

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 1, 1857.

Mr. HENRY M. LEWIS, Montgomery, Alabama, is our general traveling agent for the States of Alabama and Tennessee, assisted by C. F. LEWIS, JAMES O. LEWIS, and SAMUEL D. LEWIS.

OFFICIAL.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT. Bushrod B. Howard, postmaster at Galena, Illinois, in place of Bernard Gray.

THE WEEKLY UNION.

The ample pages of this week's issue, which is now ready for delivery, are literally crowded with highly-interesting political, foreign, and miscellaneous intelligence.

Within the last week we have received large accessions to our subscription list, for which we take the present opportunity of returning our most grateful acknowledgments. It is a matter of notoriety that the fanatical sheets of the opposition are circulated by tens of thousands of copies in the Eastern, Middle, and Western States; and, as an antidote to their poisonous teachings, the widest and most extensive circulation should be given to the recognized organs of the democratic party.

The Weekly Union is a large and handsome sheet, printed on fine white paper, with new type, and is furnished to subscribers at the low rate of one dollar per annum; payments in every instance to be made in advance.

IOWA.

We invite attention to an excellent article in today's Union upon the result of the late election in Iowa, from the pen of a gentleman whose long residence in that State renders him thoroughly conversant with her political history.

The first successful effort of a State heretofore so damaged by black-republican rule to throw off her shackles, and again take rank with her democratic sisterhood of the Union, is an occasion of much interest to the political reader.

WISCONSIN.

Democratic cities in Wisconsin are becoming numerous. At the recent election, Col. Geo. H. Paul, an out-and-out Nebraska democrat, was elected mayor of Kenosha by 236 majority.

THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY.

It has been stated that a committee of the English Parliament have under consideration the subject of the future disposition of the vast landed possessions of the Hudson Bay Company in North America.

Ex-Senator Font, who has been for some time associated with the know-nothings in California, has withdrawn from that organization and returned to the democratic party—so say the San Francisco papers.

THE SUPREMACY OF THE LAW.

It is the just and well-founded boast of the people of the United States that their government is emphatically a government of law. Laws based on the constitution of the United States, and those of the respective States, enacted in conformity with that instrument, constitute the supreme and only supreme power in this government.

This being, then, a government of laws, it must be evident that it can exist only so long as implicit obedience is paid to the law; for, without this, there can be no government, because in the United States no other authority is recognized.

It is undoubtedly true, that even liberty sometimes becomes a tyrant, and that laws are enacted which frequently bear hard on the minority, as others on a majority, of the people—whether from the ignorance or selfishness of the legislators is a matter of no consequence in this connexion.

The abolition-black-republicans are therefore striking at the very roots of this government of law when, under pretence of an abstract principle of right, they set themselves up as the sole interpreters of that law, and claim the privilege of resisting it at pleasure.

It must be evident that no government of law can exist where a band of runaway slaves, not recognized as citizens, armed with bow-knives and revolvers, and secretly instigated and abetted by incendiary white men, some of them calling themselves ambassadors of God, while at the same time preaching doctrines that justify treason and murder, skulk from all legal responsibility, and leave their miserable dupes to bear the brunt of the law.

Can we reasonably expect good laws from a legislative body composed of a majority of members subject to such pernicious influences? Can we reasonably anticipate independent tribunals to interpret the laws, or firm and upright officers to administer them, when one in the discharge of an indispensable duty is assailed in his character, its motives, and its action by such epithets as only belong to the meanest, most despicable and depraved of mankind, and the other performs his duty at the risk of being murdered by a runaway slave or a foaming fanatic?

Reverting to the late decision of the Supreme Court, let us for a moment contemplate its scope and tendency. It simply declares that a negro is not a citizen of the United States; nothing more. It trenches not on the rights of any State, nor does it prohibit Massachusetts, New York, or any other State from making citizens of anybody they please—negroes, orang-outangs, baboons, apes, or ring-tailed monkeys.

It has been stated that a committee of the English Parliament have under consideration the subject of the future disposition of the vast landed possessions of the Hudson Bay Company in North America. The Montreal Herald has advised from England to the effect that the company are to be allowed to retain the territory, on the condition that they shall give up such portions of it as, from time to time, may be required for the purpose of colonization.

What has become of Kallouch? Rev. Theodore Parker, Wendell Phillips, Bay Stone, Rev. George B. Cheever, Robert Purvis, Rev. O. B. Frothingham, C. L. Remond, Horace Greeley, and Fred Douglass, are to be the principal orators on the occasion of the anniversary celebration of the anti-slavery society next week.—New York paper.

judgment, but his motives, are assailed with vulgar slang and pot-house vituperation; and the legislature of a great State has, in a public act, charged him and his associates with being the mere organs of "a sectional, aggressive party." We are not surprised at this, nor should we have been surprised at any outrage or indecency coming from that quarter.

