

STAR OF THE NORTH.

R. W. WEAVER, EDITOR.

Bloomington, Wednesday, June 23, 1858.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

FOR PRESIDENT,
JAMES BUCHANAN,
OF PENNSYLVANIA.
FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE,
OF KENTUCKY.
CANAL COMMISSIONER,
GEORGE SCOTT, of Columbia County.
AUDITOR GENERAL,
JACOB FRY, Jr., of Montgomery Co.
SURVEYOR GENERAL,
TIMOTHY IVES, of Potter County.

WANTED AT THIS OFFICE.
An active intelligent boy as an apprentice to the printing business. One of 17 or 18 years desirable.

Perverse and Malicious Spirits.

There are some people who have so much of malice and bile in their nature that nothing has to them its natural color. They feel so ugly within that they must pervert and distort to some evil intent every thing they hear and read. If they cannot be happy themselves they determine that no one else shall be so. And judging others by their own malignity, they cannot believe that any intent of the human mind can be good. They are determined to misunderstand, and find it easy to deceive themselves; for it is a very true saying that none are so blind as those who will not see. It would be a shabby world if a writer was always compelled to furnish these people brains to understand, along with the matter to be read.

We remember some years ago we wrote a handsome eulogium upon the death of Clay, and afterward in another article contrasted him favorably as a national statesman against such sectional factious as Seaward and Johnston, as being "Hyperion to a Satyr." This expression was Greek to one poor fool who ran about with the paper among some of his wise friends asking "what does this mean?" but predetermined that it must be something very bad; and finally satisfying himself that it was abusing Henry Clay to call him a Hyperion to whom others famed as great were only Satyrs.—Of course nobody would ever be so silly as to reason with such a pitiful fool, for it would only be casting away the pearls of sensible thoughts and words.

But such cases are akin with the perversion of Mr. Buchanan's great speech of 1840 upon the subject of national currency, and in which he argued that the best interest of all citizens is consulted by establishing a firm, safe and steady national currency, which shall not be liable to dangerous fluctuations, expansions, contractions and bankruptcies. He went on to show that this country is the most prosperous where labor receives its greatest actual reward, and not only its highest nominal prices.

John Davis of Mass., replied to the speech, and attempted to show that the doctrine contended for by Mr. Buchanan would require a reduction of wages in this country corresponding to those in Europe. To this speech was appended a schedule showing that the European rates were as low as ten cents a day. The course of reasoning by which Mr. Buchanan was thus misrepresented, was something like that by which the Eton law student proved that the eel pie was a pigeon—viz: that an eel pie was a pie of fish—a fish pie was a jack pie—a jack pie was a John pie, and a John pie was a pie John, (pigeon.) Mr. Davis and the men of his party, who were in favor of a national bank and opposed to the independent treasury, assumed that Mr. Buchanan was in favor of a purely specie circulating medium—that the necessary result of the abolition of bank notes would be a scarcity of money—that a scarcity of money would reduce the price of labor, and that, *et cetera*, Mr. Buchanan was opposed to the interests of the laboring classes.

But as the premises in this argument had no foundation, the conclusion could not follow.

The Opposition.

The nomination of Col. Fremont is one of those political games akin with the origin of Know Nothingism, and designed to catch the thoughtless and unreflecting by a glare of romance and novelty. It offers the same kind of attraction with the hard-cidered log-cabin campaign of 1840; and appeals to the restless and unsteady spirit of adventure which possesses unsettled minds. It does not present the ripe experience of statesmanship which can appeal to calm reason and judgment for support; but instead of character it exhibits romance—instead of principles it relies on wild adventure—and instead of cool reflection it appeals to sentiment.

The superficial minds which look only to the surface are fished for by this nomination, just as they were fished for by the secrecy and oaths of the Know Nothing conspirators. But even those who are curious to folly soon get tired of the same thing, and will not be tempted by a second experiment on their credulity.

State Tax.

Treasurer Harris requests us to say to the taxpayers and tax collectors of the county that he is very desirable the State tax for all past years and some for the present year should be promptly paid up before the 15th of July, to enable Columbia county to secure its abatement of five per cent, which the State Treasurer allows if the State tax is paid before the 1st of August.

Dickenson Seminary.

