

# INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN.

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

MONTROSE, PA.

Thursday, August 30, 1856.

**CORRECTION.**—In the list of Township Committees of the Republican party published in our last week, New Mifflin was accidentally omitted. The mistake is rectified this week.

To call the meeting last Monday evening at the Old Court House, a Free Soil meeting, would be a misnomer. R. B. Little, Esq., recently known as a leading abolitionist in this county, declared that Know-Nothingism was to be the only issue in this Fall's campaign. So we have discovered what party it is that is in favor of ignoring the Slavery question, and leading the minds of the people off from the real issue—Mr. McCollum assured his hearers that old party issues were not dead, and referred, according to the recent Democratic triumph at the South, as showing that his party still lives—and we suppose that it is Free Soil, Bela Jones, Esq., although claiming to be a Free Soil man, declared that, but for the raid of the Missourians in Kansas and the treatment of Governor Reeder, he would not have listed a finger in opposition to the administration. We presume, then, that he is in favor of "popular sovereignty," as it is understood by Governor Reeder, but not as it is interpreted by Atchison and Stringfellow. The most striking feature in the speech of Mr. Little, aside from his extraordinary willingness at such a time as this, to ignore the Slavery question, was the pre-eminent claims he set up for the Democratic party, which still seems to have all the charms of novelty to him, although he has been connected with it now nearly two years. It was the Democratic party, he told his hearers, that framed the Constitution. Patrick Henry opposed its adoption on the ground that it had "an awful squinting towards a monarchy," and we are afraid that some who zealously labored in its favor acquired the name of Federalists for doing so. Mr. Little also informed us that Washington was a Democrat, which we are very willing to believe, though he has been accused of being a Federalist.

From the ex-Speaker we had an entirely new reading or interpretation of the Constitution. Having dilated, like the speakers who preceded him, on the awful wickedness of making any distinction between native and foreign born citizens, as regards their holding office in this country, he gravely asserted that a foreigner is eligible to the office of President of the United States, when he has been in this country fourteen years! Now, this is truly refreshing. It is worth something to get hold of a new idea, now and then. The Constitution, indeed, provides that none but natural-born citizens of the United States, or such were citizens when the Constitution was adopted, shall be eligible to the office of President; but the Constitution must give way before Chase's dead-on-arrival upon the unconstitutional Know-Nothings. Mr. Chase asserted that he had no political opinions to conceal, and we therefore take this occasion to inquire whether he is in favor of restoring Kansas and Nebraska to freedom by act of Congress, or a repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law, of the acquisition of Cuba, and of the election of James Buchanan for the next President.

C. L. Ward, Esq., of Towanda, took a different view of Democracy from any of the other speakers. He spoke as an outsider. He wanted to know how it was that a Democratic meeting in Susquehanna happened to omit from its resolutions one endorsing Arnold Plumer, the party nominee for Canal Commissioner. He was surprised at the omission, and surprised that Mr. Chase did not raise the name of Plumer at the head of this paper. Every Democratic paper in the State had raised his name at its mast-head, but Mr. Chase's paper had not done it.

**Mr. Chase.**—I shall not explain my course to-night; I will explain in the paper.

**Mr. Ward.**—But why did this meeting not endorse Arnold Plumer, one of the very best men in the State, an old acquaintance and particular friend of mine? Why not endorse or denounce him? Why this cowardly policy?

**Mr. Chase.**—Will the gentleman permit me to ask one question. Why did not Frank Pierce mention the Nebraska bill in his next message after that act passed?

**Mr. Ward.**—If President Pierce did a foolish thing, is that a good reason for your doing another?

He believed there were many Democrats who were true to the party still left in Susquehanna county. What had the party to do with the "nigger question"? It was all nonsense to make so much fuss about the niggers. Why should Pennsylvanians trouble themselves about Slavery in a Territory three thousand miles off? There was no danger that Slavery would be introduced into Pennsylvania. He was acquainted with Governor Reeder, and he had no doubt but he would come home still a Democrat, and would support Arnold Plumer for Canal Commissioner. The course that some of the party are taking in this county, would lead them off into the Republican party, where other bolters and disorganizers had already gone. The convention seemed to be making war on the Know-Nothings. They were fighting ghosts and shadows. Know-Nothingism was dead and buried, and its members would be found in this new Republican party. He concluded as he began, with an exhortation to the Democracy to vote for Plumer. (A voice in the crowd: "We will and elect him.") And so the crowd attending this anomalous convention, about two-thirds of whom, we should judge, were outsiders attracted to the spot by curiosity, dispersed.

