

The Compiler.



G. S. Stable, Editor and Proprietor.
GETTYSBURG, PA.
Monday Morning, Dec. 28, 1857.

Hon. Wm. M. HILSTER, of Berks county, has been offered the post of Secretary of the Commonwealth under the Administration of Gov. PACKER, and has accepted. He possesses all the qualifications for the position, and will fill it to his own and the Administration's credit.

Gov. MURRAY WHALLON, of Erie, has been appointed a Confidential Agent of the Treasury Department, at Washington.

A mass meeting of the Democracy of the city of Philadelphia will be held this evening, "to endorse the message of President Buchanan, especially that part of it recommending the speedy admission of Kansas as a State, under a Constitution framed in pursuance of lawful authority." The call is signed by many hundreds of Democrats, embracing nearly every man prominent in the party there.

We have seldom known a public document of the kind to meet with a more hearty response from the press than that which has greeted the first annual message of President BUCHANAN. Its plain, straight forward, manly style is the theme for admiration in all quarters of the Union. We could fill The Compiler for weeks with the warmest eulogium on this admirable State paper.

Important intelligence from Florida has been received in regard to the progress of the war with the Seminoles. Col. Loomis writes home that he has captured the family of Billy Bowlegs and taken possession of his hiding-place, and that Bowlegs himself is desirous of putting an end to hostilities, and, at the risk of his life, is calling in the hands and urging them to make peace. The Indians are, however, still so hostile that Bowlegs is in danger of assassination for proposing a peace council. They seem resolved to fight to the last. In the last action the Indians suffered considerable loss, and a captain of the mounted volunteers and five of his men were killed on our side.

Queer Story about Gen. Walker.—According to the New York Times, the secret "Junta" to which was confided the arrangement for the second invasion of Nicaragua, having lost confidence in General Walker as a military leader, had intended to place Gen. Henningsen at the head of the command. This arrangement was by no means palatable to the "President of Nicaragua," who has a civilian's passion for tactics and manoeuvres. He, therefore, pretended to acquiesce in the plan, but when the Fashion was ready for sea, suddenly slipped on board and set off, to the surprise of nobody more than the "Junta" aforesaid, and to the chagrin of nobody more than General Henningsen. On the strength of this affair, the knowing ones in regard to the expedition are said to prognosticate its speedy failure.

An action for debt by a wife against her husband, to recover money loaned by her to her husband, being property acquired after marriage, was tried in the Common Pleas of Perry county, a short time since, Judge Graham presiding. The question was whether a wife could maintain a suit against her husband. The Court decided that she could, and delivered a verdict for the plaintiff for \$2,508.

Accident.—We learn from the Mercersburg Journal, that Mr. David McMurdie, of that vicinity, was considerably injured by being thrown from a load of wood. He was hauling the wood to town, and by a sudden jolt of the wagon he was thrown to the ground. The nature of the injuries are not known, but it is hoped they are not of a serious character.

Born to Good Luck.—Mr. John Martin, of London, is being put in possession of the "Jennings' property," which for so very long a period has been without a recognized heir. The cash he inherits amounts to the gigantic sum of \$30,000,000, while his income will be \$1,250,000 per annum. That is something like a fortune. The lucky inheritor has been wretchedly poor all his preceding life.

The Double Murder.—Anderson and Richards have been fully committed for trial to answer for the double murder in Lancaster county, Pa.

The people have faith in Pennsylvania's first President, and as they stood by Gen. Jackson, when party treason attempted to break down his administration, so will they stand by James BUCHANAN, if he is compelled to pass through the same ordeal. And hence, he who looks for a rupture of the great Democratic party, will look now, as others did then—in vain!—Erie Observer.

Passage of the Treasury Note Bill.
The bill reported from the Senate Committee on Finance by Mr. HURTT, authorizing the issue by the Government of Treasury notes to the extent of twenty million dollars, was passed by the Senate on Saturday week, in an amended form, by a vote of 31 to 18.