Last week the annual exercises took place at Dickenson Seminary, Williamsport; and they are spoken of by those who have heard as having passed off quite creditably to the Institution. Diplomas were granted to Miss Jennie I. Goodlander of Milton, Miss Emily Low of Lime Ridge in this county, and Thos. Care.

The Contrast.

In the days of honorable and manly statesmanship when Webster made his great speech in reply to Hayne he used neither invective nor reproach. He complimented the ability and patriotism of the South Carolinian, for men like Webster and Hayne could afford to be just and generous. Alas how have the mighty fallen! How sadly has the representative of Know-Nothing Massachusetts degenerated from his illustrious predecessor! Sumner affects a stilted scholarship, but natural and graceful eloquence is not in it. One paragraph will illustrate how his speech is studied out and manufactured from the brains of others.—He says:

"But it cannot be that she acts wrong for herself and children, when in this cause she thus encounters reproach. No! by the generous souls who were exposed at Lexington—by those who stood arrayed at Bunker Hill—by the many from her bosom who, on all the fields of the first great struggle, lent their vigorous arms to the great cause of all—by the children she has borne, whose names alone are national trophies, in Massachusetts now vowed irrevocably to this work. What belongs to the faithful servant she will do in all things, and Providence shall determine the result."

Demosthenes in his oration on the crown several thousand years ago used the following language:

"It cannot be that you have acted wrong in encountering danger barely for the liberty and safety of all Greece. No! by the generous souls who were exposed at Marathon! By those who stood arrayed at Plataea! By those who encountered the Persian fleet at Salamis, who fought at Artemision! By all those illustrious sons of Athens whose remains he deposited in the public monuments! * * * What belongs to gallant men they all performed—their success was such as Providence dispenses to each."

Scholarship is best proved by the refinement and amenities which naturally flow from a polished mind; and which constitute both the evidences and the ornaments of civilization. He who aspires to its honors assumes its duties, for these are reciprocal.

One poor crack-brained abolition editor foolishly, and in the spirit of Tom Hyer or Yankee Sullivan, boasts that Sumner beat his antagonist in "sarcasm" and "invective." True orators and noble men like Webster would scorn such praise as the most disgraceful insult.

The San Francisco Revolution.

The late unfortunate troubles at San Francisco have grown out of the boldness and desperation of the gamblers and "shoulder strikers" of that city. Most of these are offscourings from some older city, and some, like Casey, have been Sing Sing convicts. When this fact was charged upon Casey by King, the former did not deny the charge, but said he did not want past acts raked up, for he was very sensitive on that subject. He had a carriage in readiness to convey him to jail for his protection when he shot King.

This class of rowdies had become so powerful in San Francisco that notorious black-legs and "shoulder strikers" like Yankee Sullivan, Ned McGowan, Bill Lewis and that stripe of gentry daily stood on the steps of the best hotels, with their hats on three hairs, puffing cigar smoke into the face of passers by, and hob-nobbing with city office holders and Judges of the Courts; until they bade defiance to all law; and Ned McGowan lately boasted that no man in the City dared serve a notice on him to leave, adding he was "good for about twelve of them."

The people submitted to the law until it ceased to protect society, and it was only after the law was subverted that they quietly restored order. Cora, the murderer of U. S. Marshall Richardson, was lately put through the farce of a trial, and could not be convicted, though the evidence was clear and uncontradicted. Casey had got his carriage ready before killing King to secure him safety in jail until he could in like manner escape punishment. He had just before been engaged in a murderous affray which grew out of his ballot box stuffing, so that he appeared to be elected to an office by a large majority, although nobody had voted for him.

The manner in which the event was received by the people indicate the character of the parties. We quote from a San Francisco correspondent: "The evening after Mr. King's assassination, Rev. Mr. Lacy was to have preached a sermon in the First Congregational Church for the benefit of some charity. The meeting was opened at the appointed hour by a most fervent and affecting prayer for the recovery of Mr. King. At its conclusion, the preacher and the whole audience were in tears. All saw that it was not a time for sermons, and the minister and his people rose involuntarily, as it were, and left the Church."

"On that fatal evening every theatre was closed 'on account of the public calamity,' and a masquerade ball which was to have come off, was postponed to a more suitable occasion."

