INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN.

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

MONTROSE, PA.

Thursday September 13, 1855.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATION.

For Canal Commissioner,

PASSMORE WILLIAMSON,

Of Philadelphia.

[Now in Prison for Loving *Liberty* and Justice.]

CANAL COMMISSIONER.—We raise the name of Passmore Williamson at the head of our columns this week, as the Republican Candidate for Canal Commissioner. The nomination is received here, as in the Convention that nominated him, with a perfect outburst of enthusiasm. Other names were talked of in the Convention at Pittsburgh, but when once the name of Passmore Williamson was mentioned, it leapt through that vast assemblage like an electric thrill, and the living mass swayed before it like the waves of the sea. So has it moved the hearts of the people throughout this great Commonwealth.

The fact is too apparent to admit of the question—Passmore Williamson is the PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE. They accept him as such without stopping to enquire what party may have heretofore claimed him. He belongs to the party of freedom. He has been deprived of his freedom, without a crime.—Though the constitution of this Commonwealth provides that "the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* shall not be suspended, unless when, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety, may require it," that writ has been denied him, because the interests of Slavery require it. The constitution provides that cruel punishments shall not be inflicted on our citizens, but our supreme court inform us that whatever punishments a Federal Judge may inflict on a Pennsylvanian they have no power to interfere—that tho' our Constitution may be violated, and the liberties of the people trampled under the feet of a judicial tyrant, yet there is no mode of obtaining redress through the State Judiciary. If this be true there is no such thing as State rights, our boasted freedom is a mockery, and every citizen is liable to a life-long imprisonment, if he be so unfortunate as in any way to offend the Slave Power.—

We all make the case of Passmore Williamson our own, and every true Pennsylvanian feels that his liberties are violated in his person. We mean at least to show our love for his principles, and our hatred of the tyranny that imprisoned him.

He is said by those who know him personally, to be eminently qualified for the office, in business capacity as well as honesty. We consider his nomination as auspicious of a triumph this Fall and a greater one in 1856.

THE STATE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.—We give up a large portion of our paper this week to the proceedings of the Republican State Convention at Pittsburgh. It was a very large and enthusiastic meeting. About three thousand persons were present, all parts of the State being represented. Harmony pervaded the Convention; the speeches as reported were conceived in the right spirit, and the platform adopted is one of the very best anti-slavery platforms that has been presented in any state, or by any party. We believe that platform will carry Pennsylvania. All the three branches of the Federal Government, the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial, seem to have conspired to render it successful. The Kansas-Nebraska act, the removal of Governor Reeder, and the imprisonment of Passmore Williamson, have aroused the old spirit that seems to have lain dormant so long in the land of Penn. It is so evident that the whole machinery of the Federal government is controlled by the Slave Power, that northern freemen everywhere are justly alarmed, and indignant. They feel that they are not made for slaves, to be bullied and trampled upon by the armed minions of slavery, nor to be imprisoned at a tyrant's behest. The people of Pennsylvania are in the Republican movement, and they recoil at the thought that the end of the thralldom of the old Keystone to doughfaceism is at hand.

At a "Democratic" County Meeting held in Honesdale, September 4th, resolutions were adopted endorsing the course of Governor H. Reeder, and denouncing the President for removing him. This is better than what have been expected from the old Hunkers. Judge Wayne, but the *Herald*, the County organ of that party, assures us that the resolutions were introduced and passed by the Know Nothings! the "Know Nothing Abolitionists," as the *Herald* calls them. Was Kate Know Nothings, "under the guise of democrats," who passed similar resolutions in Susquehanna county, on Monday of the second week of August Court?

Another resolutions of the Wayne Convention endorse the doctrine of "squatter sovereignty," and the nomination of Arnold Plumer for Canal Commissioner; and the Democrat complains of the *Montrose Democrat* for raising Plumer's name at the head of our columns.

DEMOCRACY IN TIOGA COUNTY.—In the State Democratic Convention of the old line Democracy of Tioga, the following resolution was introduced:

"Resolved, That we have been, and are still opposed to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, by which Kansas and Nebraska were opened to slavery, regarding it as a gross violation of a solemn compact, and a flagrant destructive of the harmony of the States, and disastrous to the cause of freedom; and we are in favor of its restoration." The resolution was *voted down*.

The Massachusetts Democratic convention, which met at Worcester Sept. 5th, nominated E. D. Beach for Governor, and passed resolutions fully endorsing the administration of Franklin Pierce, denouncing the Know Nothings, and paying a high compliment to Henry A. Wise of Virginia, and condemning the Maine Law.

Hon. C. J. Lathrop.

