

of the act of 1847 prohibits under heavy penalties, our judges and magistrates from acting under any act of Congress, or otherwise taking jurisdiction of the case of a fugitive from labor; and the fourth section punishes, with fine and imprisonment the tumultuous and riotous arrest of a fugitive slave, by any person or persons, under any pretence of authority whatever, so as to create a breach of the public peace. The sixth section, denying the use of the county jails for the detention of fugitive slaves, was repealed in 1852, and need only be referred to as showing the general spirit of the act. The seventh section repeated the provisions of the act of 1780, which authorized persons passing through our State to take their slaves with them, and gave to sojourners the right to bring their slaves into the State, and retain them here for any period not exceeding six months.

The provisions of the third and fourth sections of the act of 1847 seem to have been predicated upon the language of the Supreme Court in *Prigg's case*. It is there admitted that the several States may prohibit their own magistrates, and other officers, from exercising an authority conferred by an act of Congress; and that while an owner of a slave, under and in virtue of the Constitution of the United States, is clothed with power, in every State of the Union, to seize and recapture his slave; he must, nevertheless, do so without using any illegal violence, or committing a breach of the peace. It is evident that the framers of the act of 1847 had closely studied the case of *Prigg vs. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, and had kept his law strictly within its letter. In many respects the act is a codification of the principles enunciated by the court, and more fault may justly be found with its temper than its want of constitutionality.

If fugitive slaves were still claimed under the act of Congress of 1793, the denial to the master of the aid of State judges and magistrates might be a source of great inconvenience to him; but the complete and perfect remedy now provided by the act of Congress of 1850 renders him entirely independent of State officers. And the punishment of arrests without warrant, by a master in the exercise of his constitutional right of recapture, but made in a violent, tumultuous and unreasonable manner, amounting to a breach of the peace, is but recognizing, by statute, what was before the common law. These sections were re-enacted in the revised penal code of Pennsylvania at the last session of the Legislature, and are still the law of the State; but they are not now of any practical importance, and as their retention on our statute books is calculated to create the impression that the people of this State are unfavorable to the execution of the fugitive slave law, and the discharge of their confederate duties, and with the view of removing this subject of reproach, I earnestly recommend their unconditional repeal.

While a majority of the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the *Prigg case*, held that a State had no constitutional right to provide, by legislation, for delivering up fugitives from labor, a minority were then of the opinion that State laws consistent with, and in aid of the constitutional injunction, were valid and proper. And this minority opinion is now the judgement of the present court, as recently indicated in a case which arose in the State of Illinois. There is, therefore, nothing to prevent the revival of the act of 1826, and its restoration to the place in our code to which, by its merits, it is so justly entitled. This would leave to the option of the claimant whether he would seek his remedy under State or National laws. He had this right before the repeal of our act of 1826, and, in my opinion, no good reason can be assigned for refusing to place him again in the same position. I would also recommend that the content of the State be given that the master, while sojourning in our State, for a limited period, or passing through it, may be accompanied by his slave, without losing his right to his service. While such legislation is due to the comity which should ever exist between the different States of this Union, it would undoubtedly tend greatly to restore that peace and harmony which are now so unwisely imperiled. By it Pennsylvania would concede no principle. We would simply be falling back upon our ancient policy, adopted at a time when our people were themselves struggling for their rights, and never departed from, until, by a misconception of its meaning, one of our most important statutes was declared unconstitutional.

From 1780 to 1847, a period of sixty-seven years, Pennsylvania, herself a free State, permitted the citizens of other States to sojourn within her limits with their slaves, for any period not exceeding six months, and to pass through the State, in travelling from one State to another, free from all molestation. Was she injured or was the cause of human freedom retarded, by the friendly grant of this privilege? This question cannot be truthfully answered in the affirmative; but may be safely averred, that by changing our policy in this respect, we have in some degree, at least alienated from us the feelings of fraternal kindness which bound together, so closely, the sisterhood of States. Let us, then renew this pledge of amity and friendship, and once more extend a kindly welcome to the citizens of our common country, whether visiting us on business or pleasure, notwithstanding they may be accompanied by those who, under the Constitution and the

