LEWISBURG CHRONICLE.

BY O. N. WORDEN & J. R. CORNELIUS.

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The Lewisburg Chronicle.

FRIDAY, OCT. 5, 1855.

Kanzas Affairs.

The ruffians' deputies who assumed to be the Legislature of Kanzas having dispersed, the People held a State Convention at Big Springs on the 5th ult., attended by full representations from the seventeen districts. They resolved in favor of making Kanzas a Free State, and keeping out all colored population; disowned the authority of Gov. Shannon's crew; appointed an Election for Delegate to Congress on the 24 Tuesday of October, about a week before the Stringfellows vote for their man; and avowed that they would protect their rights to the last extremity. Gov. Reeder was nominated for Congress, and made a speech which was received with immense enthusiasm.

If two Delegates are elected, and both appear, the lower House of Congress will have an opportunity to review and pronounce upon the whole proceedings from the first irruption of Missourians to their return.

—At a recent Election in the City of Leavenworth for Mayor, the Pro-Slavery candidate gave up the field before noon; and our old friend of Quaker origin—Maj. Thomas T. Slocum, late of Tunkhannock, Pa.—was elected by a triumphant vote.

State Committees.

WHIG STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

John A. Fisher, Harrisburg, Chairman.
James Fox, Harrisburg.
John C. Bomberger, Harrisburg.
Alexander K. M'Clure, Chambersburg.
R. Beatty, Carlisle.
William B. Reed, Philadelphia.
John Prentise, Jr., Philadelphia.
Isaac N. Ellmaker, Lancaster.
John A. Doyle, Huntingdon.
Wm. S. Roland, York.
R. R. Reed, Washington.
Edward Campbell, Jr., Pittsburg.
B. C. Chamberlin, Beaver.

REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE.

David Wilmot, Bradford, Chairman.
Eli K. Price, Philadelphia.
William B. Thomas, do
Anson Rood, do
Robert Iredell, Montgomery.
A. R. McIlvaine, Chester,
John Banks, Berks.
Thaddeus Stevens, Lancaster.
Prof. M'Clintock, Cumberland.
James M. Sellers, Juniata.
A. O. Heister, Dauphin.
Daniel Rautigan, Northumberland.
Samuel P. Carmalt, Susquehanna.
A. W. Benedict, Huntingdon.
John Covode, Westmoreland.
John W. Howe, Crawford.
George Darsie, Allegheny.
Thomas J. Bingham, do
Thomas Nicholson, Beaver.
F. B. Penniman, Wayne.
Wm. Fernon, Jr., Potter.
Henry M. Fuller, Luzerne.
Holmes Maclay, Mifflin.
Nathaniel Ewing, Fayette.

☞Mr. William Robison, of Bloomsburg, has sold out his Store, rented his property and retired from business. Bloomsburg is rapidly improving this season, a state of things every lover of his country will delight to see. The success of one is the benefit of all. It must be so.

The above, from the Berwick paper, is common sense, and contrasts favorably with the carpings of the Mifflinburg print against Lewisburg. Berwick sees mutual benefit to Bloomsburg and to the country adjacent, in the prosperity of the former, even though Berwick may not advance as rapidly. So are Lewisburg and Buffaloe Valley one in interest, and should feel and act accordingly, notwithstanding the insane and wicked efforts of scribblers of the Mifflinburg *Star* to set them at variance. Our interests are ONE.

OHIO STATE FAIR.—The receipts of the Ohio State Agricultural Fair held last week amounted to about $10,000, exclusive $3000 contributed by the citizens of Columbus. The premiums distributed amounted to $6000. It is stated that $6000 were offered and refused for one of the bulls exhibited. Another was held at $5000, and two others at $3000 each. The owner of a cow it is stated also refused an offer of $1800. There were eleven imported bulls exhibited, the aggregate value of which amounted to $25,200 and ten cows valued at $12,400.