The notes are not to be of a less amount than one hundred dollars, and the time in which they may be issued is limited to the first of January, 1859. It is proposed that notes for six millions be immediately issued to meet the pressing exigencies of the public service, by the Secretary of the Treasury, who is also to fix the rate of interest they are to bear, not exceeding, however, six per cent per annum, and the notes for the remaining fourteen millions are to be sold at par to the bidder or bidders who shall agree to exchange them for specie at the lowest rate of interest, not exceeding six per cent.

The bill passed the House without any amendment, on Tuesday, by a vote of yeas 118 to nays 86.

The Secretary of the Treasury has decided to adopt three per cent. as the rate of interest for the new treasury notes, and will issue as soon as possible (in two weeks probably) six millions, in denominations of one hundred, five hundred, and one thousand dollars.—The necessary plates are to be engraved so that they cannot be counterfeited by photograph. It is also stated while the plates are being engraved, the Secretary will receive deposits of gold, with orders for the notes, and when the paper is ready the notes will be issued for them, dated on the day of deposit.

The Kansas Question.
The Philadelphia Argus concludes a very able article in relation to the action of the Lecompton Convention as follows:

Why did the Lecompton Convention decline to submit the whole Constitution to a vote of the people? For the very best reasons in the world. The disorganizers and mischief-makers had emphatically determined to crush down everything, right or wrong, that should be proposed by the Convention, for the purpose of prolonging this fruitless controversy until another Presidential election, if it was possible. It was their only hope, and they were resolved that the difficulty should not be settled without a desperate struggle to prevent it. The friends of peace, law and order very wisely determined not to submit the Constitution for their factious rejection, but only the great point about which there could be any difference of opinion—slavery or no slavery—the very point, and the only important one, before Congress when the Kansas bill was on its passage. The anti-slavery men profess to have an overwhelming majority in the Territory, and if they were really and truly sincere in their professions, they would rejoice to meet the naked question, and settle it by a decisive vote that would put the question forever at rest. No. This is not what they desire. They care only for the question of slavery as it secures them votes. So long as they can keep up this useless agitation, so long they may be able to keep a vanquished party from attorly disbanding.

We take the position, and it seems to us an impregnable one, that in submitting the slavery or no slavery question to a vote of the people, the great principle of popular sovereignty has been vindicated. The Lecompton Constitution is admitted on all hands, even by the candid portion of the Black Republican press, to be a model Constitution; that, taken as a whole, it is equal if not superior to any other in the U. States. In all its important features it must commend itself to the judgment and approbation of all right minded men; and yet it had been submitted as a whole to a vote of the people, the Free State fanatics would have carried out their premeditation, and would have voted it down by a large majority, for the express purpose of keeping up this mischievous agitation. The decision to submit the only question in dispute to a decision of the popular vote, knocked all their plans into confusion, and they how accordingly—shriek for "freedom" to embarrass and annoy the whole country perpetually, louder than ever. The Troy Budget, which was a strong advocate for the whole Constitution being submitted to a vote of the people, says: "It may not be wisdom to look very closely into the shadow, as long as we get the substance. If Kansas comes as a free State, with a free State Constitution and unobjectionable in other respects, why quarrel over the order of her coming? In taking position upon this question, it strikes us that the Democracy should act in the spirit of Augustin—on non-essentials, forbearance; on essentials, unity."

Suppose the Free State men, who claim to be in such an overwhelming majority, had voted at every election appointed by law in Kansas from the beginning, what would have been the result? Why, if it be true that they have such a majority as is represented, they would have carried every election since the exit of Roeder. Legislature, Convention, Constitution, "Freedom," everything would have been in their hands. Who, then, is to be blamed for the present condition of things in Kansas? If a majority will not vote, the minority must inevitably carry the election.

The man who minds his own business will be in town recently, but left immediately he was so loquacious.

Editor of The Compiler.—Senator Douglas introduced, a week since, an "enabling bill" for Kansas—to hold another election for delegates to a Constitutional Convention, to form another constitution, submit it to the people, &c. &c.—or, in other words, to commence the Kansas fight where it stood twelve or eighteen months back, and have that already too long distracted Territory repeat the "bleeding" operation. The Republicans, although they ignore their doctrine on the "popular sovereignty" question heretofore enunciated, favor the bill.