laws are held to service and labor. The Territories of the United States belong to the General Government, and in those Territories the people of the several States unquestionably have equal rights. They were acquired by means of the common expenditures of blood and treasure. By the Federal Constitution, power is given to Congress "to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory and other property belonging to the United States." Whether under this, or any other power conferred by the Constitution, Congress can prohibit or protect slavery in the Territories, has been seriously questioned. But, if the power to legislate upon this delicate and important subject were clearly vested in Congress, in my judgment it ought not to be exercised. To declare that slavery shall not exist in the Territories, is calculated to exclude from their occupancy the citizens of the Southern or slaveholding States; while, to make it a legal institution in all the Territories of the United States, by Congressional enactment, and to provide for its continuance during their entire Territorial existence, would be equally injurious to the people of the free States. The principle adopted in the Compromise measures of 1850, for disposing of the question of slavery in New Mexico and Utah, and reiterated in the Kansas and Nebraska bills of 1854, of non-intervention by Congress with slavery in the States and in the Territories, is the true rule. It is the duty of Congress, when a sufficient number of hardy and adventurous pioneers find their way into our distant Territories, to furnish them a shield of protection and a form of government; but to the people themselves belongs the right to regulate their own domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States.

While these views have been long entertained by me, and while I am generally of the opinion that their general adoption, and faithful enforcement, would have preserved, and may yet restore, peace and harmony to all sections of our country, I am nevertheless not so wedded to them as to reject, unceremoniously, all other propositions for the settlement of the vexed questions which now threaten to sunder the bonds which for three-quarters of a century have made us one people. Forty years ago, our fathers settled an angry controversy growing out of a similar question, by dividing the territories purchased from France, and providing that slavery, or involuntary servitude, should not exist north of a certain line; and the whole country acquiesced in that compromise. In 1854, that restriction upon slavery was removed, and the people of all the Territories were left free to decide the question for themselves. Now the sectional issue is again presented, by the dominant party in the North, claiming that slavery cannot legally go into the Territories, even if sanctioned by Congress, or the Territorial Legislature; and that it is the right and duty of Congress to prohibit its existence; while the doctrine which obtains with a majority of the people in most of the Southern States is that, under the Constitution, the Territories are all open to slavery; that neither Congress nor the Territorial Legislature can lawfully prohibit its existence, and that it is the duty of Congress to provide for it all needful protection.

May we not wisely follow the example of our fathers, by re-enacting the old compromise line of 1820, and extending it to the boundary of California? Not by means of legislation of doubtful constitutionality, but by an amendment to the Constitution itself, and thus permanently fix the condition of the Territories, so that those who desire to occupy them may find a home, at their discretion, either where slavery is tolerated, or where it is prohibited. If the adoption of such an amendment would peacefully settle the difficulties which now surround us, I am satisfied that it would be sanctioned by the people of Pennsylvania. At all events, they should have an opportunity to accept or reject it, if made as a peace offering. I would, therefore, recommend the General Assembly to instruct and request our Senators and Representatives in Congress to support a proposition for such an amendment of the Constitution, to be submitted for ratification or rejection, to a convention of delegates, elected directly by the people of the State.

In the event of the failure of Congress speedily to propose this or a similar amendment to the Constitution, the citizens of Pennsylvania should have an opportunity, by the application of some peaceable remedy, to prevent the dismemberment of this Union. This can only be done by calling a convention of delegates, to be elected by the people, with a view solely to the consideration of what measures should be taken to meet the present fearful exigencies. If Congress should propose no remedy, let it emanate from the source of all authority, the people themselves. Every attempt, upon the part of individuals, or of organized societies, to lead the people away from their allegiance to the Government, to induce them to violate any of the provisions of the Constitution, or to incite insurrections in any of the States of this Union, ought to be prohibited by law, as crimes of a treasonable nature. It is of the first importance to the perpetuity of this great Union, that the hearts of the people, and the action of their constituted authorities, should be in unison, in giving a faithful support to the Constitution of the United States. The people of Pennsylvania are devoted to the Union. They will follow its stars and its stripes through every peril. But, before assuming the high responsibilities,

