

The Independent Republican.

"FREEDOM AND RIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY AND WRONG."

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

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Campaign Song.

The Homestead Candidate.

Am—Carry me back, etc.
In the sweet embrace of office fat I've worked for
many a day,
Basking among the treasury beds, to me it was but
play.
And while the *Feds* remained in power I worked as
hard as I could.
But when they grew weak, and offices fallen, I be-
came a Democrat good.
"O carry me back" to Pennsylvania to Pennyl-
vania's shore,
And leave me there for the rest of my days—
I'll never see the White House door.
If I was only young again I'd load a different life,
I'd save my honor and sell it not, and haste to get a
wife.
But now old age it holds me fast, and I am bachelor
poor.
Therefore I'm back to my Wheatland House, for I'll
never see the White House door.
"O carry me back," &c.
As soon I'll be dead, and in my grave, and what ac-
count shall I
Of all my misdeeds and base intrigues, performed for
office's sake—
Theirs sweet repose I'll lay me down, since times
have changed so true,
Therefore I'm back to my Wheatland House, and give
Fremont the floor.
"O carry me back" to Pennsylvania, to Pennyl-
vania's shore,
And leave me there to end my days, while *Fremont*
has the floor.

Political Miscellany.

PENNSYLVANIA POLITICS.

HARRISBURG, Sept. 19, 1856.

The antecedents of Pennsylvania on the
Slavery Question—The Policy Till Late
of the Democratic Party—Opposition of
Buchanan, Forney & Co., to the Wishes of
the People—Avalanche for Fremont.
Since the excitement of this campaign has
brought forward all the old politicians
whose fossil remains have for a long time
been laid upon the shelves to decay, I have
recalled to mind some time amongst the
records of this Commonwealth, and see if I
could not there find deeds recorded that
would astonish these resurrected politicians
and show the glaring inconsistency of the
moderate democracy, as well as add interest
to the campaign.
After spending three days amongst the
journals and archives of the State, tracing up
the former land marks laid down by the
democracy, I have succeeded in bringing to
the public "a mass of resolutions" that con-
stituted the former watchwords of the democ-
racy of this State on that all absorbing ques-
tion of slavery, which show conclusively
that this new school Pierce, Forney and Bu-
chanan party have departed from all the
landmarks and test words laid down by their
predecessors; that they have abandoned the
position of the founders of their party, and
are now following false gods. I have been
able to bring forward facts which show that
what once constituted a good democrat in
Pennsylvania, would now be sufficient evi-
dence for Frank Pierce and his Kansas Jugg-
lers to indict them for treason. Even Massa-
chusetts has not equalled the democrats of
this State in their denunciation of the insti-
tution of slavery.
Notwithstanding these facts and records,
that do not lie, the moderate democracy would
have us believe that they are following in
the footsteps of their illustrious predecessors,
and that they have not departed one iota
from the principles laid down by the found-
ers of their party.
The record shows that the democrats of
this State once looked upon the institution
of slavery as the greatest curse ever inflicted
upon a nation, and a stain upon the Ameri-
can name; and that they considered it the
first duty of Congress to abolish slavery in
the District of Columbia, as well as to pre-
vent any new Territory from being opened
with it. That policy the democrats of this
State pursued up to the administration of
"Bigler," when it appears that a new vision
came over their dreams, and they have found
it to be their duty to become nigger-drivers.
Well may we exclaim, "Upon whose shoulders
has the mantle of the ancient democracy fallen?"
But to the facts, as the records re-
veal to us—
In March, 1780, the Legislature of this
State passed an act for the gradual emman-
cipation of slaves in the State, whether negro
or mulatto, after the passage of that act, free at
the age of maturity. After the lapse of a
few years it was found that many of the fea-
tures of that law were easily evaded, and
that it was necessary for the accomplishment
of their object, as well as for the protection
of the few slaves remaining in servitude, that
there should be a law making the sale of
slaves a crime. Accordingly, in March, 1788,
the Legislature passed an act to explain and
amend the act of 1780. In the amendment
passed 1788, they declared that all slaves
brought into the State, by persons intending
to reside therein, should be free. Also that
persons that were held as slaves for a term
of years under the old act, should not be re-
moved from the State, making it a severe
penalty on those who sent the slaves out of
the State; also fineable for separating man
and wife. Those, with a number of other
amendments, passed both houses and became
laws. Those acts gradually paved the way
for subsequent legislation upon the subject,
which, by referring to, we shall see how the
democracy looked upon the institution of
slavery.
Annually petitions were sent to the Leg-
islature upon the subject of slavery, but no
action was taken as the institution outside of
the limits of the State until 1807, when the
following passed the Legislature:—
"PROHIBITING THE IMPORTATION OF SLAVES."
Resolved, That our Senators in the Con-
gress of the United States be instructed and
the representative of this State in Congress
be earnestly requested, to use legal and con-
stitutional measures and their utmost ex-
ertions to prohibit the importation of slaves in-
to the United States from any quarter of the
globe.
Again, in 1808, another supplement of the
act of 1788 was passed, still keeping the
subject before the Legislature, and all the
time both parties seemed to vie with each
other to see which would do the most to-
wards removing the evil from our land, the
democrats always availing themselves of every
opportunity of denouncing the institution
of slavery in unmeasured terms.

