

dent Polk, although violently opposed to that provision, signed the bill? Because the proviso in respect to Oregon was entirely nugatory; it could have no effect in such a territory. Why can we not take the same liberal and statesmanlike view and say that the question of slavery is settled by nature in New Mexico, and it matters not whether we say it may go there or may not; it cannot go.

und transferred by Spain to France; and again in 1808, when on breach of the treaty of Amiens the wars broke out again between the allied powers and Napoleon, and he feared that his colony on the Mississippi would be attacked, perhaps conquered by England, he promptly sold the territory to the United States for fifteen millions of dollars, whom did he consult? The people of the territory? Never. They were dependent provinces, without even the slightest pretense of sovereignty. Were they, then, sovereign people when they came into this Union? When, and where, and how, did they acquire such sovereignty? Sir, they never were sovereign. They were provinces, first of Spain, then of France; then they became the purchased property and possession of the United States. They have no privileges except what the United States conferred upon them, first by their territorial laws, and afterwards the privilege of equality in the Union when they were admitted as States. The sovereignty which was then bestowed upon them was a limited sovereignty. It was a sovereignty within certain specified and well ascertained limits; they were not sovereign in any of the particulars on which they are now claiming to be independent of the General Government. A province, admitted by special legislation to certain privileges, claims no right superior to the very power which created it!

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW. I would like to ask the gentleman another question. Is he willing to agree that this government shall acquire additional territory south of the Missouri compromise line? Mr. ARMSTRONG. In regard to that question, I have this to say. One reason why I do not entirely concur in the Crittenden amendment is that it proposes now to dispose of the question of slavery in a territory to be acquired. When additional territory shall be acquired, it will be under the control of Congress, and under circumstances which we cannot now foresee, and for which it would be unwise to attempt to provide. The Crittenden amendment provides that all territory south of that line, which shall be acquired, shall be under the protection of a slave power. I say such a provision would be unwise, because it is a question which should be considered at the time of acquisition, making into consideration all the attendant circumstances. This is the reason that I am not entirely in favor of the Crittenden resolution.

Mr. BARTHOLOMEW. I do not distinctly understand from the gentleman, in how much territory north of the compromise line of 1820, slavery can exist, according to the view of the gentleman. What is the reason that it cannot exist in New Mexico, if it can exist north of that line? Mr. ARMSTRONG. We propose to say by this amendment to the Constitution, that slavery shall not exist north of that line; and there being then a constitutional prohibition, it would be a question of no consequence whether the constitution of the country was such as to render slavery possible or not.

Miscellaneous. THE ASSIMILATION OF LANGUAGES.—There is a growing tendency in this age to appropriate the most expressive words of other languages, and after a while to incorporate them into the English vocabulary.

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