THE DEMOCRAT.

Thursday, December 20, 1849.

Democratic State Central Committee.

The members of the Democratic State Committee are requested to meet at BUEHLER'S Hotel, in Harrisburg, on Tuesday 29th January, 1850, at 2 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of fixing the time and place for the meeting of the next Democratic State Convention.

J. GLANCY JONES, Chairman

G. G. WUNDERLY, Secretary.

☞ B. A. N. must excuse the non-appearance of his communication this week. The proceedings of Congress, which were partly in type when he was here, strung out so far beyond our expectation, that we find it impossible to "give him a hearing" until next week.

"The BIKEES are Coming to Town!"

That celebrated band of Vocalists,

THE BAKER FAMILY,

will give a Concert in this village on SATURDAY Evening next, (Dec. 22,) *for one evening only!*

Congress—No Speaker Yet.

And still another week of the Session has passed away without giving to the House of Representatives a Speaker; and what is still more discouraging and lamentable, without even indicating when (if ever) one will be chosen. The excitement at the Capitol seems to increase day by day, and the slavery debates also to wax fierier and fiercer. The proceedings of Wednesday and Thursday last, in particular, were characterized by the most phrenzied excitement. Those of the first day occupy a large space in our columns to-day; those of the last will be given in our next, unless the President's Message should be received within a day or two, which is very improbable.

Parties now in the House, since the destruction of Messrs. Brown and Winthrop by their respective party foeslim, are pretty much broken up—split and splintered on the slavery rock. The Southern wing of either party has taken, it would seem, an implacable stand against any organization that shall not give to their section the victory; and the northern wing, also, of each party, has been forced, (what did not seek it voluntarily,) into a similar sectional position. The controversy in relation to Mr. Brown, and the bitterness manifested by the southern members generally, disclosed their real designs beyond peradventure or cavil. They *will not vote*, under any circumstances, for a candidate who is not in favor of the extension of slavery—not even for a "non-interventionist." No northern man is prepared to bend his neck to such a degrading yoke, and therefore, all northern candidates are under the ban of proscription. Under such circumstances, as may well be imagined, few of them feel like supporting southern, pro-slavery candidates with much cordiality or alacrity. This feeling is not now confined exclusively to the Free Soilers, but is felt and acted upon by nearly every Representative from the free States. The largest vote yet given to any *southern* candidate since the pitching overboard of Mr. Brown, is 87 (given to Mr Boyd, Dem., of Ky.) and the largest vote given to any other candidate since that time is 75, (given to *Mr. Winthrop, of Mass.*) These are the votes they received on the last ballot, on Monday—the last yet received. The remaining votes were cast for some twenty different members, chiefly Democrats from the free States, and Whigs from the slave States.

Divers attempts have been made to make a Speaker without a majority of the votes of the House (by plurality or by lottery,) but they have as yet all been ineffectual. We think, however, that some such plan will have to be adopted finally or there will be no organization for weeks to come.

That Meeting.

"*What* Meeting" exclaims the reader. There you have us, for in truth, we were ourself sadly puzzled to christen it. Whether to call it a *Bank* Meeting, or an *Anti-Bank* Meeting, a *Satisfaction* Meeting or an *Indignation* Meeting for a long time bawked our decision; finally, however we came to the conclusion to give it the latter caption.