Senator Bigler, on Monday, replied to another speech made a few days previously by Senator Douglas. He held up some of the inconsistencies of the Illinois Senator on the slavery question, which caused that gentleman to lose his temper, and thereby demonstrate how awkward is his present position.

On Tuesday, Senator Fitch made a speech on the Kansas question. He was in favor of adopting the Kansas Constitution, with or without slavery, if republican in form, as prescribed by the Constitution of the United States. He desired to adopt the course productive of the least evil to the greatest number; and he would advise any member of the Democratic party, who, on account of some fancied grievance, now sought to sow discord into our ranks, to remember the fate of every such attempt from the time of Aaron Burr down to that of Martin Van Buren.—Here Judge Douglas again became excited, and the discussion closed.

The President's position is gaining friends every day.
The Treasury Note bill has passed the Senate and House.
Both Houses have agreed to adjourn over from this day until the 4th of January.

Gov. Walker's Letter.
The Pennsylvania, in commenting upon Gov. Walker's letter of resignation, makes out a strong case against that gentleman—as follows:

The latter part of Gov. Walker's letter in its skillful grouping and his presenting a case for his clients, showing some truth but not the whole truth, is exceedingly plausible, but lacks strength. He states that many of the counties were disfranchised, and the Convention does not exhibit a fair and full representation of the people of Kansas. Of course it does not of the real, but it does of the legal people. But if no Census was taken, or registry made in certain counties, why did not Gov. Walker, whose solemn duty it was to execute the laws faithfully, see that it was done? Was he so busy making political speeches and taking political points, that he could not see to this? But, after all, is not the objection in idea, and not well founded. Does not Gov. Walker know that the people of these counties, in order to be able to make this very objection to the validity of the Constitution, refused to be registered? Did not the people of Lawrence give notice to the census takers to leave that city in two hours under pain of violent and corporal injury? Does he not know the fact, as just stated by Secretary Stanton in his message, that only 2,200 were registered, and that only 2,200 voted? Does he not know, in fine, that the people of Kansas, now so loudly complaining of the Lecompton Constitution, have organized actual resistance, from first to last, to the government of the Territory, and to the government and laws of the United States? Does he not feel, that the Black Republicans of Kansas have no right to complain, except as a spoiled child may cry in a vicious humor, that there was no census or registry, when they neither wished nor would have any?

From an able article in the Washington Union on Gov. Walker's letter, we extract the following:
A Constitution which in each particular could secure the approval of a majority of voters would be an anomaly; and there can be no Constitution which in each several part parcel can be said to have secured the sanction of the sovereignty of any State. To submit all the parts of a complicated Constitution to a popular vote is not to obtain a distinct expression of the popular will on any one clause. A Constitution with ninety-one distinct provisions on other subjects, and one on slavery, might be accepted, notwithstanding the slavery clause, by a majority of voters opposed to slavery, but anxious to secure its other provisions; while it might be voted against by a majority in favor of slavery, but opposed to some other of its provisions; and hence the anomaly might occur that a pro-slavery Constitution might be put upon a Territory by a majority opposed to slavery, although it had been opposed by a majority in favor of slavery. Every mind will perceive that to submit an entire Constitution—a bundle of propositions—to popular vote, is not to obtain the popular verdict on any single one; nay, is often to obtain a verdict on distinct propositions in point blank opposition to the sentiment of a majority of voters—is to extort actual votes on many propositions at war with the sentiments of the very voters casting them. The new statement of the case explodes the beautiful theory of Gov. Walker in favor of the popular ratification of constitutions. Popular ratification comports well enough with the theories of radical Democracy; but yet in practical effect and value, voting upon entire bundles of propositions in the lump can be little more than a farce.

