion will not endure an outrage of that nature; but will a Convention assembled for political objects fairly represent the will of the people, if it separates without pronouncing an emphatic judgment on the question of Slavery in the Territories? Last year 'the question of the Repeal or Restoration of the Missouri Compromise came home,' says *The Atlas*, 'to the hearts and interests of the people.' With ten times more truth may it be said to come home to the hearts and interests of the people now, when we are considering for whom we shall vote as President, and when the chivalry of the South, pledged to consummate the object of the Nebraska fraud by still bolder frauds, invade Kansas with armed bands, wrest the elections from the hands of the people, and set up a Legislature of their own from which they expel all who are fairly elected. The Democratic Convention of last year failed to express the popular voice on a question which went 'to the hearts and interests of the people,' and their party was beaten. What may be expected to be its fate if it is equally faithless to the popular feeling now?

The Atlas ridicules the Republican Convention to be held in this State, sometimes called the Fusion Convention. Such Conventions are the natural fruit of the policy of suppression and silence which the Conventions of the old parties seek to enforce. The people grow impatient of the suffocating process; they break away from the old organizations; they come together without regard to former party connections, and, taking free breath, utter with one accord the common resentment with which their minds are inflamed, and the common purpose which they have in view, and which they are not allowed the opportunity of proclaiming elsewhere.—The Fusion Convention in this State is not in reality got up by those whose names appear on the call. Its true authors are those who are laboring to circumvent the expression of popular opinion in the obvious manner—that is to say, by public assemblies.—They stop it at its natural outlet and force it to find a passage by other channels.

If silence on the great question which convulses the country is to be enforced at the Democratic Convention, we all know how the thing is to be brought about.

The office-holders under the Federal Government and their friends are to pack the Convention and direct its proceedings. Captain Rynders and his confederates in the Custom-House here are to look to the election of delegates from this City, and the Captain goes up at their head as a matter of course to see that all is right. Something of this sort was done at the Convention last year, and there is no reason to suppose that the arrangements for the present year will be very differently ordered. After an experiment or two of this kind the people grow discontented and demand a Convention of a different sort—a Convention which, instead of being governed by a handful of men, shall speak without restraint the sincere voice of the great majority.

The Indiana Know-Nothings.—The Grand State Council of this body was in session at the State Capital on Thursday, when the action of the delegates from Indiana in the Convention or council at Philadelphia was formally endorsed; the connection between the State and the United States severed; the injunction of secrecy removed; proceedings ordered to be published in the papers; platform extended so as to take in all native born and naturalized citizens, except of the Roman Catholic faith. Resolutions were adopted in favor of reinstating the Missouri compromise line, against the admission of slave States formed out of territories north of that line, and in favor of the alteration of that section of the Constitution of the State which pemits aliens to vote after a residence of six months and a declaration of intention to become a citizen.

A blundering compositor, in setting up the toast, 'Woman, without her, man would be a savage,' got the punctuation in the wrong place, which made it read, 'Woman, without her man, would be a savage.' This mistake was not discovered until the editor's wife undertook to read proof.

The War in The West.

From The Worcester Spy.

Our people have a great deal to say at present about the War in the East; we should like to know what their opinion is about the War in the West. The war in the East is interesting to all of us, for all of us are men, and we are interested, more or less, in whatever affects humanity. But the war in the West is *our* war, and immediately concerns our honor, our fame, and our freedom; and it ought, therefore, to be of much more interest to us that anything that can take place outside of the United States. In the East, rival nations are contending for the mastery over each other; the issue of their combat will decide nothing more than a question of European policy—it will not settle any question of moral or political principle. In the West liberty is assailed by slavery, with all the legion of ruffians which the latter can purchase to aid her in her unhallowed work, and in the issue of that contest is involved the humiliation of this Republic and the subjection to Slavery of all the territory which she now claims.

The war in the West is therefore a much more important war to us, to our country, and to our posterity, than the war in the East is. Will our people continue then to turn their eyes towards Sevastopol, and will they hear with indifference, that Liberty is being driven from Kansas?