But badinage aside: the proceedings of a meeting of the citizens of Dimock, without distinction of party, called to consult together and give expression to their convictions in relation to the subject of the late Bank explosion in this place, are published in another column, according to request. We will not take it upon ourself to say that we *entirely* concur with the sentiments and resources expressed in them, although we do know them to be the sentiments of a vast majority of the people of this county, and to be, moreover, not *wholly* destitute of foundation. One fact—which seems to be a leading one in the public mind—viz: that the Bank never had, and probably never will have enough to have, by its principal and sureties, any foundation better than moonshine, is now past all denial. This, as we have said before, and as the Dimock meeting seems unanimously to have decided, is the primeval fraud upon the people, and the parent of *all subsequent ones. If its stockholders*—no, not *stock-holders* but *ostensible* stock-holders—had *all* acted the part of upright, honest men, who were disposed to put the institution on a safe, solid basis; if they had *all* of them paid in their stock in good faith as a *fine* of them did, the public may well question whether its affairs would have been suffered to go at loose ends, as they have, or be entrusted to the management of irresponsible financial schemers, or of a stupid, indifferent, know-nothing President and Board of Directors. Those who had actual capital invested in it, would have been very likely to have kept a close watch over its affairs, and been satisfied that everything was going straight; or, if they had been in the minority, and could not regulate its management according to their notions, if strictly honest, they would have withdrawn from it wholly, and given the public the alarm. So it seems to us; it seems to the public—and hence it is that the authors of the institution—the men who gave it the power to swindle on such a stupendous scale—are held to a fearful account by an indignant and outraged community. There are a few exceptions—a very few indeed—among its original stock-holders, of gentlemen who took its stock in good faith, and paid in their capital; (they were either simple, unsophisticated or honest, or had not then learned the "art of banking" like some of their compeers,) and it is *this* worthy "few" whom we think the Dimock meeting should have exempted from their censure. But we suppose they had no discriminating data, and therefore lumped their reproaching upon all its proprietors alike.

☞ It is reported that the last California advices brought the resignation of Hon. T. Butler King, M. C. from Ga., who is now in California, and is going to figure himself into the U. S. Senate from that new State.

Hon. Wm. J. Brown.—The proceedings of Congress which we give in this paper, make rather free use of the name of this gentleman, who is now, in another parliament, in the midst of political infamy. We do not, however, so consider him; nor can we discover anything in his conduct in the case in question derogatory to him as a man, although his letter to Mr. Wilmot may have been impolitic. He certainly gave no pledge that should have caused any man to desert him, much less, load him with obloquy and abuse. In the language of his colleague, Mr. Dunham, he promised to do no more than he, or any other man chosen to that station, *should* have done *without* a pledge. And in raising the hue-and-cry the southerners did about it, they have simply shown themselves to be what vulgar people would call *asses*. They have said, in substance, that no man shall be elected Speaker by their votes, who is not a red-mouthed pro slavery man, and who will not pack the *Committees* of the House, and do all in his power to stifle public sentiment in the North.

The Parkman Tragedy.

The Coroner's Inquest in the case of Dr. Parkman, closed their labors on Wednesday, after an investigation of ten days. They brought in a verdict that the parts of the body found in the College building were those of Dr. Parkman, and that he was murdered by Prof John W. Webster. The testimony on which their verdict is founded, occupies eighty pages of foolscap paper, and by instruction of the Attorney General, it is to be kept secret until the meeting of the Grand Jury, who are to institute further proceedings during the month of January.

Notwithstanding this verdict, however, the Boston papers show clearly that Prof. Webster's guilt is by many strongly questioned; that there are already, in fact, two zealous parties on the case—that is to say, the Webster party and the Little-field party—the former believing *Webster* guilty of the murder and the latter *Littlefield*. The fact that the attempt to destroy the body by the slow process of hacking and burning, was made in a chemical laboratory, well provided with powerful acids which were capable of decomposing every muscle, bone and tooth of it, and passing them off into their original elements, in a few hours, is by many deemed the strongest proof that it was not done by a man who followed chemical decompositions as a trade—in other words, by Prof. Webster.

The case is a singular one, although forming a striking coincidence with the murder of Adams by Colt, in New York, a few years since. As it is, the evidence seems to us to be very clear against Webster. He may, however, be innocent, and the victim of one of the most damning conspiracies ever heard of in any age, in which case we hope he will be able to establish it and convince the world of it.

Hungarian Refugees.

The steamship Herman, which arrived at New York on Saturday, among other passengers, has's Ladislas Ujhazy, Civil Governor of the fortress of Comorn, under the military commander General Klapka, with his family, (wife, two sons and two daughters.) Mademoiselle Apollonia Jagello, the celebrated lady who served as Lieutenant in one of the Hungarian regiments of cavalry, and subsequently held the office of Adjutant of the army in Comorn, while that fortress held out against the Austrian forces; and many other Hungarian refugees. Ujhazy is a venerable and [illegible] long, flowing beard, mustaches, &c. They were received in New York by a deputation of Hungarians *residing in that city, on Monday*, with becoming ceremonies and many warm greetings. The speeches on both sides, which were delivered in the Magyar language, were eloquent and thrilling. The city authorities, we notice, have also extended to these illustrious exiles the hospitalities of the city, and a cordial welcome to our shores, and—

Resolved, That we tender our deepest sympathy to these brave men, and to the heroine Jagello, who, in their disaster, have lost their property, their country and their home; and who, by their patriotic and sublime devotion in that noble Cause, whose origin and aim was one with that of our own Revolution, have won the admiration and merited the thanks of the friends of Freedom throughout the world.

