

Political.

The Presidential Question.

From the N. Y. Tribune of Dec. 18th. Is it, or is it not, desirable that National Conventions to nominate candidates for President and Vice-President be dispensed with, and a larger freedom of choice thereby accorded to the People? We wish those who object to our suggestion of a means for securing this end would meet this question squarely. They start difficulties which are really no difficulties when once you assert that there should be some means devised whereby A, B, and C. plain farmers and mechanics in the rural districts, might be at liberty to sustain for President the man of their choice respectively without throwing their votes in effect under the table. Now, they have practically no choice but to support one of two candidates presented by two rival assemblages of active and prominent politicians, each intent on a party or personal advantage. The candidates thus nominated may be the very men that they should be, and may not; the People have no alternative but to take one or the other of them, knowing well that each was nominated, not because he was deemed most capable or deserving, but because he was judged most available.—There are exceptions, of course, but such is notoriously the rule.

The prevailing system is objectionable in that it involves great temptations to personal detraction and slander. A candidate for President has been nominated by this or that party, which must stand or fall with him in the ensuing election. It is hence the interest of the opposite party to prove the candidate unfit or unworthy, as a means of defeating his party. The incessant warfare on Col. Fremont as a Roman Catholic, and with respect to his nativity, &c., are recent instances of this. Who now pretends to believe Col. F. a Roman Catholic? Who cares one brass button whether he is or not? Who believes he was born in Canada, or elsewhere out of this country? Yet the journals hostile to his election blazed for weeks in 1856 with certificates, letters, affidavits, even, intended to make the simple believe the lies which the knavish had invented to raise against him the cry of foreigner and Catholic. Had he been but one among several persons whom the Republicans were supporting for the Presidency, there would have been no motive for, no temptation to, this wretched electioneering slang. Yet in fact the last canvass was half given over to just such appeals to popular ignorance and stupidity. Whatever tends to preclude such appeals hereafter, by rendering them unprofitable, will be a positive gain to the whole country, in giving dignity to any political discussions and confining them within legitimate channels.

Again: There are several among our statesmen for whom many citizens would gladly vote, but they are not permitted to be enabled to do so under the Convention system. Judge McLean may be cited as an example of this class. So long ago as 1832, there were many who desired to support him for President. So late as 1856—twenty-four years later—he was warmly and favorably pressed for the Republican nomination. We do not say that he would in any case have been a strong or a weak candidate, nor that he was more or less capable and worthy than those who have from time to time been preferred; but we do say that the fact of such preference proves neither that he was less deserving or less available than those who have from time to time been nominated over him, but only that a majority of this or that Convention have thought so. What opinion was held by the great body of the People in the subject, our current political machinery was not calculated to discover. And what was true of this machinery in the past is true of it in the future as well.

Let us suppose for one moment that the managing politicians of all parties were really desirous that the People should select as well as elect the President—should decide not merely between the candidates of the great rival parties, but should actually designate those candidates by their votes. Does any one believe that there would be any difficulty in giving effect to that desire? Consider that the three first Presidents were chosen without the intervention of any Convention or Caucus machinery whatever, each being the unquestionable first choice of a majority of the People at the time of his election. The next two were designated respectively by a Caucus composed of the Members of Congress of the then dominant party; but this machinery utterly broke down in the attempt to elect a third, and was abandoned—we trust forever. Then came two Presidents—J. Q. Adams and Jackson—elected without the aid of any Caucus or Convention machinery whatever; and then the system of nominating by National Conventions, which dates back barely to 1832, was first introduced, not to grind out candidates for President—for Jackson and Clay were the undoubted and unchangeable first choice of their respective parties—but to elect the rival candidates for Vice-President. Gen. Harrison in 1836 was again a spontaneous candidate, though nominated by a National Convention for the contest of 1840. Since then, our Presidents have in effect been made by National Conventions, and we do not think the average product speaks well for the machinery by which it was turned out. At all events, we are confident that we should have had better Presidents, better Governments, and a more independent spirit among the People, had there been no National Conventions and no election party

ty candidates on either side, but every voter permitted and invited to inscribe on his electoral ballot the names of the men of his individual choice for President and Vice-President, with the assurance that his ballot would count one, not merely toward the success of his party, but toward making his favorite the choice of that party, and thence the President, in case that party should choose a majority of the Electors throughout the Union.