It is of no use to appeal to the General Government to redress the wrongs of the settlers in the Territory. It is one of the misfortunes of our political system that such an imbecile as Frank Pierce, and such traitors as his Cabinet, can hold the reins for four years in spite of the people's scorn and indignation. We must submit to the term of penance which the election of such an automaton as the present apology for a President has imposed upon us. But while we submit we can still appeal to the sovereign—to the people. The administration has seen Kansas invaded by armed men from Missouri; the laws established for the government of that Territory set at defiance by those ruffians; the ballot-boxes broken and the ballots of the actual settlers destroyed; the lives of the immigrants threatened because they refused to recognise those drunken fillibusters as wardens and clerks of election; the polling stations taken possession of and a spurious Legislature elected; and yet it never moved a muscle to correct these glaring abuses. It winked at them,—it approved of them—it encouraged them; and it inspirited Stringfellow and his gang to proceed in the career which they entered on. The leaders of the invasion of Kansas met at Pawnee as the Legislature of the Territory; and in defiance of the United States, as represented by Gov. Reeder and the Territorial laws, they adjourned the seat of government to the borders of Missouri, ejected every man who was fairly elected to a seat in the Legislature, gave Slavery a legal tenure in the territory, constituted every Missourian who shall register himself as such a voter in Kansas, passed an edict for the purpose of testing the Slavery question, and proposed that New England settlers be especially required to swear allegiance to the laws of Missouri and to the Fugitive Slave edict. Still the General Government remains complacently passive. It still encourages the progress of Missouri ruffianism in Kansas, and the programme of the next act of the play is issued. Stringfellow and Co., now propose, (with consent of the Legislature of Missouri,) to annex to K. T., Platte County, Mo. This act of annexation would give to Kansas all the self-defensive association—all the press destroyers and swash bucklers of Parksville, &c. and it would give Kansas a population which would at once entitle her to ask admission to the confederacy as a State. It is a scheme which Frank Pierce, no doubt, approves of—Douglas would assuredly like to see it accomplished, and Atchison will certainly do all he can to consummate it; but, what will the people of the North say to it?

Will they sanction it? Will their representatives approve of it? Will they give authority to this and all other acts of the fillibusters by admitting Kansas with Slavery into the Union? This is the question which the people must answer in 1856.

Pitch 'em In

The Missouri River having become too low for the purpose of navigation, has been converted into a receptacle for Abolition printing offices. A nobler use could not have been conceived. Pitch 'em in! Several are yet left which should take a trip to the river. *The Brunswicker.*

Our sentiments to a T. Pitch 'em in!—There are three in this Territory which we think would be an ornament to the Missouri river.—*Squatter Sovereign.*

Why the necessity of so much gas, friend Stringfellow? Are the three papers you allude to in this city, in the way of your schemes of dissolution? Very well, demolish them. Down with the Press, down with freedom of thought and freedom of expression, but as your contemporary remarked a few weeks ago, "up with the black flag of slavery." A free press will expose your vices, and it must be destroyed. Why the delay? Each week adds strength to the Free State movement, and of course makes a press destroying exhibition more hazardous. —*Kansas Herald of Freedom.*

The Brunswicker and Squatter Sovereign are old line democratic papers, and are the pets of the National Administration, the latter paper being the recipient of all the Government favors for the whole of that section of the Territory.

☞ See what a dreadful crime it is to be opposed to Slavery extension. This glorious Union is to be destroyed, and it is to be bro't about by British emmissaries and Monarchists stirring up the Northerners wickedly to resist the spread of the Democratic institutions of the South over the new territories.

"A venerable and patriotic Democrat" in New Jersey writes to a friend in Georgia as follows:

"I hope the Southern people will act prudently and firmly in resisting the fanaticism of the Eastern Abolitionists. The people of New England it seems will never forget their English attachments and prejudices. The Puritans of New England are Monarchists at least, and are nothing more or less than British emmissaries and British partisans. The negro question is the plan adopted by the British Monarchists to destroy this Republic, by first producing a separation. I have my fears, least they should succeed; things look gloomy and it requires all the wisdom of the friends of the Union to prevent a separation."