☞ A scene occurred in the House of Representatives at Washington, on Thursday which came near being of a serious character. It seems that Mr. Meade, of Va., had just finished a speech in which he breathed threats of disunion in case of the passage of the Wilmot proviso, or any kindred measure, or of an act abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, very freely. Mr. Duer, whig member from N. Y., responded to him in some rather tart remarks, in which he said he was "willing to organize with a Speaker of either of the three parties—under any Speaker but a disunionist." He was asked whom he pointed at as a "disunionist." He replied, to Mr. Meade. Mr. Meade declared the charge false. Mr. Duer then called him a liar. Thereupon a great excitement ensued—members from all sides of the Hall rushing towards the neighborhood of the combatants. The Sergeant-at-arms bore the mace into the scene of disturbance, and, after some time, the Chamber was quieted down, and Mr. Duer asked pardon of the House for his breach of decorum *towards it, and of the rules of order*. It was reported for several days that an "affair of honor" would certainly grow out of it, and that Duer had chosen his Second. We think, however, that this was untrue.

CALIFORNIA VS. TRAITORS.—A Democratic Meeting in San Francisco was held on the 25th of October, at which the following resolutions, *aimed, no doubt, at Thos. Butler King, who is endeavoring to worm himself into the confidence of the people of that new State*, were unanimously adopted. *It is scarcely necessary to say that they are perfect rain-bans to Mr Greeley, who pours out his imprecations upon them in his Tribune, and delve out his lamentations by the ream:*

"*Resolved*, That we cannot consistently elevate to positions of trust and confidence any man who voted that the war with Mexico was unholy and iniquitous, that it was unnecessary and unjust in its inception, wicked and murderous in its prosecution, or who, by his political connections or otherwise, directly or indirectly *denounced* every life destroyed on the fields of Mexico, to have been an *unmitigated murder*.

"*Resolved*, That we cannot consistently support for any public station, he who did or would have refused to vote supplies for our gallant little army, which gloriously engaged in grappling with the enemies of our country upon the conquered fields of Mexico; that to do so we should outrage the gallant spirits engaged in that conflict, and pay tribute to factious opposition, scarcely less criminal to their successors than the foreign enemies whom they encountered.

"*Resolved*, That we are for our country first, our country last, and our country all the time; not a faction, not a circumscribed locality, not a limited individual, but the whole country."

☞ The Binghamton Democrat and Binghamton Courier have been united, and the consolidated paper is now published by John R. Dennison, Esq., under the title of "Binghamton Democrat." This is a capital arrangement all around.

☞ The Episcopal and Universalist Churches in this Village will be decorated and illuminated in the usual manner, on Christmas Eve, (Monday evening next.) Sermons appropriate to the occasion may be expected from their respective Pastors.

CALIFORNIA.—The latest advices from California do not, as a general thing, bring us flattering accounts of money-making and comfort as those previously received. Even our friend JOHN GREEN, whose initial letter we published a few weeks since and *who gave so glowing and encouraging a description* of the new El Dorado, in a subsequent letter received by his friends a few days since, talks rather despairingly and discouragingly to new emigrants. The labor is intensely hard and wearing upon constitution and health, and the fare is, if possible, much harder. He intimated to his friends that they need not be surprised if, instead of remaining there until next fall they were to see him home in the spring.

Another letter, from Mr. Patrick, from this vicinity, to his brother in this village, brings an equally gloomy account. He says if he were at home, with the present knowledge he has of California, and California life, he would remain here.

