

Congress has no right to interfere with or control domestic institutions in the South.

In subsequent years it was announced as a happy afterthought, "that this proposition was intended to embrace the whole subject of Slavery agitation in Congress."

Yes, Slavery in the Democratic creed is placed beyond the reach of National Legislation! If this be so, as it must, well may the freemen of the North tremble for their security.

This last specious dogma followed close upon the abolition of the Missouri Compromise and even this, in the course of the present Administration, has been infamously perverted to subvert the designs of those who proclaimed it, viz: the unlimited extension of slavery.

The sum and substance of the Democratic party on Slavery is, that the Constitution carries Slavery or protects it when it is carried by individuals into any Territory of the United States; that the people are powerless to prevent it so long as the Government is Territorial and that Congress has no right to interfere in the matter whatever.

As the exponent of these views, the Democratic party has elected Mr. Buchanan. To this platform he has "squared" his previous views and is prepared to "square his conduct" without taking them from or adding thereto, a single plank.

In this platform he has merged his identity as James Buchanan and consigned himself to this Pro-Slavery Democracy to be spent in their service. An examination into the past history of Mr. Buchanan will show that he has at some former period of his life, occupied the opposite of his present position on every political issue.

From Free-Soilism to Pro-Slavery, from High Tariff to Free Trade, from Conservatism to Philanthropy, he has ever followed the flow and ebb of the popular tide. In none of these questions has his change been more extreme or more striking than that of Slavery.

His lamentable fall from the proud position he took in 1845 when he pledged himself solemnly to make "30' the boundary line between Slavery and Freedom forever is seen and known of all.

The record of his early Congressional career, compared with his present known views, give evidence of a great and radical change. Then he could wage an aggressive war upon Slavery in her own fastnesses, now he is willing to lead the van beneath the dark folds of her banner, to the subjugation of Freedom.

The question comes home with force to us, why has he fled from that position? Had Freedom in Territories proved a failure? Had those Territories in which it had been restricted been less prosperous than those where it was allowed to enter?

Had the Missouri Compromise proved anything else than the quietus of Slavery agitation? Had its repeal been anything else than notoriously unjust and pernicious, we might be able to impute some other reason to him for this great change than that he hopes to win the Presidential Chair by sacrificing his own principles and the rights and privileges of the North to propitiate the Slave Power.

He stands committed both by his public acts, no less than by endorsing the Cincinnati platform, to the policy which demands the annexation of Cuba, if by right then by might—a consummation most desirable to the South, when we consider that it will add vastly to the influence and will tend to perpetuate the rule of the Slave power.

Mr. B. also declares that the attempted emancipation of Slaves in that Island, shall be the signal for a forcible possession.

Fellow citizens, we submit to you that the history of the present administration, that the language and conduct of the present Democratic nominee, that the openly avowed and unblushingly advocated principles of that party, place beyond the minutest civil, the fact that the indismissible woe of Democracy with Slavery Extension has been a woe in good faith and extent.

We submit to you that the boasted conservatism of these united elements is subversive, revolutionary and progressive, moving away with accelerated velocity from the precepts and practice of the founders of our Republic, proclaiming dogmas and setting up principles that threaten to defeat the results of their patriotism; to tear the nation away from strict Constitutional Constitution, for the acquisition of party power; from the faith of solemn compromise to fraud, perjury and wrong, from the conservation of the Union for the sake of Freedom to its dissolution for the sake of Slavery.

Those who see mirrored in such conservatism, their own views, need not hesitate as to which side in the coming contest to take. But those to whom such principles are justly abhorrent,—to them we appeal, Democrats, who in the plainer days, and purer life of the Democracy, were proud to own the name—you have hesitated to follow it in its mad career, it no longer has claims upon you.

The glorious banner under which you fought, trails in the dust of slavery. Your leaders have perverted your organization to ends you never designed, and are ashamed to own. The price of the betrayal of the party to slavery interests; is that its banner may wave in ignominious triumph from the dome of the Capital—you have not left it to us, rather it has left you; it will be time enough for you to co-operate with it when it shall return again to its primitive principles, as established by its fathers.

When it shall come away from its idolatrous worship of strange Gods, back to its allegiance and loyalty to the Constitution and the Union.

limits of law and reason, and social order; to promote human freedom, not slavery, harmony and not discord, and to correct time-honored abuses. These are the aims, of the restorative element, than which none are more needful, sacred and obligatory.

This result will be attained only by long and persevering exertion, but it will be a labor no less worthy of high patriotism and self denial, and earnest effort, than that which the fathers of our Republic engaged. The Republican party joins direct and immediate issue with the other parties, upon the important question of the extension of slavery. At the Republican Convention in Philadelphia, which placed in nomination John C. Fremont, the following resolutions among others, were adopted, viz:

"Resolved, That we deny the authority of Congress, of a Territorial Legislature, of any individual, or association of individuals, to give local existence to slavery in any Territory of the United States, while the present Constitution shall be maintained."

"Resolved, That the Constitution confers upon Congress sovereign power over the Territories of the United States, for their government, and that in the exercise of this power it is both the duty and the right of Congress to prohibit in the Territories those twin relics of barbarism—polygamy and slavery."

"Resolved, That Kansas should be immediately admitted as a State of the Union, with her present free Constitution, as at once the most effectual way of securing to her citizens the rights and privileges to which they are entitled, and of ending the civil strife now raging in her territory."