The Kansas Herald of the 17th, reiterates in the most solemn manner its former assertion that a project is on foot to annex Platte Co. Mo., to Kansas by purchase.

## Court Proceedings, August, 1856.

LAST WEEK.

Commonwealth vs. Michael Cahalan, Assault and Battery. Defendant pleads guilty, and is sentenced to pay a fine of five dollars to the Commonwealth, with costs of prosecution, and stand committed till the sentence is complied with.

Commonwealth vs. William M. Sherwood. Indictment for adultery and bastardy. True bill. Verdict guilty. Sentenced to pay a fine of one dollar to the Commonwealth, and the costs of prosecution, to undergo three months imprisonment in the county jail; and the Courtorder that he pay to the Supervisors of Auburn township the sum of thirty dollars, to indemnify said township for the charges and expenses incurred in the support of Harriet Bennett and her child, and further order that he pay to Milton Harris in trust for Harriet Bennett and for the support of her said child, the sum of seventy-five cents per week from the present time till January 1st, 1859, and the further sum of fifty cents per week from that time till January 1st, 1862, payment to be secured by bond and surety; and the Court further order that he give security to indemnify the township of Massachusetts who promised to be there, and Senator Wade and Mr. Giddings of Ohio are expected. Invitations have also been sent to Daniel Mace, of Indiana; Lewis D. Campbell, Thomas H. Ford and others of Ohio; David Wilnot, R. G. White, John C. Kunkel, Thaddeus Stevens and others of Pa.; W. H. Seward and B. F. Butler of N.Y.; John H. Hale of New Hampshire, and Cassius M. Clay of Ky.

The Convention is likely to effect great good in the State; but all depends on the counsels that prevail in it. If it is made to serve as a means of dividing and distracting the anti-slavery sentiment of the State, it will do much harm; if to unite and strengthen it, it will do much good. The patriotic, unselfish and liberal course of the Free Soil men of Ohio, is an example worthy to be followed.

Commonwealth vs. Rufus D. Clark. Indictment for Adultery. Verdict, not guilty, but that defendant pay costs of prosecution, and sentenced accordingly.

Commonwealth vs. Charles Morris. Indictment, Assault and battery. Bill ignored, and the prosector, Mary Boole, pleads guilty, and the prosector, George Probert, to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. George Probert. Indictment for Larceny, in stealing a horse of Isaac Griggs, of Great Bend. Defendant pleads guilty.

Commonwealth vs. Rufus D. Clark. Indictment, Adultery. Verdict, not guilty, but that defendant pay costs of prosecution, and sentenced accordingly.

Commonwealth vs. Charles Morris. Indictment, Assault and battery. Bill ignored, and the prosector, George Eggleton, to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. Royal Griffis. Indictment for passing counterfeit money. Verdict, not guilty in manner and form as set forth in the indictment, but that he pay the costs, and sentence accordingly.

Commonwealth vs. Richard Manning. Indictment, Assault and battery. Bill ignored, and the prosector, George Eggleton, to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. Rufus D. Clark. Indictment, Adultery. Verdict, not guilty, but that defendant pay costs of prosecution, and sentenced accordingly.