now dimly foreshadowed, it is their solemn duty to re-avow every just cause of complaint against themselves, so that they may stand before high Heaven and the civilized world without fear and without reproach, ready to devote their lives and their fortunes to the support of the best form of Government that has ever been devised by the wisdom of man.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the State, I shall soon resign the office of Chief Executive of Pennsylvania, with which the people have entrusted me, to him whom they have chosen as my successor. I shall carry with me, into the walks of private life, the consciousness of having honestly discharged the duties that have devolved on me during the term of my office, to the best of my ability, and shall ever cherish, the warmest affection for, and the deepest interest in, the future welfare of our beloved Commonwealth and our glorious Republic. The shadow of a dark cloud does indeed rest upon us, but my hopes and my affections still cling to our Union; and my prayer shall be that He who orders the destinies of nations, when He shall have chartered us for our sins, and humbled us before Him, will restore us again in mercy, and bind us together in stronger and more hallowed bonds of fraternity, to remain unbroken through all futurity. WILLIAM F. PACKER. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Harrisburg, January 2, 1861.

The Potter Journal.

COUDERSPORT, PA.
Thursday Morning, Jan. 24, 1861.
T. S. CHASE, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Snow.—This (Thursday) morning we are having a foot or so of snow added to our already generous supply.

We are indebted to Hon. James T. Hale for Congressional favors. We are also indebted to Hon. R. E. Fenton of Chautauque for similar remembrance.

Gov. Curtin was inaugurated at Harrisburg a week ago Tuesday. A large concourse of military and citizens from different sections of the State were present. His address was firm but conciliatory. We will publish it when we can get room.

The Hon. Thomas Williams of Pittsburg, made a noble speech on the state of the nation in the State Legislature last week. We hope soon to get room for an extract or two. Such men and such speeches are balm for the Union sentiment everywhere. No trembling of knees nor chattering of teeth can be found there.

Edgar A. Cowan, of Westmoreland county, was elected to the U. S. Senate by the Pennsylvania Legislature, two weeks ago last Thursday. The vote stood—Cowan, 96; Foster 35.

The Hon. Lott Morrill has been elected in place of Vice President Hamlin, The Hon. Henry S. Lane has been elected from Indiana, and Hon. Lyman Trumbull reflected from Illinois.

We have no progress to report in the secession movement, further than that Georgia passed the ordinance of secession on the 19th inst. There were 86 votes against it given by cooperationists, but they have since given in their adhesion. Savannah offers no obstruction to the custom house there and is thus biting off the nose of Charleston—which latter does not like it very well, of course.

Virginia threatens to secede if no compromise is passed. Maryland also puts in the weak-knee caveat. Kentucky and Tennessee blow hot and cold, according to locality. Louisiana has taken possession of most of the U. S. property, and twigs Uncle Sam's nose with impunity. Mississippi is erecting a battery at Vicksburg to interrupt the trade of the Mississippi river. She will get Louisiana, Kentucky and Missouri about her ears in that way.

Messrs. Yulee and Mallory of Florida, Clay and Fitzpatrick of Alabama, and Jeff. Davis of Mississippi, formally withdrew from the Senate on Monday morning, after making valedictory speeches. Yulee was courteous, Mallory wept (crocodile) tears, Clay was crinative and bitter, Fitzpatrick endorsed him, and Davis was decorous and earnest, taking back all the hard things he had said and done to Republican Senators. A member deplored the empty seats, when some one remarked that they were less dangerous to the country than when they were filled.

Postmaster General Holt has notified Gov. Pickens of South Carolina, that unless Major Anderson's mail matter is given up to him properly and his letters sent without surveillance, the postoffice at Charleston will be discontinued forthwith. The Major's correspondence is no longer disturbed.

The House of Representatives at Washington last week passed a bill granting \$1,300,000 for the establishment of three regiments of Texas Rangers. As Gen. Houston will have the appointment of the officers, the Union will be safe on that side.

The Governor's Message.