The name of Mr. Lathrop was inserted among the candidates for Representative upon our own responsibility, because we presumed he would be a candidate for re-election. His course in the Legislature last winter, was eminently satisfactory to his constituents, and we do not doubt that it would be fully sustained at the polls. His votes for United States Senator are an evidence that the question now before the people is, the paramount question with him. He laid aside all other questions and issues, and voted constantly and uniformly for a known and consistent opponent to the aggressions of slavery. Such intriguing politicians as Simon Cameron found no favor with him, and the pro-slavery candidate presented by the Democratic party did not receive his support. His course in a legislative capacity accords with his principles and professions, and is just the course that would receive a triumphant vindication from the Republican party. It is regretted that by his withdrawal the Republican party are deprived of the opportunity of sustaining him in placing the Free Soil question before all other questions, and in holding that the interests of that principle are more binding upon him than those of any other. In sustaining Mr. Lathrop's course the individual members of the party would have had an opportunity to prove that they are willing to accept the issue forced upon us by the South, and that they are ready to meet the slave Power either in an open conflict of principle, or when concealed in an ambuscade, practicing subterfuges and stratagems, as in Susquehanna county.

REPUBLICAN MASS CONVENTION IN BRADFORD COUNTY.—A Convention composed of a large number of the Freemen of Bradford county, without regard to former political associations, assembled at Towanda, Sept. 10th, for the purpose of organizing a Republican party, and placing in nomination a Republican county ticket. Aaron Chubbuck Esq. was elected President, with a large number of Vice Presidents. E. A. Parsons, editor of the *Argus*, and E. O. Goodrich, editor of the *Reporter*, were among the Secretaries. The meeting was addressed by Judge Wilmot and others; strong Free Soil resolutions—among others one asking for the impeachment of Judge Kane, and one endorsing the nomination of Passmore Williamson—were adopted; and a county ticket was nominated. We shall give the proceedings in full next week.

HABEAS CORPUS REFUSED TO PASSMORE WILLIAMSON.—The Supreme court of Pennsylvania, on Saturday last, rendered their decision refusing the application of Passmore Williamson for a writ of *habeas corpus*.—The five Judges were upon the Bench.—Judge Knox alone dissented. The decision of the Court as delivered by Judge Black, is that they have no power whatever to interfere in the matter, but that the prisoner must remain in confinement till he makes such *submission* as shall be satisfactory to Judge Kane—who is designated as "the learned and upright magistrate who presides in the District Court."

Judge Knox delivered a very elaborate dissenting opinion, in favor of granting the writ prayed for.

☞ It is desirable that at the primary elections, next Saturday, each Township should elect two good reliable men as delegates to the County Convention; for there will be important business to be transacted by the Convention, such as expressing the feelings of the people of the county on the U. S. Senator question, electing Representative Conferees to meet with those of Wyoming and Sullivan, for the nomination of Candidates for Representatives &c.

DEMOCRACY IN DAUPHIN COUNTY.—The Democratic Convention of Dauphin County met at Harrisburg recently and adopted the following among other resolutions: "Resolved, That we adhere to all the Compromise enactments of 1850, and the subsequent act organizing the Territorial governments of Kansas and Nebraska." Resolutions against the Know Nothings and Liquor prohibition were also adopted.

☞ It has been the impression of many that the Kansas-Nebraska act required the laws of the Territorial Legislature to be submitted to Congress for approval before becoming of binding force upon the people of the Territory; but a close examination of the act shows that such is not the case and that there is no other control over the proceedings of that body than the veto of the Governor and the power of judicial revision lodged in the Territorial courts.

VERMONT STATE ELECTION.—Two hundred and four towns in Vermont have been heard from, which give Royce (Republican) 23,869; Clark (Dem.) 11,590; Scattering, 4,099.

Of the Representatives elected, so far as heard from, 140 are Republican, 28 Democratic, 31 Know Nothing.

HENRY WILSON'S SPEECH.—On our first page is one of Senator Wilson's capital Speeches in favor of union of Free Soil men. Read it, Free Soilers, and say whether he is right, and if so, whether you are prepared to do your duty in this emergency.

☞ We are requested to say that M. L. Catlin, of Bridgewater, will not be a candidate for nomination for Representative at the Delegate election on Saturday next.

Letter from Mr. Lathrop.

C. F. Read, Ch'n. Republican Committee:

I see by the last Republican that my name has been suggested to you as a candidate for nomination for Representative. Such suggestion has been made without my knowledge or consent. Although I am determined to withdraw my name wholly from the canvass, yet I feel a deep interest in the election to the United States Senate of a man who is an open and consistent opponent of the extension of slavery, and shall use my influence to secure the election of Representatives who will vote only for such a candidate

C. J. LATHROP.

REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

Passmore Williamson Nominated for Canal Commissioner!—Enthusiastic Meeting—Ohio well Represented—Platform Adopted—The Republican Party Organized—Eloquent Speeches.

The Republican State Convention met at City Hall, Pittsburgh, on Wednesday, September 5th.