HARDLY FAIR.—We frequently observe Editors who take money from circuses and other traveling nuisances, puff them in advance, and in every way aid in calling together the people to lose their money; and when they have gone, and all the evil is done, denounce them as "humbugs" and "poor one-horse affairs." The better way is to not to take their money or give them "aid and comfort" in any way.

A REGULAR KNOW-NOTHING.—The Harrisburg *Telegraph* says of some chap he don't like: "This gentleman has boxed the compass until his own dog don't know him—he don't know himself—nobody else knows him—and nobody ever ought to know him"! We move he be the K. N. candidate for President!

☞The Lancaster *Whig* states that the American Councils have polled about 80,000 votes for Canal Commissioner, and that Peter Martin, of Lancaster county, is the nominee. Mr. Martin was formerly of the Democratic party, and has been before named in connection with that office.

☞In the town of Beverly, Mass., which contains a large and prosperous community, there is not a single hotel or place of public entertainment.

The Compromise Candidate for Canal Commissioner.

HARRISBURG, Sept. 20.—The State Committees of the Whig, American, and Republican parties, which on the 27th inst. jointly nominated Thomas Nicholson, of Beaver, as a candidate for Canal Commissioner, and withdrawing the names of Messrs. Martin, Williamson, and Henderson, have to-day issued the following address to the people of the State:

To the People of Pennsylvania:—The Whig party, the Republican party, and the American party having each nominated a candidate for the office of Canal Commissioner, it becomes apparent that such a division of the elements of opposition to the National Administration and its Nebraska fraud would inevitably lead to the election of Arnold Plumer, the Pro-Slavery Nebraska Candidate. In view of these facts, a meeting of our respective Central Committees of said parties, was held at Harrisburg, on Thursday, the 27th of September, 1855, and their nominees having declined and been withdrawn, Thomas Nicholson, of Beaver County, was nominated as the candidate of the said parties, for the purpose of concentrating the votes of the Anti-Nebraska party on one man, and he is hereby earnestly recommended to all the lovers of freedom in Pennsylvania, as a capable, honest, and true-hearted man, who is worthy of the support and confidence of the people.

By order of the Committees.

JOHN A. FISHER,
Chairman of the Whig State Committee.
LEMUEL TODD,
Chairman of the American State Committee of Thirteen.
DAVID WILMOT,
Chairman of Republican State Committee.

☞We are happy in thus announcing a movement, such as we urged in our last week's paper.

[Correspondence of the Lewisburg Chronicle.]

HARRISBURG, Sept. 28.

After a labored effort, we last night succeeded in getting together the American, Whig, and Republican, State Committees, and agreed upon a new man for Canal Commissioner—Thomas Nicholson, of Beaver county; and a purer man was never nominated for any office. He was a staunch Free Soil man when it cost something to take that side of the question. He is as good a friend of freedom as Williamson, while he has a State reputation that will help him much.

Now go to work and get out the tickets. Take up the name of Nicholson, and let it echo from mountain top to mountain top throughout this broad Commonwealth, and an earthquake of popular indignation will swallow up the few terror-stricken followers of the defunct Pierce administration. Hurra, then, for Nicholson and Freedom!

Yours, &c.

[From another hand.]

Mr. Nicholson is a Republican, who is rampant on the Kansas and Williamson outrages. Now for 50,000 majority in the State. Pierce and Plumer are both here, and have been crowing over the latter's certain election. This morning, their combs are cut. The Locofoco Sebastopol is taken—sure. Truly, &c.

Mr. NICHOLSON has been repeatedly a Member of the Legislature, where he established a character admired by all who know him. He has also been several times Cashier of the State Treasury; and in the intervals of public duties, takes pride and delight in the more humble avocation of Instructor of youth. His attainments and abilities are of the first order. The West claim the office, and will give him a very large majority.

Mr. PLUMER, the Democratic nominee, is a gentleman against whom personally nothing is urged. It is stated that he did not seek the office; and certainly, one who has held so many higher stations, would not mourn if he were not chosen for a more laborious but less remunerative position. His residence is remote from the Public Works, where the Officer is not required.