Commonwealth vs. Franklin D. Thayer. Indictment, Assault and Battery. Richard Manning, Prosecutor. Bill ignored, and the county to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. Boliver Mills. Indictment, False Pretences. Bill ignored, and the prosector, H. C. Conklin, to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. David Any. Indictment, Perjury. Bill ignored, and the prosector, R. S. Davis, to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. Edward Griffs. Indictment, Assault and Battery. Bill returned ignoramus, and the prosector, Franklin D. Thayer, to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. Franklin D. Thayer. Indictment, Assault and Battery. Richard Manning, Prosecutor. Bill ignored, and the county to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. Boliver Mills. Indictment, False Pretences. Bill ignored, and the prosector, H. C. Conklin, to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. David Any. Indictment, Perjury. Bill ignored, and the prosector, R. S. Davis, to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. Edward Griffs. Indictment, Larceny. Bill returned ignoramus by grand jury.

Commonwealth vs. A. N. A., and F. Aldrich. Indictment for Assault and Battery. Verdict, guilty as to Andrew Aldrich, and not guilty as to the others.

Commonwealth vs. Leonard Scarle. Indictment for furnishing intoxicating drinks, &c. Bill ignored, and the prosector, S. H. Sayre, to pay the costs.

H. Perrine & Son vs. J. B. Scoville. Action of debt. Verdict for plaintiff for \$130.17.

H. C. Bennett vs. N. S. Leibheim. Action of debt. Verdict for plaintiff for \$2,495.03.

Commonwealth vs. Stephen Petris. Indictment for passing counterfeit coin. Ignoramus.

Commonwealth vs. Truman Thomas. Indictment, Assault and Battery. Ignoramus; prosecutor, William Barron, to pay costs.

SECOND WEEK.

Charles J. Biddle vs. Benjamin Grange. Replevin. Appearance and plea for defendant on the case. Verdict for plaintiff for \$76.64.

J. Brandovitz & S. Perkins. Action of Covenanted. Verdict for plaintiff for \$100 damage, and costs, and that the defendant within one month, execute a deed in fee simple to the plaintiff for the lot described in contract under a penalty of \$3,000.

**Freedom in Kansas.**

That gang of criminals called the Kansas Legislature, have already driven Freedom out of the Territory, as far as their legislation can do it. These men it must be remembered are pets of Pierce's administration, some of them supported by government patronage, and it was at their demand that Governor Reeder was removed for being a clog to legislation. The clog having been removed by the embodiment of modern Democracy, Franklins Pierce, the legislative machine goes ahead, and grinds out such laws as the following:

Sec. 13. If any free person, by speaking or writing, assert or maintain, in this Territory, or shall introduce into Kansas, print, publish, write, circulate, or cause to be introduced into this Territory, any book, paper, magazine, pamphlet, or circular containing any denial of the rights of persons to hold slaves in this Territory, such person shall be deemed guilty of felony, and punished by imprisonment at hard labor for a term not less than two years.

Is it possible that there is a party in the Free State base enough to uphold the administration that gives aid and comfort to these lawless law-makers? Look at the resolutions of the several sham Democratic State Conventions recently held, endorsing the present administration, for an answer. But fortunately, though the leaders of that once great party are corrupt enough to endorse Pierce and Slavery, the Northern people of every party are honest enough to condemn and are about leaving Pierce, Douglass, and the whole tribe of office-seeking Douglasses to the tender mercies of their masters, the slave-drivers. It may be easy enough to get the Chair reported a series of resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, after which E. B. Chase (of the Democrats) gave the Know Nothing a third edition of those naughty epithets that characterized the speeches of

very difficult matter. It is the feeling of the North, that the outrages on the spirit of free institutions and the rights of American citizens that are continually taking place, must be stopped; and if ours is really a government by the people, and the people are true to themselves, they will be stopped.

We are sending out paper into Kansas, and according to the law quoted above, our subscribers there are guilty of a high crime in taking it, and liable to imprisonment at hard labor for two years for that offence!

The whole people of our country, are accountable for this state of things, if they suffer it to endure. What say you, sovereign voters, (for it is for you to say) shall it endure?

Messrs. McCollum and Little. Mr. Chase closed by expressing a fervent hope that

The Star Spangled Banner might evermore wave Over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

At the conclusion of this speech, the Convention—satiated with patriotism, adjourned, and after the adjournment, C. L. Ward, of Bradford County, advocated with considerable warmth, the claims of Arnold Plumer, the Democratic candidate for Canal Commissioner, to the suffrages of the "great untermited," but perceiving that his auditors were fast departing, and doubtless fearing he would be left "alone in his glory," he donned his chapeau and vanished.