☞ What is the matter with Mr. Collamer's Mails? We never knew a time before when there was a little *of the complaint* about *their irregularity* that there is at present, and has been ever since his accension to the head of the P. O. Department. It is next to impossible to get a letter when due; and as for exchange papers, we never think of calculating upon their arrival, for they come just as it happens, if they come at all. For instance, the N. Y. Evening Post for November 22 only reached us on Monday last. It is scarcely half of the time that we get that daily print until it is two or three days old—then sometimes we get two or three at a time—when we *should* receive it in about fifteen hours from the time of its publication. It is a very common thing for our New York exchanges to come round by Philadelphia, occupying some three or four days in their transit, instead of being sent directly here by railroad. Who is to blame?

SOUTHERN NULLIFIERISM.—When we went to press last week, Mr Potter, of Ohio, seemed the rising star among the Democratic members of the House for Speaker. He ran up to 78 votes, when the discovery was made by some prying propagandist that when a member of the 29th Congress he voted for the repeal of the famous "gag law" (the 21st rule.) The southerners then dropped him as a dog would a hot potato, and on the very next ballot Lynn Boyd, of Ky., received 53 votes!

☞ Since our last, some 16 additional ballots have been had in the House for Speaker, but with no success. It now seems almost impossible, since the southerners have made known their test, that any union can be effected between the northern and southern members of either party sufficient to elect a Speaker. The northern Democratic members generally cast their votes for their friends from the north, and the southern ones theirs for Mr. Boyd. The Whigs pursue pretty much the same course. The Democratic Free Soilers, (Messrs. Wilmot, Preston King, Durkee, &c.,) have for the last few days cast their votes for Mr. Strong, of the Berks District, Pa.

GOOD!—HAH!—In the House of Representatives on Friday Mr. Hackett, of Ga., offered the following:

Resolved, That the members of the House shall shall be elected their per diem until a Speaker

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, proposed the following amendment, which caused much merriment:

"Nor shall they receive mileage unless they elect a Speaker to-morrow."

The resolution and amendment, amid much laughter, were laid on the table.

The resolution and amendment were good—capital—but their fate was bad in the extreme.

☞ The *N. Y. Herald* says that Zachary Washington is up to his ears in trouble through fear that his message will either spoil by keeping, or leak out through some spigot or hung-hole of the Cabinet.

Indignation Meeting.

At a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of the township of Dimock, convened at the house of John Baker, on Friday the 14th of December, 1849, for the purpose of making some expression in regard to the late failure of the Bank of Susquehanna County, MASON TINGLEY was chosen President, JAMES LATHROP and LEWIS H. WOODRUFF Vice Presidents, and *Charles M. Tingley* and *R. T. Stephens* Secretaries.

The object of the meeting having been stated, on motion—

Resolved—That a committee of five be appointed to draft resolutions expressing a sense of the meeting; which committee, after retiring a short time, returned, and through their chairman reported the following preamble and resolutions, which, after a free interchange of opinions, were unanimously adopted:

Whereas—By the late failure of the Susquehanna County Bank, hundreds of our citizens have been made extensive sufferers—a large majority of them being of the laboring class, who are least able to sustain it—no inconsiderable portion of them being our female Teachers who have been principally paid off in that money—and *Whereas*, The Bank owes its existence principally to men located in Montrose, who stand before the people in the character of Stockholders, Bank Directors, and Officers—men high in office, and whose standing *gave the institution credit and enabled it to* circulate its notes—men, too, as we must believe, *who knew at all times that it possessed little or no* capital except their stock notes which they probably never intended to pay—and *Whereas*, said men admit the circulation of said Bank to exceed *two hundred thousand dollars, with nothing to redeem it*; without even the poor excuse of having sustained any loss—and have, after arresting T. P. St. John, the former Cashier, allowed him to leave the county by giving less than one-fourth that amount of bail, Therefore—

Resolved—That we look upon the conduct of the Officers and Directors of said Bank with extreme suspicion, and until they show to this community that they had nothing to do with the fraudulent transaction, we shall hold them morally responsible for the redemption of their notes.

Resolved—That we look upon men who will put into circulation notes that they never intend to redeem, as swindlers, and fully as deserving the Penitentiary as the highwayman.

Resolved—That in being thus plain-spoken, we do not intend that censure should fall indiscriminately upon any one—neither do we believe it will—for it is evident from the statement of Mr. Case, approved by the President himself, that a deep, studied, financial scheme (to swindle the people out of their money) has been carried out from the beginning, not even sparing the widow and the orphan, the aged nor the destitute; and all that have been entrusted to it, or in any way connected or being in about, ought and will, feel with stinging weight, the bitter reproach and lasting contempt of an indignant, insulted and outraged community.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the officers and published in the Democrat and Register.

