THE STAR AND BANNER.

GETTYSBURG.

Friday Evening, March 13, 1857.

D. A. BUEHLER, EDITOR.

A New Volume.

With today's paper, we commence a new volume of the "*Star*," being now twenty-eight years since it was established. We congratulate our patrons, as well as ourselves, upon its present flourishing condition. Our list of subscribers has been steadily increasing for several years, and we have the pleasure of announcing that we now print off weekly a larger number of papers than at any former period. For this evidence of appreciation of our efforts, we render thanks, and trust in the future to merit the confidence of our friends, and a continuance of the kind offices with which we have been favored in the past. We are sure our readers require no pledges as to the future conduct of the *Star*. It will continue, as heretofore, fearlessly to expose such measures of public policy as we believe wrong and detrimental to the public good; while such principles as may commend themselves to the approval of our judgment and conscience, shall ever command our cordial support. In the changing relations of partisan organizations, we recognize no obligations aside from those which are due to Right, Truth and Justice. We have little more to say regarding that spirit of cold conservatism which will just venture in a mantle of heartless selfishness, and turn a deaf ear to the agonizing cries of Humanity, or which, clinging with a kind of fastidious idolatry to the shadowy pageantry of Liberty, disregards the plain teachings of experience, and would assume an shrine itself in hoary hooded error, than expose itself to the rays of light and truth evolved in the conflicts and antagonisms of life, and strongly mark a progression ages.

"Fearless and free," we shall aim to be ever found the earnest advocate of Right and Truth, alike in political and social organization, and an equally earnest foe to Error of every form. In thus treading the path of duty, we shall at least have the approval of our conscience, and, we feel assured, will best command the confidence and meet the expectations of the patronat of the "*Star*."

THE CABINET.—Mr. Buchanan, after a good deal of shuffling and changing, indicative of a want of resolution which augurs poorly for the stability of his administration, on Friday last announced his Cabinet as follows:

Secretary of State—Lewis Cass, of Mich.
Secretary of the Treasury—Howell Cobb, of Georgia.
Secretary of War—John B. Floyd, of Va.
Secretary of the Navy—Isaac Toucey, of Conn.
Secretary of the Interior—Jacob Thompson, of Mississippi.
Attorney General—Aaron V. Brown, of Tenn.
Postmaster General—Judge J. S. Black, of Pennsylvania.

The nomination of Judge Black was unexpected, but is understood to have been brought about by the bitter feeling manifested by the factions of the democracy in this State, Judge Black being taken up as a kind of Compromise. The Cabinet is in no sense a strong one—not equal to Pierce's in point of ability—to Cobb, of Georgia, will probably be the ruling spirit.

THE BURDELL MARRIAGE.—The question as to Dr. Burdell's alleged marriage to Mrs. Cunningham, is now undergoing investigation in the Surrogate's Court of the city of New York, on the application of Mrs. Cunningham alias Burdell, for the letters of administration on the Doctor's estate. The Rev. Dr. Hawtrey, the clergyman who officiated at the wedding, was the principal witness. He made a very important statement, which we give in his own words:—"In my own mind I knew that Mr Eckel was not the man the moment I left the Tombs, after having visited him. I think I did tell the inquest in so many words, that Mr. Eckel was not the man I married. *From the moment I saw Eckel, I was as confident that I married Burdell as that I had existence, and am confident of it now.*"

The case is still under investigation in the Surrogate's Court.

☞The Democracy having finished up their rejoicings connected with the inauguration of Buchanan, our State Legislature, which had adjourned for some six days for their convenience, reassembled on Monday last, and is again at work. Our Representative, Major Musselman, spent the recess at home with his family. We were pleased to see him looking hale and hearty. Legislative life evening is agree well with him. Mr. Musselman makes a capital Representative—always at his post, and attentive to business.

☞Holders of Lancaster Bank Notes should understand, says the *Examiner*, that if they demand payment at the Bank, and have an endorsement to that effect by the Cashier, the notes so presented will bear six per cent. until paid—or until a final dividend is made of the assets. The notes, it will be understood, will then be entitled only from the time payment is demanded—and those on which no demand is made, will of course not bear interest.

Another Triumph of the Slave Power.

☞The whole Slavery agitation was re-opened by the proceedings in the Supreme Court of the United States last week, that tribunal having voluntarily thrown itself into the public arena, in the decision of the Dred Scott case. An abstract of the opinions delivered by the different Judges will be found in another column. The case was held over from last year, the decision being postponed in order not too flagrantly to alarm and exasperate the Free States on the eve of an important election. The decision is an important one and will startle the country by its wholesale recognition of the most exacting demands of the Slave Oligarchy. Its cardinal points are reported as follows:

1. *A negro, because of his color, is denied the rights of a citizen of the United States*—even the right to sue in our Courts for the redress of the most flagrant wrongs.

2. *A slave, being taken by his master into a Free State and thence returning under his master's away, is not therefore entitled to his freedom.*

3. *Congress has no rightful power to prohibit Slavery in the Territories*; hence the ordinance of 1787 and the Missouri Compromise were unconstitutional.