When the hour of eleven had arrived, Hon. George Darsie, of Allegheny, called the assemblage to order, and stated that the convention about to be organized had convened in accordance with a call signed by a number of prominent citizens of Pennsylvania, which he read, as follows:

"The citizens of Pennsylvania, without regard to former party distinctions, who are willing to unite in a new organization to resist the further spread of Slavery and the increase of the Slave power, are requested to meet in Mass Convention at Pittsburgh on Wednesday the 5th day of September, 1855, at 11 o'clock A. M., to organize a Republican party in this State, which shall give expression to the popular will on the subjects involved in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and co-operate with other organizations of a similar character in other States."

Mr. Darsie then moved that for the purpose of a temporary organization, Judge James Winslow, of Jefferson county, be called to the chair. Carried.

Judge Winslow took his seat on the platform.

On motion, Charles F. Read, Esq., of Susquehanna county, was appointed temporary Secretary.

Hon. John W. Howe, of Crawford county, moved that a committee of twenty-one be appointed to select names of officers for the permanent organization of the convention.—Carried.

The Chair, by request appointed the committee as follows:

Hon. John W. Howe, Crawford; George C. Acheson, Clearfield; John Myers, Indiana; Samuel McFarland, Washington; Henry Teller, Erie; William Henry, Beaver; Russell Errett, Allegheny; John Williamson, Huntingdon; Enoch Lewis, Blair; William M. Stephenson, Mercer; William B. Thomas, Philadelphia; William W. McDougal, Tioga; Dr. Joseph Gibbons, Lancaster; Gen. Joseph Markle, Westmoreland; Ruben Winslow, Elk; Jesse Evans, Chester; Joseph Mann, Potter; James M. Sellers, Juniata; Thomas Silliman, of Lawrence; Thomas Robinson, Butler.

A gentleman whose name we did not hear moved that in order to occupy the spare moments while the Committee were in consultation, the Hon. John A. Bingham, of Ohio, be requested to address the Convention.

Loud cries for "Bingham! Bingham!"—There were at this time about two thousand people in the Hall.

Mr. Bingham responded to the call by taking the platform and briefly addressing the Convention. The speaker, noticing the committee were about to return, concluded with the hope that at another time and place he would address the Convention further.

The committee then returned, and reported through its chairman, Mr. Howe, the following permanent officers:

President—HON. WM. JESSUP, Susquehanna County.

Vice Presidents—Gen. Joseph Markle, Westmoreland County; Hon. James Winslow, Jefferson County; Dr. R. Mitchell, Indiana County; George Steele, Venango Co., Dr. J. Gibbons, Lancaster County; James M. Sellers, Juniata County; Edward Riggs, Washington County; Henry Teller, Erie County; John Williamson, Huntingdon Co., Martin Bell, Blair County; Thomas Silliman, Lawrence County; Jesse Evans, Chester; Wm. B. Thomas, Phila.; Reuben Winslow, Elk; George C. Acheson, Clearfield.

Secretaries—R. Lyle White, Crawford County; William F. Clark, Mercer County; Michael Weyand, Beaver County; C. F. Read, Susquehanna County; Edward Lewis, Philadelphia County; R. R. Moorehead, Indiana County.

It was moved and carried that the report of the Committee be accepted and adopted.

Judge Jessup was then escorted to the chair. He addressed the Convention at some length.

He begged leave to return his respectful acknowledgments to the Convention for the honor conferred in calling upon him to preside over its deliberations. He had a single desire to promote the harmony and proper expression of the sentiments of the Convention. This was no ordinary occasion. It was not a conventional gathering, as of the old parties, but it was for the purpose of establishing a party to assert the Right and resist the Wrong! (Applause.) It had assembled for the purpose of establishing in Pennsylvania an organization having that one great object in singleness of desire, and to promote the interests of this great nation.—It seemed singular that in the middle of the nineteenth century in this great republic of earth, a party must be organized to sustain freedom and resist the encroachments of tyranny. He need only refer, however, to the past encroachments of slavery—they have been written upon our history as with a sun beam. There has never been any skulking in the policy of the Slavocracy. They are bold and open. They stand forth, champion like, in the legislature of the country, in the executive departments of the State, and worse than all in the judiciaries of the land. That is worse than all, because a corrupt Bench is the worst enemy Freedom can have. When corrupt and enslaving influences take possession of the judiciary, where is our hope? It is our duty to stand up like men and resist such aggressions. (Applause.) That is our object to-day. (Applause.)

The call of this Convention is a comprehensive one. All who feel that now is the time and this the place to raise high a standard to resist the aggressions of Slavery are invited to join with us. (Applause.) We have, to-day, standing out in Pennsylvania but the beginning of an illustration of what the slavery propagandists design on Pennsylvania. A prominent man has declared that this would be a slave state in ten years. Public sentiment has been poisoned, and the result has been apparent. What is the designed ultimate result? Why, that Pennsylvania shall go back to slavery! It does not require a prophet to predict that if these things continue old Independence Hall will be a slave mart in twenty years from now! A learned Judge says he knows no law which says that Pennsylvania is free soil. What is the result of that opinion? Let the simple name of Passmore Williamson answer.—(Applause.)