Passmore Williamson.

This man has no desire for honors or fame. When he told the poor woman that she and her two sons could now enjoy their heaven-endowed right to liberty, he had no more idea of the after-events than you, reader, have of being next President. He would not desire the office of Canal Commissioner if he could have it. The withdrawal of his name, for the good of the cause he has at heart, will meet his cordial approbation. We know, however, there are very many—in Lewisburg, in Union county, and in the State generally—who will regret that they can not testify by a direct vote their honor of the man. About thirty Journals had raised his name as their candidate, and in some quarters he would have swept the field almost clean. But his own best friends advise a union upon another man, for the greater good.

Since Mr. Williamson's incarceration, his wife has given birth to a child; and his aged father also suffers from his absence in the prosecution of their calling. But neither the wife in the hour of her travail, nor the venerable parent toiling on under the accumulated weight of cares, advises the husband and son to tell a falsehood, even to obtain release from prison. Much as he desires freedom, he loves truth more. Judge Kane and Judge Black tell him, the moment he perjures his soul by writing a lie, that moment he is free; he "holds the key to his own prison." The passive martyr to Satanic power is, however, unmoved; he will come forth an honest, Christian like man, or he will go from his prison to meet the tyrannical Kane before the upright JUDGE who will execute strict Justice between the minions of oppression and their victims.

☞A noble looking man—the very image of "Uncle Tom"—in Lewisburg a day or two since, was asked if he knew Passmore Williamson? "Yes," said he, "as fine a man as ever lived—he lives in Arch St.—all the colored people in Philadelphia know him—they love the ground he walks on." Such is the concurrent testimony of thousands of the best and most intelligent men of that city. And for telling a poor woman the *truth* that she was free in Pennsylvania, must he lie in a foul prison until he rots? Freemen of Pennsylvania! give such a vote to his representative—Thomas Nicholson—as will make his prison door fly open, as did that of Paul and Silas. Your voice may be as potent as the sound of the rams' horns was upon the walls of Jericho!

Plumer's Position.

The Convention which nominated Arnold Plumer for Canal Commissioner, did *adopt* the following resolution:

"*Resolved, That we have* undiminished confidence *in the* ABILITY and INTEGRITY *of Franklin Pierce and his Administration of the Government of our country.*"

The same Convention *refused to adopt* the following resolutions:

"Mr. CHASE offered the following:

"Resolved, That the taking possession of the polls at the election for the organization of the Territory of Kansas, by large bodies of men from Missouri, for the purpose of overawing the bona fide residents of the Territory, was a gross infraction of the laws, and an outrage that calls for the severest reprobation of the American people; we therefore most heartily endorse the course pursued by the Hon. A. H. Reeder, in his patriotic efforts to enforce the Laws and protect the rights of the people of Kansas from violence and usurpation."

"A motion was made to LAY THE RESOLUTION ON THE TABLE, and being put, was agreed to.

"Mr. BLAIR offered the following:

"Resolved, That in endorsing the Nebraska Kansas bill, the Democracy of Pennsylvania did not commit themselves to accept the lawless acts of armed and organized bands from adjoining States as an illustration of the doctrine of popular sovereignty, but intended only to affirm the great principle of the right of the actual *bona fide* settlers of the territories to regulate their own domestic affairs in their own way without interference from any quarter.

"Before any action was taken on this resolution, the Convention ADJOURNED *sine die.*"

Thus it will be seen that every act of Franklin Pierce's administration is declared to be correct by those who nominated Plumer; and they refused to denounce any of those outrages in Kansas, which are declared to be abhorrent to law and every right principle, by all sound thinking men. PLUMER accepts this Platform, and is seen at Harrisburg arm in arm with PIERCE.

