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on the south side of Main street, third square below Market.

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SPEECH OF Hon. Hendrick B. Wright On the Nebraska Bill, delivered in the House of Congress, April 4th 1854.

Mr. WRIGHT, of Pennsylvania, arose and said: I had not designed, Mr. Chairman, to way anything upon the subject of the Nebras-ka and Kansas bill. I had made up my mind to vote in favor of that bill, provided the Clayton amendment be rescinded, and got to trouble the House with any observations upon it. But, sir, fortunately or unfe tunately, my district adjoins the one which is the residence of Mr. David Wilmot, the seer of the Wilmot proviso, and which is now represented by my colleague, [Mr. Gaow] Mr. Wilmot has been engaged during the present week in agitating this subring the present week in agitating this sub-ject within the limits of my district, and it therefore become me to defend myself. I have not risen to make a charge against any d in the city of Carbondale, Luzerne co of the district that I resent. He made a and the first invincation of it was the receipt of three petitions, that I presented to the House yesterday, signed by one hun-Ared and four leading and prominent citizens of that place, asking that this bill may become a law; so that I think the impress ion made by Mr. Wilmot in the city of Carbondale did not come up to the expectation of the enemies of the bill.

Mr. Chairman, as I have already said, there is one feature in this bill that should be amended. I hope it will be done. I do be amended. I hope it will be done. I do been heretofore presented with refference to not say that it shal, be a sine qua non with me the organization of Territories! The very that that provision shall be amended; but I words of the sixth section of the bill that know that I could not vote for the bill with the clause as it stands, and sustain myself in my district, without great difficulty. I have Committee on Territories, that the clause, so far as he is concerned, shall be amended.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois. What

Mr. WRIGHT. The clause which was changed by the Clayton amendment. If that clause is stricken out, I am ready to susintal clause is stricken ont, I am ready to sustain the House, and the House, and the House, and the Constitution of gistation consistent with the Constitution of gistations consistent with the Constitution of the Mayaville road bill the England had asserted the regard to these displaying the principles and the principles and the principles and the principles and the power of the Territory. There are gentlemen upon this does not into shall be vested in the people of the House, this and mighty principle—the principles of Statesights and popular sovereignty. Upon that four was an advocate of popular sovereignty, the hard and mong the resolution as a dam among the resolution as a dam among the resolution should be the two contained in the two bills to which have already may frience—namely the bard form the seed in the people of the Territory. And these words which I have already may frience he draws from the argument is, and among the resolutions adopted the mote of popular sovereignty; the last that the power is not no Congress shall be of which a skeep the power of the Territory and the first open of the matter. I have already the state of the people of the Territory and the principles. The reto of the Missori critical power power is not not congress upon the fall that the power is not no Congress shall be off and the Mayavilla road bill the form the people and vested in the people of the Missori critical power power is not no Congress and the four was because the regard to those the matter. I have already the sake from the people and vested in the people of the Missori critical power power and except the principles and the form the principles and the form the principles and the distinct represented by my collegue upon the left, (Mr. Tarritory) and a manual to the constitutional legistation. I shall not not consider the regard to these foundation in the principle and the form the principle and the form the principle and the form the principles and the which the power of the Territory and the principles and the w tain the bill by my vote in the House, and opposition, and I might say, almost at the nt of the bayouet. There never has been Territory organized under this Government that has not met with the strongest op-position in this House. There has never been a State organized which, when ma-king application for admission into this Un-ion, but has met with the same opposition; and to-morrow, if Spain were to give us deeds of cession of the Island of Cuba, and her Britanic Majesty were to give us deceds of cession of Canada East and West, there would be a party that would vote against accepting either, with or with or with or cepting either, with or with or with acceptance and if they did not vote against accepting to all forng, it would be in opposition to all for-precedents in our history, where the question of organizing Territories has been brought in issue. I do not know why this is. I do not know why there should be, in this country, even a respectable party that should

bill to enable the President of the United States to take possession of the territory ca-ded to the United States by France passed this House by a vote of 89 yeas and 23 nays. That is, after the territory had been purch polson Bonapart against its cession to this sountry, that it had territory sufficient to sup-ply fifty millions of human beings with all sire. After this territory had been purchaswhich I have released, there were twenty- croached upon the popular will.

has been reported by the Committee on Territories in the House were in the bills organizing Utah and New Mexico. The very words are preserved verbatim. And I want here the indulgence of the committee to refer them to the sixth section of the bill, be cause 1 regard that as the prominent feature of the compromise of 1850. The sixth section is in these words:

" That the legislative power of the Territory shall extend to the rightful subjects [of legislation consistent with the Constitution of

name of a compromise. The very men called this a compromise, which they have incessarily opposed in Congress and out of Congress ever since the enactment, at different times.

