

Franklin Repository

Wednesday, May 24, 1865.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

We are glad to hear from James Buchanan. We have once in a while heard that he was writing a book in vindication of his life; but as yet the prospectus has not appeared before the public.

The New York Evening Post in a recent article on the origin of the rebellion, charged that the National Convention of 1856, of which Mr. Buchanan was the nominee for the Presidency, selected the sage of Wheatland as its candidate with the distinct pledge given by his Northern friends, through Judge Black of this State, that the right of secession should be recognized by his administration in the event of a Republican being chosen as his successor.

There has been no evidence given in this trial more convincing and straight-forward than that of the colored witnesses. Not one of them has thus far been caught-up on the cross-examination. They have shown the facts that Spangler, the stage carpenter, had a hand in the plot, and that Dr. Mudd not only concealed them in his house after setting the broken boat of Booth, but actually piloted him into the swamp and left him in it.

Arnold is the same in his cell and court room, always quiet and pleasant. The evidence against him thus far is of such a character as to give him a faint hope of acquittal, and that hope bears him up.

The trial of these conspirators will likely be brought to an end the present week. There are but few witnesses more to be examined on the part of the government, but the criminals have summoned a large number; yet what they intend to prove in their favor is beyond the surmise of any person attending the trial.

That it had earnestly opposed the infliction of the death penalty for twenty years, and we submitted a few arguments to the public in view of the fact that many well meaning persons express their convictions that capital punishments are wrong.

WASHINGTON. The conspiracy trial—great danger of the assassination of the officers of the Court—Discovery of a new conspiracy—Condition of the prisoners—Jeff. Davis—The Grand Review—Gov. Vance and Brown—Sheridan's Cavalry.

WASHINGTON, May 24, 1865. The absorbing topic of conversation during the past week has been the conspiracy trial. Every hour of the examination adds a new wonder to and reveals a new horror of the assassination. The concluding testimony to be taken on the part of the government will be more thrilling and astounding than any yet given by the public.

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