To the exclusion of variety, we this week conclude the last annual message of Gov. Packer. In the main it is an able document. Its sentiments with regard to local State measures are commendable and considerate. The disquisition of the Governor upon national affairs is far-fetched logic, and entirely at fault with the spirit of the times as manifested by the recent popular decision at the ballot-box. Gov. Packer aims rather to apologise for the mal-practices of the party he represents than to grapple with the excitement of the times with a view to meet the issues at stake. He has been so long the slave of party upon national measures that he has lost all relish for self-reliant statesmanship. He seems to forget that the people of Pennsylvania have constitutional rights which they cannot consistently sacrifice for fear that they will conflict with the imaginary rights of South Carolina. He would have the North always conservative to the degree of submission, and the South always demanding and rampant; that is, he would have the State retract all the steps it has ever taken toward preserving intact the honor and liberties of its people, and make them mere hounds to run down the negroes of the southern planter. This would be the real effect of reneating the law of 1820, by his own confession. For under its operation the negro hunter might avail himself of Pennsylvania officers and Pennsylvania jails to reclaim that which the Governor informs us the Supreme Court decided those laws had no right to aid in reclaiming or preventing.

Pennsylvania has got past the days of truculence to the crack of the Slave-deckers whip, and it will require many years to turn her back to that demoralizing position. Henceforth the South is no longer her master, nor doughfaceism her manner. She will go as far as is just and honorable to maintain the Union, will recognize equality of rights only so far as they are equal and just, and abuse no constitutional right of any State or people. She has no apology to make for her existing laws, having none but just and constitutional ones, which she will maintain at all hazards.

Mr. Cameron "Weak in the Knees."

To those who have never fully trusted Mr. Cameron's political integrity, the following paragraph from the *Tribune* of Tuesday will be almost convincing: "In the Senate, yesterday, according to our congressional report, Mr. Cameron announced his readiness to sustain the compromise propositions of Mr. Bigler for the surrender of Northern rights and Republican principles, and was duly complimented by the Southern Senators. This, we presume, will be sufficient to settle his claims to a seat in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet. If he be truly reported, he may be considered to have formally departed from the Republican party."

On turning to the Congressional reports of Monday we find the following debate put down:

Mr. CAMERON (Rep., Pa.) said he should not make a speech, for though his colleague represented a great State and offered an olive branch of peace, yet Senator on the other side would not listen and respond. The people of that great State would do anything to save the Union. He was inclined to vote for the propositions of his colleague, and would do all he could to save the Union.

Mr. GREEN (Dem., Mo.) said the Senators on this side had so much confidence in the patriotism and devotion of the Senator from Pennsylvania, that they did not think it necessary to watch him, but the other side did not want to hear words of patriotism and devotion.

Mr. CAMERON said he was sorry that the Senators who left this morning did not wait till they heard from Pennsylvania.

Mr. IVERSON (Dem., Ga.) asked if the Senator approved of his colleague's speech?

Mr. CAMERON—Very much, and I say to the Senator, if it will save the country, I will vote for the proposition of my colleague.

Mr. SAULSBURY (Dem., Del.) said he wished to say that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Cameron) had manifested a spirit of patriotism and devotion to the country and to the Union, which he thought all might imitate.

Mr. CAMERON—I say to the Senator from Georgia, and all gentlemen, that if they will take the proposition of my colleague I will vote for it and we will pass it.

Mr. IVERSON asked if he (Cameron) approved of the sentiments of his colleague against coercion? That is the point.

Mr. CAMERON—Coercion is the last remedy to which I would resort.

Mr. GREEN—Is it a bid remedy? I do not know as I ever would resort to it. Certainly it is the last remedy to which I would resort.

to show the people of his State and the country the difference between *profession and practice* here. Mr. CAMERON said the Senator from Virginia seemed to be anxious for the excuse to leave the Union. He (Cameron) had voted as he did because he saw no disposition to compromise on the other side, unless he went on bended knees and asked forgiveness. He should ask no forgiveness, because he had done no wrong, but still he was willing to forgive the backslidings of the South, and do all he could to preserve the Union. But he was not to be dragged or driven. He was the peer and equal of the Senator from Virginia.

Mr. MASON said he was unconscious of having said anything to arouse the wrath of the Senator from Pennsylvania. He (Mason) did not want an excuse for leaving the Union. If he wanted any excuse it was to know how to remain in the Union. He had seen to-day six Senators taking formal leave of the Senate and he knew the Union was dissolved, absolutely dissolved. Senators may not recognize the dissolution, but that will not alter the fact. States are gone, and the chairs of their Senators are vacant. What is the remedy? Coercion! Would you use the discipline the pedagogues inflict on an archer at school? The Constitution was against coercion; and humanity and the civilized world were against it. We cannot make war unless we change the laws, and we cannot change the laws unless we violate the Constitution. But the question of peace or war was in the hands of the majority. The South deplored war because of the consequences, not from fear; and if it were forced on them it would be such a war as the world had never seen. The only excuse he wanted was to remain in the Union; and would to God the Senator from Pennsylvania would give him such excuse.