Let us repeat that the plan we advocate requires no change in the Constitution, nor in its Electoral machinery. All this is as it would be if made expressly to allow that freedom and efficacy of individual choice for which we contend.—All that is needed is simply that the People's indorsements on their ballots shall be counted as well as the ballots themselves. And why should they not be? Who has any right to forbid and seek to obstruct such a count? But if we suppose there are politicians who would make the attempt, we know it can avail nothing if the People really want to select their own candidate for President, as we believe they do. A law of ten lines will settle the business in each State beyond arrifige or cavil. Here is its substance: An Act to enable the People to vote directly for President and Vice-President.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted, &c., That if any voter at any election for Presidential Electors hereafter held in this State shall see fit to indorse by writing or printing on such ballot the names of the persons he desires said Electors to support for President, Vice-President, or both, he may lawfully do so; and it shall be the duty of the canvassers to count and return such indorsements along with the votes for Electors to which they belong.

Can a "Thing" Invent?

A slave that can hoe is excellent. A slave that can sow is delightful. A slave that can reap is admirable. A slave that can gather into barns is a treasure. A slave that will not run away is indeed a possession. A slave that will stand anything, from the cat and the paddle up to the vendition of his wife and children, is an Abrahamic model. Here one would suppose the catalogue of slavish virtues might end, unless we added to it that dubious virtue of fecundity, upon which decency will not permit us to dilate. But what will our readers say to a slave figuring in the light of an inventor? Of an inventor of a "useful agricultural machine"? Of a "machine" so useful that it promised to be profitable? And what will our readers think of the botherations, dilemmas, obfuscations and general top-sturveness of the Patent Office, when a Chattel with a black skin walked into the eldsters sacred to invention, and claimed to have shown a little intellectual power, and to be entitled to remuneration therefor? Claimed—poor Chattel that he was—to have invented something which human beings might find profitable and convenient. Horrible was the dignified distress of the Patent Office at this application. Here was a thing—in the light of the Constitution nothing but a thing—claiming the honors and emoluments of an inventor! What should a thing be doing there? A thing with two legs, and a stomach, and a head, and two hands, absolutely pretending to have invented something? No plow ever applied. No cart ever applied. No horse ever applied. Therefore, when this two legged thing came up, there was a row in the Office, and the magnates ordered her or him or it to go about his, her, or its business, and pointedly declined to issue any Letters Patent whatever, thereby establishing it as a fixed fact that no "nigger" could invent anything. In this way was the negro of Mr. Oscar J. E. Stewart, who had blundered upon "a useful agricultural machine," treated. Oscar J. E. Stewart could not stand this. Oscar J. E. Stewart considered that he had a right not merely to the brains, but to whatever came out of the brains of his private and personal nigger. So Oscar J. E. Stewart petitioned the Senate that, if the Patent Office would not, could not, or should not, issue a patent to his ingenious "nigger," it might be compelled to issue the patent to him. The petition was received, and the report says that it was appropriately referred. We have tried pretty hard to make out what an appropriate reference would be. Was it to the Committee on Agriculture? Or to the Committee on Claims? Or to the Committee on Ways and Means? We shall watch this case for Mr. Oscar J. E. Stewart, and he shall have the benefit of our assistance. He shall have the hard cash for his "nigger's" brain work as well as for his "nigger's" handicraftiness, and much good may it do him.—N. Y. Tribune, 17th.