In his letter of acceptance, Mr. Fremont cordially endorses the whole platform of which these resolutions form a part, as expressive of the principles he cherishes; in addition observing:

"It would be out of place here to pledge myself to any particular policy that has been suggested to terminate the sectional controversy, engendered by political animosities, operated upon by a powerful class, banded together for a common interest. A practical remedy is the admission of Kansas into the Union as a free State."

It will thus be seen that the Republican party earnestly contend for the power of Congress to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the territories. The ground for this they find in the language of the Constitution which declares that Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the Territory or other property belonging to the United States, and nothing in the Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States or any particular State. This clause of course confers the right of legislation on subjects only as are consistent with natural right.

They contend that as Congress has no power to engraft a domestic evil upon the institutions of a State, as for example polygamy, so it has no power to legalize slavery, while for the same reason its power of prohibition is incontestible. The Republican party contend for the restoration of the Missouri Compromise, and as the earnest of its fulfillment, demand the admission of Kansas as a Free State. To those who are familiar with the history of legislation, no demonstration is necessary to prove that the mischievous and unjust repeal of that covenant, has been the cause of all the agitation on the subject of slavery, with which the country is now rife.

That compromise was the work of our venerated fathers in the Republic, and had received the sanction and support of wise and good patriots from all sections of the country; and for thirty years had kept in repose the question of slavery. Ample consideration was given to the slave States for this agreement. That consideration had been received and enjoyed to the full; the right and justice of the covenant was all along acknowledged, until the South combined with the Democracy, found themselves able to throw off their engagements and thus perjure their pledged faith. So it has been. The celebrated ordinance of 1787, which excluded Slavery forever from all Territory north-west of the Ohio river, was broken through in 1820 by the admission of Missouri as a Slave State. Then a compromise was adopted declaring Slavery forever prohibited north of 36° 30'.

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The Republican Convention. We feel proud of it. And well may we. It was composed of the leading men of the County—of men of integrity, ability and influence. Every township but one or two was fully represented. The proceedings were marked with that decorum which should be shown in every meeting of the kind, but which is often forgotten.

Huntingdon County is working. She is determined on doing her duty in the approaching election. She will not be the dupe of Slave-drivers longer. We have proof of this in the large and enthusiastic Convention, composed of the influential men of the County.

Fire in Alexandria. On the 23 inst, the dwelling house of Enoch Cline, and the Wagon-making and blacksmith shops of J. & W. Piper, in Alexandria, were burned to the ground. It is not known how the fire originated but it is presumed to have been the work of an incendiary. There was no insurance on Mr. Cline's house. Messrs. Piper's Shops, were fully insured to the amount of \$1300.

MARRIED.—In this borough on the 11th inst, by Rev. A. R. Still, Mr. Hugh Wilson of Warrior-mark to Miss. Ruth Ann Benner of Cento Co.

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The Republican party solemnly demand for their sacred right, and make the great issue, the restoration of that violated compromise. They throw themselves into the breach, manfully determined to arrest and check this onward tide of slavery. Upon the Rubicon, they will meet and conquer the enemies of freedom, who, Caesar-like come armed against the liberties of the North. Fellow-Citizens, when the Republican Party demand that a title of the territory of the United States shall be consecrated to Freedom, they ask nothing but what on every principle of right and justice is their due. The North has contributed largely of her blood and treasure for its acquisition, and shall she be debared from the enjoyment of any of it? Proof can be adduced to show that out of all the Territory obtained on this side of the Continent, at a cost of 80 millions, only one free State—Iowa, has been created against five slave States; and that exclusive of California, the slave States have double the area of territory, with an inverse ratio of population—and yet in view of all this,

shall we be accused of aggression? Certainly the accusation comes with bad grace from the South. But the Republican party demands the admission of Kansas as a free State for other reasons than that the territory was secured to the North by solemn compact. They demand it, because such is the expressed will of a majority of the settlers; because this will afford it speedy and effectual relief from the cruel and unjust laws that now oppress them and would give them the enjoyment of those privileges and rights which the Constitution guarantees to them; and because its admission as a Free or Slave State will determine, in a measure, the extent of Southern acquisition; because if yielded to the embrace of slavery, it will add still more to the formidable influence it yields in our national councils. That influence strengthened by the action of the Democratic Party, has for years controlled the destinies of the Republic. Give Kansas and the settlers of the North are forged. Kansas lost to Freedom is lost to Freedom forever. But, fellow citizens, aside from the motives which should actuate you, as patriots in demanding with us the admission of Kansas as a free state, there are reasons which address you as men, as Northerners and Freemen. Kansas should be free, because it may eventually become the home of your children. Shall this land, so rich in its resources, of marvellous fertility of soil, and of so genial a climate, be shut up against your neighbors and friends, and perhaps to your own children. If slavery enters there, the free laborer whether farmer or mechanic, is as utterly excluded as if interdicted by a specific law—for free and slave labor can never dwell upon the same soil. Kansas, to you should be free, because your friends and kindred or at least your fellow-citizens of this Commonwealth, are already settlers there, struggling manfully to maintain their rights, and their cry of distress comes to you to relieve them in their necessity. Will you listen to the appeal of reason, patriotism and humanity? If so, decide while your action may yet be efficient. In this perilous emergency, the only way to avert the threatened calamity is by the success of the Republican cause. The presence of Mr. Fillmore in the canvass, can only tend to aid the enemy. The South are unanimously going over to the Democratic ranks, and the sole object of keeping Mr. Fillmore before the people of the North, when the hope of his election is utterly out of the question, is the defeat of the People's candidate, John C. Fremont. Friends of Pennsylvania, your state will again be the battle ground of the contest between the defenders of Freedom and the advocates of Slavery. To you, one and all, we put the question—*which shall triumph?*

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