☞Every vote for Plumer, is therefore a vote to approve and uphold the Missouri ruffians who have usurped the power of the people in Kansas. It is a vote to ratify the removal of our brother Pennsylvanian, Andrew H. Reeder. It is a vote to sustain mob law, and to trample in the dust the Rights of Man, in order to help extend Slavery! Who will give such a vote—who? who?☜

STRIKE FOR FREEDOM.

Strike for Freedom! never falter!
Whigs and Democrats unite;
Swear upon your country's altar
You'll do battle for the Right!
Former feuds should be forgotten,
Patriotism claims the vow;
Ancient landmarks, old and rotten,
Cease their obligation now.

Let the Tyrant's lash be shivered
In the blast of indignancy;
The hapless victim ever shrouded
In the abyss of hopelessness;
But let it be upon the shrill
Of loudly boasted chivalry,
Where science sleeps, and demon smile
And bowie-knife the rivalry.

But let no boasted tyrant ramble
Over the soil that now is free,
With their chattles in the shamble,
Marked for heritable slavery.
Still the votes and deep the current
Sweeping on to victory;
Ballot-box and paper-warrant
Alone will keep the nation free!

Strike for Freedom! never doubter!
Law-abiding sons unite!
Victory's with the greatest number,
God is ever with the Right!
Peaceful at the polls encounter
Freedom's old and wily foe;
Long oppression still demands it,
Strike, then, Freemen! strike the blow!

Bradford Reporter.] SUSQUEHANNA.

Honest Democrats!

However men may differ on minor questions of policy, we have at the North but one opinion as to our rights. We all know and feel that constitutional liberty was invaded in Kansas, and that we have been insulted in the person of Gov. Reeder. All this has been done by Slave Power, which no more regards the rights of the white man than those of the black man, or of the mulatto, but will oppress whoever it can. The Convention which nominated Arnold Plumer, was under the influence of the Slave Power:—it applauded the Administration which connived at, aided in, and approved those outrages, and degraded Gov. Reeder, and refused to condemn one of those acts!

Will you endorse, by your votes, the representative of such an administration?

There is no danger to your party in the defeat of such a man, for the Public Works would still be under Democratic control; and the Canal Board will probably be soon abolished, at any rate.

Here in Union county, where there are 400 or 500 Whig majority, nearly every Whig intends to vote for a Democrat as one of the three County Commissioners; can not you, under the circumstances, return the compliment, and show the same courtesy and liberality, by giving an UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR NICHOLSON?

ASSOCIATE JUDGE.

A Bad Memory---Col. Ruhl.

One of the requisites of a good Magistrate, is, that he have a retentive memory. This quality, it is generally considered Col. Ruhl, one of the Mifflinburg candidates for Judge, is very deficient in. We give a few examples.

Last Spring, he was very anxious to be chosen Justice of the Peace, and as no one else was anxious, it was given him, he repeatedly promising on the ground that day, that if Division should carry he would go for Lewisburg for the County Seat. Poor old man! he has forgotten that promise, and for the hope of an office goes in for Mifflinburg!

A few weeks ago, he went voluntarily to Esq. Schrack, and asked him if he was going to run for Judge? "I have consented, and am in the hands of the people," was the reply. "Well, then," said Col. Ruhl, "if you are going to run, I will not, for you would defeat me. I had thought of being a candidate, but I have been beaten twice, and don't want to be beaten a third time. If you run, I promise you I won't." And yet, in a few days, he forgets all this proffer of friendship, and is running for the very office he promised not to.

We might go on to show how he has forgotten the favors shown him by his *true* friends in his better days—how he has forgotten the way that Baum, Swineford & Co. have used him, more recently, getting his money, and running him to help some of their candidates, deceiving and flattering him in his unsuspecting simplicity: but these examples are enough.

We would not say that a professing Christian, and leader in the church, would wilfully and intentionally tell an untruth; we would more charitably attribute his false and ridiculous position to forgetfulness. But, to whatever we may ascribe his want of honor, he has proven himself unfit for the station to which he again aspires.