But let us come to the point; let us ask ourselves what is to be the end of all this? If the law is no longer of any force—if the constitution is a nullity, and the solemn decisions of the Supreme Court are to be set aside by the resolutions of a State legislature—what becomes of this government of laws? Will it not, to all intents and purposes, be annihilated, and will it not become the bounden duty of the President, in the discharge of his inauguration oath, to resort to the bayonet to execute those laws which cannot be otherwise enforced?

Let the sober and rational portion of the people of the North reflect on the consequences of this state of things, which is as certain as fate, unless they rally promptly and before it is too late. Let them ask themselves what will be the result of a triumph of the abolition-black-republicans, and their consequent ascendancy in the national councils.

It is with heartfelt pleasure we begin to perceive that the dawning indications of that sober second thought which has so often redeemed our country from impending ruin are beginning to streak the eastern skies. The abominable principles—moral, political, and religious—openly avowed and acted on by the abolition-black-republicans wherever they have had the power, are beginning to open the eyes of an intelligent, religious, and essentially moral people, who have been led into the very jaws of destruction by the wild, malignant spirit of fanaticism.

The important intelligence conveyed by this despatch, with marked promptness on the part of the right honorable Secretary of State, in reply to despatches from his excellency Governor Darling, conveying his opinion and that of his government and the legislature, adverse to the convention, and reflecting honor upon the good faith observed by the imperial government, as well as upon the local authorities, for the course they have adopted on this all-absorbing question, now happily set at rest.

The Daily Bay State cautions democrats against joining associations which may impose upon them political action inconsistent with fidelity to their own party organization. A timely caution.

The Washington correspondent of the Daily Bay State says in his last communication to that journal: "The new administration is fully meeting the expectations of its most anxious friends. The President moves slowly, but surely, working themselves and the government out of the difficulties which were supposed to surround them; and thus far their action has met the decided approval of the entire democratic party. Even the opposition have been compelled to admit that an unusual degree of fairness and liberality has been exhibited in the management of affairs thus far."

The city council of Boston have appropriated \$2,500 for the celebration of the anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill on the "glorious seventeenth." The Boston journal states that the state of General Warren, to be erected by the Bunker Hill Monument Association, will probably be placed upon a platform under a pavilion, where addresses will be made by Hon. Edward Everett and other distinguished citizens from that and other States. The Monument Association of that city have invited the President, his cabinet, the Vice President, and other high official personages.

THE POISONING AT THE NATIONAL HOTEL.

Referring to the death of John G. Montgomery, M. C. from Pennsylvania, and by the localized illness of the collector of the port of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania says: "There are certain coincidences connected with this subject which are suggestive of the most horrible suspicions, but, for the honor of human nature, we hope they may be unfounded. Mr. Buchanan arrived at the National Hotel on the 25th of January. On the 26th Dr. Hall was sent for to see the first case. A few days afterwards he had thirty-five cases, and quite a large number took sick, many of them after leaving Washington. Mr. Buchanan was among the latter. The symptoms in all cases were the same—violent, copious purging, inflammation of the large intestines, with a constant disposition to relapse."

While we are not disposed to give countenance or currency to the dark insinuations which have been made by several of our most respected cotemporaries in regard to what is termed "the National Hotel poisoning," and while we are satisfied that most of the reports in regard to this lamentable affair are greatly exaggerated, if not wholly unfounded, still there is sufficient left of a fearful reality to call for the strictest and most searching official investigation. Such an investigation should have taken place weeks ago. It cannot with propriety or safety be postponed a day longer.

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES. In a former issue we published a convention which was proposed to be made between Great Britain and France, by which certain fishing privileges were to be ceded to the latter country. It will be seen from the subjoined extract from Mr. Labouchere's despatch, addressed to Governor Darling, of Newfoundland, under date of 26th March, that the proposals contained in the convention have been refused by the colony, the whole matter falls to the ground.

"When Her Majesty's government entered into the convention with that of France, which has formed the occasion of that correspondence, they did so in the hope that it would be a satisfactory arrangement to the many complicated and difficult questions which have arisen between the two countries on the subject of the Newfoundland fisheries. But they did so with the full intention of adhering to two principles, which have guided them, and will continue to guide them—namely, that the rights at present enjoyed by the community of Newfoundland are not to be ceded or exchanged without their assent, and that the constitutional mode of submitting measures for that assent is by laying them before the Colonial Legislature. For this reason they pursued the same form of proceeding which had been pursued in the case of the reciprocal convention with the United States, and which was in that case adopted and acted upon by the Newfoundland legislature. It was in perfect uniformity with the same precedent, that it appeared necessary in the present instance to add a condition respecting Parliamentary assent, in order that, if necessary, any existing obstacles to the arrangement in the series of existing statutes might be subsequently removed."