☞ The Slaveholders of Missouri, in Convention assembled, have resolved that inasmuch as their interests, as Slaveholders, are involved in the destiny of Kansas, they will therefore lay aside all other matters for the present and unite together for the purpose of making Kansas a Slave State. And yet, when the people of Pennsylvania are called upon to unite for the purpose of making Kansas a *Free* State, if possible, and of excluding her if she offers to come in as a Slave State, the call is denounced as being impudent in the extreme. It is 'impudence,' now in Northern men, to act even upon the instinct of self-preservation.

The Philadelphia Slave Case.

We print this morning the decision of Judge Kane in the Philadelphia Slave case, committing Passmore Williamson to prison for contempt of Court, alleged to have been committed in his answer to the writ of Habeas Corpus served on him at the suit of Mr. Wheeler. Judge Kane's decision is the most outrageous abuse of power that has thus far disgraced the bench of this country. A writ of Habeas Corpus was served on Mr. Williamson to produce the bodies of the slaves of Mr. Wheeler. Mr Williamson returned in answer that the bodies were not and never had been in his possession or control. That was the literal truth, and Judge Kane knew it to be so; yet he pettifogs the case in a way as original as is mean, and says in effect that Williamson had theoretical legal control because he was the getter-up and adviser of the mob of negroes who took the slaves away. And so, not because he fails to make a polite, dignified, proper, full and true return to the writ, not because he says the persons were not within his power or possession, but because he adds to this negation the four words, "*at any time whatever*," for these four words of literal truth Mr. Williamson is hustled off to prison for contempt of Court. We hope the people will read this decision with care, and if they do not finish its perusual with a feeling of indignation for its pettifogging spirit, its manifest violation of justice, its overrunning fullness of revenge against the defendant, we much mistake the degree of independence that is supposed to reside in the hearts of freemen. The counsel for the defendant, conscious that his client had committed no contempt, declined to say anything on the motion to punish. This absence of a defense seems to have puzzled Kane, and he confesses as much.—However, he gratuitously undertakes to set up a point for the fun of knocking it down. He assumes that the defence might have said the negroes were not slaves, being in the Free State of Pennsylvania. This he upsets by saying that no statute authorizes forcible abduction, whether the abducted parties are slaves or not. As to Mr. Williamson's motives, Judge Kane offers nothing except the contemptuous sneer at the Court of God Almighty contained in the words "I have nothing to do with them [the motives;] they may give him support and comfort before an infinitely higher tribunal. I do not impugn them here." Merciful Kane!

The moment Judge Kane had concluded the reading of his decision the District-Attorney asked for a commitment, whereupon Mr. Williamson's counsel immediately moved that he have permission to amend his return.—The Judge replied that he was too late; that the commitment had been granted, and the prisoner was in the custody of the Marshal.

We presume this is not the end of the business, however. It cannot be possible that so outrageous a violation of Mr. Williamson's rights can be suffered in silence. If this return is to be adjuged contempt, then any answer which may not exactly square with a Judge's idea of a correct return may bring punishment upon the respondent. If this is to stand as a precedent, it is most dangerous to personal liberty. But it cannot be. The idea of "contempt" in a respectful and truthful return, whatever legal and technical errors there may be in it, is impossible. The contemptible feature in this case is the opinion and action of Judge Kane, and he may yet find that there are law and justice that will reach even United States Judges.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