HON. JAMES H. REAGAN, a member of Congress from Texas, in a recent speech to his constituents, expressed the following opinions:

"There is Mexico, now disrupted by dissensions at home, and in a state of anarchy, lying a prey ready to be seized by any Power which may wish to do so. To-day some of the press are charging the Government that, dog-in-the-manger like, it will not take charge of her, nor allow any other Power to do so. But if a bill should be offered in Congress to acquire it, she should be acquired. Some of the press are also urging the acquisition of Sonora. To this he was also opposed, because of its position. There was no more chance of making a slave State of it than there was to form one in the moon and annex it with slavery. He was also opposed to the acquisition of Nicaragua. In expressing these opinions, he was accused of being unfaithful to the South; but if his opinion on this subject made him so, let him be so called. Slavery, said he, should precede acquisition; it cannot now go to Mexico, for by the law of that country the slave would be free as soon as there. But some say that we will take it there after the revolution. This, too, is impracticable, if not impossible; for, by the acquisition there will be necessarily annexed a people opposed to it, brought up to despise it."

BEGIN WITH JAMAICA.—A correspondent inquires whether the President can possibly be serious in his recommendation to purchase Cuba, when we have no money in the treasury to pay for it.—Is he weak enough to believe that Spain will part with the island to a government that spends annually more than its income? If we want an island or two more, why should we not try to make a bargain with Great Britain for the pleasant Bahama Isles, lying close to Florida? Try our credit there, and see what we can effect. It is more dangerous to have a country peopled by free negroes as close to us as the Bahamas are, than at the distance of Cuba. Or suppose we should negotiate with Great Britain for Jamaica. Not a word is said of the danger arising from the contiguity of Jamaica to the United States, though Cuba is a slave island, and Jamaica is full of free blacks, and free blacks only. If we must have Cuba, we must have Jamaica also. Suppose we begin with Jamaica.—N. Y. Bee, Post.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE NATIONAL TREASURY—A CONGRESSIONAL FIGHT ALREADY.

WASHINGTON, December 18.—The Secretary of the Treasury advertises for proposals to be received until the 24th of January, for a loan of ten millions, under the act June last.

The balance now in the Treasury is \$4,641,000. The receipts last week were \$1,361,000. The amount of the drafts paid was \$2,362,000. The increase over the amount in the treasury of the week previous is \$547,000.

Difficulty occurred between Congressmen English and Montgomery on Pennsylvania avenue this morning. They happened to meet for the first time this session, when Mr. English, extending his hand, said, "How are you, Mr. Montgomery?" Mr. Montgomery withheld his own hand, and uttered an insulting expression, something like, "I don't speak to puppies," whereupon Mr. English struck him a severe blow over the head, breaking his cane to pieces, and knocking Mr.

Montgomery into the gutter, but not entirely down. Mr. Montgomery, rising, hurled a brick at Mr. English, striking him on the boot, but doing him no injury. Mr. English states to his friends that he was entirely unarmed, and was not aware that Mr. Montgomery had any ill feeling toward him up to the time of the rencontre.

Mr. Montgomery in strength is superior to Mr. English.

The Tribune's special correspondent says: Two persons, William Couch and Daniel Cox, witnessed the affair. I have sent a statement, made and signed by Couch, which confirms Montgomery's statement in every particular. Couch says: "Mr. English spoke, saying, 'How are you, Mr. Montgomery?' Montgomery neither spoke nor paid any attention to this salutation, but passed on down the avenue. Mr. English stepped after him a few steps, and struck him from behind with his cane, a very heavy blow on the side of the head. Montgomery turned on him. English stepped back, and drew his sword cane, as though about to stab Mr. Montgomery with it. Montgomery stepped back into the avenue, and caught up a piece of brick. English was running when Montgomery threw the brick, which hit him on the heel or lower part of the leg. Montgomery went back for another stone, and English ran rapidly away up Fourteenth street. When Montgomery came back, English had run a half square, and was beyond his reach.—We were the only persons close by. We saw and heard all that passed. Montgomery did not speak until after he was struck."

Mr. Montgomery went immediately to a magistrate and made a charge of assault against English, who has been held to bail. Montgomery's face was badly bruised by the blow, which caused blood to flow profusely. He has kept his room since, and is attended by a physician.—Had the cane struck an inch or two higher, so as to hit his temple instead of his cheek, he would most probably have been killed.

The fact that Montgomery had already twice passed English on Saturday without speaking, shows that the attack was premeditated.