HON. G. W. JONES. The Shelbyville (Tennessee) Constitutionalist of the 21st instant says: "We announce the name of this distinguished gentleman as a candidate for re-election. There is no man in Congress who has watched with such interest over the public affairs as the Hon. George W. Jones. We believe he has the pleasure of a visit from him a few days since; he is in fine health."

A FAIR HIT. We clip the following from the Middletown (Connecticut) Argus: "The New Haven Palladium, speaking of matters in the second congressional district, says: 'We fear the effect of Washington life upon Mr. Arnold.' The people of the district have 'feared the effect of Washington life' upon the editor of the Palladium. He so greatly enjoyed it, that he refused to renounce it. They do not seem, however, to have sympathized to any extent with the editor in his 'fears' concerning Mr. Arnold."

The editor of the Memphis Eagle and Enquirer takes occasion, in his issue of the 22d ult., to announce to the public that he never joined "what was known as the original know-nothing order."

So it goes. In two years from now it will take a search warrant to find a man who will admit that he ever followed a dark lantern, through a dark alley, into a dark hole, and there took the oath and entered into the mysteries of the secret order.—Nashville Union.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS.

Uniform Currency in Germany.—The following communication has been received from an intelligent correspondent at Frankfurt, under date of March 23, relative to a recent treaty between several States of the German Confederation for the establishment of a uniform currency for the contracting States:

In the Journal of Frankfurt of this date you will find published the treaty signed at Vienna on the 24th January last, between the plenipotentiaries of Austria and Sardinia, on the one part, and the governments of the Zollverein, by the convention of 30th July, 1833, on the other part, to regulate and establish a uniform currency for the contracting States.

You will see that silver is maintained as the standard of value, and that the Verein thalers and Verein coins to be issued are to be received at par throughout all the States.

This treaty has been submitted by the Frankfurt Senate to the legislative body. The Senate is of opinion that the treaty constitutes a great progress towards the unity and harmony of the great interests of the German States, and that its results will prove acceptable and beneficial to the whole nation.

The director of the Mint gives notice of the following regulations for carrying into effect the "Act relating to foreign coins and to the coinage of cents at the Mint of the United States," approved February 21, 1857, a copy of which act is hereto appended:

1. On and after the twenty-fifth day of May next, applications may be made at the Mint for coins of the new issue, in exchange for "the pieces commonly known as the quarter, eighth, and sixteenth of the Spanish pillar dollar, and of the Mexican dollar, and of the colonial rates, and in exchange for the copper cents heretofore issued; and the persons so applying will be attended to in their order, daily, between the hours of nine and two o'clock.

2. The silver or copper coins thus offered must be in even sums of five dollars, by count, and of the value of not exceeding fifty dollars; and in the case of silver, the sizes or denominations must be assorted and kept separate, so that any one package shall contain exactly five dollars (or a multiple thereof) of quarters, or of eighths, or sixteenths. Care must also be taken to exclude from the silver any other kinds of coin than those specified in the law. A memorandum or label must be presented, showing the value, by count, of the pieces offered, and the denominations thereof; and in the case of copper, it must state that they are lawful coins of the United States.

3. The reasonable expenses of transportation of the new cent, in sums of fifty dollars, to any point accessible by railroad and steambot, will be paid by the Mint.

4. Provision being made by the act for the receipt of the kind of silver coin already specified "at the Treasury of the United States and its several offices, and at the several post offices and land offices," at the rate of twenty cents for one quarter of a dollar, ten cents for one-eighth, and five cents for one-sixteenth, with a view to their transmission to the Mint for recoinage, the coins so transmitted will be received at the Mint at these rates, the silver coins of the United States returned therefor, and the expenses of transportation both ways will be paid by the Mint.

5. In compliance with the sixth section of the act, whenever the Treasury Department shall designate any "assistant treasurer, depositary, or other officer of the United States," who shall be charged with the business of making exchanges of the new cent, and shall issue a draft on the treasurer of the new issue, the same will be transmitted in the order of the application, and the expenses of transportation will be paid by the Mint.