The Speaker remarked that instances could be multiplied, in which the constant pressure of slave influence in Pennsylvania could be shown. Where were her brightest and best men in both the old parties? Their minds had been perverted and biassed. Their eyes had been shut to the eternal principles of Right involved in this question. Only till the last crowning aggression of slavery, wherein soil dedicated to freedom was blackened by slavery, have many of them wakened from their deep sleep, and become fully aroused to the necessity of asserting and maintaining their liberties.

We have come together, said the Speaker, for the purpose of perfecting a needed organization. I have no doubt the people of Pennsylvania are an anti-slavery people.—Now is the time to perfect such an organization as we desire, wherein may be harmonized the various anti-slavery elements throughout the State. It is doubtless our best policy to present the issue naked and clear from all other questions. In that event a large majority of Pennsylvania's sons will respond nobly and gloriously to the call. It is said that so many side issues and organizations will prevent complete success. But there ought to be no such difficulty. This convention should allow the fullest liberty of opinion on all minor questions, and take such a bold stand upon the sole issue of opposition to the slave power, as shall attract and harmonize every conflicting element.

This is the most propitious hour for this movement Pennsylvania ever saw. Let us then discard anything that may offend, and unite in saying to slavery, "thus far hast thou gone—no farther canst thou go."

The Chairman took his seat amidst loud applause.

The Vice-Presidents and Secretaries then assumed their places on the platform.

Mr. McClure, of Franklin county, (editor Chambersburgh *Whig*,) moved that a committee of seven be appointed to prepare resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the Convention. Carried.

The Chairman appointed the following gentlemen as said committee:

Hon. A. K. McClure, Chambersburgh; Hon. John Covode, Westmoreland; Hon. James Winslow, of Jefferson; Theophilus Fenn, of Lancaster; John Williamson, of Huntingdon; Edward Lewis, Philadelphia; John S. Mann, Potter.

Russell Errett moved that Thos. L. Shields of Allegheny county, be added to the Committee.

Mr. McClure favored the motion. He thought Allegheny County should be represented.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Allison, of Beaver county, moved that Wm. F. Clark, of Mercer county, be also added to the Committee.

Mr. Clark declined in favor of Wm. M. Stephenson, of Mercer county.

Mr. Stephenson was added to the Committee.

The chairman announced that the Committee would immediately retire, and meet at the Monongahela House for consultation.

Mr. Darsie moved that gentlemen from other States who were present, be invited to take seats on the platform. Carried.

Hon. Joshua R. Giddings, Hon. J. A. Bingham, Hon. B. F. Leiter, and Hon. L. D. Campbell, of Ohio, were conducted to the platform, and as each gentleman took his seat, he was saluted with a hearty round of applause.

Russell Errett, as Chairman of the Committee on Invitations, presented a number of letters from gentlemen who had been invited to attend the Convention, but were unable to be present.

At the request of the Convention, the Chairman, Judge Jessup, proceeded to read the letters as follows:

Letter from Hon. D. Wilmot

MONTROSE, Aug 31 1855.

Dear Sir.—Your note was forwarded to me at this place, where I have been engaged holding Court for the last two weeks. I wish it were possible for me to attend the Convention at Pittsburgh; but it is not, as my term of Court for Bradford couty commences on Monday next.

I feel a deep interest in the proposed Convention, and hope from its action the inauguration of a new era in the politics of our State. The friends of freedom to assemble in your city on the 5th proximo, may rely with confidence upon the zealous co-operation and support of the people of this Congressional District, and, although we are not properly organized, and prepared to show our strength in the coming fall election, we shall have our armor on, and our ranks firm for the great battle of '56. I firmly believe we will give eight thousand majority in this Congressional district for the "REPUBLICAN" Presidential ticket.

This county (Susquehanna) will be ably represented in your Convention, and on my arrival home to-morrow evening, I will endeavor to induce some one or more to represent Bradford. But whether Bradford is represented or not, count her good for 5000 majority for the candidates of Freedom in '56.

Very respectfully yours.

To Russell Everett, Esq. D. WILMOT.

Letter from Hon. John P. Hale.

SPRINGVALE, ME., August 29th, 1855.

My Dear Sir:—I have been absent from home for some time in the State of Maine, and have not seen a letter sent to me for nearly or quite two weeks, until last night, when I received a mass, yours among the number, and I hasten to answer it. I mention the above as an apology for any seeming neglect in not answering yours sooner. While I entirely and heartily sympathize with your movement, and trust you may succeed, I am unable to be present with you. It seems to me that you cannot fail. In this State of Maine, the leaders of the two old defunct parties,—Whig and Democratic are united in most of the counties and nominating for the State Senate members of each of the old parties, for the purpose of putting down the Republican movement. Under these circumstances, I hope the friends of Freedom, Humanity and truth will forget their old prejudices and unite heartily for a great good which they all desire, and which they can obtain only by union.