The people want a firm, reliable, consistent man, who can not be twisted one day by one set of men, and the next by another. We are aware that there is no expectation or intention of electing him—some supporting him to get his vote and influence for Mifflinburg, and others encouraging him in order to defeat Schrack—but he might be elected if attention is not directed to the importance of having men of sound mind in the bench.

For the Lewisburg Chronicle.

The *Pennsylvanian* is (unintentionally) doing excellent service to the "fusion" party. To the extent of its circulation, it is making known the fact that Nicholson unites in himself the views of Whigs, Americans and Republicans. Let every friend of the fusion movement profoundly thank the *Pennsylvanian* for that admission. A man combining their strength, with the thousands of Anti-Slavery democrats, will sweep the field by 100,000.

CANDOR.

Fusion in New York.

SYRACUSE, Sept. 25.—The Nominating Committee of the two Conventions, Whig and Republican, have agreed to report the following State ticket.

For Secretary of State—Preston King.
Comptroller—James M. Cook.
State Engineer—George Soddis.
Treasurer—Alexander B. Williams.
Attorney General—Abijah Mann.
Canal Commissioner—Daniel M. Bissell.
State Prison Inspector—J. Wesley Bailey.

Judge of Appeals—Bradford R. Wood and Joseph Mullen.

From California.

The Star of the West arrived at New York on Sunday, from Nicaragua, bringing the San Francisco mails of September 5th, and one million specie in freight.

The California news was not important. Political excitement was high, and all parties are exerting themselves to the utmost.

The first trip on the Sacramento Valley Railroad was made on the 18th of August. It was a short excursion, from Sacramento levee to Seventeenth street. The train, consisting of three platform cars, was densely crowded.

NICARAGUA.—The proceedings of a mass meeting, held at San Juan Sept. 6th, are published, at which it was determined to form a provisional government for San Juan, consisting of a civil and military governor and a council of five persons to be chosen by the people; the council to draw up a constitution, &c. At the same meeting Col. Henry L. Kinney was chosen Governor, and Messrs. Colin Campbell, Thomas Cody, Pillar Esquival, Samuel Shepherd, Jr., and A. M. C. Wood, were elected members of the council. The next day the convention re-assembled, and Col. Kinney was sworn in and inaugurated as "civil and military governor of the city and territory of San Juan del Norte or Greytown."

QUICK WORK.—A very young lady who went to a circus in Sacramento, fell in love with the ring master, contrived to let him know it, and they were married after the performance, and started next morning on the wedding tour.

The Price of Liberty, is Eternal Vigilance!

PASSMORE WILLIAMSON.

From the Montrose Republican.

The man whose name heads this article, is now the victim of corrupt and profligate judicial proceedings. He has been robbed of his personal liberty, and incarcerated in a Pennsylvania prison, for no other reason than that he informed a poor yet liberty-loving woman, that she and her children, by the laws of Pennsylvania, were FREE, and afterwards refused to make a return false in fact, to a writ unlawfully issued by a U. S. District Judge.

In this, every Pennsylvanian has a deep interest at stake. What Passmore Williamson suffers, every man, entitled though he be, by birth-right, and by the laws of our noble old Commonwealth, to personal liberty, may be called to suffer, unless this exercise of unjust and arbitrary power be at once rebuked and stayed by the people's voice or the people's arm.

In the case of Williamson, there is not only a robbery of personal liberty, but a striking down of the great writ of personal liberty, the writ of *Habeas Corpus* itself, in obedience to the *dictum* of the Slave power in this country. Pennsylvanians! inheritors of the honors and liberties transmitted to you by your Penns, Franklins, and Rushes! does your blood run cold and slow in view of this exhibition of judicial despotism? No! we can not believe that you are so lost to a sense of the blessings of liberty, as to be cold or indifferent.

