

DEMOCRATIC UNION MEETING



The Democratic citizens of Bedford county, and all others opposed to the uncompromising, coercive and war-promoting policy of the "Republican" party in regard to the present National difficulties, are requested to assemble in MASS MEETING, at the COURT HOUSE, in Bedford, on

MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 10th, at 7 o'clock.

LET ALL COME, who sustain the doctrine of President BUCHANAN that this Union "can never be cemented by the blood of its citizens shed in civil war!"

LET ALL COME, who stand by Senator DOUGLASS, when he nobly rings out the cry, "I deny the right to make war in order to regain possession of a State, in order to enforce the laws. I am for peace to save the Union. WAR IS DISUNION, certain and inevitable, final, and irrepressible!"

LET ALL COME, who believe with Senator CRITTENDEN, that "unless something is done by concession, we will be a separated and divided people," and especially,

LET ALL COME, who are in favor of the adoption of the Crittenden Amendments, or any similar peaceful mode of settling the alarming difficulties in which our country is at present involved.

G. H. SPANG, Chairman Dem. Co. Com. Jan. 25th, 1861.

Who are Responsible?

The legal pettifogger whose services are always called into requisition by the ostensible editor of the Abolition organ, whenever that nondescript specimen of humanity gets himself into a quandary, publishes one of his usually long-winded editorials in the last week's issue of that sheet, in reply to a late article of ours proving the so-called "Republican" party responsible for the present difficulties in the South. The "galled jade wince" under the lashings of truth and a slowly awakening conscience. The miserable pettifogger finds that he and his fellow "Republicans" are becoming odious in the sight of all honest men and true patriots, and hence he deems it necessary to environ and fortify himself and his political confederates with any quantity of verbiage and garbled extracts. He manages to flounder through two mortal columns—headed, solid, primer, brevier, italic—in building up his fortification of words. He has an idea that if he can only get into his article all the words contained in Webster's Dictionary, he and Republicanism will both be perfectly safe. Mistaken man! Not all the vocabularies of the language, nor "burnt brandy," nor judicial non-inventions in prospect, can suffice to save him from political death; and as for "Republicanism,"

"Neither poppy, nor mandragora Nor all the drowsy syrups of the world" can medicine its tuncers and worshippers "to that sweet sleep which once they owed," when the morning of the seventh of November brought them the certainty of Lincoln's election. But for the sake of curiosity let us follow this frightened "Republican" editor in his devious wanderings in search of an excuse for the conduct of his party. His object is to show that disunion has been mediated by the Southern States for many years past, and that, therefore, the election of Lincoln is not the cause of the present condition of things in those States. In order to effect this purpose, he quotes "a few excerpts" [see Webster] from a debate in the Legislature of South Carolina in the year 1850. These "excerpts" certainly show that disunion was seriously spoken of in South Carolina, in 1850, but they show no more than the history of the United States, for it is a part of our national history that in 1850, the Union was in great danger of being dissolved, on account of the very same causes which are now operating for its dismemberment. In 1848, David Wilmot in the lower house of Congress, offered his famous proviso, which declared that there should be "no more slavery, or involuntary servitude except for crime," in any of the States to be admitted into the Union. In other words, it was the doctrine of "no more Slave States," now so pertinaciously insisted upon by the Republican party. This, of course, applied to all the Territories, organized or unorganized, then belonging to the United States, and, therefore, virtually repealed the Missouri compromise, which had been theretofore regarded as finality on the slavery question, both North and South. Nevertheless, the Wilmot proviso passed the lower house of Congress, carried through by the anti-slavery sentiment of the North. Thus did the people of the North violate their pledged faith, and open up a political agitation which is now about to culminate in the dissolution and destruction of the government. It was because of the violation of the Missouri compact, by the representatives of the North in Congress, in 1848, and because of the attempt to apply the unconstitutional and unfair principle of the Wilmot proviso, to the admission of California, that disunion was spoken of in South Carolina and other Southern States in 1850. The reason why the Union was then preserved, is familiar to every body acquainted with the history of that memorable period. Such patriots as Clay, Webster, Winthrop, and Douglas united to overthrow the doctrine of the Wilmot proviso, and when unable, on account of Northern opposition, to extend the Missouri compromise line to the Pacific, agreed to adopt the present Fugitive Slave Law, and to settle the Territorial question by submitting it to the decision of the bona fide residents of the Territories, who were to form their own domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States. By this steatment the people of the North and of the

South, were to have equal rights in the Territories—equal rights as to all things—life, liberty and property. The South was satisfied.—"Rebellious South Carolina" ceased to talk of disunion, and peace and tranquillity once more resumed their sway from one end of the Union to the other. The "Anti-slavery sentiment of the North, however, was restless and unappeasable. Having obtained a deep hold upon the Whigs of the North through the machinations of Horace Greeley, W. H. Seward and other men of that ilk, it soon succeeded in introducing itself into the organization of that party in such a shape as to effect its ruin. When the American party took the place of the Whig party, the same anti-slavery sentiment and anti-slavery leaders soon worked out its destruction. Upon the ruins of the last sundry arose the sectional party which the anti-slavery leaders were desirous of forming and to establish which they had labored to destroy both the National Whig and American parties. This sectional party was founded upon the anti-slavery sentiment of the North, its founders declaring that the organization of the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, though in accordance with Henry Clay's compromise of 1850, was an outrage upon that sentiment and a "crime against freedom." Hence, "Republicanism" is but the development of that anti-slaveryism which since 1848, has kept up a continual agitation of the question of slavery. Hence "Republicanism" is responsible for the present difficulties in the South, because when the South was satisfied with compromises to which the North had assented, "Republicanism" either by its founders, or in its own proper organization, repudiated such compromises. But not only has "Republicanism" violated solemn and sacred compromises, not only has it brought the North to an attitude of sectional political hostility to the South, but under the maneuvering of some of its leaders it has passed laws nullifying the Fugitive Slave Act and legalizing the rescue of the slave from captivity by the master; it has sent ruffians and fiends in human shape to Kansas to despoil Southern emigrants of their property and to shoot them down in their tracks, or lynch them upon the nearest tree; it has connived at the invasion of Virginia by an armed band of anti-slavery marauders, and many of its presses and public-speakers have attempted to sustain and vindicate that invasion; it has scattered inflammatory publications, Helper Books and Uncle Tom's Cabins, broadcast among the people, exciting their passions and arousing their prejudices; it has sent its emissaries among the slaves, stirring them up to mutiny, insurrection and murder, and fighting up the plantations of the South, with the flames of burning cotton-gins and consuming farm-houses; and yet, we are told that "Republicanism" is not responsible for the revolution in the South!