North, and there is no bond of mutual union if I may go to the Territory of Kansas. under different names, but uniform, steady, and persevering at all times. And when was that act of 1820 ever adhered to, either by Congress or by the people of the American statute-book for the last thirty years. In 18-48, when the Territory of Oregon was about to be organized, the men who called that measure a compromise voted against its extension to the Pacific, upon the ground that

it was not a compromise.

What power has this body—I speak of the Congress of the United States—to fix any Uniques of the United States—to fix any line of demarkation passing over the terri-tory of a new State, defining our which side slavery shall or shall not be tolerated? I understand that the Government is the probe opposed to the acquisition of territory or the extension of the area of freedom. I do not know why it should be so; but so it is, and such is the undeniable fact. There is no disputing this fact.

1 Santa and regulations in regard to it. It may make military roads over it. and erect military no disputing this fact. in the States. Congress is a trustee for the

> The famous ordinance of 1787 declared that slavery should not exist north of the Ohio river. The first Territorial Legislature which met under that law, as an organized Territory, enacted laws which provided for the surrender of the slave to his master, and subjected him to the dominion of his will: and that, too, within a free Territory. I have not the stattue-book, but I can refer this committe to it, which shows that slavery existed after the adoption of that ordinance, north of the Ohio river. That ordinance or by their bonds, on the day to on that both the law and the ordinance en-

ortured into a compact of two or more par-

It has been denied by Statesmen in this country that Congress has the power even to organize a territory. I have read with a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction a very able speech made by the honorable gentleman of Ohio [Mr. Disney] during the last Conwith my property, and a southern gentle man must at the same time be prohibited from going there with his. Where is the Congress or by the people of the American mutuality of such a principle ? Partial mutuality of such a principle ? Partial statute-book for the last thirty years. In 18. assume or rather usurp the power of determining what shall and what property within the limits of a sovereign State. The southern States came into the Union originally when all the States held slaves-each a sovereign government of it self. There was not a State in the Union in lieve that I am correct in regard to that. The Union was formed; the compact was made, and now shall it be said that the northern States, after they have abolished slaver from their statute books, blotted it out for ever, shall, in a spirit of dictation toward the southern States, coerce them who were also a party to the compact? It cannot be; and the people of the North, with enlarged judgement, with the benefit conferred on wherever this question is presented to then sion that the sensible view is the only one

> It has been said that it is the friends of this bill who have sought to agitate the question of slavery. I like to see agitation. I like agitation, for it always results the exposure of truth. I deny that the lift of these with press. the bill, or those who its features of popular sover ed with other territorial bills I deny that the

tions as an earnest of what they all are:

the other demagogues in Congress, who are dens was placed upon them by the mother favoring the proposed outrage, deserve the country; it was centended that they had execration of all honorable men, for disgracing their official positions by urging one Government disregarded. In other words,

choice language:
"Resolved, That we will hold every Seneither the last. ater and member of Congress from a free

cause of liberty for gold, or self-promotion, or both." Is that agitation? I do not know

the National Government. But there was no compromise made previous to that time; and what has been designated as a compromise, was simply an act of ordinary legislation, having no feature about it which could be western home, has a right to go there, not under the dictation of this government, but as a free man, surrounded by the constitutional rights of his own State, and clothed with the panopoly of her power; and he who would curtail or abridge any of those rights of the freemen of the country, does not the power to legislate in regard to the wind would curtait or abridge any of those binding and has no validity. Congress has rights of the freemen of the country, does not the power to legislate in regard to the establishment of a line. This bill provides without any design to give offense—entertain a just conception with regard to those that power with regard to these local questions shall be vested in the people of the ons as an earnest of what they all are:
"Resolved, That Stephen A. Douglas and tended that the imposition of onerous burportion of the Union into the guilt of a Seach of faith toward another portion, that would disgrace a comunity of freebooters."