This decision in effect determines that the framers of the National Constitution and the Fathers of the Republic did not understand what they were doing when they adopted the ordinance of 1787—and that the illustrious statesmen who endorsed the principle of that Ordinance in the National Legislature were as profoundly ignorant of the requirements of the Constitution, as were Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and their compeers! The *effect* of the decision, if its outrageous character does not lessen its influence which has hitherto followed the decisions of the highest Judicial tribunal in the land, must be to head off all legislation by Congress on the Slavery question and bring the Free States, but one step further in needed to render this triumph complete and make the Slave Oligarchy in law, as it long has been in fact, the ruling power of the Republic; and we see no reason why the majority of the Supreme Court should not take that step on the first fitting occasion—that is, that the Constitution recognizes and carries Slavery with it, and that neither the people of the States nor Territories have any legal right to exclude the curse. The annualization of Slavery will then be complete, and TOOMBS have a fair prospect of fulfilling his taunting threat, to "call the roll of his slaves on the Bunker Hill."

The five Southern Judges—Taney, Campbell, Catron, Wayne and Daniel—constituting a majority of the Court, went the whole figure in this humiliating decision. McLean and Grier dodge the constitutional question, but go with the majority on the other points; while McLean and Curtis meet the issue squarely, and vindicate the power of Congress to legislate on the subject of Slavery, and consequently the constitutionality of the Ordinance of 1787 and the Compromise of 1820.

☞President Buchanan's administration is getting slowly under way. The new Cabinet has had several sessions, and, as a general thing, appears to be considering the policy to be pursued in Executive appointments. Letters from Washington state that all the Departments have furnished lists of the officers who hold appointments under the Government. The opinion prevails that such officers will be permitted to continue until the expiration of their commissions, to be appointed or not, as the Administration prefer. But in several cases, such vacancies are to be filled by new men, which some of the present incumbents already understand; and this will be the case, especially in New York, Philadelphia, and other principal cities. The minor places will of course be affected by this policy, which is regarded as one of rotation. Almost an entire change of Foreign Ministers and Consuls is anticipated.

☞The U. S. Senate still remains in session to act on Executive appointments. The standing Committees were announced on Monday. The Democratic Senators in caucus arranged the Committees, leaving one or two vacancies on each to be filled up by the Opposition Senators.—The following are the more important Committees:

Foreign Relations.—Messrs. Douglas, Slidell, Pollk, Grimmden, Seward and Pugh.
Finance.—Messrs. Hunter, Pearce, Cowin, Bright, Biggs, Fessenden and Cameron.
Commerce.—Messrs. Clay, Benjamin, Bigler, Toombs, Reid, Bright and Hamlin.
Military Affairs.—Messrs. Davis, Fitzpatrick, Johnson, Iverson, Broderick, Wilson and Wade.
Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Mallory, Thompson, of New Jersey; Slidell, Allen, Green, Bell, of Tennessee; and Hale.
Public Lands.—Messrs. Stuart, Johnson, Pugh, Mallory, Broderick, Gwin and Foster.
Judiciary.—Messrs. Butler, Bayard, Toombs, Pugh, Bright, Gallmuser and Trumbull.
Territories.—Messrs. Green, Staples, Seelen, Fitzpatrick, Green, Sumner and Wade.

☞Thomas J. Munday and Dr. Bradford, both of New York, in consequence of an affray at one of the principal Hotels in Washington on Saturday night, fought a duel near the city on Monday afternoon. Two shots were fired, neither party being injured, and the affair was then amicably adjusted.

☞Perhaps, the famous "Gift Enterprise" now, of New York, has introduced a novelty in his line of business. Instead of the prizes announced for the next distribution, are a young marriageable lady, worth $25,000, and a young marriageable man, worth $50,000. Both the prizes are shown to the public, at regular exhibitions, got up by Parham.

☞"What can be fairer than to let the people of any Territory decide for themselves?" Such was the inquiry triumphantly urged by the advocates in the Free States of Buchanan's election throughout the late excited canvass. The Republicans were incessantly charged by them with being an insidious, unfounded distinction between American citizens residing in States and those who may have migrated thence into Territories, owing to the latter important rights universally conceded to the former. It was on the platform thus formed that a minority of the Free States were carried for Buchanan, and his election secured.—Patiently and earnestly did the Republicans labor to prove the presence of "Squatter Sovereignty" a delusion and a snare. The desperately blind who were determined not to see were re-inforced by a smaller number than looked, and the equal right of Americans living in Territories with those living in States was proclaimed as the genuine Democratic doctrine, and ratified as aforesaid. Vainly did we point to the Cincinnati Democratic Platform as artfully embodying that very doctrine of Territorial purpose and wardship which it was vaunted as denying. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Illinois were carried for Buchanan on the false pretense that he and his political supporters were hostile to Slavery Extension and tenacious only that the People of the Territories should decide the Slavery Question for themselves.

