

WASHINGTON CITY.

TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 11, 1857.

Mr. Henry M. Lewis, Montgomery, Alabama, in our generalizing agent for the States of Alabama and Tennessee, assisted by James O. Lewis and H. M. Lewis, Jr.

Mr. C. W. James, No. 1 Harrison street, Cincinnati, Ohio, is our general collecting agent for the Western States and Texas, assisted by H. J. Thomas, William H. Thomas, Thos. M. James, Dr. A. L. Childs, George Munn, and Richard Leake.

THE NEXT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—POSTING THE BOOKS.

Elections for members of the House of Representatives of the next Congress have now been held in all the States of the Union with the exception of Maryland, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana, with the following result:

Table showing election results for the House of Representatives by state, including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, California, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Alabama.

In the States of Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Alabama congressional elections were held last week, and, although full and complete returns have not been received, we believe that the actual result will verify the correctness of the figures as given above.

Members already elected—110. Members from Maryland, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana, as they stood in last Congress—15.

The House of Representatives consists of 234 members—118 members constituting a majority. As the case now stands—allowing no change in the four States where elections are to be held—the democrats will have a majority of sixteen in the next House.

THE POSITION OF THE DEMOCRACY OF OHIO.

We invite the attention (says the Cincinnati Enquirer) of the national democracy to the platform and resolutions adopted by the democracy of Ohio in the fullest State convention ever held—adopted, too, with absolute unanimity.

Resolved, That the democracy of the State of Ohio in convention assembled, that it is one of the first and highest duties of the people of a republican government to obey the laws of the country, whatever they may be, until modified, repealed, or pronounced unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction.

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THE PATENT OFFICE.

Without attempting to express opinions upon a subject with which we are not familiar, we give our readers those of a gentleman who has, with no inconsiderable labor, brought together, for his own convenience, the statutes and decisions relative to patent laws, and is therefore familiar with both.

The constitution expresses its own object, with the limitation of power under it, when it provides that Congress shall have power "to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries."

In 1793 Congress passed a law authorizing inventors to present petitions to the Secretaries of State and War, and the Attorney General, and on proper examination the President was clothed with power to grant a patent for fourteen years.

In 1793 this act was repealed and another enacted, authorizing the petition to be presented to the Secretary of State, and requiring the Attorney General to certify that the proposed letters were conformable to law before signing the patent by the President.

A great change in the law was provided by the act of 1836, organizing a distinct office, and requiring the signature of the Secretary of State to patents, and creating the office of Commissioner.

Another suggestion has been made by men of experience in patent law deserving consideration. It is to require all applicants to advertise their applications in some specified manner, so as to call attention to them, and to file with them a description of the date and plan and circumstances of the invention, and notify all who claim to have made inventions on the same subject to show cause, if any they have, why a patent should not be granted.

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THE ELECTION IN KENTUCKY.

The returns from Kentucky continue to be of the most gratifying character. In the lower house of the State legislature the democrats will have a large majority. It will be seen from the following, which we copy from the Louisville Courier, that there will be a tie in the senate:

Of the old members of the senate holding over 13 are know-nothings and 6 are democrats. Some of the know-nothings are now representing strong democratic sentiments. Of the new members elected, 13 are democrats and 5 are know-nothings, with one district (the Fleming) to hear from, in which, we fear, Wat Andrews is elected by a close vote.

The majority for Garrard, the democratic candidate for State treasurer, is now estimated as high as twelve thousand. As far as heard from, the congressional delegation stands eight democrats to one know-nothing, (Humphrey Marshall.) In the remaining district to hear from—the third—it is barely possible, but not probable, that the democratic candidate is elected.

Notwithstanding the vauntings of the opposition press previous to the election, the unswerving democracy of the lone-star State have made a "clean sweep." There is literally nothing left of their opponents. In the following brief description of the whole story is told:

We have counted largely upon the generous and enthusiastic democracy of Tennessee, but the result thus far of their indomitable efforts far exceeds our most sanguine expectations. The indications are that, notwithstanding the success which attended the gerrymandering efforts of the know-nothings a few years ago, the democrats have carried both branches of the State legislature by decided majorities.

The election in Alabama, like that in Texas, proved to be a one-sided affair. The State is democratic to the core! Not a vestige is left of know-nothingism! Mobile, once the stronghold of Sam, gives four hundred majority for the democrats. Her redemption is thus noticed in the Mobile Register, the day after the election:

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We give below the vote of the ninth district: Mason 440, Lewis 19, Green 40, Fleming 191, Rowan 110, Morgan 725, Bath 419, Montgomery 135, Carter 470, Lawrence 500, Powell 11.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS.

Wreck.—Information has been received from James Keenan, United States consul at Hong-Kong, of the total loss on the 7th of March last of the American whaling ship "Alice Mandell," Dennis master, of New Bedford, on the Prates shoals. The captain and crew took to the boats without saving anything. The captain and first officer reached Hong-Kong after being in the boats four days, and the rest of the crew were picked up by a Chinese boat and carried into the same place.

The Minnesota Indian Difficulties.—Letter from the Special Agent of the Department.—Subjoined is a copy of the letter received yesterday morning by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs from Mr. K. Pritchett, who was recently sent to Minnesota as the special agent of the Indian Department:

On an interview with the governor at this place, I am informed that no further outrages have been perpetrated by the Indians. Great alarm, however, still prevails among the frontier settlers, who are daily deserting their improvements, and many leaving the Territory. The arrival of the troops will correct this, restore confidence, and, it is believed, effectually overawe the Indians.

Quantitative Analyses of the Cotton Plant and Cotton Soils.—The number of soils to be analyzed is six, from three distinct localities—namely, two from Georgia, on which is grown the Sea Island cotton, the subsoil and surface soil; two from Mississippi, taken from near the coast, or where the Sea Island cotton grows, and soil and surface soil; and two samples of soil from South Carolina or Georgia, on which the short staple cotton grows, and soil and surface soil. The ingredients to be ascertained of each of the above-named soils, to be determined to the nearest hundredth part of the amount of silica, alumina, lime, magnesia, potash, soda, peroxide of iron, and manganese, and two samples of soil from South Carolina or Georgia, on which the short staple cotton grows, and soil and surface soil.

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STATE RIGHTS VS. DISUNION DEMOCRATS.

There is a very wide difference, in precept and in policy, between democrats who advocate and uphold the doctrine of State-rights as it is understood in Virginia, and by an overwhelming majority of the party throughout the South, and those who regard the dissolution of the Union as the one great object to be attained at any hazard and at every cost.

A rigid adherence to the rights of the States has ever been a salient characteristic of the principles promulgated by democratic conventions. And in the North as well as in the South State sovereignty and equality are recognized by the democracy as the chief elements of their policy, involving the inherent truth and strength of the democratic creed, and embodying the true spirit of our government. To be a State-rights democrat is to be an advocate of the Union, as long as the South is safe within it, and to hold in reserve secession as the remedy when State sovereignty and the constitution are inadequate to the maintenance of southern interests and the defence of southern honor.

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