John H. Wheeler, a Carolina Slaveholder, came to Philad., voluntarily bringing Jane and her two children, whom he claimed as his slaves. By virtue of Pennsylvania laws, most righteously too, those slaves, on touching Pennsylvania soil, became free. Jane, notwithstanding the close espionage of her professed master, succeeded in giving information that she was held as a slave but desired to be free.

This information was carried to Passmore Williamson, Secretary of an Anti-Slavery Society organized in the days of and presided over by Benj'n Franklin. He hastened, under the influence of his generous and philanthropic heart, to inform Jane as to the rights of herself and children under the laws of Penn'a. He found her on board a steamboat near the Walnut St. wharf, city of Philad., and, in the presence of Wheeler, informed her of those rights, telling her that she was free, and, if she chose to do so, she could then enter upon the exercise of her 'liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' Without violence, and of her own choice, as she afterwards testified, she did so.

Soon after (18th July last) so the record as given, proves, John H. Wheeler presented his petition to John K. Kane, Judge of the U. S. Court for the Eastern District of Pa., stating that he was the "owner of three persons held to service or labor under the laws of the State of Virginia, such persons being respectively named Jane, aged about 25 years, Daniel, aged about 12 years, and Isaiah, aged about 7 years, persons of color; and that they were detained from his possession by Passmore Williamson, but not for any criminal or supposed criminal matter." In accordance with the prayer of that petition, a writ of habeas corpus was awarded, requiring Passmore Williamson to bring the bodies of the said Jane, Daniel and Isaiah before the Judge of the District Court, forthwith.

To this writ, Passmore Williamson made a return, verified by his affirmation, "that the said Jane, Daniel, and Isaiah, nor either of them, were at the time of the issuing of the writ, nor at the time of the return, nor at any other time, in the custody, power, or possession of, nor confined nor restrained of their liberty by him, and therefore he could not produce the bodies as he was commanded." This return was made on the 20th of July, "whereupon, afterwards, to wit, on the 27th July, 1855, the counsel for the parties having been heard, and the said return having been duly considered, it is ordered and adjudged by the Court that the said Passmore Williamson be commited to the custody of the Marshall, *without bail or mainprize*, as for a contempt in refusing to make return to the writ of hebeas corpus, heretofore issued against him, at the instance of John H. Wheeler." Such, says Judge Knox, is the record.

Here let us notice two things—1st, the want of jurisdiction in the case; and, 2d, the truthfulness of the return.

1. Judge Kane had no jurisdiction of the matter, because the persons claimed as slaves were voluntarily brought into this State. Neither the Constitution, nor any Law of the Congress of the United States, authorized Judge Kane to issue a writ in any such case. Having no authority to issue the writ, the writ itself was unlawful, and consequently Passmore Williamson was under no legal or moral obligation to obey it. Nothing is more clear, or better established in law, than that a man is not bound to obey an unlawful writ.

2. Although it would have been right for Passmore Williamson to refuse altogether to make return to the writ, he nevertheless did not. He did, in fact, make all that a man of truth and honesty, in his place, could make. He simply stated the facts as proved afterwards, by Jane and others. He had no more right nor power to bring Jane and her children to Court, than to bring any other woman with her children, into Court. They were, by the laws of Pennsylvania, as free as any other person in it. And yet, this is construed into a contempt of Court, and, at the arbitrary dictum of Judge Kane, Passmore Williamton is thrown into prison, there to remain for life or at the pleasure of this pattern of his ancient prototype, Cain, who slew his brother. And why slew he him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's good. But this is not all of the case. It is *Blackened* by the decision of our Supreme Court.