"Old Whigs."—It is amusing to see the desperate efforts of the *Statesman* and the organs of the Slave Democracy to array the "old Whigs" against the Republican ticket. These papers act on the theory that the people are all stupid fools, and have no perception of the true state of affairs about them.—It is notorious that great part of the men who voted for the Republican ticket last year and who will vote for it this year, are "old Whigs." But, now when the question of Freedom or Slavery is presented, and when they must decide whether the South shall extend its institution of bondage over Territory heretofore free, and dedicated to freedom by a solemn compact between the North and the South, they respond with one voice in favor of freedom and Free Soil.—They are happy to find that so many of the rank and file of the Democracy agree with them in this opinion, and declare their readiness to co-operate with others in preventing the invasion of Slavery upon our rights, and restoring Kansas and Nebraska to freedom. The emergency is great. Action must be prompt to be effectual. Sensible men see the Locofoco party in this State not only upholding and sustaining these outrages of the South, but they also see and feel its miserable management of our State affairs. They are willing to unite to check the progress of slavery upon the rights of the North, and to reform the abuses that have crept into our State legislation. These are the foundations of the Fusion and of the Republican party.

If there are any "old Whigs" who have no sympathy with these principles, but who prefer to go with the friends of Slavery extension, and who wish to uphold the present position of affairs in Ohio, we presume they will at once know where to go to find aid and comfort. This is a very free country.—*Ohio State Journal.*

The Republican Party.—We publish two communications to day—one from Butler county and one from our own county, on the subject of the organization of the Republican party. They give utterance to a desire we hear expressed in every quarter, for the speedy formation of a party in Pennsylvania which will affiliate with the Republicans of Ohio and in the other free states. The exigencies of political affairs, both in the state and nation, demand it.

The Republican party will soon be organized in Beaver and Lawrence counties, and we presume also in Butler as well as Allegheny. In Mercer, Washington, and some other counties, the Whig committees have been called together to consider what is proper to be done in the present emergency, and we do not doubt they will recommend their constituents to follow the example of their fellow whigs in sister counties, Crawford, Venango and Erie, and all the northern tier of counties are ripe for the Republican movement. The centre, the south and the east will no doubt come into the movement in good time.—*Pittsburg Gazette.*

Republican Party.—A public meeting of persons opposed to the extension of slavery, has been held in Coudersport, Potter county Pa., at which resolutions were adopted calling a State Convention of the Republican, or Anti-Nebraska party to be held at Harrisburg. The Pittsburg Gazette heartily responds to the proposition, and from the spirit previously manifested in other quarters of the State, we do not doubt that the Convention will be largely attended. From present appearances there seems likely to be five separate parties in the field of the fall election in Pennsylvania, viz: the Democratic, the American or Know Nothing, the National Know-Nothing, the straightout Whig, and the Republican. Should all these run distinct tickets, the Democratic party must triumph; but with a fusion of the Anti-Nebraska strength, the contest would probably go the other way.—*North American.*

KANSAS.

The following is a copy of the protest signed by the 'Free State' members expelled from the Kansas Legislature by the Missourians;

"The undersigned, members of the House of representatives of the Legislature of Kansas Territory, earnestly and emphatically protest against the action of this House, in the adoption of the report of a majority of the Committee on credentials, by which we are excluded from our seats, and disabled from the performance of a high public duty, imposed upon us by our constituents and the supreme law of the land.

"We protest against this action, because it is a gross and palpable violation of the organic act of the Territory, expelling from their seats persons declared by the Governor to have been 'duly elected'—the only description of persons recognized by, or known to the organic act as members of the Legislature and introducing persons of an entirely different description to fill their places; thus vitiating the legality of its existence, and depriving its enactments of any binding force or authority whatever.

"We respectfully request, as an act of simple justice to us, by which our positions may be distinctly understood by the country and the world, that this our protest be entered upon the journals of the House.

Erastus D. Ladd, Wm. Jesse,
Augustus Wattles, A. J. Baker,
John Hutchinson.

State Temperance Convention.

A Mass Convention of the friends of Temperance will be held in READING, Berks County, on Wednesday the 8th of August, to commence at 10 o'clock A. M. As the enemies of the late law are organizing to secure its repeal, it is important that all friendly to the law should attend. All who come will be members, and none need wait to be appointed. The time, the circumstances, and THE PLACE, demand a full representation from all parts of the State.

The addres of the Central Committee will be ready for delivery to the members for general circulation, and they are requested to collect funds to be paid over at that time—Come one, come all, and show to friends and foes that *the Law will be sustained.*

P. COOMBE, Chairman.

Philadelphia, June 23, 1855.

