AN APPROACHING CONVOCATION.

The editor of the Cincinnati Commercial has received the following circular, and, presuming that its publication was desired, he considerately spread it before his readers:

REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ROOMS,
Columbus, (O.,) March 1, 1858.

DEAR SIR: By correspondence with the members of the Republican State Central Committee in other States, it is agreed to hold a general meeting at Washington, D. C., on the fourth Wednesday of March, (24th,) to consult and devise the best means for promoting the future interests of the republican party. The condition of affairs at Washington, and the necessity of the State committees, and others, fully understanding each other as to what should be done hereafter, are felt and admitted by all. It is of importance that so prominent a State as Ohio should be fully represented. The press should be there; and we hope your engagements will permit you to be present on that occasion.

Yours, truly,
WM. DENNISON, Chairman.

WM. T. BASON, Secretary.

We acknowledge our obligations to the Commercial, and, as one good turn deserves another, and *the press* are specially invited, we shall endeavor to be present, and to give the Commercial an account of the proposed conference. If, however, the invitation is not intended to be general, we hope the editor of the Commercial will avail himself of his, in order that the proceedings of this important meeting may not be lost to the world.

INDIANA.—REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

The red, white, and grey spirits of Indiana, commonly known as black-republicans, held a State convention at Indianapolis on the 4th instant. Nothing worthy of particular notice occurred until about the time the committee on resolutions were ready to report. Then Hon. Geo. W. Julian, whom a republican paper of Cincinnati denominates, playfully, the "Guyascutus of the ultra-abolitionists," was called for. He is reported as follows by a correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial:

Mr. Julian remarked that the republican party was born and baptized at Philadelphia in 1856. The platform enacted there has been endorsed by one and a half million of voters. Is there any propriety in modifying or reconsidering the articles of our national political faith? Although I denounced, and do denounce, the infamous Lecompton swindle—and would that the vocabulary of epithets more abounded in effective terms—yet that merely is but an ephemeral issue; let us strike, not at a pimple, but at the gangrene of slavery outside of slave-holding States, but don't make a modified platform a scapegoat for your own recreancy.

The resolutions were then reported. They are numerous as customary, denounce Lecompton and the administration, Senators Bright and Fitch, slavery, and so on, and make the following declaration in resolution No. 9:

Resolved, That we reaffirm the doctrine that Congress has the constitutional power to exclude slavery from the national Territories, notwithstanding the extra judicial opinions of the Supreme Court of the United States to the contrary.

The resolutions caused much stir among some of the extreme men. Mr. Moreau offered a new series, reaffirming specifically the Philadelphia platform, so far as relates to the present living issues. The president ruled them out of order, on the ground that all resolutions offered should be referred to the committee on that subject. Mr. Moreau took an appeal, which was laid on the table. Mr. Moreau here manifested some excitement, whereupon the resolutions were read over again, and it was shown to the satisfaction of that gentleman and others that the platform contained the bulk of the principles of the Philadelphia platform; he accordingly acquiesced. Mr. Julian was still dissatisfied. Messrs. Lane and Dunn then proceeded to defend the platform in this wise:

Henry S. Lane came up to the rescue of the resolutions, and approbated them as containing the vital principles of the Philadelphia platform—excepting the pledge in favor of the admission of Kansas under the Topeka constitution, which at one time he would have defended with arms, at the risk of his life. He assured the convention it was all right.

McKee Dunn declared that he always had been opposed to the Topeka constitution, and if he had been at Philadelphia when it was made, he would have voted against it—it was inserted by the extremists of the party. The people of Kansas now do not want it.

The platform was then duly adopted, and the nominations made.

The Topeka constitution was distinctly thrown overboard by the Indiana republicans, being excluded altogether from their platform. Already the great issue of 1856 in the Philadelphia platform has become "an obsolete idea."

THE CANADIAN CONFEDERACY.

The proposed confederacy of all the British colonies in North America would consist of six provinces and three territories, as follows:

	Square miles.	Populat'n.
Canada East	201,989	890,261
Canada West	148,832	952,004
New Brunswick	27,790	193,800
Newfoundland	35,913	101,600
Nova Scotia	18,746	276,117
Prince Edward's Island	2,134	62,678
Total of provinces	435,314	2,476,460
Hudson's Bay territory	2,480,660	180,000
Labrador	5,000	100,000
Vancouver Island	8,000	2,000
Totals	2,928,314	2,758,460

The extent of territory is nearly equal to that of the entire United States, and although the climate in general is severe, yet the soil in many vast regions is very rich and productive, and there can be no doubt that the new empire or republic, as the case may be, would become a mighty power of the American continent. It is probable, too, that such a movement would lead to a rapid improvement of the western portion of North America, as the winters in the greater part of the possessions of the Hudson Bay Company, especially in Oregon, near Puget's sound, and at Vancouver's island, are remarkably mild and genial.

THE CHOCTAW NATION.

A Choctaw newspaper, printed in very good English, brings us the resignation of Alfred Wade as governor of the Choctaw nation. The reason assigned for this course is continued ill health. The Honorable Tandy Walker, President of the Senate, succeeds to the office of governor for the expiration of the term of Governor Wade—such being a provision of the Choctaw constitution. He has held the chief executive office of the nation for twenty years, without interruption.

TEXAS.—The legislature of Texas adjourned on the 17th ult. The State Gazette contains a complete list of the acts of the legislature, occupying more than four columns, proving the great labor of the session. The most important are, the university bill; the four-sections bill, to encourage internal improvements; the geological survey; the revision of the statutes; the amendment of the criminal code; and the land bill, fixing the price of the public domain. It is stated that there is no money in the treasury, and that persons having claims against the State must make up the amount of a $1,000 bond, or take treasury warrants, which are at a discount of 5 per cent., the legislature having omitted to provide the necessary funds.

