PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

PUBLISHED BY D. N. WHITE.

PITTSBURGH:

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To the Republicans of the United States.

In accordance with what appears to be the general desire of the Republican party, and at the suggestion of a large portion of the Republican press, the undersigned, Chairman of the State Republican Committee of Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin, hereby invite the Republicans of the Union to meet in Informal Convention at Pittsburgh, on the 22d of February, 1856, for the purpose of perfecting the National Organization, and providing for a National Delegate Convention of the Republican party, at some subsequent day, to nominate candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, to be supported at the election in November, 1856

A. P. STONE, of Ohio.
J. Z. GOODRICH, of Mass.
DAVID WILMOT, of Pa.
LAWRENCE BRAINERD, of Vt.
WILLIAM A. WHITE, of Wis.

JUDGE EWING, of Fayette county, publishes a long letter in the Harrisburg *Telegraph*, on the Slavery question. In the first part of it he demonstrates clearly that opposition to the extension of Slavery was a cardinal principle with the framers of our government, as it should be with their descendants; and then he spoils this all by contending, in the latter part of it, that the slaveholders of the South have a constitutional right to bring their slaves with them into the free States and hold them as such. He confines the privilege, to be sure, to the right of *transit* through the free States with their slaves; but the grounds upon which he bases this right of transit, are sufficient to justify the holding of them here, as slaves, for other purposes.

The great mistake of Judge EWING, as it has been of other jurists, is in assuming the fact that the Constitution regards slaves as *property*. This is first taken for granted, without argument, and upon it all other argument in the case is founded. The President in his annual Message committed the same blunder; and the error is so pertinaciously adhered to by so many as to become the real difficulty in any possible settlement of the Slavery question.

The Judge needs hardly to be cited, by us, to legal authorities. He ought to be familiar with them, although he seems to ignore them. He quotes, approvingly, a decision that *persons*, as such, cannot become the subjects of commerce, and if he will consult his U. S. Reports he will find the doctrine equally well settled by the Supreme Court that the Constitution does not regard slaves as *property* but as *persons*. We have the authority of JAMES MADISON, the father of the Constitution, for saying that those who framed it united with him in thinking it wrong to admit into that instrument the idea that there *could* be property in *man*. The idea was excluded; at least *they* thought so: and their conviction that they had succeeded in excluding it having been clinched by the Supreme Court, it is hardly probable that so learned and conscientious a jurist as Judge Ewing will persist in putting upon the Constitution a construction rejected alike by its framers and expounders.

The right of transit for slaves over free soil is based altogether upon this pernicious and baseless assumption that the constitution recognises and treats slaves as property. The laws of the states tolerating slavery confer upon them that character; but the constitution itself simply treats them as *persons*, for the special purposes set forth in that instrument. The right of transit is not one of these purposes, nor can it be inferred without doing violence to fact and the rules of legal interpretation.

The doctrine at which Judge Ewing sneers, that slaves become free the moment they touch free soil by the consent of their masters, is one that has been frequently enunciated by Southern Courts and Southern Jurists of the highest character. It has the endorsement, moreover, of such men as Judge McLEAN, and rests upon the well-recognized principle that Slavery, being the creature of positive law, cannot exist beyond the territorial jurisdiction of that law. The weight of authority is decidedly upon this side of the question; and we confess to a little surprise at seeing such a man as Judge Ewing taking ground against it, along with such filibustering counselors as Cushing and Pierce.

The time was, and there are many yet living who can remember it, when gangs of slaves, manacled and chained together, were driven like cattle along the National Road, through Uniontown, from Maryland to Wheeling, for shipment by river to a Southern market. Perhaps Judge Ewing may himself have witnessed such sights from the windows of his own pleasant residence overlooking that thoroughfare. Those who *do* remember them speak of them, even yet, with a shuddering horror and a creeping of the flesh upon the bones. Is he willing that Pennsylvania should retrace her steps to that barbarism and let her soil drink up the blood of his tortured fellow-men, driven like beasts before his eyes, with fetters clanking upon weary limbs, and that *for no crime* but the misfortune of their servile lot? From what we know of his better nature we venture to guess that such a sight would harrow up his very soul, and send him to the inmost recesses of his library to search for, and haply find, some legal authority at war with a traffic so wanton, inhuman and devilish.

The Kansas Troubles.

Subjoined is a copy of the extra Kansas *Pioneer*, upon which the dispatch announcing another civil war in Kansas was based:

Kansas Pioneer, Extra.

