

The Kansas Question Epitomized.

Remarks of Gen. Granger of N. Y.

House of Representatives, March 18, 1856.

I rise, Sir, to say but a few words. The question is not, Sir, whether Gov. Reeder or Gen. Whitfield shall occupy a seat on this floor; but whether you will or will not grant to the Committee on Elections power to send for persons and papers. Sir, what has this Committee to do? It has to investigate and report on a subject of deep and paying interest to the whole of the American people. Millions of our constituents are now watching with intense interest the action of this Committee. And shall we, Sir, deny them the aid required, and block the wheels and cripple the energies of this Committee at the outset? For the honor of this House and the welfare of the country, I trust, not. But why this determined opposition? Why this attempt to shroud this investigation in darkness? The reasons given seem to me unsatisfactory, contradictory and baseless. The honorable gentleman from Virginia, (Mr. Leitch,) in maintaining the other side of the question, took occasion to say that if the administration of this Government was taken from the party that now holds it, the Union would be dissolved. Sir, these threats have been so often repeated, and from the same quarter, that they have become stale, insipid, and scarcely deserve a passing notice. Such threats are idle. They cease to disturb—like the rattle in the tail of a toothless snake, they are heard without alarm. Dissolve this Union! Who dissolve it? The North will not; the South dare not, the world in arms can not. Away with such silly nonsense.—The Hon. Member from Maryland, (Mr. Davis,) denies us jurisdiction. There he comes in conflict with the Constitution. The Constitution is clear on that point. It says expressly that "Each House shall be the judge of the election returns and qualifications of its own members." There is not a legislative body in the world that does not exercise this power over its own Members, and even to expel a Member at discretion. The Hon. Gentleman fought gallantly, but he fought

as one that beats the air. He dealt fearful blows, but his adversary was beyond his reach. It was a pity such valor was wasted. Sir, the Hon. Member from Maryland was on the wrong side. The Hon. Member from Missouri (Mr. Oliver) charges the Massachusetts Aid Society with malpractice. If the charge is true, who not investigate? He charges the Kansas settlers with having rifles. Is it possible? What! Free-men have arms in their hands! Who ever heard of these rifles till Kansas was invaded? Then, Sir, you did hear of them. Then they came out and spoke for themselves. It is charged that the New England emigrants go to make Kansas a Free State. Ay, Sir, a Free State. "A lion in the way." Sir, the sons of the Pilgrims go, as their fathers came, to plant and rear a Free State. If that be wrong, it is the fault of the family. Their fathers did so before them. Free Speech, Free Press, Free Schools, Free Religion, Free Soil, and Free Men. Sir, they do go to make a Free State. And, God be praised, they will do so. But Gov. Reeder is in the way. Gov. Reeder has been assailed—rude-ly assailed—on this floor. Gov. Reeder is the last man to be here complained of. The blame before the country rests elsewhere than on the head of Gov. Reeder. Has the Hon. Member from Missouri so soon forgot that the invasion of Kansas was from his own State? And when the Hon. Gentleman says he did not approve of it, it will be news to me. Does he not know that if Missouri approves or palliates, she must share the shame? But she will not do it. And I was surprised to hear what I did hear from one of her Representatives. But Gov. Reeder is in the way. He is the evil genius that haunts the dreams of the Hon. Member from Missouri by night and disturbs his equanimity by day. The Hon. Member says Reeder comes poking along here—"a traitor." Suppose I will to say—which surely I will not—that Whitfield comes poking along here? True, they are both here; and what of it? What has that to do with the question? Sir, Gov. Reeder comes here by the voice of the people of Kansas; and they sent him there in accordance with the Higher Law and the Lower Law—the Law of Self-preservation and the Law of Self-defense. If he has not a right here who has? Gen. Whitfield comes here the fruit of an election—an election ordered by a spurious Legislature—a Legislature forced on an unwilling people by a band of armed invaders, with guns and drums, and implements of death—who marched into Kansas on Election Day, and stormed nearly every poll at once, elected this Legislature, and returned back to Missouri in triumph.—Sir, let the Committee examine; give them all the help they ask for; let us have the truth and no dodging; the country demands it. Sir, I am ready for the vote, and I envy not the man who shall record his vote in the negative.

Gov. FORD DEFINING HIS POSITION.—Lieut. Gov. Thomas H. Ford, who was a delegate from Ohio to the Philadelphia American National Convention, made a speech at Columbus, O., before the Order of United Americans on the evening of Wednesday, 6th inst., in which he took occasion to define his position. He claimed to be an American with his whole heart—opposed to foreign aggression whether of Church or State. But he was also opposed to despotism at home as well as abroad. He said he learned at Philadelphia what Americanism means in the South—and that was—a negro. He ridiculed the idea of the Southern States seceding from the Union. He concluded in the following decisive words:

"I repeat that I am opposed to all aggression. When I see two monsters coming I am ready to strike the one which approaches first: This great question must be settled; and no temporising policy will answer now. The battle of Slavery and Freedom is to be fought, and it must be decided which is sectional and which is national. The crisis is upon us. Let us meet like patriots—like American men.—I do not ignore the American issue—I stand on that plank with both feet; but I can act with any man or any set of men, who take the right ground on this question; who are united on the principle that we must have no more Slave States—no more Slave Territory."