Passmore Williamson made application to the Judges of the Supreme Court of Pa. for a habeas corpus to release him from his illegal imprisonment. They refused a writ, and, in a long opinion delivered by Judge Black, jeering at the honest convictions and noble purpose of the victimized Williamson, verify the exclamaiton of DeWitt Clinton, uttered forty-five years ago, in the case of Yates against the people of New York. "Is," he asks, "the gothic jargon of Norman lawyers and the ridiculous pedantry of schoolmen still to pervade the temples of justice, and to prostrate principles of right at the feet of sophistical nonsense?" Yes, thus characterized, the Supreme Court of Pa. has sent forth its opinion, either to curse the land, or, meeting with a rebound, roll back upon its authors, covering them with indignant reproaches of insulted freeman. Thank Heaven! it is accompanied by an antidote—the able, clear and righteous opinion of Judge Knox who dissented. Immortal honor to JOHN C. KNOX! worthy inheritor of the name and virtues of the great champion of Scottish reformation, over whose grave the Regent of Scotland pronounced the eulogium, "*Here lies he who never feared the face of man.*" More worthy that he had not feared to stand alone, and could not, on arriving at Philadelphia, as Woodward and Lowrie are said to have been, be brought over, against former convictions of right, to sustain an outrageous attack upon personal liberty.

We commend the opinion of Judge Knox to the critical perusal of all. If it wants a backers, the reader has it in the opinion given by Gov. Clinton, in the case to which we have referred. It follows. Read it. It is worth the opinions of a thousand Blacks, however brilliant they be in intellect, while overshadowed by the curse of Slavery:

"It is alleged that the pardoning power may be extended to the prisoner, which will afford him complete relief. The mercy of the Executive is one thing, and the justice of the Court another. A pardon is not a remedy in the course of the law. It may or it may not be afforded at pleasure, and is entirely extrinsic from judicial proceedings. The sum of reasoning is this: That a citizen may be deprived of his liberty without the accusation of a grand or the interposition of a petit jury, and on the mere fiat of a single judge; that this judge shall be without control, and the citizen without appeal; that he must continue imprisoned for life, unless the Judge shall relent, or unless the Executive shall pardon. *This doctrine may suit the meridian of Constantinople, but is utterly repugnant to the genius of a free government.* If the Governor can not or will not pardon, and if the Legislature can not or will not relieve, then a citizen may at any time, on the grounds contended for, be incarcerated for life by a court composed of a single judge, and without the benefit of a trial by his peers, and the judge can not be called to account for his conduct. For, if I rightfully understand the positions which are maintained throughout, they are these: A court may commit contempt, whether perpetrated in court or not. This commitment, whether legal or illegal, can not be examined or overhauled by any other tribunal, but it is to be considered as final and conclusive, and it may continue during the pleasure of the court. If the prisoner is brought up on a writ of habeas corpus, the court is to remand him the moment it is perceived to be for a contempt, and no writ of error will lie on this decision; and although this may be wicked and oppressive, and may operate as an imprisonment for life, yet the court so acting is not liable to punishment; for a commitment is a judicial act, and it is contended that no judge can be questioned for judicial acts as such. Here, then, is a case (excluding the favorable interposition of the Executive or Legislature,) where an unjust or tyrannical judge may, at pleasure, imprison an innocent man for life, and yet place punishment at defiance. A doctrine pregnant with such horrible results, can never be in unison with the letter or the spirit of a free and enlightened system of jurisprudence. And, although I trust we have nothing to apprehend from such practices in the times in which we live, *yet we ought to keep our eyes on futurity.* The all pervading force of corruption, and the all-grasping lust of power, may raise up, for the destruction of unborn generations, men who will devote themselves to oppression and to blood. Why are we to expect an exemption from the common lot of nations? In the true course of events, we must, indeed, travel the round of human calamity. Pestilence and war, famine and war, famine and oppression will visit us, and we must anticipate that in some period the Treslians and the Jeffrieses of former times will live again in our tribunals—men who will imprison under the forms of justice, and murder with all the solemnities of law. And when such monsters arise to scourge the human race, let me tell you they will be supported by the arm of power, and will be attended by their obsequious satellites and smooth-faced parasites, who will deride the Magna Charta of your liberties and laugh at the majesty of the people."

But who is this Passmore Williamson? He is an honest, straight-forward, liberty-loving Philadelphia Quaker.