KICKAPOO CITY, K. T., 8 A. M., January 18, 1856.

RALLY! RALLY!!

A messenger has just arrived in this city from Eastin, bringing the intelligence that a battle took place last night, about 12 o'clock, between abolitionists and pro-slavery men—the abolitionists making the attack.- One pro-slavery man, named Cook, has been killed, and several pro-slavery men have been wounded. Several abolitionists have been killed and wounded in the melee.

There is an abolition company from Lawrence on the ground, commanded by one Brown, who, it is said, is urging his company on to commit further violence, boasting extravagantly of Sharp's rifles, &c., at the same time daring the "damned ruffians" as he calls pro-slavery men, to approach within rifle shot.

Forbearance has now, indeed, ceased to be a virtue; therefore, we call on every pro-slavery man in the land to rally to the rescue—Kansas must be immediately rescued from these tyrannical dogs.

The Kickapoo Rangers are at this moment beating to arms! A large number of pro-slavery men will leave this place for Eastin in twenty minutes. The war has again commenced, and the abolitionists have again commenced it. Pro-slavery men—law and order men—strike for your firesides—strike for your rights—avenge the blood of your brethren who have been cowardly assassinated, but who have bravely fallen in defense of Southern institutions. Sound the bugle of war over the length and breadth of the land, and leave not an abolitionist in the territory to relate their treacherous and contaminating deeds—strike your piercing rifle balls and your glittering steel to their black and poisonous hearts. Let the war cry never cease in Kansas again until our Territory is wrested from the last vestige of abolitionism.

GOVERNOR SHANNON DENOUNCED.—The St. Joseph's *Gazette*, a violent pro-slavery paper, attacks most bitterly Governor Shannon for his conduct in the Lawrence treaty affair. On the subject, it published in an extra, a long letter signed by one S. J. Leonard, which for low abuse and, violent denunciation is rarely equaled. We copy the following paragraphs:

Governor Shannon was guilty of wilful and corrupt falsehood and by these falsehoods he imposed upon the army generally, and I believe universally.

Gov. Shannon represented himself as the friend of the pro-slavery men, and that he relied upon them as his friends. That for the time the proslavery men did believe him to be their friend, and did have confidence in him, I cannot doubt. For myself my confidence in him was greatly weakened before I left the seat of war. Such was the fact with others, while others again still retained confidence. Since I have seen the secret "treaty," his double dealing, his gross falsehoods are fully apparent to my mind.

It is difficult to bring the mind to contemplate a picture so abhorrent. A man placed by a great nation at the head of a great country, and who ought to be the soul of truth, of justice, of equity and of courage—raises a storm—and then to quell it, Judas like, professes his special friendship, first for one party, and then, I conjecture, for the other. But however this may be, he descends to the despicable position of a common liar, both to the one party and the other.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON KANSAS AFFAIRS.—It would be always agreeable to us to consider the official documents proceeding from our Chief-Magistrates as fair, impartial and just statements and recommendations regarding the subjects under consideration. But with regard to President Pierce this is impossible. He is as much a partisan as the veriest hanger-on of any party or faction which exists, and his official communications to Congress, when they refer to domestic differences, are mere special pleadings for one party in the controversy which would disgrace and shame any man of honest and statesmanlike views. It is deeply to be regretted that it is so, as it indicates both the decay and the danger of our institutions established with so much labor and anxiety by the Fathers of the Republic. The history of his Presidency will form the gloomiest and most disgraceful pages of the annals of our Union.

We have given our readers the whole of the President's partisan and pettifogging defence of the outrages committed in Kansas by his political and slaveholding friends in their fierce crusade for the purpose of establishing Slavery in that territory. He complains of the people of the Northern States for instituting emigration societies, to promote the settlement of the territory by a population in favor of a free State, but he has nothing to say against similar attempts to promote a slaveholding emigration, publicly announced and supported by some of the leading men of the South. He assails Gov. Reeder, and charges him with maladministration, but passes by the notorious fact that he had to struggle against the irruptions of Missourians into the territory for the purpose of controlling its institutions, although they had no design of settling there. He sustains the legality of the bogus Legislature and of its acts, although he knows as well as he knows that the lower House of Congress has not elected a Speaker, that it was composed mainly of persons who were citizens of another State, having their homes and interests in Missouri; and although he knows, also, that its acts were Anti-Republican, unconstitutional, tyrannical, and in direct variance with the voice of the people of Kansas. He denounces the election of Reeder as a delegate to Congress, and the new constitution and the elections and official proceedings under it, although he knows, and the whole country is cognisant of the fact, that these things were done in a formal and proper manner by the actual citizens and residents of Kansas, in accordance with the principle of squatter sovereignty, defended by himself and his political friends to justify the breach of the Missouri compact.