"The courts have not been able to hold sessions since Wednesday. The people will attend to nothing else until they have righted the city."

"The religious papers denounce in much stronger language than the secular press the villains that prey upon our vitals, and all of them agree that the time has come to hurl corrupt Judges from their bench, and for the people to take from the courts the execution of the laws until they have been purified."

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES.

"Although it was a bright and beautiful day, the different churches were but thinly attended, with the exception of a Congregational one, in which it was advertised, would be preached a sermon on "Law and Order." This house was filled to excess. The Pastor took decided ground in favor of the action of the people."

APPROVAL OF THE PEOPLE.

"As the masses of military were passing by Montgomery Block, in which Mr. King laid so dangerously wounded, the people, who almost choked up the street, reverently raised their hats and stood uncovered till the last division had filed past."

Thaddeus Stevens.

In the Black Republican Convention, last week, Thaddeus Stevens made the following remarks:—

Mr. Stevens saw what the current of the Convention was—he did not rise to resist it—but he admonished delegates to take care it does not sweep away friends as well as foes. [Applause.] Pennsylvania is embarrassed by the withdrawal of the only name he thought could save the State. He would like to have time to consult his colleagues. He would be sorry to see Judge McLean's name introduced now, but he was assured that, without that name Pennsylvania would be lost by 50,000 majority in the Fall. In conclusion, he moved to adjourn until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

We have not the slightest doubt that Mr. Stevens' prediction will be verified!

AN EXCELLENT SENTIMENT.—In 1829, the Duke of Wellington fought the Earl of Winchester. It grew out of facts which occurred in a parliamentary debate. In the correspondence the Duke of Wellington used the following striking language, which it would be well to engrave upon the walls of Congress:—

"No man has a right, whether in public or in private, by speech or in writing, or in print, to insult another, by attributing to him faults for his conduct, public or private, which disgrace or criminate him. If a gentleman commits such an act indiscreetly, in the heat of debate, or in a moment of party violence, he is always ready to make reparation to him whom he may thus have injured."

THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE RIDGWAY FARM COMPANY, and others desirous of seeing the land, will have an excursion about the first of July in order to spend the Fourth in St. Marys. We do not know a more pleasant trip that any one could go upon, than an excursion to Elk county, Pennsylvania. The scenery is beautiful and varied. The object is as useful as agreeable, and in the sultry month of summer, we cannot imagine anything more refreshing or healthful. From what we hear a large number will avail themselves of this opportunity to buy land as well as a pleasant journey. We do not yet know the route which will be taken by the excursionists, but it will soon be published, and will no doubt be the best. There are two routes, one by the New York and Erie Railroad to Olean upon the line, and from there to St. Marys by stage, or by the way of Tyrone on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, and thence by stage. The first will be convenient to those who go from the north, the other is also an excellent one. By arrangements made with the different companies the fare and whole expenses will be greatly reduced. St. Marys is a beautiful little town, provided with good hotels, and has already become, on account of its attractiveness, a place of summer resort.

Sixty Baptist Ministers of Boston and vicinity held a meeting on Monday, who, while professing that it "may not become a Minister of the Gospel to enter any political arena, nor to bring its party strifes within walls consecrated to peace and personal goodness," passed resolutions declaring slavery to be a "great evil," and calling upon all parties and sections "to subordinate all mere political preferences to the paramount claim of freedom against further encroachments of slavery, and with the unanimity and zeal which have ever marked the opposition, to unite in maintaining it by uniting in such measures and men as will be most likely to ensure success."

The Pennsylvania Railroad and Mining Register, published and edited by Thomas S. Fernon, admirably sustains the promise of its proprietor and its previous announcement. It is of special interest to the business men of Philadelphia, as it treats intelligently of all the public improvements of the country, which help to feed this city with trade. The editor's legislative experience and his connection with some of the railroad enterprises of the day, give him a knowledge of which his readers reap the advantage.

The Democratic State Central Committee has made arrangements to have a large number of Mr. Buchanan's great speech of 1840 on the independent treasury printed and circulated. The people will then get at the bottom of the "ten cent" falsehood, and much valuable light will be shed upon the subject of political economy.