Freemen of Pennsylvania! does it not become us to rebuke, in the strongest possible manner, this outrage upon the judicial liberties of an unoffending man, and through him upon our own liberties?

HABEAS CORPUS.

Boswell and Johnson were conversing upon the conduct of a planter, who so flogged his slave that he died. The doctor thunderod savagely.

"Well, but," said Boswell, deprecatingly, "I have always held the man with the black face to be a connectingly link between a man and a brute."

"Sir," said Dr. Johnson, rolling his huge form from side to side, "and I have always held the man with a *black heart* to be a connecting link between a brute and the *devil*."

BALTIMORE, Sept. 29.—The intelligence from Norfolk, this morning, states the fever to be still abating, but that the new cases occurring are of a very malignant type, indicating that the absence of the population is the true cause of the decline. Seven deaths occurred on Thursday, and three up to noon on Friday. On the latter day there were no new cases.

At Portsmouth twelve deaths took place on Wednesday, eight on Thursday, three on Friday, and scarcely any new cases.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 2.—The boat from Norfolk brings intelligence from that city up to noon of yesterday. On Saturday there were four deaths, on Sunday seven deaths and three new cases, and on Monday, up to noon, there were three deaths. Mrs. William B. Ferguson is among the victims. The Rev. Mr. Jackson is ill, but not dead as has been reported. Fifty-four of the Southern doctors and nurses have left for their homes. Miss Catharine Redman, the matron of the Orphan Asylum, is dead. At Portsmouth, on Saturday, there were 13 deaths, and on Sunday 9. But few new cases have occurred. Drs. Cole, of Philadelphia, and Hunter, of New York, died on Sunday.

THE OLDEST FARMER IN THE WORLD.—Mr. Baggers Bagley has purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Minnesota Territory, which he intends settling upon and improving. Mr. Bagley is *one hundred and seven years old*, and is still an active and industrious pioneer, in the enjoyment of excellent health. A patent will shortly be issued to him from the General Land Office.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—President Pierce is afflicted with the third day chills but he constantly attends to his business.

The whole number of applications for bounty lands under the late law is upwards of 117,900, and the number of warrants issued is upwards of 34,000.

The amount in the United States Treasury subject to draft is $21,769,000.

Hon. J. W. Foster, of Massachusetts, has sent in his resignation as President of the State Council of Americans. In his letter, he speaks of the subserviency of the National Convention to the Slave power, and says he can henceforth do no battle under its disgraced banner. He casts his lot with the Republican party, and with it will stand or fall.

SUNSOILING.—The roots of wheat have been traced four feet. Farmers usually plow four inches. Well, let the other three feet eight inches of roots take care of itself! A man must be in small business fussing over a place for wheat roots to run! The fact is, they have no business to run so far.

IMMIGRANTS NOT ALL PAUPERS.—The New York papers state that since Castle Garden, in that city, has been used as an emigrant depot, a period of about four weeks, 6853 immigrants have arrived there from foreign ports, who have brought with them money to the amount of $520,323 75.

The Michigan Legislature has passed "an act to prohibit the use of common Jails and other buildings in the several counties of the State, for the detention of persons claimed as fugitive slaves." The vote upon this bill in the House was Yeas 57, Nays 18.

It is said that though the Americans are in a minority in the Alabama Legislature, the Democrats proper will not have a majority on joint ballot—hence the balance of power rests with the Whigs.

LANCASTER, Sept. 28.—The nomination of Mr. Nicholson is well received. Peter Martin, the American nominee, says he will do all he can to ensure the election of Nicholson.

A resolution has been introduced into the Missouri Legislature calling on the Federal government to place United States troops at Chicago to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 2.—The wife and daughter of Chief Justice Taney died at Old Point Comfort, on Sunday. The daughter died of yellow fever.

CHICAGO, Oct. 2.—The extensive buildings of the Union Railroad Car Factory were destroyed by fire yesterday, with a loss of $60,000.