Next we come to the message of Governor
Snyder upon the subject. Let all democrats
read. On Dec. 11, 1811, Governor S., twice
elected by the democratic party to that position
in this state, sent in his message to the
Legislature, and used the following language
regarding slavery—
"Elevated above her (Pennsylvania) char-
acter for humanity, there is yet permitted to
remain on other stain on the otherwise fair
and benign features of her policy. The gal-
ling yoke of slavery is still felt by some of
our fellow creatures in different parts of this
Commonwealth, and the pressure is made
more severe by witnessing the happiness and
freedom of surrounding multitudes. A re-
cent act of expediency which came under my ob-
servation, and which awakened feelings of a
painful and distressing nature, will I trust
excuse the intrusion to your notice of a sub-
ject so very interesting to the whole human
family, and embracing facts and practices pal-
pably inconsistent with the honor and spirit
of that fundamental and immutable law and
reason "that all men are born free and equal."
A joint committee was appointed to take
under consideration the portion of the Gov-
ernor's message. That committee reported a
bill to amend the act of 1787, to abolish
slavery in the State, which like scores of other
bills passed the first and second reading,
and there dropped without any further ac-
tion.
The subject was brought before the Leg-
islature in 1815 and 1816, but without any
decisive action. Yet all that was done had
the same tendency as former acts.
In 1819 resolutions passed both branches
of the Legislature and received the sanction
of the Governor, William Findlay, democ-
rat. The resolutions are of decisive char-
acter, expressing what the members of the
Legislature considered the sentiment of the
people of Pennsylvania regarding the intro-
duction of slavery into new territory. As
these resolutions apply well to the issues of
the present campaign, I will refer to them
democrats, who are boasting of their consis-
tency, to read and ponder upon them. The
resolutions passed both houses without a dis-
senting voice. They passed the lower house
on the 16th day of December, and the Sen-
ate on the 20th, and received the approval
of the Governor on the 22d of the same
month in the year 1819.
Amongst those that voted for the resolu-
tions I see the name of William Wilkins,
of Pittsburgh, one of those that have been re-
surrected and become a Union savior, but
before they are to speak for themselves—
"The Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
whilst they cherish the right of the individ-
ual States to express their opinions upon all
public measures proposed in the Congress of
the Union, are aware that its usefulness must
in a great degree depend upon the discretion
with which it is exercised. They believe that
the right ought not to be resorted to upon
trivial subjects, or upon important occasions,
but they are also persuaded that there are
moments when the neglect to exercise it
would be a dereliction of public duty.
"Such an occasion as, in their judgment,
demands the frank expression of the senti-
ments of Pennsylvania, is now presented. A
measure was ardently supported in the
last Congress of the United States, and will
probably be as earnestly urged during the
existing session of that body, which has a
palpable tendency to impair the political
relations of the several States, which is cal-
culated to mar the social happiness of the
present and future generations, which if adopted
would impede the march of humanity and
freedom throughout the world, and would
affix and perpetuate an odious stain upon
the present race—a measure, in brief, which pro-
poses to spread the crimes and cruelties
of slavery from the banks of the Missis-
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