The only mode of getting at the precise sentiment of the people on any distinct proposition embodied in a Constitution, is to single it out, and submit that alone to the vote. The only honest and sincere mode of getting at the sentiment of a people on a proposed Constitution, is to leave details to the representative Convention framing it, and to single out one or two leading provisions for direct vote. We submit to the people of the whole country if this only honest and candid course has

not been pursued in Kansas. We submit if the great question of national concern and controversy, which the whole nation are demanding should be settled fairly and freely by the people of Kansas themselves, has not been submitted in the only manner in which it could obtain a direct and positive decision according to the will of the people of that Territory. To have bundled up the question of slavery with a hundred others embraced in the Kansas Constitution, and to have submitted the entire gross of questions in the lump to the popular vote, would not have allowed the people of Kansas a free and untrammelled decision on the slavery question—the great question of sectional controversy which the people of the Union had delegated for their unbiased consideration. To have submitted this question as a part of an entire Constitution would have been a compliance with the letter of the national expectation, but not with the spirit and essence of it. The form of compliance would have been eluded.

It is in vain for Gov. Walker to oppose his sublimated theories and wild vagaries to the straightforward honesty and stubborn fairness and justice of this distinct submission of the slavery question. It is in vain for him to contend that the slavery question is not the great absorbing subject of interest, overriding all others, in Kansas and the Union at large. The whole history of Kansas refutes his allegation, the course of the politics of the whole Union, for years together, falsifies his assertion. It is in vain for him to ingenuously parade fifteen or nineteen, or ninety-and-nine "disfranchised" counties in Kansas not represented in the Lecompton Convention. The paramount question of slavery is submitted to the voice of the people of all the counties, with power to vote for or against it, which they can do with infinitely less embarrassment than if that question had been submitted in conjunction with a hundred others embraced in the Constitution. Better that a single county should submit the leading question on its own behalf, than that every county should submit a bundle of propositions in a manner that would elicit a majority vote on any single one of them, however vital and important.

And this is our answer to all the complaints of the Governor, in behalf of his fifteen or nineteen counties. On the slavery question every man of every county can vote his direct sentiments. The other provisions of the Constitution may or may not be approved by a majority of the people of all the counties. Whether they are or not could not be ascertained by a submission of the instrument in the lump; for in that form not one man in the whole Territory could vote his direct sentiments on its several provisions. If the Constitution thus ordained shall prove obnoxious in practice, then the people of the State can change it hereafter at will, for the instrument expressly declares:

"All political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are framed on their authority, and instituted for their benefit, and therefore they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform, or abolish their form of government as they may think proper."

Thus are all the ends of substantial justice accomplished by the action of the Lecompton Convention. The slavery question is submitted in such a manner that each inhabitant may freely express his direct sentiments upon it to the polls. The Constitution goes in operation with or without slavery clause, as the people shall determine; and if the remaining provisions of the instrument prove injurious or obnoxious in practice, they may be substituted with others by the people at any time they may choose.

We cannot sympathize with Gov. Walker's apprehensions of civil war. If there be rebellion or insurrection in the Territory, it will be wanton, causeless, unprovoked, and incendiary. It will be such upon which every good citizen of the whole country, North and South, will invoke a severe and summary punishment from the Constitutional authorities. It will be in resistance of measures under which the broad ends of substantial justice are sought, and cannot fail to be secured; and should he make it, if they escape the bullet and the bayonet, will deserve the halter and the gibbet. The honest sentiment of the whole country approves of the mode now opened for the settlement of the troubles in Kansas. The heart of the nation beats for peace; and we to the misguided men who shall presume to prolong the strife of years by defeating the honest, wise and just measures which have at last been devised for their fair, final and peaceful settlement.

We find the following significant paragraph in the New York Tribune, from our own correspondent. The letter from which it is extracted is dated Washington, December 16th:
Several of the leading Republican members of Congress had a long and confidential interview last night with Senator Douglas at his house. The conference is understood to have related to the affairs of Kansas, and to have been highly satisfactory to all concerned.

It is no want of respect and admiration for the abilities of the distinguished Senator from Illinois, that induces us to hold his inconsistencies up to that party of which he was so long an acknowledged leader. But we have a duty to perform, and if Democrats will invite "leading Republican members" to confidential interviews, they must expect their actions to be severely criticized, if not their motives inquired into. Judge Douglas cannot rightfully have anything in common with the Black Republican party or their representatives. What then is the meaning of this sudden mingling of the Senator from Illinois and his former political enemies? If it means treachery to the Democratic party, it is treachery that should be known, for the safety of the party—if it means compromise, concession and pacification, has not Judge Douglas chosen odd companions for this labor of love and patriotism?—Pennsylvania.