Respectfully yours. JOHN P. HALE.

To Russell Everett, Pittsburg. Pa.

Letter from Hon. H. Wilson.

NATICK, Mass., Aug. 23d, 1855.

Dear Sir:—I regret to inform you that it will not be in my power to accept your very kind invitation to attend your State Convention at Pittsburg on the 5th of September. Engagements I cannot forego make it impossible for me to meet with you on that day.

I look with the most intense interest to your State in this critical emergency. Pennsylvania has it in her power to decide the conflict between freedom and slavery, against the domination of the black power and its feeble tool—the present administration. The opponents of the present faith-breaking administration, in New England, feel the most intense solicitude concerning your State. We believe that Pennsylvania holds in her hands the issue of 1856. If Pennsylvania stands firmly with her sister States of the North, the year 1856 will witness the complete overthrow of the black power of the South and the servile power of the North, and the ignominious defeat of Northern men with Southern principles; or rather Northern men with no principles at all. We of New England implore the anti-Nebraska men of your great State to take counsel together, to cultivate the spirit of union, to strive by all honorable efforts to combine men of all parties in united action, by which alone you can decide the contest for freedom. In this crisis, the anti-Nebraska men of your State should forget their dissensions, sacrifice everything but honor, and combine their efforts to rescue the national government from the strong grasp of the slavery propagandists and their nerveless tools from the free States, by whose acts Gov. Reeder has been smitten down in his efforts to protect the legal rights of the actual settlers of Kansas, and Passmore Williamson consigned to limitless imprisonment for the offence of telling a poor woman that she was free on the free soil of Pennsylvania.

By the united action of anti-Nebraska men of all parties, your State, last year, rebuked the conduct of your faithless representatives, sent a delegation to the next Congress pledged to the policy of freedom, and placed in the executive chair your excellent chief magistrate by thirty-five thousand majority. The action of your State last year inspired the anti-Nebraska men of this section of the Union with the hope that Pennsylvania would, in the conflicts of the future, be found on the side of freedom, as she was in the earlier days of the Republic. During the administrations of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson, the members of your State, true to the ideas of its peaceful founders, took the lead in resistance to the demands of the black power. May we not indulge the hope that the days of submission are past, and that your great commonwealth will stand side by side with her sister States in unfaltering resistance to the aggressive policy of the slave propagandists?

Hoping that your convention of the 5th of September will tend to unite your people of all parties in opposition to the slave interests, I remain your obedient servant, HENRY WILSON.

To Russell Errett, Esq.

Letter from Citizens of Union County.

To the President and Members of the Republican Convention to be held in Pittsburg the fifth day of September

FELLOW CITIZENS—Distance prevents us from meeting with you in person, but if your object is to restore the violated Missouri Compromise Line, *we are with you in spirit.*

If you aim to prevent the Nationalization of slavery, and to secure the Nationalization of freedom, *we are with you.*

We are true to the Constitution and the Union.—The Constitution was ordained to "promote the general welfare and to secure the blessings of liberty."—It never shall, with our consent, be used as an instrument for the propagation of slavery.

It is our earnest hope that you will select a man for the office of Canal Commissioner, upon whom *all the opponents of the present perfidious National Administration can unite.* The convention which nominated the *Arnold* in the field, endorsed the whole lump of Pierceocracy, from Kansas down to Greytown.

If PASSMORE WILLIAMSON has the requisite business qualifications, *nominate him for Canal Commissioner.* There is a deep sympathy for his wrongs among the people everywhere throughout our commonwealth, and it is fit and proper that he who suffers for freedom and right (in the land of Franklin, of Penn, and of Independence Hall,) should be honored and promoted. If elected, '*Vox Populi*' would certainly fetch him out of prison; or, would we have to establish the Canal Commissioner's office in Moyamensing?

Trusting that your deliberations will tend to "promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty" to all men everywhere, we remain your well-wishers,

O. N. Worden, J. T. Ross, William Van Guyer, James F. Linn, James Hayes, James Aikin, S. F. Lyndall, T. Merrill Linn, and other citizens of the county of Union.

Mr. Darsie moved that when the Convention adjourn, it adjourn to meet at Masonic Hall, Fifth street, at half past two o'clock.

The letters read by the Chairman were ordered to be printed with the proceedings.

The Convention then adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Chairman called the Convention to order at half past two o'clock.

The Committee on Resolutions was announced as not yet ready to report.

Mr. Darsie inquired if it was not a part of the duty of this Convention to nominate a candidate for Canal Commissioner? He thought it was, and suggested that the Convention extend the power of the Resolution Committee in order that they might recommend names for the consideration of the Convention.

Mr. Howe remarked that he would first like to see what the committee had done.—If they were good on resolutions they would be good for this. If they bring in milk-and-water resolutions, we don't want them to name any candidates for us.