So much for that, the resolution is in still was not the first instance wherein agitation

> Now, sir, I said, with reference to another State, who shall give countenance to this part of this bill, that there is a clause which threatened ourrage upon our rights, as a trai-tor gulty of betraying the cause of liberty not prepared, however, to say it is sine qua for gold, or self-promotion, or both."
>
> These resolutions were possed at a meeting held in the only Free-Soil district in the Territories are aliens; and I understand that State of Pennsylvania, for I believe that the one they have always been permitted. in all the represented by my colleague (Mr. Taour)
> is the only one in the State where there is a
> free-Soil majority. In these resolutions of the United States, to participate in the Free-Soil majority. In the state waste loss is a "free-Soil majority. In these resolutions of the United States, to participate in the they say that Mr. Douglass is a "fraitor," and that every member of Congress from a free State, who shall "give countenance to the outrage," is a "fraitor guilty of betraying the tem has been pursued partly from usage and partly from the very necessities of the case. Now, Mr. Chairman, there is no reason why the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska what more insulting terms could be called the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska from the vocabulary of the English language, should be restricted to a different rule from that of the other Territories that have been

day and the pulsa of the day and the pulsa of the formation of a new government, his relations to his State are unchanged.—
Concede that Congress may intervene, and State sovereignty is annihilated. It is an insult to talk about it. Congress legislate for the freemen of a Territory! When and where did the States clothe this body with the freemen of a Territory! When and the freemen of a Territory! where did the States clothe this body with been, I believe, a necessity on the part of the Government for a declaration of war, but what it has been opposed by a minority but what it has been opposed by a minority on the vote for the declaration. that power? In what section or article of the Government for a declaration of war, the Constitution is it written? The dectrine but what it has been opposed by a minority is buried in the grave of the Capulets. Jackson did its funeral obsequies. The veto of the bank bill and the Maysville road bill the bank bill and the Maysville road bill 49! When England had asserted the right

sovereignty. I hold in my hand the pro. this bill is the very principle which caused ceeding of a meeting held it are county of the revolt of the colonies prior to 1776. It was contended by the colonists that they gressionable district of Pennsylvania. My
Diffice is always a division of opinion in the
political account current is with them; but, sir, as I live, I would ten thousand times than to be returned here upon the issue that I had supported a project of law which aimed a blow at the constitutional power of armed a blow at the constitutional power of my State, and the natural and the unalienable rights of her citizens. My State, sir, is vote on the part of the House. ble rights of her citizens. My State, sir, is no provincial establishment. She does no tribute to Casar. She has a flag of her own gain be shown whenever these questions again be shown whenever these questions are full since the contribute to Casar. and she has the moral and physical power to sustain it. She is a party to the general compact, but not a slave to it. Standing as ompact, but not a starte to it. States, or, in a ward, whenever and whetever the does, midwap, in her geographical postition, she has no sympathies with fanaticism from the North, nor abstractions from the South. She is under the influences of neither. This is why she may be called the

keystone of the arch. But, sir, while I am a Pennsylvanian my self, and feel all the local pride a Pennsylvanian should, who honors his State and her nstitutions and laws, still I claim to be an institutions and laws, and I cleam to be an American citizen, in its broadest sense, and when southern institutions are assailed I will defend them. Southern rights are as sacred as northern, and he who would trample on them because of power and numerical strength, is without justification. There may be a difference of opinion between nothern and southern men as to the power of Con-gress over the Territories. But all who feel an interest in this bill must see the absolute than those contained in these resolutions.—
That men in this House, acting under the sanction of an oath, under what they regard as a constitutional duty in reference to a great and important question; are not only to be denounced as demagogues," but as "traitors," and "freebooters," is not to be quietly sinder and "freebooters," is not to be quietly sinder and important purchased by the same rules should be applied to the present duct are badges of a darker age and less engineers and that of the other Territories that have been hitherto admitted into the Union; and income and interest in this bill must see the absolute mecessity of making mutual concessious.—The willing to go hand in hand with their respective limits may not be deprived, by Concern and "freebooters," is not to be quietly sinder and provisions of the original bill.—How this amendment found its way into the Sante bill, I am not prepared to say. It was ingratled for no good purpose. Of this there

BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1854.

The presence who want quant and the presence of t

By a reference back to the many acts and resolves of Congress in regard to these measures of war, and the acqusition and organ-ization of territory, you will find, sir, no mrise for defending national honor, acquiring or organizing territory, the admi States, or, in a ward, whenever and side and consolidation on the other. There will be an opposition strong and vindiclive.

The joint resolution to admit Texas int the Union, approved December 29, 1845, passed the House of Representatives on the 16th December, 1845, by a vote of yeas 141 nays 58. Even in this act, sir where an in-dependent Government sought to make an alliance, and merge her former political exwho refused to accept the property speciable, too, in point of numbers. There speciable, too, in point of numbers widenes or has been, however, no popular evidence or has been, however, no popular evidence or has been to be a supplemental to the property of the property demonstration which would show them to have been in the right, and the majority in