MASON TINGLEY, PRES't.

James Lathrop, } V. Pres'ts.
Lewis H. Woodruff, }

C. M. Tingley, } Sec'ts.
R. T. Stephens, }

☞ How many of our present patrons will make us a "New Year's Present" of an additional subscriber to commence the next volume with?

☞ We are in daily receipt of that most useful paper, the *Washington Globe*, containing the full reports of the doings in Congress. We need scarcely say we prize it very highly. Those who wish a correct and elaborate report of the proceedings of our national Legislature cannot do better than to take either the *Daily*, or the *Congressional Globe*. The former is $5 a year, the latter $3 during the session, which will probably continue till August.

THE HOME JOURNAL.—A new volume of this spicy, delectable sheet, which is published by MORRIS & WILLIS, 107 Fulton-st., New York, will commence next week. The Boston *Post* truly says of it, "It is one of very best weekly papers printed. It is always filled with interesting, spirited and graceful articles, calculated to improve, refine, and amuse the mind. We would not miss the pleasure of reading it if we were obliged to 'get in coal' at twenty-five cents a ton to raise the two dollars a year it costs."

☞ Leppard's *Quaker City* is now considerably advanced in its second volume. It is one of the most racy, radical, independent literary gems that visits our table. Neither error nor wickedness in places high or low get from its editor any quarters. It aims to reform human society and government, and to elevate man to the moral, social and political *condition designed by his Creator. Abuses of* power, special privileges, and all kinds of aristocracies, find in it uncompromising hostility. Terms, $2 a year.

SCOTT'S WEEKLY PAPER comes to us greatly enlarged and improved. It is now of the largest class newspapers, and very spirited. Its price has also been proportionably increased from one to two dollars per single copy; two copies for $3; five do for $5; forty do for $30, &c. It is a paper that always abounds with attractions.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The Hibernia has arrived with one week's later news from Europe. There is no perceptible change in commercial affairs since last advices.

No further intelligence in relation to Kossuth and his companions has been received, which gives reason to fear that they may indeed be doomed to imprisonment in the fortress of Shumla whither the last previous advices left them.

TURKEY.—From Constantinople the news only confirms the previous pacific course of events. It is confidently stated that the British fleet has orders to withdraw from the Dardenelles, and that it is anchored by this time at Malta.

The Russian ambassador, M. Titoff, has once more been admitted to an interview with the Grand Vizier, and diplomatic relations may be presumed to be renewed between Russia and Turkey.

Austria appears satisfied with what Turkey has already done by transporting the Hungarian refugees to the interior and did not demand anything further. Russia on the contrary has demanded that the Polish refugees be expelled from the Ottoman Empire, and that the chief should be imprisoned in a fortress, the Porte being responsible for their safe custody without excepting *even those emigrants who like Bem* have embraced the Mahometan faith. It was said that Russia also required the expulsion of the Polish [illegible] have been for many years inhabitants of the Ottoman States. The Porte received their propositions in such a manner as to show that they would not be accepted, and a Council would be held on the 7th to take them into consideration.

The Russian Minister was excessively annoyed by the presence of the British fleet in the Dardanelles, which he declared a violation of the treaty—and has, it is said, refused to enter into negotiations until the English fleet shall have quitted the Straits.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on the 21st ult. says: Letters of the 10th, from Constantinople, mention fresh subjects of dispute between Russia and Turkey. In consequence of this energy with which the united diplomacy of England and France has followed up its victory on the refugee question, it is said that the Porte is also determined, at the expiration of the stipulated term, to withdraw those concessions in favor of Russian commerce over other nations which at present exists. Our Vienna correspondent's letter dated 29th ult. says: I also hear the Porte has proposed to send the Hungarian refugees to Bagdad.

GERMANY.—A telegraphic dispatch received from Berlin via Cologne announced that the Austrian Cabinet has made a formal protest against the convocation of a German Parliament at Priurst, and that in the dispatch containing the protest the Austrian Government alluded to the probability of armed interferences by Austria in the affairs of Germany. The same telegraphic account stated that the Government had answered the Austrian dispatch by a declaration that Prussia would maintain the league of the three Kings, and its Parliaments. These accounts have been substantially confirmed.