FACT AND FANCY.
"THE WORLD IS A HUT SHELL."
General Case, it is stated, has sent Governor Walker a reply to his letter, and accepted his resignation.

There will be at least seven editors in the next Pennsylvania Legislature.
The official majority for Sibley, dem., for Governor of Minnesota, is 200.

Charles S. C. Dec. 19.—A smart shock of an earthquake was felt in this vicinity at nine o'clock this morning.

Ex-President Pierce having been named for the United States Senator for New Hampshire, the Concord Patriot announces that he would not accept the office even if he could receive the vote of every member of the Legislature.

The Democratic party appreciate the benefit of press in their own ranks too highly, ever to think seriously of a division among themselves; and while that party hangs together we have no fears for the Federal Union.

Mr. Healy, the artist employed by Congress to paint the portraits of the ex-Presidents, is to be placed in the Capitol at Washington, has been in Buffalo for some time, engaged upon that of Mr. Fillmore.

The City Hotel, at Frederick, Md., has been sold to C. J. Jenkins and John Need.

John Hyde, the ex-Mormon, is in Columbus, S. C., delivering his anti-Mormon lectures.

Bad for the Lobby Business.—In the new hall of the House of Representatives at Washington, there is no place on the floor for the lobby members, and they will have to confine their operations to the outside of the building.

The Rev. Mr. Durand, of St. Mary's (Catholic) Mission, in Kansas, Mr. Patterson, of Nebraska, and a gentleman from Maine, were drowned on the 9th inst., by the upsetting of a skiff, ten miles from Kansas city.

The last survivor of the Wyoming massacre (Jeremiah Spencer) is living in Torrington, Connecticut.

It is said that Wm. H. Aspinwall, of New York, is now painting a few days since, a genuine Marillo—which was appraised at a custom-house of that city, at \$20,000.

An exchange says: "She who can tell a frightful story to her child, or allow one to be told, ought to have a guardian appointed over herself."

"The world," said Horace Walpole, "is a comedy to those who think, and a tragedy to those who feel."

On the 8th of January next there will be three conventions of the soldiers of the war of 1812—one in Washington, one in Philadelphia and one in New York.

A dispatch from Washington says that James M. Buchanan, Esq., of Baltimore county, will be appointed Minister to St. Petersburg.

A contemporary, noticing the appointment of a friend as postmaster, says, "if he attends to the mails as well as he does to the females, he will make a very attentive and efficient officer." Amen!

There are now residing in Clearfield county, Pa., L. Snyder, 111 years old, and his wife, 107 years old, both in good health, and quite active.

Important Official Document Relative to Kansas Affairs.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The President, in response to the call of the documents sent in a large mass of documents relative to Kansas affairs.

Among them is the following:—
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 1857.

James W. Denver, Secretary and Acting-Governor of Kansas Territory:—You have already been informed that Mr. Stanton has been removed from the office of Secretary of the Territory of Kansas, and that you have been appointed in his place. I desire now to state to you distinctly, the reason of this change.

The Convention which met at Leocompton on the first of September, had framed a Constitution, and had authorized the President to submit the question to the people on the 21st of December, who are to decide whether the Constitution should be adopted without slavery. The importance of the issue could not well be questioned. It involved the complete and authoritative settlement of the only subject of difference which had seriously agitated Kansas or interfered with its prosperity. The qualified electors, therefore, to whom this settlement was referred, were unquestionably right to attend the polls and give their votes on the day appointed; they were required to do so by the highest considerations of public duty. In the exercise of this right, moreover, they were entitled to an adequate protection by the Territorial Government, and the Acting Governor was bound to employ all the legal means at his command to give security and fairness to the election. With the conflicting opinions which prevailed in the Territory on the question submitted, he had no right to interfere. They had their appropriate issue at the ballot box, and that peaceful arbitration they might safely be referred. The great objects to be accomplished, in the opinion of the President, were to preserve the peace of the Territory, and secure the freedom of election. Entertaining these views, he was surprised to learn that the Secretary and Acting Governor had on the 1st of December issued a proclamation for a special session of the Territorial Legislature, on the 7th inst., only a few weeks in advance of the regular time of meeting, and only fourteen days before a decision was to be made on the question submitted by the Convention. This course of Mr. Stanton, the President seriously believes has thrown a new element of discord among the excited people in Kansas, and it is directly at war therewith with the peaceful policy of the Administration. For this reason he has felt it his duty to remove him.