AN OPENING DINNER was given at the opening of the *Montour House* in Danville, on last Tuesday the 17th inst., which is remembered by the participants as a rich and generous feast. Our thanks are due to the Committee for an invitation, and we regret that other engagements kept us away.

The forty-first Asteroid was discovered on the 22d of May, by Goldschmidt. It is a star of the twelfth magnitude. Annexation is going on much faster in the celestial regions than in the United States. We have only thirty-one stars to our system, with a whole continent, however, for exploration future addition.

In a notice of new counterfeits, we find the following in Bicknell's Reporter Tuesday last:—

Bank of Danville, Danville, Pa. 10's Spurious, Vignette Man and Cattle. On right end a Female, and on left, Indian Woman.

The spurious bill does not correspond with the face of the genuine bill at all—as there is no "Man and Cattle" on the 10's of the Danville Bank.

The contract for repairing the Episcopal Church at Danville has been allotted to Mr. Null, of Lewisburg for the sum of \$1,750.

An attempt to call a Republican meeting at Manch Chunk, proved a total failure. But eight persons made their appearance.

CHARLES GROSS, the Recorder of Lehigh county, died last week.

The Liberty of Speech and of the Press.

The following paragraph is taken from the speech of Senator Butler, in answer to Mr. Sumner. There is a great deal of political philosophy in it:

The liberty of speech and of the press is the great conservative element of a republic; it is the political wall fire to the material world—a subversive and affluent minister, when under the control of prudence and intelligence; but when unchecked and unregulated, consuming fire, withering and blasting every thing along its pathway of ruin. Render freedom of speech tributary to the properties, decencies and restraints of social life, and you may crown it with all the ministries and supremacies of intellect and liberty; but release it from them, and it becomes a blind and maddened giant of evil, tearing down the bulwarks of social order, and desecrating the very sanctuary of republican liberty. What would you think of a reckless man who should set fire to his own house, or should go about claiming the privilege of throwing his fire wherever he could among the most combustible materials, and say he had the right to do so on the ground that he was a freeman, and could do as he pleased. Away with such liberty! Liberty that is worth anything must be in the harness of the law.

Liberty of speech and of the press must have two restraints. The first is the highest, which will always govern a class of men who cannot violate it—the obligations of honor, decency and justice. Another restraint upon licentiousness is, that a man may speak and publish what he pleases with a knowledge that he is amenable to the tribunals of the law for what he has done.—Congress cannot pass any statute to say that men shall not write against religion, or against the government, or against individuals. Neither can Congress pass a law, nor can any State pass a law, depriving the tribunals of the country of the rights of saying whether you have gone beyond the limits of liberty, and have used your power, under that name, with criminal recklessness, with a licentious indifference to the feelings of individuals, and the consequences upon society. I do not wish to live in any community where it is otherwise. The press is losing its power, and it ought to lose it; for it is now beginning to be an engine of private revenge and individual expression, instead of being a responsible organ of public opinion.

Becherism, or the Kill-em Doctrine Rescued.

The veteran statesman, Gen. Cass, made the following allusion, a few days since, in a speech in the United States Senate, to the rifle rowdism which recently took place in the North Church, New Haven:

"The temple at Jerusalem was defiled by the money changers who converted it into a bank of that day, and made it a scene of abominations. Our savior drove them out, saying 'it is written my house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves.' The house of prayer is now the army for the collection of weapons, to arm Americans against their countrymen, and clergymen are not indeed money changers, but peddlers and distributors of carnal, not of Christian weapons; to fight battles of flesh, and not the battles of the faith, forgetting that 'and they that take the sword shall perish by the sword;' and that they are warned by the apostle of the Gentiles, that the weapons of their warfare are not carnal. To preach the Gospel of Jesus is now enough for any human heart and intellect. He who devotes himself to this duty, and then goes after strange gods, entering the field of politics, and mingling in its strifes and bitterness, does more injury to the cause of true religion, within the sphere of his labors, than the writings of Voltaire and Hume, all the other infidel authors who ever sought, by their sneers and malign influences, to destroy human confidence in the most precious gift of God to man."

The Poisoning Case in England.