Mr. Darsie said he would withdraw his suggestion for the present.

There being numerous cries for 'Howe!' 'Howe!'

Mr. Howe said he could not make a speech. It was a physical impossibility with him.—He had the worst cold of any man in the country [Laughter.] But he knew he was a good Republican—a good deal sounder than his lungs. [Laughter.] He would therefore beg to be excused.

Voices—'Giddings! Giddings!'

Howe—Yes, Giddings is a good fellow—he can speak all the time.

The cries for Giddings being resumed,

Mr. Giddings said it would give him pleasure to address the Convention, but according to the arrangements of the meeting, he had been expected to speak in the evening.—His subject at that time would be '*The Mission of the Republican party.*' My friend, Mr. Bingham, said Mr. Giddings, commenced a speech this morning, and I would suggest that he now be heard in preference to any other speaker.

Mr. Bingham appeared upon the stand and was greeted with the usual pedal salute. His address was a most able and eloquent effort; and left its impress on his audience. Mr. Bingham came to our State heralded by an extended reputation as an orator and logician, and he has nobly sustained himself. Our brief report of his remarks is necessarily imperfect and by no means as full as we would have desired.

He introduced his address by referring to his morning's speech. He undertook to say this morning that a new sentiment was animating the American mind very generally—a sentiment altogether foreign to the genius of our institutions. The sentiment to which he referred and which had been promulgated by the friends of the Administration, was that the government of the United States was not the government of freedom—that the principle still holds good here as in the old world, that might gives the right—that popular sovereignty here is what the will of the despot is in Europe. That sentiment he denounced as anti-American and false. It is that sentiment that we have got to fight against. He said this morning that the Constitution was ordained and established for the promotion of the general welfare—not of the exclusion of the many—but the general welfare of the people. This kind of government is a novel thing under the sun. Since Adam first saw light on this earth there has been nothing like it. In former ages, the sentiments of men tended to the government of a kingly despotic power. Where, anterior to this day, was there seen a declaration of independence?—where was there seen a free representative government? where was there seen a free church? No where! Where was there seen free schools? No where! Where was there free labor? Nowhere! Anterior to to this day, religion, thought, Man were in chains! The sentiment that these things were not right was first practically realized on this side of the water. True, a century or two before our declaration of this sentiment, an humble man, a monk of the Augustine order proclaimed against the spiritual bondage under which he groaned. Another man discovered that kings received not their power by divine right and received as a reward the forfeit of his life. But others held the same opinions that Algernon Sidney did. Yet there was no place in Europe where the exphriment might be tried. These true men thereupon gathered up their household goods, and with their little families committed themselves to the seas, in search of the unknown world in the West. They landed on Plymouth Rock, at Jamestown, &c. They came to try the experiment of a Church without a Pope, and a State without a King! (Applause) They did try that experiment with diverse fortunes. But the despotic powers of Europe followed them, and in spite of their earnest protest this virgin land was damned with kingly rule, and all the attendant oppressions which cling to the scepter and the throne. What condition of affairs was brought about? The flag of St. George floated not over a legitimate and honest commerce, but over a trade in human flesh, and that, too, against and in spite of the protest of those old men who had come here to plant a new order of things on this young continent.

This system of servitude the speaker thot' was foreign to all American institutions. It is derived from European despotism—it is the child of kingly rule. The people did not desire—nay they protested against it. Before the Declaration of Independence, in 1773 at Fairfax Court House, in Virginia, there was held a primary assemblage of the people, just such an one as this is to-day, over which presided a gentleman not unknown to fame who was then recorded as GEORGE WASHINGTON Esq.' (Applause) That primary assemblage conscious of the evils of the infernal system of human Slavery which had been introduced into their midst, protected against the trade in human flesh, as an outrage upon humanity. (Applause.)

Another man, at a similar meeting, somewhat widely known as Thomas Jefferson, resolved that an end should be put to the traffic in slaves altogether. Look, too, at the protest of the District of Darien, Georgia, when an inflexible determination was announced to entirely abolish the traffic, and not only the traffic but the system.

But the thing was done. This system of foreign despotism was established in our midst. The same idea of government that is held in Europe was taught here, viz: that government is not made for man but man for government. But they determined to resist, and they did resist. They announced the truths of the Declaration, and sealed their firm belief in them by shedding their blood on every battlefield of the Revolution. They announced that all men were created free and equal, endowed with certain unalienable rights, &c.,—that to protect those rights, not to give, to grant them, but to *protect* them, was the duty of government. They went even farther. They held that when a government becomes subversive of these ends, viz. the protection of life and liberty, it is the duty of the people to abolish it. (Applause.)

