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PITTSBURGH:

THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 6, 1855

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☞To Advertisers.—Neither the Editorial Room or Printing Establishment of the *Daily Gazette*, are opened on Sunday. Advertisers who desire their notices to appear in the paper on Monday morning, will please hand them in before 9 o'clock, on Saturday.

☞Pittsburgh Weekly Gazette.—The extensive circulation of our *Weekly Gazette* offers to our business men a most desirable medium of making their business known. Our circulation is between four and five thousand, reaching almost every merchant, manufacturer and shop-keeper in Western Pennsylvania, and Eastern Ohio.

Advance Payments.—Hereafter no subscription will be taken for the Daily or Weekly Gazette, unless payment is made in advance. Whenever the time is up to which the subscription is paid, the paper will be invariably stopped, unless the subscription is renewed by advance payment. All transient advertising, of every description, will be required to be paid in advance. The only exceptions will be where special monthly or yearly contracts are made. sept5:tfw

The Convention, yesterday, engrossed our whole time and attention, and as we have no room to spare beyond that occupied by the report of the proceedings, we refrain from extended comments upon it.

The attendance was quite large, considering the circumstances, and the best of feeling prevailed all day. The speech of Judge Jessup, on taking the chair, was very fine, indeed, and that of Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, in the afternoon, was very much admired. Mr. Giddings' speech at night attracted a large crowd, and drew down very frequent applause. The remarks of Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, were listened to attentively, and were well received, so long as he confined himself to the one subject properly before the Convention. But we thought that his attempt to lag in the principles of the "American" party for discussion, was exceedingly ill-judged, and out of place, especially in a convention of a new party which was striving to discard all issues but the great one before the country. He spoke, however, for himself alone, and qualified it, indeed, by saying that although these were his principles, he laid them aside cheerfully to unite in the Republican movement, and advised all who were of similar faith to do the same.

The nomination of Passmore Williamson was carried irresistably. Other names were under discussion, at first; but the moment his name was brought forward, the Convention manifested an uncontrollable determination to have him for a nominee, and no other. If the nomination takes with the people as it took with the Convention, he will be triumphantly elected.

Butler County.—The Republican Convention of Butler County met on Monday, and nominated Ebenezer McJunkin for Assembly; Robert W. Glenn for Commissioner, and Hon. S. Boyd for Treasurer.

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 the 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 U. 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 S. Thomas, Philadelphia; Charles F. Read, Susquehanna; William W. McDowell, Tioga; Dr. Joseph Gibbons, Lancaster; Gen. Joseph Markle, Westmoreland; Reuben Winslow, Elk; Jesse Evans, Chester; Joseph Mann, Potter; James M. Sellers, Juniata; Thomas Silliman, of Lawrence; Thomas Robinson, Butler.

The Committee then retired.

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. He doubted whether his physical power was sufficient to enable him to speak in so large a Hall, surrounded by so much confusion, in the manner he would desire. He preferred that some gentleman should be called upon, who was better able to address the Convention at that time than himself. It would be impossible to make himself distinctly heard in this Hall. But he had no objection to saying what he could to urge forward the people of Pennsylvania in this great work which has called them together. He only rose to respond to the call. He did not know, not having been in this State for a number of years, what was the popular conviction on this question, but he was sure the people of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would not prove false to their children and their children's children. The issue now pressing on the American mind for immediate decision, cannot be disguised. It must be met. We cannot turn from it. We hear the cry of "sectionalism!" but that which has been done, cannot be recalled, and we must be prepared to combat it. That thing is treason—treason in the very Capital of our country—treason against the happiness of millions—treason against the spirit of our institutions—treason against the nation's life—treason against the people's prosperity—treason against the *Freedom* of this people, which is the vitality of this government; and the moment that *Freedom* departs from the American Constitution, that moment it falls as though smitten by the lightnings of heaven from the hand of God! [Applause.]