FRANCE.—The personal quarrels of the members of the Legislative Assembly terminating in more than half a dozen duels, have occupied the chief attention of the Parisians during the week. M. Pierre Bonaparte has figured in as many as three or four of these encounters. None of the contests have ended fatally, but they have increased to such a degree that the Government threatens to stop them by very stringent laws.

APPROACHING USURPATION.—The *modus operandi* of modifying the Constitution is still the increasing subject of discussion. It is now suggested to change the Legislative Assembly into a constituent body by the addition of 156 members, and this new body be invested with the power of electing the President or of extending the term of his office to such a period as may avoid the necessity of a frequent appeal to universal suffrage.

RIGHTS OF MARRIED WOMEN.—The Supreme Court of this State has decided recently, that a husband has no claim to the possession of any property owned by his wife previous to marriage, or which may accrue to her after marriage; and that even the income of the wife, that her husband should have possession of her property, is of no avail while she is a *minor*. This decision is based on the law of 1848, which has wrought a radical change in the condition of married females.

☞ Mr. W. B. Astor is about to erect three large stores on the old Park Theatre lot in New York.

Congressional Proceedings.

Flare-up among the Democratic Members.

Wednesday week witnessed strange scenes and wild excitement in the House of Representatives at Washington. After the reading of the journal, Mr. Cobb, of Ala. rose for a personal explanation, in relation to a paragraph in the *Union* of that morning, which said that it depended upon him, Mr. Holmes of S. C. and four free soil Democrats, to decide whether or not Wm. J. Brown, then the leading Democratic candidate, should that day be chosen Speaker of the House. This he took as an indirect charge of his being a disorganizer, which he very indignantly repelled, and assured the House that whenever he became satisfied that his vote alone would make a Speaker it should be promptly recorded in the right way.

[We copy the following interesting proceedings from the Washington Union.]

Mr. Wilmot here rose and desired to express his grateful acknowledgments to those friends who had given him their suffrages for the office of Speaker of that House. In justice to his own feelings, he felt called on to say, that he felt more honored by the confidence implied by their support, inconsiderable as it was in point of numbers, than he should have been by an election to the chair. Both of the prominent candidates have retired from the contest. In view of this fact, he did not feel justified in standing longer as a candidate. He trusted that his friends would approve the course he was about to adopt. He hoped that his friends would cease to cast their votes for him, and seek a more abler man upon whom to bestow their suffrages, and who would stand some reasonable chance of success.

He fully concurred in the excellent sentiments expressed by the gentleman who declined last evening, [Mr Winthrop,] as to the importance of an early organization of the House, and was unwilling to stand in a position that might delay so desirable a result. He would not feel entirely justified in maintaining his present attitude as a candidate, after the principal object, if not the only one, which induced his friends to place him in that position, had been attained.

On motion of Mr. Kaufman, the House proceeded to the 40th ballot for the election of Speaker, with the following result:

Wm J. Brown received 112 votes; Duer 26; Morehead 17; Stanley 18; McLaughley 13; Winthrop 17. Thaddeus Stevens 2; Rockwell 1; Outlaw 1; Horace Mann 5; Vinton 2; Conrad 1; Chandler 2; Bowdon 1; Julian 3; Holmes 1; Boyd 3; King 1

Whole number of votes cast, 226.

Necessary to a choice, 114

The result having been declared,

Mr. Stanly offered the following:

Resolved, That the members of the democratic party be *requested to appoint three members, to* confer with three members of the whig party, relative to the choice of proper officers of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was moved that it be laid on the table.

Mr. Stanly asked the House not to be in such a hurry. He had the floor, and intended to detain them but a few moments.

This resolution was not original with himself; that it, it had been suggested by *another—a member of the opposite party*, of high character and great experience, who was anxious, like himself, to achieve an organization of the House, and who, like himself, was also determined that the house *shall* be organized. He repelled the idea that there is danger of the total disorganization of the Government, as he said had been suggested from the present condition of things in the House. With Mr Clay in the other wing of the Capitol, and "Rough and Ready" in the White House, the idea was preposterous. No persons or parties, no free soil nonsense, could bring the thing about. He was but solicitous to elect a presiding officer who should, if the House pleased, be acceptable to the great majority of the democratic party.