That was the idea on which our government was formed. Its great object was to secure personal liberty to each man and to the collective man, entire liberty everywhere. When this was done, there was no territory on this continent reached by European civilization not under the ban of slavery. What do they do? The constitution was then in the hands of the convention, and the States gave the general government power to act in the government of the territories. What followed? Did they act up to the spirit of those sentiments which had been proclaimed? In 1787, an ordinance was passed, declaring the North-west territory forever free—not for to-day, not for to-morrow—but forever free. They intended that liberty should be universal. At the first Congress, they took care to re-enact that ordinance; so that the American flag should never float above a slave, and man should remain safe in the possession of his rights. They never thought it would be a crime to do as Passmore Williamson has dared to do—to whisper freedom in the ear of a poor girl—no one dreamed that for doing that a man would be thrust into a dungeon! (Applause) The sentiment was universal that no man could voluntarily bring his bondsmen into free territory, but the fetters would burst, and he would walk abroad in freedom, while his soul was redeemed forever from serfdom by the irresistible genius of American law. (Applause.)

They determined that the North-west should be forever free. Thinking the slavery trouble of to-day would end to-morrow, they yielded to the South so far as to allow them to carve out new slave States from slave territory, and add them to the Union. The National Congress legislated in this spirit. They thought American legislation should be for the interest of free men and free labor. They not only declared the North-west free, but that labor itself was entitled to fair wages. They inaugurated the principle of a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. The idea was that the old world's daily pittance was too little. John Milton's wages for Paradise Lost was 10*l.* and a narrow escape from the gallows. They thought that each man, being a member of the State, should be independent—not necessarily rolling in luxury, but having an honest livelihood.—Personal independence is the rock of life on which the honest man should erect his fortune. It is a good thing to scorn the embroidered life.

What, said Mr. Bingham, was the result? They successfully organized the great brotherhood of human industry, the vanguard of human liberty. They took care to break down the law of primogeniture. They intended that every man with an honest heart and a stout arm should have a little green spot of his own on God's earth. Such was the policy of our government for forty years.

It worked like a charm. The entire West sprang up as by enchantment into a gigantic Empire. When was such a miracle ever seen before? In '85, there was not a civilized habitation in the great North-west, west of the Ohio river. It was an unbroken wilderness. Now, there are five great States carved out of that territory, richer in all the elements of national grandeur than any despotism in all Europe.

But, said the Speaker, there came a change over the spirit of the dream. It emanated from the extreme South. After forty years of prosperity and peace, the spirit of sectionalism arose amid the rice, cotton and cane fields of the extreme South. They had paid no heed to the spirit of our legislation. Even Virginia, where this new treason was afterwards hatched, had not dreamed of bending the Constitution to this *American despotism.* As late as 1828 in her legislature, it was resolved that slavery as it existed among them was a blot on the national escutcheon and ought to be abolished. (Applause.) Maryland similarly. Kentucky voted on the abolition of slavery, and freedom was defeated but by one single vote.

But away down South the treason grew. Men of genius came into the national legislature, and said this spirit of free labor, free speech, and a free press was all wrong; that Washington, Adams, Madison, Jefferson, Munroe, and Jackson had made a great mistake. What arguments did they use? Read the speeches of Hayne, McDuffy, and Calhoun. They tell us that the system of free labor does well for Northern interests, but is not the thing for the South. This system of impost and duties which you placed on foreign products has incited foreign governments to the imposition of heavy duties on our raw material. We want free trade. But it cannot be had, unless you give up your system of free labor. Thus they talked and South Carolina passed her resolutions and went into nullification. But the patriots of the land made a compromise. Ten years later, we find the States passing laws confiscating slaves which might be taken from one State to another. The consequence was an overgrown populace. There was no foreign market for their slaves. Acting from this impulse, Texas was conquered. But Texas herself could not stand under the blows of Mexico. England was asked to recognize and assist her.—The answer was, yes, as an independent republic. Calhoun through that supple tool, John Tyler and he through Wm. R. King, Minister to England, protested against the recognition of such a republic. Calhoun said it was absolutely necessary to the continuance of slavery that Texas should be made a slave State and annexed to the Union. This was the next step.

Then, said the Speaker, the sage of Quincy stood up and denounced the treason about to be perpetrated in the Capitol. He lifted up his voice like the voice of a prophet and State after State sent in its protest. What then took place? Henry Clay issued his protest. Martin Van Buren denounced the scheme as anti-American and united in the protest.—What took place? The old Whig party rallied under the banner of Harry Clay, declaring against annexation. The Democratic party essayed to rally under Van Buren.—But the South was triumphant. James K. Polk, a man in favor of unconditional annexation, was nominated. Henay Clay was struck down, and Polk was elected to the Presidency. This was the next stride.