There ought to be no division of sentiment, thought the speaker, amongst the people of Pennsylvania, in regard to this pressing and vital issue. Only on the last recurrence of Independence Day in Philadelphia, hard by that old Hall whence emanated the constitution, there arose a man who undertook to show that the American Government was not a Republic at all—that it was not the great upholder of Freedom all over the world. Who was this? who was it that dared assert that this government was a mere machine—a partnership concern with no great principles of truth and freedom cementing it like a brotherly bond? That gentleman was no less a personage than Stephen Arnold Douglas. (Sensation, and hisses.) You find this sentiment of his rung in the ears of the people of the free North, continually, by the so-called Democratic Press. We are told that the government of Washington is not a government of Freedom at all—that it was not intended to build up and establish the cause of Freedom in this world. Mr. Douglas calls this a mere rhetorical flourish.

Well, gentlemen, continued Mr. Bingham, that is the question which the present government at Washington has given us. Let the American Constitution answer for itself. Turn to it. Examine it well. See what is emblazoned on its very front: We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

With these glorious words, those old men set out to establish the blessings of Freedom. These are the very words—Justice, a duty incumbent upon all men and governments—Liberty, a right pertaining to all, and indestructible as the plainest rights of humanity. Justice and Liberty—those are the thrilling words! But in these latter days, these sentiments are to be ignored! But can it be done? Must Justice, that most sublime attribute of the Deity, be utterly done away? Must Liberty, man's dearest right, be lost? [Applause.]

He was free to confess that, during the past ten years, Justice had been completely ignored, in the American government, and Liberty had been trampled in the dust. A material change had come over the legislation of this country. The time was when it was thought all legislation should subserve the cause of freedom and the interests of free men, that the American government was constituted to set the sublime spectacle of a people entirely and altogether free, wherein no petty tyrant could set himself up as a ruler over men "by the grace of God," or from the mere accident of birth. [Applause.] These were the notions of another day. But a change has come to pass.

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. Until then he was done. [Applause.]

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. S. Mitchell, Indiana County; George Steele, Venango County; Dr. J. Gibbons, Lancaster County; James M. Sellers, Juniata County; Edward Riggs, Washington County; Henry Teller, Erie County; John Williamson, Huntingdon County; 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 acknowledgements 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 view, and which should carry out that 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 come 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, Chambersburg; 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, August 30, 1855.

Dear Sir:—Your note was forwarded to me at this place, where I have been engaged holding court for the past 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 county 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 from eight to ten 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 29, 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 uniting 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 Errett, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Letter From Hon. H. Wilson.

Natick, Mass. Aug. 23, 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 Pittsburgh 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 continues to stand 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 man 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 slave propagandists and their servitors, tools from the free States, by whose acts Gov. Reader 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 the 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. This 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 unflinching 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 parties in opposition to the Slave interest—the blackest dye—I remain your obedient servant,

To Russell Errett, Esq. Henry Wilson.

Letter from Citizens of Union county.

To the President and members of the Republican Convention to be held in Pittsburgh, the 5th 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 Pierocracy, 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 Geyer, James F. Linn, James Hayes, James Aiken, S. V. Lyndall, T. Merrill Linn, and other citizens of the county of Union.

Letter from Hon. S. P. Chase

Massillon, September 2, 1855.

Dear Sir:—I am told that I am posted for the Convention at Pittsburgh. This is a pity, for I do not want to fall any appointment made for me or by me. But I cannot come. Our State Committee has appointed meetings for me on the day preceding and following, as well as of the Convention; all must be neglected if I go, as I exceedingly desire to go, to Pittsburgh. I cannot therefore go. Pray have this fully explained. Nothing but *duty* here to our common cause keeps me away, and I believe I have never promised to be present, though in my notes to you I have expressed a desire to attend, if duties at home could be arranged so to permit it.

Yours faithfully, S. P. Chase.

Letter from E. F. Bates.

Plymouth, Mass. Aug. 5, 1855.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 15th inst., inviting me to attend a mass Republican State Convention, at Pittsburgh on the 5th of September, addressed to me at New York, has been forwarded to me at this place, where I am temporarily sojourning.