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SENATOR SUMNER.—Senator Wilson has received a letter from Paris, stating that Senator Sumner will not return to the United States during the present session of Congress, by advice of his physicians. He is going to the south of France for medical treatment.

The Potter Journal.

COUDERSPORT, PA., Thursday Morning, Dec. 23, 1858. T. S. CHASE, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

We invite attention to the advertisement of Dr. Culverwell's Essay on Nervous Diseases, &c., in another column. It costs but a trifle, and may be obtained direct from the publishers in New York.

Col. W. W. Brown, editor of the Centre Democrat, is a candidate for the State Treasurership. The Col. is a working and a deserving man, and is our second choice for the office. He may or may not be one of the ten or dozen expectants who are doomed to disappointment.

A Western Exchange, instructed by the recent election in New York and Illinois, proposes for President in 1860, James Buchanan; and for Vice-President, Gerrit Smith. They would make an even team, and if the race is not to the swift, might run it.

Douglas' friends in Washington have given out to newspaper correspondents that the "Little Giant" will not be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President. Our opinion is that Douglas' instructions to his friends were to pull wool over Northern eyes while he punched cotton into Southern ears. He is now coming up to attend to the "wool" business himself.

We had the pleasure, Tuesday, of a long and pleasant call from ROGERS, of the McKean Citizen—as fine a specimen of the genus editorial as we have had the good fortune to meet in a long time. He is, like ourself, a bachelor, and leads us in years and experience; and, however humiliating the confession may seem for us, we believe he could throw us into the shade as a ladies' man, he being vastly more handsome and fascinating. Rogers is a candidate for Assistant Clerk of the Assembly, and our opinion is that he not only deserves it, but will get the appointment.

The JOURNAL will not be published again for two weeks, as we desire to visit our home in Crawford county, after an absence of over two years; and we know of no more appropriate time to do so than during the annual holidays. We leave the business of our office in charge of JOHN S. MANN, Esq., who will receive all moneys intended for our purse during our absence, but whom we have especially instructed to pay no claims that may be presented against us. We will remain at our post until Christmas evening, and after an absence of ten or twelve days return again. Those who pay their subscriptions are too generous to need further apology for the omission of two of our weekly visits, and we are under no obligation to apologise to our very large list of delinquent subscribers.

In looking around among the members of the State Senate for one to preside over that august body, our will and wish runs back to Old Crawford, which has done a vast amount of hard voting on both sides of politics, but has never yet been permanently represented in the Speaker's Chair of either House. In the event of the possible election of a Republican Speaker of the Senate, (an event not entirely visionary,) the compliment could not be better or more deservedly bestowed than upon DARWIN A. FINNEY, of Crawford. He was chosen Speaker of that body at the close of the regular session of 1857, and presided at the Special Session of that year, with honor to the Senate and himself. He is well adapted to that responsible position, and we trust will be the caucus nominee of the Republicans. Old Crawford demands and should receive the recognition of her large Republican majority.

The world is full of fools—so full that there is very little danger of the stock running out—yet a fool is not an ass, and vice versa. Fools never make victims of their friends under the impression that they are doing them or their country a favor thereby, except in a cheerful manner; while an ass must needs be kicked and spurred, and coaxed and beaten, even to do a Balaam an injury. Fools are, generally, forward, anticipating; the ass comparative backward, discrepant. Hence, they are incongruous in their causes and effects. The President of these

United States is a fool; Douglas, the would-be President of the said United States, is an ass. One is a localized inanity, and the other an itinerant political vagrant. Both have disciples, and both need their physicians. Both are beyond the hope of recovery to political integrity. The one is excusable because of his extreme old age; the other is excusable because nature has endowed him with stubbornness.