THE AGITATOR

M. H. COBB, EDITOR

WELLSBOROUGH, PA.

Thursday Morning, April 3, 1856.

Republican Nominations.

For President in 1856: Hon. SALMON P. CHASE, of Ohio.

For Vice-President: Hon. DAVID WILMOT, of Penn'a.

- The following named gentlemen are authorized to collect dues and receive subscriptions for the Agitator. Their receipts will be regarded as payments. Wm. Garretson, Tioga; J. B. Foxworth, Millsboro; G. W. Stanton, Wellsborough; Dr. J. C. Whitaker, Elkland; John Siering, Liberty; O. F. Taylor, Covington; Victor Case, Knoxville; W. W. McDougal, Shippen; Isaac Plank, Brookfield; C. J. James, Bloomsburg; J. F. Colver, Osceola; O. H. Blanchard, Nelson; E. A. Egan, Maitland; Samuel Phillips, Westfield; Wm. M. Johnson, Dagsell's Mills; A. Barker, Ogdenburg; O. M. Stephens, Crooked Creek; Isaac Spraker, Maple Ridge.

Republican State Convention.

In fulfillment of the duties imposed upon the undersigned, as members of the National Executive Committee for Pennsylvania, (appointed by the Republican Convention held at Philadelphia on the 22d ult.), and in compliance with the wishes of numerous friends throughout the State, notice is hereby given that a REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION will be held in the City of Philadelphia on MONDAY, the 10th day of JUNE next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of forming an electoral ticket and the nomination of a State Ticket, to be supported at the ensuing Presidential and State Elections, and generally for the transaction of all such business as shall come before said Convention.

The undersigned would recommend that the Convention be composed of Delegates, twice in number to that of the State and House of Representatives; and that the friends of Freedom in the several counties in the Commonwealth meet at their county seat, or other convenient place in their respective counties on SATURDAY, the 31st day of MAY next, (unless some other day will better accommodate, and elect delegates to the State Convention; and also, at the same time and place, three delegates from the several Congressional Districts, to represent this State in the National Convention, to be held on the 15th of June next, at Philadelphia. D. WILMOT, Secretary. WYOMING, March 15, '56. Member of Nat. Ex. Com. for Pa.

Friend WOODWARD, of the N. H. Sentinel, should not have forgotten to credit "Our Boy President."

The Kansas Free State Legislature has elected Gov. A. H. Reeder and Gen. J. H. Lane U. S. Senators. Horace Greeley writes from Washington that Kansas may be admitted as a Free State this session.

The news from Europe does not shed much light upon the negotiations of the Vienna conference.

The great excitement on the continent appears to center in Paris. The looked-for debut of a young Napoleon attracts unusual attention. It is to be hoped that the young prince may live to be a better man than his father.

ANOTHER TRIUMPH.—Gov. BARSTOW, who claimed to have been elected Governor of Wisconsin last fall, has just vacated his seat in favor of BARSTOW, Republican, it having been proved that the latter was elected by more than 1000 majority. Frauds of the most criminal character were detected in the returns which gave the office to Barstow. He was doubtless at the bottom of them all. Such is Ruin and Hunkerism when its heart is laid bare. Will the Schuylkill Republican make us X?

We call attention to an interesting letter from California, in another column. Mr. Evans is a native of Bloomsburg, and is now publishing the North Californian, a new and able paper, at Oroville—a very suggestive name, especially to printers, who see so little of it. Brother Evans has our sincere thanks for his letter, and is assured that we will write him soon and arrange terms for its continuance. Your paper has been on our X list for a month.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—If the author of "An Essay" will furnish us his real name as a private guarantee, we will publish it with great pleasure. It is well written.

MELANIE. Yours of the 26th ult. is received and will be published because it is a meritorious production. You will receive the paper without further remuneration as long as you are willing to let us hear from you occasionally. It was sent to Couderport for some months, until hearing nothing from you, you were thought to have changed your residence.

The Senate of Virginia lately passed a bill for the voluntary enlistment of a free negro of Southampton Co. He has lately been emancipated, and is anxious to remain in servitude, which he knows by his own experience and observation, is the best and happiest condition for his race. So numerous are applications of this character that it has been found necessary to introduce a general law into the Legislature for the voluntary manumission of any free negro of the Commonwealth.

We copy the foregoing precious bit of mingled ignorance, stupidity, bad grammar and worse logic, on an exchange, the name of which has escaped our memory. It embodies the entire argument in favor of Slavery, urged under various guises. The best pro-slavery argument extant is but an elaboration of the arrogant assumption revealed in all its miserable deformity in the extract given above.