The English papers are very full of the trial of Palmer, who has been convicted of the poisoning of his friend Cook, and is also accused of poisoning his wife and brother. Although the prisoner, Palmer, has been tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hung, yet many doubts exist as to the actual proof of the prisoner's guilt. The medical profession are in part annoyed at the preference which was given to the testimony of some of the witnesses, and requests have been made to have the body of Cook exhumed, so as to make another analysis, it being guaranteed that if poison was administered it is possible of detection. The case is nearly similar to one in the French law books, which occurred in 1823. An individual, audied, like Palmer, the nature and effects of poisons, and having, after many experiments succeeded in getting a drug which left behind no traces of poisoning, he administered it to two of his intimate friends, for the purpose of securing their money. He was detected in a manner nearly similar to the detection of Palmer, by hurrying to an apothecary for something additional to finish the business.

MR. SUMNER.—Senator Wilson, in a speech at Worcester, said that when he and others were conveying Mr. Sumner to his lodgings, after the beating by Brooks, Mr. S. remarked—"I shall give it to them again, if God spares my life." If the Senate has the right kind of a presiding officer, there will be no more offensive personalities allowed in the debates of that body. The freedom of speech does not mean licentiousness of tongue. When a member of the Senate transgresses the proper rules of debate, he should be stopped at once, and not allowed to proceed, without the consent of the body he is addressing.—*Leigler.*

The N. Y. Tribune occasionally tells an accidental truth. It says:

"It gives us pleasure to recognize in the Cincinnati nominee for President, a man respectable in every personal relation—a good citizen and neighbor—a man of fair talents and unassailed private character."

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From the Daily Pennsylvania.

The nomination of Col. Fremont.

Despite the warnings of all the more moderate men of the Black Republican party, and the wishes of all the comparatively conservative citizens who were casting long glances towards that organization—despite the assertion of Thaddeus Stevens in the Convention, that without Judge McLean was its candidate Pennsylvania would be lost by 50,000 majority in the fall, he was withdrawn under circumstances which strongly indicate his betrayal by pretended friends, for some unknown reason—perhaps the lavish use of Mariposa gold had something to do with it.

In his place, that "enterprising young man," Col. Fremont, has received the nomination. Distinguished of qualifications, destitute of all semblance of statesmanlike qualities, his only recommendation appears to have been that there was 'a great deal of romance' about him. This may be a weighty consideration with a young lady in her teens in selecting a lover, but it would be an insult to the intelligence of the American people to suppose they would not require more solid and attractive qualities in a President. The following short biography of Fremont has been going the rounds of the press:

"John C. Fremont's father was a Frenchman, who, for some political offence, lost his property and escaped to this country.—He taught the French language in Virginia for a living, and at length ran away with a planter's daughter and married her. Some years afterwards he died in Charleston, South Carolina, leaving a widow and two sons, very poor. Some ladies of the city took charge of the family, gave John C. a good education at their own expense, and procured him, through the then Secretary of the Navy, a situation as teacher on board a government vessel, where he remained two years and a half, when, preferring the land service, those ladies assisted in procuring for him a commission in the army. One of his earliest exploits after that was to run away with and marry Col. Benton's daughter. But the Colonel at length forgave him, and procured for him the command of an exploring expedition across the continent."

We will not pause here to remark upon the ingratitude he displays in requiring the generosity and kindness of the ladies of Charleston by leading on those who are known to be the deadly foes of the section of the Union which gave him birth, and which by cherishing him, nourished in its bosom a viper ready now to sting it to the heart. Nor will we at present descant at length upon those elements of "romance" which the opposition will no doubt dwell upon largely during the campaign. For the sake of Mr. Fremont's own fame, he should never have placed himself in a position which will render it necessary that the true history of his life should be made public, the veil of time with which he has been bedecked be rudely snatched aside, and the facts connected with his career exposed. His friends will be very apt to maintain a close silence upon his feats as an explorer, when the history of his blunders and heartlessness becomes known. They will not boast much of his famous Coconote Pass, which eventually proved to be the highest peak but one of the Rocky mountains, nor of his favorite route for the Pacific Railroad, which, on examination, proved so crooked that it required the *soubrette* of the Raw's Horn Route—nor the school of Engineering which he established, viz: that the movements of the Buffaloes were the best guide to an explorer—nor will they be apt to particularly land the infamous desertion of his corps in the midst of the perils in which he had inveigled them, shut up in snow thirty feet deep, which occurred near Taos, in New Mexico.