He desired to give the democrats the choice of the Speaker—that they should select a gentleman in all respects satisfactory to themselves—one who was well known by the whole House to be thoroughly competent to a proper discharge of the duties of the position. Any gentleman who fancies that if elected he will sit on that seat during this session, as on a cushion of roses, will be vastly mistaken. He himself had received a dozen votes for the place; but must beg to decline the honor, being, in his own estimation, far too young and inexperienced.

Mr. Bayly.—The remarks of the gentleman from North Carolina, [Mr. Stanly,] demand a response from this side of the House. He has referred to the condition in which we find ourselves—unable to organise and transact the business of the nation. He says that the condition of things existing in this House (which is but a type of the condition of things in the country) gives him no alarm as long as Clay and Benton are in the Senate, and "Rough and Ready," as he seems to prefer to designate the Chief Magistrate of the nation, is at the other end of the avenue. As long as such is the case, he tells us, the Union is safe

Mr Stanley—I did not say that the condition of things in the country gave me no alarm.

Mr Bayly.—I did not impute the remark that what existed in this House was a type of what existed in the country, to the gentleman. That was my own comment, by parenthesis, and not a quotation of the gentleman. I repeat, that the division and distraction of parties which exist in this House, is but a type of what exists in the country at large. And who (asked Mr B.) is responsible for this? Sir, if I had been asked in advance, to imagine a course of action upon the part of one of the great parties of this country which would inevitably have led to such a condition of things, I would have said there exists an absorbing and exciting question of public policy overriding all others, and sectional in its character. Let one of the great parties of the country run a candidate for the Presidency occupying a doubtful position in reference to it; let him allow himself to be supported in each section upon the ground that his views harmonized with theirs; allow himself, for instance, to be supported at the North upon the ground that he was in favor of anti-slavery restrictions by Congress, and at the south as the only hope to shield it from them; allow himself to be elected by the votes of electors with diverse opinions of his views and diverse expectations of his action. Let him thus be elected; let him keep up this state of uncertainty as to his opinions, and a Congress elected in this state of uncertainty.—Let all this happen, and tell me, sir, if any man could anticipate a different posture of affairs than the precise one in which we find ourselves. The bitter fruit which we are tasting is the legitimate product of the tree which the gentleman's party has planted and fostered. I (said Mr. B.) am not taken by surprise. I predicted in advance that the course which the gentleman's party thought fit to pursue would lead to the precise result which we have before us.—No one laments it more than I do; but the democratic party certainly are not responsible.

But it was not to reply to this portion of the gentleman's remarks, that I claimed your attention. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr Stanly) has said that he can *look to his side of the House without shame*, but that when he looked to this, he blushed; that there was "something rotten in Denmark." The gentleman has thus, in his place, by this insinuation, given form and importance to an imputation, which, this morning, has been, in whispers, circulated through this Hall. He insinuates that something improper has taken place between the democratic party and the Free-Soilers, as they are called. Sir, it is such an insinuation as the gentleman ought not to make lightly, or to which we ought in silence to submit. I flatter myself (said Mr. B.) that the gentleman on this side of the House would be as little likely as any others to enter into any arrangement with the party referred to. I am rejoiced, however, that the gentleman has made the remarks he did. It enables us to brand the rumor, in the outset, as it deserves. It is hardly necessary for me to say that it has no foundation in truth.

Mr. Ashmun—Will the gentleman from Virginia allow me to put a question to him?

Mr. Bayly.—Certainly.

Mr. Ashmun.—Has not a correspondence taken place between the member from Indiana (Mr. Brown) and some member of the free-soil party, in which he has pledged himself to constitute the Committees in a manner satisfactory to them?

Mr. Bayly.—I know of no such correspondence. Is the gentleman authorized to say that there has been such an one? If so, what is his authority?

Mr. Ashmun.—Common rumor.

Mr. Bayly.—And does not the gentleman know that common rumor is a common liar? Turning to Mr. Brown, he said, "Has any such correspondence taken place?

Mr. Brown shook his head.