The Hunker Candidate and Platform.

The nominee, Mr. Plumer, is of the Buchanan wing of the party—an inveterate old Hunker and office-seeker—and not supposed, from his location, to have any practical knowledge of the public works.

The platform presented, is very similar to that of last year. On the prominent national question of Nebraskaism, and on the local issue of the Liquor law of last session, it refused to adopt any plain and decided resolutions, pro or con, but chose to present resolutions which—like those with which Governor Bigler fell—may be interpreted to suit public opinion in various quarters. They even refused to denounce the infamous outrages by gangs of secret, oath-bound ruffians, upon the people of Kansas and a Pennsylvania Governor—acts of National concern; but very courageously adopted one against allowing colored men to vote in Pennsylvania!—*Lewisburg Chronicle.*

Removal of Governor Reeder.

Washington, July 20, 1855.

The President has appointed the Hon. John L. Dawson, of Pennsylvania, Governor of Kansas, in place of the Hon. A. H. Reeder, removed. Mr. Dawson was an effective member of the last Congress, and voted for the Nebraska-Kansas bill. He is also known as a strenuous advocate of the policy of giving homesteads to actual settlers, and introduced a bill for that purpose, which passed the House of Representatives but failed to obtain the sanction of the Senate.

☞ Nebraska Territory flourishes bravely, the settlers swarming into it, by every avenue, in such numbers that provisions are enormously high, flour ranging at sixteen dollars a barrel, and potatoes at three dollars a bushel. Omaha, the capital, is located on the bank of the Missouri river, directly opposite Council Bluffs, Iowa, and a steam ferry boat plies constantly between the two places.—Omaha contains about four hundred inhabitants. It is beautifully located and surrounded by an excellent farming region, well watered and lacking only timber. For laborers, the average rate of wages is not in proportion to the prices of board and provisions.—In fact, laborers are said to be plentier than employers. A determined effort to introduce slavery into the Territory is in progress, and a company in Missouri has secured a depot in one of the chief towns, to which they are sending slaves as fast as they meet with sale.

Statistical.—Some people talk a great deal about ministers, and the cost of keeping them, paying their house rent, table expenses, and other items of salary. Did such croakers ever think that it costs thirty-five millions of dollars to pay the salaries of American lawyers; that twelve millions are paid out annually to keep our caiminals, and ten millions are paid out to keep the dogs in the midst of us alive; while only six millions of dollars are spent annually to keep six thousand ministers in the United States.

These are facts, and statistics will show them to be facts.—*St. Louis Democrat.*

☞ We shall shortly hear of the appearance of a large Russian force menacing British India, as it appears by advices from Austria that a force had already been concentrated at Khiva, a city east of Caspian, where they made a campaign some fifteen years ago. The Czar has always been very quiet in his operations; and as the Petersburg journals have no correspondence with the armies, the first news we shall hear will be the sudden appearance of an army forcing its way to Hindostan.

☞ A Republican party; founded upon the single principle of resistence to Slavery aggression and removing the National Government from any responsibility for the evil, is proposed in Potter county, and responded to from various quarters. That is the Pale. We propose Harrisburg as the place, Wednesday the 3d Sept. as the time, for all the opponents of Nebraskality to meet and select a man for Canal Commissioner, and prepare for a National Convention.—*Lewisburg Chronicle.*

Spontaneous Combustion.—It ought to be universally known that sawdust, into which oil has has spilled, will ignite in a few hours if exposed to the rays of the sun. Any kind of cotton goods wetted with oil and laid by, will soon take fire.

—The Newark Daily *Advertiser* proposes that a national day for thanksgiving, joy and festivity be appointed this year, as an appropriate acknowledgement to "the Giver of every good and perfect gift," in view of the bountifulness of the incoming harvest.

—The Democratic State Convention of Vermont met at Montpelier, July 25th, made nominations for Governor &c., and passed resolutions unanimously approving and commending the policy of President Pierce's administration.