Court begins next Monday.

Incompatible—sunshine and sleighing.

ACCIDENT.—On Saturday morning last, a troop of boys were engaged in skating and sliding down the hill in front of our office, a little sled occupied by one of the boys, struck a young lad, a son of Rev. Mr. Heckerman, of this place, and threw him backwards upon his head, injuring him so severely that his life was for some days despaired of. We are happy to learn, however, that he is now almost out of danger. This accident should teach boys to be more careful when engaged in sliding, or skating, and as for making the principal street of the town the scene of such dangerous sport, we think it is altogether wrong and should be prohibited by the Borough authorities. Boys must have play, but their playground should be elsewhere than on the public street.

Don't forget the Democratic Meeting on Monday evening next.

The Peace Conference met at Washington on Monday last.

BURGLARY.—On Wednesday night last, the Catholic Church in this place, was broken into by some unknown person and is supposed to have been robbed of a number of valuables, plates, &c. At the same time a number of articles were also taken from the office of the Bedford Hotel.

A number of our Democratic exchanges have recently come to us in an enlarged and improved form.

Do you want good seed potatoes? If so, call on Hartley, at his Hardware Store, and you will be accommodated with a first rate article at moderate prices.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION!

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of Pennsylvania, at a meeting held in the city of Harrisburg, on the 30th ultimo, unanimously resolved to elicit the views of the Democracy of the "old Keystone" in reference to the present terrible crisis of our national affairs.

The failure of the Republican party to meet, in a proper spirit of concession and compromise, the overtures made for the adjustment of our National difficulties, renders it necessary that the united Democracy of this Commonwealth should take prompt, decided, and energetic action in the premises.

We are in the midst of a revolution brought about by the teachings of an Anti-Constitutional party, a party sectional in its aims and sectional in its principles.

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Local and Miscellaneous.

Court begins next Monday.

Incompatible—sunshine and sleighing.

ACCIDENT.—On Saturday morning last, a troop of boys were engaged in skating and sliding down the hill in front of our office, a little sled occupied by one of the boys, struck a young lad, a son of Rev. Mr. Heckerman, of this place, and threw him backwards upon his head, injuring him so severely that his life was for some days despaired of.

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Hartley's Prince Alberts are excellent esculents, as we can abundantly testify.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION!

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of Pennsylvania, at a meeting held in the city of Harrisburg, on the 30th ultimo, unanimously resolved to elicit the views of the Democracy of the "old Keystone" in reference to the present terrible crisis of our national affairs.

The failure of the Republican party to meet, in a proper spirit of concession and compromise, the overtures made for the adjustment of our National difficulties, renders it necessary that the united Democracy of this Commonwealth should take prompt, decided, and energetic action in the premises.

We are in the midst of a revolution brought about by the teachings of an Anti-Constitutional party, a party sectional in its aims and sectional in its principles.

Six of our sisters sovereign States have already withdrawn from the Federal Union, and others threaten speedily to follow.

The Democratic party, ever faithful to the Constitution and the laws, seriously deprecates this deplorable condition of our common and beloved country.

The peril now impending is the natural result of a departure from the true Constitutional doctrines steadily maintained by the Democratic organization for the past sixty years, and can only be removed by the re-establishment of those ancient and time-honored principles.

It is not necessary to recall the glories of the past—it is only necessary to be reminded of the dangers of the present.

Whatever the future may have in store for the American people—whether peace shall continue within our borders, or our land be rent with fraternal strife—it now becomes the solemn and imperative duty of the Democratic party, the only true conservator of the Union, the Constitution, and "the equality of the States," to give a full expression of opinion upon the dangers which threaten constitutional liberty and menace the rights of all the States of this Confederacy.

Therefore, in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Democratic State Executive Committee, the Democracy of Pennsylvania are earnestly invited to send three delegates for each Senator, and three delegates for each Representative, to be chosen in such manner and at such times as may be deemed proper, to meet in general State Convention at Harrisburg, at three o'clock, p. m., on Thursday, the 21st day of February, A. D. 1861, to take into consideration the present distracted and divided state of the country, to restrain threatened sectional violence, and to aid in reconstructing the federative system on a basis of perpetuity.

By order of the Committee.

WILLIAM H. WELSH, Chairman.

HARRISBURG, February 1, 1861.

Meeting of the Democratic State Committee.

The Democratic State Committee met in the Supreme Court Room, at Harrisburg, at 3 o'clock P. M., on Wednesday, the 30th ult.—Forty four members were present.

After some discussion the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The dismemberment of the Union by the withdrawal of the slave-holding States now in rapid progress, has become occasioned by a departure from the Democratic construction of the Constitution of the United States, which holds "the equality of the States of the Confederacy," in respect to persons and property, to be a fundamental principle of such Constitution, and by a contemplated abandonment of the conservative Democratic policy which has, for sixty years past, sacredly guarded the