But after all we do not believe the people of these United States will longer submit to being humbugged by such arrant knaves as they have both shown themselves. When a man shows himself a demagogue in full dress, people are apt to turn from him; and we cannot conceive of more unmitigated specimens of demagoguism than are given by the present occupant of the White House, and the little fellow who desires to be—especially the latter. We give the evidence of the demagoguism of Douglas in the following extract from the Louisiana Courier, in a brief notice of his recent visit to New Orleans:

From this triumphant vindication of the impish doctrine of state rights, and from this explicit enunciation of the true American progressive policy, we might turn and give a dissertation on those views entertained by Senator Douglas, as to the effect which he supposes might follow the refusal or neglect of the people of a territory, or of their legislators, to pass local laws in such territory, for the protection of property in slaves. But that matter is so utterly devoid of practical importance, so insignificant, so barren, of all result, so entirely immaterial in comparison with the great features and purposes of democracy, that we cannot waste our time and that of our readers with fine-spun casuistry upon it.

He tells the people of the North that Popular Sovereignty means the right of the people to exclude slavery from the territories if they wish; while he tells the Louisianians that the local territorial legislature and executives must pass laws to protect slaveholders in their human chattels wherever they see fit to take them. Bah! We thought Buchanan was a doughface, but Douglas throws him into the shade entirely.

Our Book Table.

HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF PHILIP II. OF SPAIN, by WILLIAM H. PRESOTT. Vol. III. Poultry, by the Author's Works. Price \$2.25. Phillips, Sampson & Co., Boston, Publishers.

The many admirers of Mr. Prescott will welcome this continuation of his masterly history of Spanish rule in Europe. The above volume was published on the 8th inst.—Also new editions of Ferdinand and Isabella, 3 vols.; Conquest of Peru, 2 vols.; Prescott's Robertson's (with portrait) 1 vol.; Charles V., 3 vols.; Conquest of Mexico, 3 vols.; Miscellaneous; Philip II. vols 1 and 2.

ARABIAN DAY'S ENTERTAINMENTS, translated from the German, by H. B. CUNNINGHAM, Esq. In one large Volume, 12mo. With Illustrations by Hoppitz. Price \$2.25. Phillips, Sampson & Co., Boston, Publishers.

This collection of Oriental stories has long been a classic in Germany; but only a portion of them have ever appeared in English. The present translation is believed to be the only faithful and elegant one. The taste for the marvellous will always demand gratification; and to the imaginative youth, as well as to adults who are not ashamed of being amused, no more entertaining book can be presented than this delightful reflex of Eastern life and character. The stories are full of invention and fancy, and gracefully told; at the same time, they are free from the objectionable features of their great prototype, "The Arabian Night's Entertainments."

MYSTICS OF THE AGES: Being Selections from Classic Devotional Poetry, principally from the "Lyra Apostolica," "Lyra Catholica," and "Lyra Germanica." With an introduction by Prof. F. D. HUNTERMAN. In one Vol. 12mo. With Steel Frontispiece. In various Elegant Styles of Binding. A Beautiful Gift Book. Phillips, Sampson & Co., Boston, Publishers.

In this work are gathered together the hymns which have been consecrated by generations of Christians of all denominations. It is believed to be the most elevated and devout in character, as well as the most varied and complete, of any collection extant.

MARRIED WOMAN ELOPES WITH ANOTHER MAN—HER HUSBAND ELOPES WITH THE COOK.—A young German, on the West side, a few weeks ago, eloped with his employer's wife, and went to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where they were married. The interesting pair took all the available articles in the house with them, such as spoons, linen, &c. The bereaved husband took matters coolly, went about his business, and made no outward show of grief. Last week his wife, having become sick of her new husband, left him and returned to her old one, fetching with her the spoons, linen, &c. Old husband quietly welcomed her back to his bosom, and the woman congratulated herself on the pleasant upshot of her foolishness. But "phantasy her phinks" when awakening on Sunday morning she ascertained that her husband had eloped the night before with the hired girl, the pair taking with them the spoons, linen, &c., as 't'other pair had done before them.—Plaindealer.

THE BUTTER TRADE OF NEW YORK.—We give below a single county's shipment of butter for one week to this city: From Monday to Saturday night last, 362 loads of butter passed through the Willwick toll-gate, in Ulster county, for this city via Rondout steamers. These loads averaged 20 firkins. Calculate each firkin at 90 lbs., and we have 543,600 lbs., or over 26 tons of the best butter in the market, passing this one point. Its cash value, as prices now rule, is not less than \$185,000.