Mr. CAMERON said he had not heard of any threats of war, but if it must come Pennsylvania was ready to meet it. The people of his State were ready to do anything honorable to save the Union—were willing to yield their prejudices. The North has committed no aggression, no wrong, and you can't drive them by bullying them. If you want the Union preserved, let us know what wrong we have committed, and we will redress it.

We would here say that Mr. Bigler's propositions are merely those of Mr. Crittenden re-presented to the Senate. They surrender every principle comprised in the territorial policy of the Republican party, and their adoption would annul the popular vote of November. Is the last sentence of the *Tribune* less pointed than the fact?

WHEN WE SAY THAT MRS. WINSLOW'S Soothing Syrup acts like a charm, we do but re-iterate the language of every person who ever used it for their children, for all diseases incident to the period of teething, such as dysentery and diarrhoea, Wind Cholice and Cholera Infantum. It will produce quietude and rest, relieve all suffering, and the infant will awake invigorated and refreshed, and not with the dull and stupefying effects of preparations of opium. Sold everywhere, 25 cents per bottle. Office, 13 Cedar street, New York.

The plavert against coercion by those who say that it will ruin Northern interests is a nonsequitur. If South Carolina is permitted to establish a free port with impunity, and to invite to her harbor all the ships of foreign nations, would not disaster in that event fall upon all our great Northern interests? and would not hundreds and thousands, now dependent upon the present revenue, in that event be turned out of employment? No city would be more seriously damaged by the failure on the part of the present Administration of the Federal Government to insist upon the execution of the laws than the great manufacturing city of Philadelphia.

THE STATE SENATE.—On Tuesday the Senate organized by electing Robert M. Palmer, of Schuylkill, Speaker; Russell Errett, Chief Clerk; C. H. Ramsdell, Assistant Clerk; Messrs. Hatton, Hittell, Cook, and Berry, transcribing clerks; Harman Yerkes, sergeant-at-arms; J. M. Afee, assistant sergeant-at-arms; John G. Martin, doorkeeper; J. B. Hinds and George Babb, assistant doorkeepers; Wm. H. Huddleson, messenger; Jos. J. Brady, assistant messenger; and Wm. P. Brady, librarian.

The House was organized by electing Elisha W. Davis, Speaker; Ranch, clerk, E. W. Capron, assistant clerk; Messrs. Wallace, Denniston, Nichols, and Porter, transcribing clerks; M. Mathews, sergeant-at-arms; E. D. Pickett, doorkeeper and H. A. Woodhouse, postmaster.

FORCED LOANS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—The *Washington Star* says: "Among the items of news from Charleston floating around in secession circles here is a story that Hon. William Aiken has been made to 'disgorge in aid of the cause much against his will,' as follows: 'He was notified that he was expected to advance \$40,000 to that end, but pleaded his right to advance or not, as he might please, adding that he did not have the money. He was then promptly notified that he had been assessed that amount and must promptly pay it, under penalty of having it raised by the immediate confiscation and sale of his property in Charleston, worth many times as much. To save that from utter destruction, he paying it remarked that his lot would be better if he was a journeyman carpenter at the North, shoving a jack-plane at \$2 per day wages, than the South Carolina millionaire he was before it was essayed to reduce the South under a military despotism. He is now 'one of the suspected,' his course in refusing to seem to be pleased with paying the forced loan having earned him the dangerous reputation of being disaffected to the cause.'"

BUCHANAN AND OTHER FUN.—South Carolina and James Buchanan against Major Anderson and General Scott. South Carolina deals and turns up (ton of spades) (niggers) General Scott passes; James Buchanan, having best bowler, as

ists South Carolina. They play and the old General, having a good hand, draws James Buchanan's best bowler, and takes three tricks, he enchures them. Major Anderson now deals, and turns up hearts; James Buchanan passes; General Scott says he cannot assist the Major; South Carolina passes; Major Anderson turns down hearts reluctantly; James Buchanan passes again; General Scott passes again; South Carolina passes; Major Anderson makes clubs trump, and says he plays it alone. The hand is played, the Major makes a march, and South Carolina and James Buchanan are skunked.—*Boston Atlas*.