Now let us see where the Republican Convention of August 20th and the Democratic Convention of August 27th agreed, and in what respects they differed.

1. The Republican Convention denounced the policy of the administration in renouncing Governor Reeder from that executive position he so honorably filled.

The Democratic Convention not only did this, but also denounced the State Democratic Convention for supporting the administration in this high-handed outrage.

2. The Republican Convention condemned the course of Congress in repudiating that

sovereignty of the states compact with the North, whereby the territories of Nebraska and Kansas were overruled to the south.

3. The Republican Convention solemnly declared "That we never will consent to the acquisition of another foot of Slave Territory, or the admission of another Slave State into our Union."

The Democratic Convention deliberately asserted "That the General Government should in no wise lend its countenance, or support the extension or perpetuity of Slavery, and that we will resist any such use of the powers of the General Government as dangerous usurpations and flagrant abuses."

4. The Republican Convention disavowed all connection with the Know Nothing and Know Something organizations.

The Democratic Convention resolved, "That we look upon all attempts to drag the question of religious toleration into the political arena, as subversive of the Constitution, repugnant to the principles of Republicanism, and likely to embroil the country in all the horrors of religious persecution and strife."

Resolved, That the session is drawing to a close, and that the Legislature is doing its business fast. A railway from Leavenworth to Lecompton has been incorporated.

The various acts of the Legislature have entirely disfranchised the free State settlers; one of these gives to the county courts the election officers. The county courts are all pro-slavery. Another act allows any man to vote without regard to residence, on the payment of a dollar and the taking of certain oaths. This admits all Missouri, or, in fact, people from any where else. But the various enactments respecting slavery make felons of all the free State men, and thus deprive them of the rights of citizenship. The oaths required of them are to support the Southern traitors—particularly among the press. Their former argument was the necessity,—Now, the man who does not concede this, a blessing is called a poortoon—and that slavery is morally and politically right. They consider those traitors who do not advocate the extension of slavery. It is expedient that the South should possess that equilibrium of power in the Government, necessary to its safety. This is done by a simple question: Whether the National Government shall or shall not hold its power for the extension of slavery. Accept this issue just as it is; that man in the North will consent to the doctrine that the South shall be bound down not to progress faster than the South?

Mr. J. M. Kennedy offered the following, which was laid over until the next meeting of the League:

A new subject of consideration will come before the Convention. We allude to the proposition made by the Whig County Committee, viz: "An union of Northern forces upon a common platform of freedom." This recommendation, made thus openly and fairly, we cannot evade. It would be folly to attempt to do so. The party in the North which stands in the way of the determination on the part of the people to act common, will commit suicide, and will be overwhelmed by the popular voice. If we are met with a proposition from our sometime political opponents, to throw the strength of Freedom in this County for but two Representatives, how can we refuse to exercise the liberality, without making our defeat at the polls certain, and without rendering ourselves obnoxious to the charge of inconsistency and want of devotion to principles. Are we organized to perpetuate a name, or to advance principles? If the latter, and no principle is violated, may not the earnest voice of voters for once have an expression without being weakened by division, or stifled by party triumphs?

We should be glad to see the seven thousand voters of this County, whose breasts are swelling with indignation at the outrages perpetrated in Kansas, who view with alarm the aggressions of the slave power, and whose feelings have been outraged by the removal of Gov. Reeder, have an opportunity to utter their sentiments in common, as their feelings are common, by uniting together for members of the Legislature, in whom they have confidence. If the people could control the two Conventions, such would be the result. Such a proposal from our sometime political opponents, to throw the strength of Freedom in this County for but two Representatives, how can we refuse to exercise the liberality, without making our defeat at the polls certain, and without rendering ourselves obnoxious to the charge of inconsistency and want of devotion to principles? If the latter, and no principle is violated, may not the earnest voice of voters for once have an expression without being weakened by division, or stifled by party triumphs?

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