What next? In 1820, it was declared that all the Louisiana purchase not included in Missouri and north of 36 deg. 30 min. should be forever free. What now? Why, they make war. The President arrogates to himself the privilege of declaring war.—Territory was won for slavery. A new State was formed. California asked admission, but having declared for freedom was opposed by the South to a man. A great and good man had said that she should be admitted, and the Tombses and the Stephenses hunted him down for it, and General Taylor fell. Then they poisoned his successor, and he fell down and worshiped them. They insisted on the passage of the Fugitive Slave Bill, and it became a law and recived Millard Filmore's signature. But something more must be done, the slavery power was not yet satisfied. The 8th section of that act of 1820 must be repealed. The arch-conspirator, Atchison, orders his puppet Douglas, to bring up the Bill, and the history of its passage is fresh in the minds of all.

But our limit reminds us that we are unable to report further, Mr. Bingham's masterly address. We are not able, for want of space, to make use of our notes. The address was upwards of two hours in length, and was listened to with profoud attention. The closing passage was particularly thrilling and eloquent.

The Committee on Resolutions then made the following report:

Whereas: The founders of this Republic, in the formation of this government, proclaimed this great truth—that all men are endowed by their Creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that our government was constituted to secure these rights to us; and whereas: the National Executive, in his inaugural address, virtually denies these doctrines, in the expression of his opinion that domestic slavery is based upon the same principles as other recognized rights, and that our federal government is bound to sustain the institution of slavery; and whereas: the President of the United States, and the political party which sustains him, have endeavored to overthrow the principles of civil liberty proclaimed by our revolutionary fathers, by extending the bounds of slavery into territories expressly consecrated to freedom by a solemn compromise, and by obtaining territory of Mexico for the purpose of spreading the withering curse of human bondage, and by endeavoring to involve us in a war with Spain for the acquisition of Cuba, with the intention of perpetuating and strengthening the institution of slavery, and by sustaining the slave trade on our southern coast; therefore

Resolved, That the great question of freedom and slavery now agitating both North and South, is one which overshadows all others, in a national point of view; and its importance demands that the people of the North should unite in harmonious action to defend their honor and vindicate their rights. The continual aggressions of slavery upon the interests of freedom, increasing in insolence and magnitude with each concession of the North, must be met and resisted with a united voice. Holding that the Union was formed (in the language of the Constitution) "to establish justice, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty," we adopt, as the foundation of our political faith, and for the guidance of our political action, the principle that, under our government, FREEDOM IS NATIONAL AND SLAVERY IS SECTIONAL.

Resolved, That while we claim no power to interfere with slavery in States where it now exists, we believe the National government should be relieved from all connection with or accountability for it.

Resolved, That the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was a violation of the national faith and an outrage upon the rights of the free States; and that it was the first step of the conspiracy against freedom which has found its appropriate and intended sequel in the lawless attempts of a Missouri mob, instigated by a conspicuous friend of the national administration, and connived at and sanctioned by the same, to force the curse of slavery upon the free soil of Kansas; and we not only oppose the extension of slavery over our national territories, but also the admission of any new slave States into the Union, believing that, as our national domain is free from slavery, in the absence of any positive law establishing it, we are justified in making freedom a condition of their admission into the sisterhood of States.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the repeal of the present Fugitive Slave Law, because it virtually suspends the sacred writ of *habeas corpus*, and takes away the right of trial by jury.

Resolved, That imprisonment, without trial, of citizens of free States, by the Federal Judiciary, is a bold invasion of personal liberty, a violation of the guaranteed rights of the States, and an assumption of federal power that should be resisted determinedly by every friend of personal freedom.

Resolved, That we cordially invite all who approve of the principles set forth in these resolutions, without regard to their former political associations, to unite and co-operate with us for the purpose of restoring the administration of this government to its original purity, and directing its energies to the accomplishment of its true object, as set forth in the Constitution, viz: "To form a more perfect Union; to establish Justice; to insure Domestic Tranquillity; to provide for the Common Defence; promote the General Welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

Mr. McFarland, of Washington county, offered an amendment relative to the Fugitive Slave Law.

Mr. McFarland proceeded to address the Convention at length. The audience evinced considerable impatience during Mr. M's remarks. He finally took his seat, when Mr. McClure offered the amendment relative to the Fugitive Slave Law, which was adopted and appears above.

Mr. Darsie renewed his motion giving the Committee power to present a candidate for Canal Commissioner. Carried.

Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, of Ohio, then addressed the Convention at some length.—We are compelled to omit a report of his remarks.

The Committee then reported the following resolution:

Resolved, That we cordially recommend to the people of Pennsylvania the name of PETER MARTIN, of Lancaster county, for the office of Canal Commissioner, having the fullest confidence in his integrity of character, and in his eminent qualifications for an intelligent, honest, and faithful discharge of the duties of the responsible position for which we present him.

Pending the consideration of the resolution the Convention adjourned to quarter past seven o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

The Convention came to order at the time appointed.

Mr. Williamson, of Blair county, moved to amend the resolution of the committee by substituting the name of Henry M. Loyd, of Blair county, for that of Peter Martin. He knew Mr. Loyd to be right on the question at issue and was well qualified for the office.