All the special pleading and partisan declamation of the President cannot disguise from the people certain important and pregnant facts, to wit: that the Missouri Compromise was repealed with his connivance for the especial purpose of devoting the free territory of Kansas to slavery, and that all the trouble and bloodshed which has attended its settlement, and the attempts to organize a government, have grown out of the same cause. But for the base betrayal of the rights of the North and the interests of freedom, by the President, Kansas would have been settled as peacefully as Minnesota. In all the outrages, the lawlessness, the violence and bloodshed which has attended the settlement of Kansas, the President has invariably supported the lawless border ruffian against the orderly resident citizen—the slavery propagandists against the friends of freedom. His last message is intended for the same object, and the Free State citizens of Kansas have the extreme mortification of knowing that the President of the United States is leagued with their enemies, and will bring the whole power of the Government to promote the success of the slaveholding crusade against that fair territory.

It is fortunate, however, that the power of the President is not equal to his treachery. He has weakened the government by the contempt which has been extended to its head. The House of Representatives will interpose a pretty efficient check to his mad schemes, and we do not despair yet of seeing Kansas emerge out of the fires of tribulation as a glorious Free State.—There will not be much pro-Slavery or Dough-Faceism left after she comes out of the struggle.

THE PUBLIC WORKS.—The following letter from the President of the board of Canal Commissioners in answer to a resolution of the Senate, will be found of interest.

CANAL COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,
Harrisburg, January 24, 1856.

Hon. W. M. PIATT, *Speaker of the Senate*:

SIR:—In reply to the resolution of the 21st instant, requesting the Canal Commissioners to furnish that body "with a statement showing the number of trucks fit for use on the Portage Railroad," and what "plan they would suggest for bringing back the trade to the Main Line of the Public Improvements; and such other information as they may think proper on the subject," the Board respectfully state:

That there are now in use on the Allegheny and Portage Railroad thirteen sets of trucks, for conveyance of section boats. If there should be an increase of freights in 1856 by this mode of transportation, four additional sets of trucks will be required.

The question as to the best plan of bringing back the trade to the main line of the public improvements, is one surrounded by much difficulties. The competition of the Pennsylvania Railroad—the repeal of the protective tonnage tax—the uncertainty which exists as to whether that portion of the public works will remain the property of the State, or pass into the hands of some corporate body—and the recent withdrawal of the old and experienced transporters from the business, are all well calculated to deter individuals from investing capital in an enterprise which holds out such slender prospects of final remuneration. Under these adverse circumstances, it is not probable that individuals can be induced to engage in the business, unless the tolls were reduced to so low a rate as to prove a loss to the Treasury, instead of being a source whence revenue is derived. This state of things may, however, be changed, and a fair share of the carrying trade between the East and the West again secured to the main line, by some legislative action. As one of the means by which this object may be accomplished, it has been suggested that individuals or companies may be induced to place boats and stock on the line, if the Legislature will guarantee that, if the Commonwealth should part with the possession of her works, the purchaser shall be compelled to take their stock at a fair valuation. It is said that, if this guarantee be given, persons are ready and willing to engage in the business. The views of the Board upon that subject, are fully detailed in their annual report, to which the Senate is respectfully referred.

If this plan be adopted, there is another measure intimately connected with it, which is entitled to consideration. For the purpose of expediting transportation and reducing the expenses thereof, inducements might be held out to individuals or companies to place motive power on the several lines of canal for propelling boats. It is understood that the only inducement required to effect this object, is to extend to the individuals or companies engaging in it, the same protection for their capital invested, as is before referred to in case of persons placing boats and stock on the canal. In case this suggestion should be adopted it would require the enactment of proper guards and restrictions to protect the transporters from overcharges and to insure the speediest despatch of boats from place to place. As the furnishing of boats and the power to propel them constitute the largest portion of the expenses of canal transportation, it is believed by persons conversant with the subject that a division of the business—one furnishing the boats, and another the motive power—would tend to reduce the rates of freight, and to expedite their transit between the East and the West.