Now mark the doctrine of Mr. Buchanan's Inaugural Address on this very subject:

"A difference of opinion has arisen in regard to the period at which the people of a Territory shall decide this question for themselves. This is happily a matter of but little practical importance, and for my side, it is a judicial question which legitimately belongs to the Supreme Court of the United States, before whom it is now pending, and will, it is understood, be finally and speedily settled. To their decision, in common with all good citizens, I shall cheerfully submit, whatever this may be; though it has been my individual opinion that, under the Kansas-Nebraska act, the appropriate period will be *when the number of actual residents in the Territories shall justify the formation of a Constitution with a view of its admission as a State* into the Union."

In other words, tell me where "is Squatter Sovereignty? Where the inherent, indefeasable right of the People of a Territory, equally with those of a State, to form and change their own institutions? *When they come to form a State?* Certainly, they may forbid Slavery—of course they may—no thanks to "Squatter Sovereignty" for that. But, *as a people of a Territory*, no such right is conceded them.—Mr. Buchanan, also delivered an opinion in which the freedom of the North-west Territory was made to be the act of the State of Virginia, which was no more the real proprietor of the Territory, and which alone, and not Congress, had the right to prohibit slavery there. He expressed himself in very decided terms against the constitutionality of the Missouri Compromise.

Several other Judges are to deliver their views to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—In the U. S. Supreme Court, this morning, Justice McLean delivered his views, arguing that slavery is limited to the range of the State where established by municipal law, and if Congress deem slaves or free colored persons injurious to the territory, they have the power to prohibit them from becoming settlers therein. The power to acquire territory carries with it the power to govern it. The Dissent does not carry with him to the territory the law of the State from which he removes—hence the Missouri Compromise is constitutional, and the presumption is in favor of the freedom of Dred Scott and his family, who were once under decisions for the last twenty-eight years.

Justice Curtis dissented from the opinion of the majority of the Court, as delivered by Chief Justice Taney, and gave his reasons for dissenting.

He maintained that native born colored persons can be citizens of the State and of the United States; that Dred Scott and his family were free when they entered the Missouri; that the power of Congress to make all needful regulations, respecting the territory of the United States, which Court expressed, limited to territory belonging the United States at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, and not been applied to five subsequent acquisitions of lands; that Congress had power to exclude slavery from the territories, having established eight territorial governments without it, and recognized slavery in six, from the day of Washington to John Quincy Adams.

These opinions occupied five hours in delivery. Justices Wayne, Grier Campbell and Daniel had papers expressing their views on certain points of the opinion of the Court, but did not read them.

THE RAT POISONING AFFAIR.—*Death of one of the Victims.*—The editor of the Cleveland Plaindealer, writing from Washington, on the 1st inst., says:

"The great wholesale poisoning case excites much interest here. The National Hotel is the largest Hotel in the city, being overrun with rats, the proprietors undertook a general slaughter by poisoning them with strychnine. They took the poison and then took to the nearest water which was in the cistern tanks and wells about the house where they tumbled in and died of course. The water being concealed and raised by pumps did not expose the condition of things till by its daily use some hundred or more of the boarders were suddenly taken sick, doctors were called, and a health officer sent for, who were nothing in discerning the cause. On removing the water tanks the dead rats were called, and a health officer sent for, who were nothing in discerning the cause. On removing the water tanks the dead rats were found in a state of putrid decomposition, and the stench was so sickening as to drive every one out. Mr. Buchanan's "individual opinion" comes practically to this result; and he points us to the Supreme Court as about to give an authoritative decision, which decision, as he well knew, will not settle the Slavery agitation. Slave propagandists of the slave-breeders. All the acts passed by so many different Congresses (the list included,) tending to limit or forbid Slavery in the Territories, are nullified at a stroke, and the entire joint resolve authorizing the Annexation of Texas, is obnoxious to this sweeping condemnation.—Any slaveholder, under this new decision, may plant Slavery in Minnesota or Nebraska to-morrow, in utter contradiction of their whole People. Such, indeed, is Democratic Squatter Sovereignty.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

☞The College in Rome to educate Jesuit Priests for the United States, and for which so much money has been extracted from the pockets of the poor Irish in this country, is to be established, we see, by another institution of the same sort at Louvain, in Belgium. The New York "Freeman's Journal," (Bishop's Hughes' organ) says:

"The Rev. P. Kindekens, V. G., of Detroit, sailed from this point on Wednesday for the adoption of the proposed new College, of which he is named the first Rector.

The Rt. Rev. Bishops of Albany, Louisville and Detroit, have testified their confidence in the good likely to result from the proposed College, by contributing each a thousand dollars towards its establishment.—Several of our Prelates have since taken an active interest in the project.

The editor adds that a Belgian gentleman has given 60,000 francs to help on this College, with the understanding that it is to be especially devoted to the training of ecclesiastics for the mission in the United States."

☞Mrs. Elizabeth Dedreau, residing at No. 272 Grand street, Brooklyn, on Friday evening last, attempted to fill a lamp while the wick was burning, and, as might have the wick was burning, and, as might have the wick was burning, and, as might have