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Does not the gentleman infer that there has been an understanding between this side of the House and the Free-Soilers from the fact that some of them have voted with us? *If so, what can be more unfair?* The House is in a condition in which it is impossible *for it to be organized unless they* vote with one of the great parties composing it. Great complaint has been made, throughout the country, and justly, that we did not organize; thus implying that they ought to unite with one or the other of the parties. Suppose that they had offered to vote with the gentleman; would we have spurned their support? Or would he have considered that it would have been right in us, in such a contingency, to have imputed an improper combination to them? The gentlemen referred to have their own views to carry out, and they most probably will take their own course in doing it. And that a portion only of them have voted with us—which they have all along shone, such an unwillingness to do, and when they do, it now under what appears a necessity—certainly does not contaminate us or our candidate for the speakership. We must be judged of by the character of the great body of our party, and not of those who are accidentally thrown with us.

Mr. Root rose to comment upon the resolution before the house, (Mr. Stanly's.) There are others, besides Whigs and Democrats, in the House, with rights as members as important and sacred, quite, as theirs, which are by no means sought to be protected in the resolution. He warned gentlemen of the free States against coinciding with the member from North Carolina in opinion upon the "nonsense" of Free Soil.

Mr. Bayly (interrupting Mr. R.) asked the gentleman to allow him to make a personal explanation; which request having been granted—

Mr. B said: I think it due to myself and the House to say that, since I was last up, I have had a conversation with the gentleman from Indiana, (Mr Brown.) I was mistaken in saying that no correspondence had taken place between him and the Free-Soilers. A correspondent has taken place; but in it he assures me that he had refused to pledge himself, and had said no more than that, in forming the committees, he would place members of that party in such positions as their standing in the House and the country would seem to him to make proper. But the correspondence will be produced, and it will speak for itself.

Mr. Brown remarked that, when General Taylor was a candidate for the Presidency, he repeatedly said that, if he should be elected to the Presidency, he would be the President of the whole Union, and not the President of a party. Mr. Brown said that he came to the city of Washington, never dreaming of being a candidate for Speaker. His health was bad. These elder and abler members of his political party—gentlemen who were well versed in Parliamentary law. He had no experience.—He had never made the subject his study. He came to the Democratic caucus, and added in the nomination of Mr. Cobb, for whom he voted repeatly, for several long days. When it was suggested to him that, in all probability, (occupying a neutral ground, and coming from a free State,) he could concentrate as great a vote as any other individual, he received the suggestion with perfect astonishment. He had no such thought or desire, and he was not vain enough to suppose that, if his political party had a decided and marked majority, he would have been their candidate for the Speakership. But it was suggested that, during this exciting question of slavery, he was not a member of Congress, and, consequently, had not voted on any of those questions. He was a member when the Texas question was under consideration, spoke and voted. There were his votes on the record. His friends from the North, and from the South understood the position which he occupied. He had *repeatedly* said (for he was not in a position to cast a vote,) that he had no doubt that the great body of the North were opposed to the extension of slavery; that he had deemed the introduction of the proposition at any time, as unnecessary and unfortunate. We were then engaged in a constitutional and foreign war; and it was due to the North and the South, that the question should not be agitated. Now, it was found that a small number held the balance of power, and without their vote it was impossible to elect a *presiding officer*. In this state of the case, he first received a letter from the gentleman from Alabama, (Mr. Hubbard,) who propounded a certain question. He *look to his side of the House without shame*, but that when he looked to this, he blushed; that there was "something rotten in Denmark." The gentleman has thus, in his place, by this insinuation, given form and importance to an imputation, which, this morning, has been, in whispers, circulated through this Hall. He insinuates that something improper has taken place between the democratic party and the Free-Soilers, as they are called. Sir, it is such an insinuation as the gentleman ought not to make lightly, or to which we ought in silence to submit. I flatter myself (said Mr. B.) that the gentleman on this side of the House would be as little likely as any others to enter into any arrangement with the party referred to. I am rejoiced, however, that the gentleman has made the remarks he did. It enables us to brand the rumor, in the outset, as it deserves. It is hardly necessary for me to say that it has no foundation in truth.

Mr. Ashmun—Will the gentleman from Virginia allow me to put a question to him?

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