It will not be in my power to be present at the convention; but it gives me pleasure to see, in the notice by which it has been called, new evidence of the determination of the people of the free States to resist the further spread of slavery and the increase of the slave power. Permit me to add that it also gives me no little gratification to perceive that you propose to limit your action to the adoption of measures "which shall give expression to the popular will, on the subjects involved in the repeal of the Missouri compromise," with the view of *co-operating "with other organizations, of a similar character, in other States."*

On many questions of national and State policy, the citizens of the Free States is common with those of the other States, entertain opinions so diverse and conflicting, that a general and harmonious union in one and the same political organization, is quite impracticable. But in respect to the repeal of the Missouri compromise, there is little or no diversity of opinion among reflecting and disinterested men, in the free States. The great mass of our people, whatever their former political relations, or their present opinions on other points, unite in condemning it as an act of perfidy and fraud.

It would be passing strange, and infinitely deplorable, were it otherwise. For whether we look back to the circumstances which preceded and accompanied this repeal—the acquiescence, for thirty-three years, of the whole nation in the act of 1820, as in a solemn and irreversible compact—the complete and irreclaimable possession, by the South, of all the benefits secured to it thereby—the suddenness with which the question of repeal was sprung upon the country—the contemptuous disregard, by Northern Senators and Representatives (prime movers and chief agents in the iniquity) of the opinions and wishes of their constituents, and the complicity therein of a Northern President, in gross violation of reiterated pledges not to reopen, by any act of his, the slavery agitation—or whether we consider the public evils to which the measure has given birth—the revival, and with increased bitterness of sectional disputes—the irruption into Kansas of desperadoes from Missouri, for the express purpose of seizing the reins of government—the trampling under foot, by these ruffians and their associates, in the territory, of the Constitution and laws of the Union—the omission, thus far, of the high officer, whose sworn duty it is to take care that the Constitution and laws of the United states be upheld and faithfully executed, to do or say any thing to check these acts of usurpation and lawlessness, and the countenance he has given to them, by the removal, at this juncture, and under the circumstances attending it, of your fellow-citizen, Gov. Reeder—the repeal of this ordinance of freedom must press on the minds and hearts of the people of the free States, as the one great breach of Faith and Justice, of Fraternity and Human Rights, against which it is their right, their interest, and their duty, by all the means, and in all the methods, authorized by the Constitution, continually to protest, until the wrong be fully redressed, and the right be perfectly established.

The measure of redress and of reparation is obvious and simple. *The compact of 1820 must be restored*, either in solemn and binding words, by replacing it in the Statute Book, or, in fact, by forever excluding the territory originally embraced in it from admission into the Union, except as free States.

The people of the United States, who concur in desiring and demanding this act of "equal and exact justice" can, if they please, easily secure it, and this without detriment to any of the questions on which they may chance to differ. They have but to resolve, and firmly to abide by the resolution, that under no political necessity whatever will they support, in or for any office, National or State, any man who had an original share in the Nebraska iniquity, or who now counsels sequiescence therein. Such a resolve, faithfully executed through the ballot boxes, will, in a comparatively short time, redress the grievance, and thus give quiet to the country, and new strength to the union of the States.

That the people of the free States should permanently submit to the injustice and humiliation involved in the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, I hold to be impossible. That they should postpone for a day longer than the Constitution makes necessary, the just and peaceful measure of redress which that instrument puts within their reach, is a folly which I trust they will not commit. I therefore hail with real satisfaction every new demonstration of the popular sentiment in the direction of immediate, fair and Constitutional relief. In this spirit, I thank your committee for the honor done me by their invitation; and I beg you to accept for yourself, and to present to them, my hearty salutations.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obd't servant,

B. F. Butler.

Letter from Hon. S. Galloway.

Columbus, August, 1855.

Dear Sir: Your letter was received yesterday. I will make a strenuous effort so to arrange my engagements as to be with you at your contemplated convention. It would be very gratifying to me to be present and to aid the Republicans of my native State in the patriotic movement to concentrate the good and true of all parties in opposition to the aggressions of the Slave power. The strong probability is that I *can* and *will* be with you on the evening of the 4th prox. and prepare to participate in the proceedings of the 5th. Accept for yourself and those whom you represent my kind regard for the complimentary invitation.