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the *Volter Journal*. FRIEND CHASE.—It is sometimes said, or thought, that we Yankees are more difficult to please; than our cousins are who live across the big waters. Be that as it may, I am of Yankee extraction; not very docile—and perhaps, too, difficult—and of late, when I take up a newspaper, I feel very much like scolding; to see about seven columns densely filled with quick-nostrum-ifications. (A lucky word) or medicinal advertisements, which in my opinion does no other good than to keep the Never Wells-sick, and the Always Sick, sicker. All this may be necessary to keep the printer in bread and beer, but for my part I'd rather pay another quarter, especially just now, when the Union is bursting and cracking like a roasted chestnut. Quite lately, after brushing over all these physicalities (another lucky word), until the last drop of patience was wrung to the very verge, up came "Hunt's Bloom of Roses," a rich and elegant color for the cheeks and lips of the ladies; invented in London, and found at E. N. Stebbins' & Bro. Probably those gents are much interested in the matter, and who can help being interested? when they consider that the paint will stick "for years," and that nothing but "lemon juice" can erase it. When Esther appeared before Ahasuerus the king, she wanted no perfumery, nor artificial beauty, but appeared in her naked simplicity, her mind adorned with a meek and quiet spirit," she was accepted and became his queen, and proved of "more value than many rubies." B.

Visiting Schools.

Mr. Editor: Permit me to say a few words through your columns, to the friends of education in this county, on the subject of visiting schools. A great deal has been said and written on the necessity of school visitation, by parents, Directors and teachers, all of which is, no doubt, excellent advice; and ought to be generally adopted. I wish, however, to call attention to the manner of making these visits. Many persons, on visiting a school, seem to forget that a school cannot be a successful one unless the authority of the teacher is maintained, good order preserved, and the undivided attention of all the pupils secured. On entering the room they commence a noisy conversation with the teacher on some subject not even remotely connected with the business of the school, and this conversation is kept up until the duties of the school compel the teacher to break it off. Then they walk heavily across the room to a seat. Here, if more than one is present, a whispering conversation is carried on about the school house, the furniture, the recitations; or perhaps gossiping and political discussion is introduced. Sometimes visitors go so far as to select some pupil with whom they are acquainted, and whisper to him about his studies, how he enjoys attending school, &c., and soon the attention of the whole school is drawn upon them. However beneficial visits may be when properly conducted, such will always produce more injury than benefit to the school favored with them. Good order is of the first importance in school, and every visitor who needlessly disturbs the quiet of study, or the routine of recitation, is thereby retarding its progress. Parents no doubt wish their children to imitate their virtues, and while they are visiting at school, their conduct should be such as might properly be imitated by every pupil. I have had the pleasure of visiting several schools in company of Directors, and have not always been able to commend their deportment. I was also present in several instances, while the former County Superintendent was making his official inspection, and sometimes even thought him open to objection in this respect. Concerning the present incumbent I am unable to speak, but hope he may find my remarks worthy of his attention. My idea of the manner of visiting a school is as follows: 1st. After a friendly salutation to the teacher, take the seat offered you at once and without noise; then be a quiet and attentive observer of all the exercises. 2d. If you wish to make any suggestions to a class, do it as briefly as possible, always first obtaining the teachers' permission, and in no case detaining the class longer than the time allotted for recitation. 3rd. To sum it all up, let your conduct in everything be such as would adorn the character of a model scholar on a visit from a neighboring school. A CITIZEN.

Special Notice.

RENALLES SUFFERING FROM Scalding of the Urine, Prolapsus, Lucorhea, should use Dr. Andrews' Fever and Canker compound. It removes all Fevers, Irritation, itching, and leaves the parts in a healthy condition. Please consult "Last Ray of Hope," to be had of the Proprietor, Syracuse, N. Y. Send stamp to pre-pay postage, or it may be had gratis of Agents. For sale by C. S. & E. A. Jones, Coudersport.