This relates to the business of but a single week at one point, and from one county.—N. Y. Bee, Post, 18th.

ON Friday last, a son of Geo. Hamlin, of Youngville, in this county, attempted to commit suicide. It seems that the young man had drawn a revolver, and in the successful endeavor of Mr. Hamlin to get the pistol from his son, the father was shot through the hand, making a serious wound.—Warren Ledger.

PRISON-BREACH.—On Saturday night fifteen prisoners escaped from the jail in Rochester, one of whom is Manly Locky, who killed Benjamin Starr in Oct. 1857. They cut off five iron bars with a saw made of a watch-spring, and let themselves down into the Genesee river with the rope with which Ira Stout was hung. None have been recaptured.

PRICE CURRENT.

Corrected every Wednesday, by P. A. STOKES, wholesale and retail Dealer in Groceries and Provisions, Main Street, COUDERSPORT, PA.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Apples, Beans, Butter, Corn, Flour, Hams, Lard, Pork, Potatoes, Rice, Sugar, Tea, &c.

Special Notices.

CONSUMPTIVES.—The advertiser having been restored to health in a few weeks by a very simple remedy, after having suffered several years with a severe Lung Affection, and that dread disease, Consumption, anxious to make known to his fellow-sufferers the means of cure. To all who desire it, he will send a copy of the prescription, (free of charge), with directions for preparing and using the same, which will find a sure cure for Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, &c. The only object of the advertiser in sending the prescription is to benefit the afflicted, and he hopes every sufferer will try his remedy, as it will cost them nothing, and may prove a blessing. Parties wishing the prescription will please address

REV. EDWARD A. WILSON, 10-3mc. Williamsburg, Long Is.

TO FATHERS AND MOTHERS.—You know how important it is for your children that you should keep good health. You frequently do we see feeble parents dressed in mourning on account of the death of their loved children. What a pity it is, when, by proper care and remedies, all these trials and troubles can be avoided. When health is restored to the parent and life and happiness to the child. Restore the health of the mother and you obviate the necessity of any narcotic, Godfrey's Cordial and other injurious narcotics for crying children. We entreat you as we desire to improve the condition of our race, to procure Dr. Morse's Almanac and treatise on diseases cured in accordance with NATURE'S laws with innocent roots, and PILLS.

PREGNANCY.—During this critical period Morse's Indian Root Pills will be required, because they cleanse the body from those morbid humors, and thoroughly drive away all pains, ease and comfort to the mother. From one or three of these Pills, taken two or three times a week during pregnancy, will cause the mother a safe and easy delivery, and will be sure to give a stout and healthy constitution to the child.

Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills are sold by all dealers in Medicines.

Eyes Open! Ears Open!

RIGHT ABOUT FACES.—Oh! all ye that hath eyes, let him hear, and he that hath ears, let him come, and see the wonders being done in Wellsville, City of Tanners, and especially at the Regulator, where thirty-two men and seven boys are wanted to work fifteen hours every day, (Sundays excepted), and he that hath money come. Bring a board, bring a shingle, bring a hog, bring a geese, bring a deer, bring a hide, bring a raint, bring a pelr, bring your butter—bring what you like, you shall not be turned empty away because you have not fifty lute to buy your bread. Thus ended the first lesson.—CLARK & PHILLIPS.

CLARK & PHILLIPS render their thanks to all the good people of this County, for their most liberal patronage, as they do tender their special thanks to their competitors and any others, for their good-barking for all time, concocted falsehoods, all time, envy and jealousy; for no snatching was meant for evil, but has proved our good go ahead. The more the better.—CLARK & PHILLIPS.

EVERYTHING bought and sold at the Regulator, except Gas, Gas, Scoundrel, Blarney. Soft Soap and Soder, at 25¢ per pound, must be had at Scott Brothers, at 25¢. Brothers, in this town.—CLARK & PHILLIPS.