Truly yours, Samuel Galloway.

To Russell Errett, Esq., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Letter from Jas. A. Briggs, Esq.

Cleveland, Sept 2, 1855.

Mr. R. Errett—*Dear Sir*: Your letter inviting me to attend a Republican State Convention of the friends of Freedom in Pennsylvania, at Pittsburgh, on the 5th inst., was duly received.

I regret that the health of my family is such that I cannot leave home so as to be with you, and mingle my voice in unison with the freemen of the Old Keystone State, in opposition to the Kansas and Nebraska fraud, and to the farther extension of the "sum of all villainies."

If it be the loftiest patriotism for the Whigs and Democrats of the several slave States to unite—to *fuse* together, for the purpose of extending human slavery into our Western Territories, it certainly cannot be deepest treason against the great principles of Liberty and of the Constitution of our common country for the Democrats, Free Soilers, Whigs and Americans to unite in one great party for the purpose of testing, with all the political, moral and constitutional power they may possess, the further extension of slavery, and the consequent increase of slave representation.

The free States must resist the diffusion of slavery into territory now free, or they will be guilty of treason against Republican liberty of the blackest dye

No threats of dissolution, come from what quarter they may—no acts of political demagogues—no denunciation of mere partisan presses—no clamor against men in public or in private station, should induce the freemen of the North and West to repose one moment in "masterly inactivity," *when scenes* are being enacted in Kansas by slaveholders and their tools which would disgrace Algerines, and bring contempt upon Feejee islanders.

I trust that at this interesting period, when so much is demanded of the freemen of Pennsylvania, that her sons will be found doing battle for Truth and Right, and thus prove themselves worthy representatives of Penn, and Franklin, and Shippen, and Shippen, and Darlington, and Foster, and Ritner, and Forward.

Let them rally now as they did in 1840, when all your industrial interests were prostrate; let her men come up from the mountains and valleys, from hamlets and boroughs, from villages and cities, to consult together for the "public good," to promote the "general welfare," and to resolve with one united voice that *Slavery is Sectional and Freedom National.*

Yours truly, James A. Briggs.

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 powers 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 be now heard in preference to any other speaker.

Mr. Bingham (appeared) upon the stand and was greeted with the usual cheers. He 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 a 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 guardian 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 which 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 few to 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 the 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 free schools? Nowhere! Where was there seen free schools? Nowhere! Where was there free labor? Nowhere! Anterior to this day, religion, thought, labor, 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 Augustin 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 when the experiment of a free government 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 sceptre 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 thought 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 1778, 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, protested, 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 the government. But they determined at every hazard 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 battle field 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 right—nay, 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 that 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 the dungeon! (Applause.) The sentiment was universal that no man could voluntarily bring his bondsman 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 interests 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. Their idea was that the old world's daily pittance was too little. John Milton's wages for Paradise Lost was 10l. 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 able to scorn the embroidered life.

What, said Mr. Bingham, was the result? They successfully organized the great brotherhood of human industry, the van-guard 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 carved out of that territory five great States 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 amongst them was a blot on the national escutcheon and sought to be abolished. (Applause.) Maryland acted similarly. Kentucky voted on the abolition of slavery, and freedom was defeated by but one single vote.

But away down in the 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, McDuffey 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 doctrine of protection to 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 public looked up to them as true patriots. The old Whig party rallied under the banner of Harry Clay, declaring against anexation. The Democratic party essayed to rally under Van Buren. But the south was triumphant. James K. Polk, a man in favor of unconditional anexation, was nominated. Henry 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 Toombses and the Stephenses hunted him down for it, and General Taylor fell. Then they poisoned his successor, and he fell down and worshipped them. They insisted on the passage of the Fugitive Slave Bill, and it became a law and received 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 Douglass, 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 profound 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