The experiments are worthy of a trial. If by these or any other means suitable transportation lines could be re-established, there is every prospect that the revenues of the Treasury would be benefited thereby. The large annual increase of freights from the West, justifies the belief that there will be trade enough both for the Canal and the Railroad.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant. THOS. H. FORSYTH.

THE WILLIAMSON CASE.—Among the proceedings of the House, at Harrisburg, on the 24th, we find the following. It will probably pass; but will the Governor dare to sign it? Wait and see:

Mr. Hancock read in his place a bill providing that a certain action pending in the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware county, numbered 10 of February Term, in 1856, in which Passmore Williamson of Philadelphia is plaintiff, and John K. Kane of Philadelphia is defendant, be and the same is hereby removed to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, sitting at Nisi Prius, in and for Philadelphia, for trial of the proceedings according to law; and that said Court is hereby authorized to proceed to trial, verdict and judgment, and execution, as the said Court of the said County of Delaware, in which the same is now pending, could or might do.—Provided, That final judgment of said cause shall be subject to writs of error, as in other cases, in the same manner as though said action had been originally instituted in the said Court of Nisi Prius.

Mr. HENRY M. FULLER has, we see, introduced a resolution into the House denouncing and discountenancing the agitation of the Slavery question. He was appointed, last fall, a member of the Republican State Committee, which place he holds to this day. Now the mission of the Republican party, of which he has thus declared himself a member, is to agitate the Slavery question, believing that agitation to be right. If, therefore, Mr. Fuller is sincere in the resolution offered to the House, he ought to be honest enough to resign his place on that committee. Will he do it?

THE KANSAS FREE CONSTITUTION.—M. W. Delahay, late editor of the Territorial Register at Leavenworth, arrived at Chicago on Saturday, on his way to Washington, as bearer of the free constitution lately adopted by the people of Kansas. He was in nomination for Congress under the new constitution in the Leavenworth district. The election was held on the 15th inst., and, as no opposition was anticipated, Delahay was probably elected.

The following from the Chicago Democrat Press, is interesting:

Mr. Delahay gives an encouraging account of affairs in Kansas generally. The people are animated by the best and most determined spirit. The ruffians have no disposition to repeat their foray against Lawrence. Mr. Delahay expresses the firm conviction that Kansas is destined to be a free State—that no power can make it anything else. The Free State men, he says outnumber the pro-slavery portion of the population four or five to one, and by virtue of that potent institution, Sharps' rifle, will hereafter be able to hold all outside ruffians in check.

Shortly before leaving Kansas, Mr. Delahay paid a visit to Lawrence, which he found in the best possible state of defense, or in a condition to be made so on very short notice. With the exception of Col. Lane, its defenders have had no regular military training, yet its fortifications would do no discredit to the best scientific engineer. The women are heroines worthy of their valiant husbands, and can handle Sharp's rifle to a charm. Mr. Delahay said he considered himself perfectly safe at Lawrence, with them could beat him in sharp-shooting, putting a bullet into the bull's eye of the target, ringing a small bell at a long distance at almost any fire.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Tape Worm cured by Dr. M'Lane's Celebrated Vermifuge.

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ja28-d&w8

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ja25-1y

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He immediately got well, and has enjoyed good health since. It has had a good effect with my other children. You may use this certificate for the benefit of the public.

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A retired clergyman, restored to health in a few days, after many years of great nervous suffering, is anxious to make known the means of cure, and will, therefore, send (free) the prescription used. Direct Rev JOHN M. DAGNALL, 69 Fulton street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

See advertisement in another column. jan22-dw1y

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Philadelphia City and other Loans	85,170 00
Stock in Banks, Railroads and Insurance Companies	22,060 10
Bills Receivable	156,440 97
Cash on hand	20,628 09
Balance due at Agencies—Premiums on Marine Policies recently issued,—and other debts due the Company	23,889 95
Subscription Notes	100,000 00
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Philadelphia 6s	10,000	9,350
Delaware Railroad	30,000	23,400
Reading Railroad	12,500	12,000
Amount Loaned on Mortgage in the city of Philadelphia		$1,950
Amount Loaned on Notes, secured by Collateral or Personal Property		25,600
Cash on hand and in bank		21,384
		$206,000
Amount of Fire or Marine Losses ascertained		None.
Amount of Fire or Marine Losses not paid		None.
Amount of Fire or Marine Losses claimed, other than above, contested and unpaid		None.

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