Perhaps no man of his age has a more unfortunate record than Col. Fremont. He was court-martialed and dismissed from the army for insubordination—his financial transactions with the government funds will probably be found to be not at all times of the most creditable character—he failed as a politician; and after serving a short term in the Senate, was superseded as soon as he became fairly known by the people of California—and altogether, although he may be a very fair, a very romantic, and a very enterprising young man, he will find that no "buffalo engineering" will take him within hailing distance of the White House—that no obstacles, high and insurmountable as his famous pass, will rise before him—and that his political "ramshorn route" will lead him into difficulties as inextricable as those by which he was surrounded when he ignominiously deserted his companions in the snow at Taos.

We heard a rabid opponent of the Democratic party, when asked the other day how he intended to vote, declare that "he meant to go for any man that could come nearest to 'beating the democratic party.'" This is the kind of principle that governs the political course of some men and shows what sort of material we have to deal with. Such men do not care whether they are recognized as Republicans or Know Nothings, so that they can gratify their hatred of the Democratic party. A good Democrat would be ashamed to utter such an unmanly sentiment, if his party was ever so far in the minority.—*Easton Argus.*

SHOWING THE CLOVEN FOOT.—John P. Hale who is one of the acknowledged leaders of the Abolitionists in the Union, is said to have expressed the following sentiment the other day, while in conversation with a distinguished Senator:

"Sir, we (the Black Republicans) don't care a d—n for the negroes—we want and intend to have the political power."

A Rowdy Judge Fined.—On the 15th ult., Hugh C. Murray, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California, was fined by the City Recorder of Sacramento, in the sum of \$50 and costs, for assault and battery committed on the person of Thomas Hill.

On the day of Mr. Buchanan's nomination, the Presbyterian church in Washington was struck by lightning.—*Ex.*

And the "Republican" party was struck with consternation.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. BUCHANAN AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The following important and interesting correspondence between Mr. Buchanan and the Committee of the late Democratic National Convention, appointed formally to advise him of his nomination as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, will be read with deep gratification by all patriotic men. The distinguished gentlemen who represented the Convention on the Committee, discharged their duty gracefully and eloquently; and we predict that the reply of Mr. Buchanan will extend and confirm the almost universal confidence which his nomination inspired in the popular heart.

LANCASTER, June 13, 1858.

SIR.—The National Convention of the Democratic party, which assembled at Cincinnati, on the first Monday in June, unanimously nominated you as a candidate for the office of President of the United States.

We have been directed by the Convention to convey to you this intelligence, and to request you, in their name, to accept the nomination for the exalted trust which the Chief Magistrate of the Union imposes.

The Convention, founding their action upon the time-honored principles of the Democratic party, have announced their views in relation to the chief questions which engage the public mind; and, while adhering to the truths of the past, have manifested the policy of the present in a series of resolutions, to which we invoke your attention.

The Convention feel assured, in tendering to you this signal proof of the respect and esteem of your countrymen, that they truly reflect the opinion which the people of the United States, entertain of your eminent character and distinguished public services.—They cherish a profound conviction that your elevation to the first office in the Republic, will give a moral guarantee to the country, that the true principles of the Constitution will be asserted and maintained; that the public tranquility will be established; that the tumults of faction will be still'd; that our domestic industry will flourish; that our foreign affairs will be conducted with such wisdom and firmness as to assure the prosperity of the people at home, while the interests and honor of our country are wisely but inflexibly maintained in our intercourse with other nations; and, especially, that your public experience and the confidence of your countrymen, will enable you to give effect to Democratic principles, so as to render indissoluble the strong bonds of mutual interest and national glory which unite our confederacy and secure the prosperity of our people.

While we offer to the country our sincere congratulations upon the fortunate auspices of the future, we tender to you, personally, the assurance of the respect and esteem of your fellow citizens.

JOHN E. WARD,
W. A. RICHARDSON,
HARRY HIBBARD,
W. B. LAWRENCE,
A. G. BROWN,
JOHN L. MANNING,
JOHN FORSYTH,
W. PRESTON,
J. RANDOLPH TUCKER,
HORATIO SEYMOUR.

Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN.

WHEATLAND, NEAR LANCASTER,
June 16th, 1858.

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 13th instant, informing me officially of my nomination by the Democratic National Convention, recently held at Cincinnati, as the Democratic candidate for the office of President of the United States. I shall not attempt to express the grateful feelings which I entertain towards my Democratic fellow-citizens for having deemed me worthy of this—the highest political honor on earth—an honor such as the people of no other country have the power to bestow. Deeply sensible of the vast and varied responsibility attached to the station, especially at the present crisis in our affairs, I have carefully refrained from seeking the nomination either by word or by deed. Now that it has been offered by the Democratic party, I accept it with diffidence in my own abilities, but with an humble trust, that in the event of my election, I may be enabled to discharge my duty to such a manner as to ally domestic strife, preserve peace and friendship with foreign nations, and promote the best interests of the Republic.

In accepting the nomination, I need scarcely say that I accept in the same spirit, the resolutions constituting the platform of principles erected by the Convention. To this platform I intend to confine myself throughout the canvass, believing that I have no right as the candidate of the Democratic party, by answering the interrogatories, to present new and different issues before the people.

It will not be expected that in this answer, I should specially refer to the subject of each of the resolutions; and I shall therefore confine myself to the two topics now most prominent before the people.

And in the first place, I cordially concur in the sentiments expressed by the Convention on the subject of civil and religious liberty. No party founded on religious or political intolerance towards one class of American citizens, whether born in our own or in a foreign land, can long continue to exist in this country. We are all equal before God and the Constitution; and the dark spirit of despotism and bigotry which would create odious distinctions among our fellow citizens, will be speedily rebuked by a free and enlightened public opinion.

The agitation on the question of Domestic Slavery has too long distracted and divided the people of this Union and alienated their affections from each other. The agitation has assumed many forms since its commencement, but it now seems to be directed chiefly to the Territories; and judging from its present character, I think we may safely anticipate that it is rapidly approaching a "finality." The recent legislation of Congress respecting domestic slavery, derived, as it has been from the original and pure fountain of legitimate political power, the will of the majority, promises ere long to allay the dangerous excitement. This legislation is founded upon principles, as ancient as free government itself, and in accordance with them, has simply declared that the people of a Territory, like those of a State, shall decide for themselves, whether slavery shall or shall not exist within their limits.

The Nebraska-Kansas Act does no more than give the force of law to this elementary principle of self-government; declaring it to be "the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom; but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States." This principle will surely not be controverted by any individual of any party professing devotion to popular Government. Besides, how vain and illusory would any other principle prove in practice in regard to the Territories! This is apparent from the fact admitted by all, that after a Territory shall have entered the Union and become a State, no Constitutional power would then exist which could prevent it from either abolishing or establishing slavery, as the case may be, according to its sovereign will and pleasure.

Most happy would it be for the country if this long agitation were at an end. During its long progress it has produced no practical good to any human being, whilst it has been the source of great and dangerous evils. It has alienated and estranged one portion of the Union from the other, and has even seriously threatened its very existence. To my own personal knowledge, it has produced the impression among foreign nations that our great and glorious confederacy is in constant danger of dissolution. This does no serious injury, because acknowledged power and stability always command respect among nations, and are among the best securities against unjust aggression and in favor of the maintenance of honorable peace.

May we not hope that it is the mission of the Democratic party, now the only surviving conservative party of the country, ere long to overthrow all sectional parties and restore peace, friendship and mutual confidence which prevailed in the good old time, among the different members of the confederacy.—Its character is strictly national, and it therefore asserts no principle for the guidance of the Federal Government which is not adopted and sustained by its members in each and every State. For this reason it is everywhere the same determined foe of all geographical parties, so much and so justly dreaded by the Father of his Country. From its very nature it must continue to exist so long as there is a Constitution and a Union to preserve. A conviction of these truths has induced many of the purest, the ablest and most independent of our former opponents, who have differed from us in times gone by upon old and extinct party issues, to come into our ranks and devote themselves with us to the cause of the Constitution and the Union.—Under these circumstances, I most cheerfully pledge myself, should the nomination of the Convention be ratified by the people, that all