From these views you will readily understand what the President regards as the chief duty which devolves upon you as Mr. Stanton's successor. This duty is to preserve the peace of Kansas. Every person entitled to a vote on the Constitution, ought to have safe access to the polls and be free from any restraints whatever, in the exercise of the elective franchise. If the civil power is found insufficient for this purpose, the troops of the United States should be employed in aid of it, and it may be wise precaution to have them stationed, in advance, within reach of those places where, in your judgment, their services are likely to be required. It is earnestly hoped that the use of military power may be wholly avoided. Violence is always likely to occur when the means are known to be at hand for its prompt suppression. Should the military force become absolutely necessary to keep the peace, you will find full instructions with reference to the proper mode of employing it in my communications to Governor Walker, of March 28th, July 25th, and September 2d, 1857, and in those subsequently written to Mr. Stanton. Of these last, that of November 30th, was taken to Kansas by you, and you had a copy of it. All of them will doubtless be found in the archives of the Governor, at Leocompton; they refer prominently to the preservation of peace at certain important elections. But I need hardly inform you that your duty is not intended to be confined to these special occasions; it extends, of course, to the protection of all the citizens in the exercise of their just rights, and applies to one legal election, as well as another. The Territorial Legislature doubtless convened on the 7th inst., and while it remains in session, its members are entitled to be secure and free in their deliberations. Its rightful action must also be respected. Should it authorize an election by the people for any purpose, this election should be held without interruption, no less than those authorized by the convention. While the peace of the Territory is preserved, and the freedom of election secured, there need be no fear of disastrous consequences.

The public journals contain reports of an intended movement, by a portion of the residents of Kansas, to organize a Revolutionary Government, under the Topeka Constitution. It is hardly possible this report can be well founded, but should the attempt be made and lead to a practical collision with the Territorial authorities, the authority of the government must necessarily be maintained, and from whatever quarter it is attempted to interfere by violence with the election authorized by the Constitution, or which may be authorized by the Legislature, the attempt must be resisted, and the security of the election maintained. The peaceable progress of these elections can obviously occasion no injury to any citizen, and have only their due weight under the Constitution and the laws. It is to be expected, therefore, that no good citizen will endeavor to interfere with them, but that all the people will be contented to see the Convention peacefully carried out to its legitimate result, and fairly presented to the consideration of Congress. The President relies upon your firmness and discretion to give effect to these instructions. It is vitally important that the people of Kansas, and none other than the people of Kansas, should have the full determination of the question now before them for decision. It is important also that in securing to them the protection to which they are entitled, great care should be taken not to organize an illegal authority. On this point I again refer you to my instructions to Governor Walker and Secretary Stanton, which you will regard as directed to yourself. It is proper to add that no action of the Territorial Legislature,

about to meet, can interfere with the elections of the 21st of December, and the 27th of January in the mode and manner prescribed by the Constitutional Convention.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,
LEWIS CASE.

From the West Chester Jeffersonian.
A CHANGE.
It is astonishing what a change has taken place in the Republican ranks, within a short time past. The Nebraska bill, which claimed for the people the right to settle their own private institutions, was denounced by them in the bitterest terms, as an outrage upon the people. Now they affect to see more beauties in it than were ever before dreamed of, and would crowd everybody and everything off the platform to secure a foothold for themselves.