To set out with, the writer entirely misapprehends the nature and operation of the law relating to slavery, in Virginia. If we are rightly informed, up to the present time, Slavery has managed to ruin that Commonwealth without the friendly aid of law in any form. If her Legislature has enacted such a law as our paragraphist refers to, slavery exists there legally, and not by sufferance as heretofore.

What does it prove for Slavery, admitting that this free negro did voluntarily put on the yoke of servitude? We might oppose to this instance a thousand in which those unfortunate have dared every danger and voluntarily endured every imaginable privation to escape from that very bondage. We might say that every intelligent man North of South knows to be true—that voluntary servitude is the exception and involuntary servitude the rule. But we prefer to consider the question inversely—substituting the exception for the rule—and thus give our author the full benefit of his attempted argument.

Is Slavery a natural condition of the human race? Look back upon aboriginal America and then answer; for, if servitude be an ordinance of Nature, where should we look for evidence of that fact, but upon men in a state of nature? Look upon Africa. Was there a slave mart on her sands before the rapacious white man, taught her barbarous tribes the uses of men, women and children? There is no record of such a state of society there as exists this day in the garden of the New World.

The inevitable conclusion then is, that involuntary servitude is not taught by Nature, but is sanctioned by Nature. This is taught especially that it is a crime against Nature's great law of Equality; and if it be a crime to deprive a man of his liberty against his consent, what manner of deed is that which is his death when he trembles upon Nature's law in his own

THE TIOGA COUNTY AGITATOR

Communications.

California Correspondence of the Agitator.

Oroville, March 18, 1856.

Mr. Editor: You cannot imagine what delightful weather we have here during February and March, when the "storm king" reigns supreme, and the wintry blast blows by your Eastern home; no freezing bitter cold at night, no howling blast, nor driving storm to melt us; and by day a genial warmth pervades the air, that makes us love to live, and wish that all the human race were here for its enjoyment. The greater part of the time our skies are bright, and the sun pours his golden rays on hill and dale; and when it does rain it falls so gently, but abundant, that every wish seems gratified and want supplied. It can be said of California most truly, that those who leave her for other climes, return almost without exception, attracted by some secret spell that they cannot resist. Her sunny days and gorgeous moonlight nights, such as the lids and lassies long for in the Atlantic States, her floral and agricultural charms, "haunt the one that would desert her, with spectral visions of her loneliness, until the faithless one finds that a 'harm more potent than ancestral homes has spirited him back to this land of perpetual summer life."

I have lived in California for about four years, and during that time, I have seen but one number of your truly valuable and interesting sheet. Do you not print a steamer edition for California? Have you not found yourself, sometimes or other, among strangers without a red wanting to reach a certain place where you had friends and could raise a supply of the "needful," but could not get there under your circumstances? You are in an awful predicament, and contemplate suicide, but just as you are about rushing for the nearest pond, where you intend to sever the silken ties that bind you to life, you meet a friend. Ah, what a joyful meeting. You are from that moment another being. You have; well then, you can imagine my feelings, after wading thro' a copy of the Agitator which I found in the cabin of another "Tioga boy."

The most important event which has transpired here during the last year, is the confirmation of the Limantown land claim, by the board of Land Commissioners appointed by the State Government. This board has confirmed claim after claim, embracing thousands of acres of the best and most valuable lands in the State, without the least shadow of good sound evidence upon which to base their decision. The Limantown claim which covers some twenty thousand acres of land in and around San Francisco, estimated to be worth the enormous sum of \$6,000,000 at present and much more in the future, is the last grant which they have confirmed, and they have the hardihood to say that it was supported by the most conclusive evidence, when they refused to admit the evidence of one Janan, who was well acquainted with all the tricks employed by Limantown to get his forged grant through, (that the grant is a forgery is now believed by everybody.) The confirmation has caused an immense excitement among the persons residing upon the land, who are supposed to number about twenty thousand. They have held several meetings to raise funds for opposing the claim. The case will be carried before the Supreme Court of the United States. Is it not a pity that in a country where nature has lavished her choicest gifts, such corruption should exist? How long it will be so, I cannot tell.

There is in the city of San Francisco at the present time, more legalized swindling and respectable dishonesty, than can be found in any other civilized city in the world. You will find some kind of dishonesty introduced into almost every branch of business without any exception; if not openly, then it is carried on behind the scenes. But the greatest wonder, and the one that astonishes me the most, is the tardy movements of the car of justice, the wheels of which appear to be stopped by bags of golden dollars. It is evident to every citizen who takes interest enough in the reputation of the State to look a little closely into matters, that the officers were paid for baffling the ends of justice in the case of Adams & Co., Bankers. The moneys have been passed from the hands of one receiver to the other, until they have dwindled down to about one third of the original amount. The creditors are by a late decision of the Supreme Court, all entitled to a pro rata of the assets, those who