6. To avoid an undue pressure at the outset, and to further some of the main objects of the law, the exchanges for the present will only be made for the silver coins specified, and for the copper cents heretofore issued; and due notice will be given when the Mint is ready to receive the gold and silver coins of the United States in exchange for the new cents.

7. The Spanish and Mexican silver coins will still be received as heretofore, by weight, at the rate of 122 1/2 cents per standard ounce, in exchange for silver coins of the United States, at the option of the holder, but not in less sums than twenty cents; and the gold coins, if less than \$20, will be received as heretofore, by weight, at the rate of 150 cents per standard ounce, in exchange for silver coins of the United States, at the option of the holder, but not in less sums than twenty cents; and the gold coins, if less than \$20, will be received as heretofore, by weight, at the rate of 150 cents per standard ounce, in exchange for silver coins of the United States, at the option of the holder, but not in less sums than twenty cents.

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THE RESULT IN IOWA—JUSTICE TO HER GAL-LANT DEMOCRACY.

Whenever a revolution occurs where modern republicanism has held sway the higher-law organs habitually seek some pretext upon which to account for it, in order to break the force of that popular tide which is advancing to overwhelm them. It is not surprising, therefore, that they should endeavor to console themselves for their recent defeat in Iowa by attributing the result to "a mistake."

As a citizen of Iowa, I feel that it is due to her noble-hearted democracy to disabuse the public mind with reference to her political character and history, by citing attention to the leading facts and the influences which have been operating in that State, as they are only known and understood there.

Know-nothingism was the nucleus of that combination subsequently known as "fusionists," and the main element of their organization and success; for their first victory was obtained by appealing to the native-American and anti-Catholic prejudices of the country. The vantage-ground thus gained enabled those petty demagogues who trade upon the capital of sectional prejudice and fanaticism to carry the State for Fremont by a small plurality. The reaction which we now see is the "sober second thought" of a people who have analyzed the motives and professions, and reflected upon the dangerous tendency of a political organization which, under the assumed name of "republican," ignores the constitution and recognises but half a country.

This reaction has doubtless received a very material impulse from the wise, firm, and equitable policy of Mr. Buchanan's administration, and the popular voice is giving an emphatic response to the wisdom of the national democracy in selecting that eminent statesman as the man to ride the storm which convulsed the country and threatened to extinguish the light of American liberty.

In no other State of the Union did the democracy have to contend under such adverse circumstances, and against such formidable influences, as in Iowa; and none are entitled to higher credit for the gallantry with which they fought the battle of the constitution and the Union against such fearful odds.

The Kansas abolition freebooters having been driven out of Missouri, as a route of emigration, Iowa was selected as their general rendezvous, their recruiting ground and highway to Kansas. Under their banner all the armed ruffians and cut-throats of Lane's expedition were poured, with all the money raised by Kansas anti-associations of the East, and scores of hired emissaries to traverse the State and poison the public mind by rank falsehoods and incendiary appeals to passion; and while peaceable citizens were hauled upon the streets, and insulted and molested in their public assemblies, treason was preached from the pulpits unrestrained, with impious invocations to the name of the Most High as an incentive to deeds of murder.

At the town in which the writer resides there was a regular "free-State"arrison from June till November, and by the aid of secret organizations, hundreds of those Kansas vagabonds were quartered in remote parts of our State, where they undoubtedly voted at both the August and November elections. All this was under the official sanction and implied protection of a black-republican government, sustained by a legislature of the same complexion.

Added to this, that for one or two years previous, there had been a large immigration from the East, strongly imbued with abolition sentiments, and it will excite the wonder of our friends abroad that we were not beaten worse than we were. At the same time, a view of all the facts in connexion will convince every candid mind that the late result in that State is the precursor of a thorough and permanent regeneration.

Yet we will undoubtedly have some hard fighting to do in future, with the odds of official power and patronage still against us; for a majority of the State officers were elected last August for two years; and in the convention to amend our constitution the republican majority took especial care to perpetuate their legislative power by continuing the present senate for another term. If that is ratified, they will elect a United States senator to succeed Gen. Jones.

HAWK-EYE.

FOUNTAINS OF BLOOD IN A CAVERN.—E. G. Squier's notes on Central America describe a wonderful effusion of a fluid resembling blood near the town of Vitul, in the State of Honduras. It appears that there is continually oozing and dropping from the roof of a cavern there a red liquid, which upon falling congealates so as to precisely resemble blood. Like blood, it curdles, insects deposit their larvae in it, and dogs and buzzards resort to the cavern to eat it. Attempts have several times been made to obtain some of this liquid for the purpose of analysis, but in all cases without success, in consequence of its rapid decomposition, whereby the bottles containing it were broken.