We are glad they are waking up; it will do them good if they will only adhere to it in good faith. The right of the people of a Territory to vote directly upon the adoption of a Constitution, is comparatively a new doctrine advanced by the Democratic party, and we have no doubt that it will be made a permanent and fixed requisite hereafter. In Kansas, however, both parties have neglected to recognize it. The Republicans never thought of submitting the Topeka Constitution to a vote of the people, while the Lecompton Convention have come half way in support of the doctrine; and in coming that half way have presented for approval or rejection the great question that agitates the country—that of slavery.

Judging from every indication the present Congress will make it a cardinal point in the admission of Territories hereafter. In the meantime, we see no cause for quarrel on the subject now. Presidential Speculations.—There is a disposition already manifested in the public mind, as well as in newspaper editors, to speculate in reference to the next Presidency. Mr. Buchanan's name is mentioned for a second term in some quarters. Whether he will submit is a question. He has hitherto disclaimed any ambition that way; but the matter is not exactly with himself. Jefferson Davis' name is also talked of. Douglas and Walker are evidently pitted against each other, on the same platform, and hope for eclat upon the issue of the Kansas embroglio. Henry A. Wise is strongly spoken of in conservative quarters.

On the other side, we have Fremont, backed by the New Hampshire Legislature, Banks, of Massachusetts, and Seward, of New York. Other aspirants will doubtless loom up during the present session of Congress, and give room for further speculation upon the subject. Some may regard this as rather an early commencement, but aspirants are well aware of the advantages of a good start.

Douglas vs. Douglas.—The distinguished Senator from Illinois who has just taken a flying leap towards the Republican standard, is being tried by the squatters in California, without a net of Congress, or a Territorial Legislature, elected a convention which made a State Constitution. Senator Douglas was a vehement friend for her conversion, but she never submitted to the people.

More recently he voted for Toombs' bill, which authorized a Convention to be called in Kansas to frame a State Constitution. That bill did not require the instrument to be submitted to the people. Last summer, in a public speech in Illinois, he asserted the legitimacy of the Lecompton Convention, and promised to abide by its decisions. In a letter to President Buchanan, he has complained that his State was overlooked in the distribution of the offices under the general government. We fear that there is some personal feeling in his present hostile attitude to the administration. However, if it possesses the people's confidence, Judge Douglas will not be in vain.

Who is that Calhoun who figured so conspicuously in the Kansas convention, and who is denounced so furiously by the Abolition press in such unmeasured terms? The St. Louis Leader says: "Mr. Calhoun was a citizen of Illinois before he was appointed to office in Kansas; he went into the Territory a Free State man in his opinions; was elected as such to the Convention; acted as such in it; was made its President as such; was entrusted with a full knowledge of his opinions with the powers of which these presses so loudly complain, and will certainly vote to exclude Slavery from Kansas. These facts we are authorized to state, and they are enough to discredit everything emanating from the Black Republican press, on the subject."

The old fable of the viper, which being warmed to life, turned and bit its benefactor, has actually been enacted in Connecticut. Matthew Griswold, of Old Lyme, saw a man named Wm. Austin, in the Sound, on the bottom of a boat, in a perilous condition, a few days since, and rescued him from drowning; took him to his house, warmed, fed and cared for him; took him to the cars, and gave him three dollars to reach Norwich, where he said he lived. The next Saturday night the ungrateful scamp entered the house of his benefactor, stole about \$1,300 worth of property, but was caught at the Essex ferry, with the property upon him, and has been bound over for trial. The New Haven Register moves that the fellow be put back in the Sound, where he was picked up, and "anchored."

A black snake four or five feet long the other day attempted to cross a pond in Haverhill, Mass., on the ice, but the progress made by his make-up over the cold, glassy surface was so slow, that when within about ten feet of the shore, he became so chilled by the ice that he could go no further and was drawn ashore by means of a pole and captured.

Rather Undesired Conduct.—The Hartford (Ct.) Press says that the Rev. L. L. Lorington, of New Britain, has been sentenced to twenty days' imprisonment in the county jail, for breaking the windows of the church maliciously, and in the night season. It is said he was offended because another clergyman had been invited to preach in the church.