THE REACTION.—A private letter from Iowa declares that there is "a decided reaction in favor of the immediate admission of Kansas in that State." From another private letter from Michigan we are permitted to make the following extract:

"Notwithstanding the tone of some of the press of this State, 'Lecompton' is gaining ground, especially among the well-informed. The people of Kansas have had an opportunity to exercise the principle of popular sovereignty, and the people of the United States are about tired of this bleeding-Kansas humbug. If Jim Lane and his abolition crew can be permitted to set up the Topeka government in defiance of the territorial government established by Congress, Brigham Young can do the same in Utah."

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

CONNECTICUT.—The subjoined is the exact form in which the resolutions of the Democratic State Convention of Connecticut were adopted:

Resolved, That we have full confidence in the integrity, patriotism, and statesmanship of James Buchanan, and that we will sustain his administration in its efforts to promote the welfare and the prosperity of the country.

Resolved, That the democracy of Connecticut still adhere to and maintain the great principle of popular sovereignty as imbodied in the Kansas-Nebraska bill, as affirmed in the Cincinnati platform, and re-affirmed by the President in his messages to Congress.

GAGGING THE MAJORITY.—Speaking of the action of the Pennsylvania State Convention, the Philadelphia Press remarks:

"From the proceedings, reported at length in another column, it will be seen that the same game of gagging the will of the majority is to be played out at Harrisburg that has been so persistently followed at Washington."

Col. Forney's "majority" consisted of *twenty-one* delegates out of *one hundred and thirty-three*, as appears by the vote on the series of resolutions offered by Mr. Stokes!

In almost every locality in this State where elections have lately been held, the democratic party have generally been successful. Where defeated, great democratic gains over any previous election have been shown. This is the highest evidence we can have of the unity and strength of the party, and the single spirit with which it is animated on the question of Kansas. *The policy of the administration is clearly the only one recognized, and its popularity with the masses is placed beyond a doubt.* We have already given the result of the elections for town officers in many of the counties, and they all bear the same complexion—the greatly increased strength of the democracy.

[*New York News.*

MISSOURI.—The democracy of St. Francois county, Mo., held a meeting on the 27th ultimo, when resolutions were adopted expressing approbation of the Kansas policy of the administration, and of the zeal and fidelity with which the Missouri delegation in Congress, with one exception, have sustained that policy; also, instructing the delegates selected to a congressional convention to vote for the renomination of Hon. Sam. Caruthers, should he desire the nomination and his health permit him to accept; otherwise they are instructed to support Gen. Thos. B. English, of Cape Girardeau, or Gen. John W. Noell, of Perryville.

Sullivan county recommends the nomination of Hon. John B. Clark for re-election to Congress.

In Lewis county the democracy held a meeting on the 22d ultimo, complimented Hon. Thomas L. Anderson for his speech in favor of the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution, and instructed the delegates to a congressional district convention to vote for the renomination of Hon. John B. Clark.

A democratic convention for the fourth congressional district of Missouri will be held at Weston on the 1st Monday of May next.

CONNECTICUT.—The two State tickets in Connecticut, to be voted for on the 1st of April next, are as follows:

	Democrats.	*Republicans.*
Governor	James T. Pratt.	W. A. Buckingham.
Lt. Governor	John Cotton Smith.	Julius Catlin.
Treasurer	Daniel B. Warner.	Lucius J. Hendee.
Secretary	Ephraim Williams, jr.	John Boyd.
Controller	Peleg C. Childs.	Wm. A. Buell.

HON. T. L. ANDERSON.—A correspondent of the St. Louis Republican, writing from Palmyra, Mo., says:

The speech lately delivered by our able representative in Congress from this district, Thos. L. Anderson, on the Kansas question, has proved highly satisfactory to his constituents in this section, where his merits as a public debater were previously recognised. Although his motives have been impugned for acting in concert with the administration by advocating the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution, yet the mass of the people heartily concur in the position assumed by him for the speedy settlement of this question, which has for so long a period disturbed the harmony of the Union.

WISCONSIN.—Mr. Weil, a member of the assembly of that State, recently offered the following sensible resolution for the consideration of his fellow-members:

Whereas this house has spent too much time already in discussing the Kansas resolutions introduced by Mr. Noble; and whereas we, members of this house, were elected to legislate for the people of Wisconsin, and not for the people of Kansas: Therefore,

Resolved, That hereafter no member of this house will be allowed to make any more buncombe speeches of over five minutes upon these resolutions, and no member be allowed to speak over that time upon the same.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The election in this State is held this day. The two State tickets are as follows:

	Democrats.	*Republicans.*
Governor	Asa P. Cate,	William Haile,
Railroad Com'r	Fred'k Voss.	Archibald H. Dunlap.

The black-republicans claim to have made a thorough canvass of the voters of the State, and assert that the vote will be as follows: Haile, 37,057; Cate, 32,346; doubtful, 2,166. Dividing the doubtful votes, they assert that they will have a majority of 4,609. Of this we can form a more correct opinion after the election!

MARYLAND.—The legislature of this State has initiated a movement to call a State convention to amend the constitution. The bill reported in the house of delegates for the call of a convention provides that a vote shall be taken on the first Wednesday in May, and if a majority of votes cast be in favor thereof, the election for delegates shall take place in October, and the convention meet in January.

THE CINCINNATI MEETING.—A correspondent advises us of what may be regarded as the distinguishing feature of the late anti-Lecompton meeting at Cincinnati, showing up its true character. Whenever the democratic party was denounced, the cheering was loud and boisterous, but the denunciations of the republicans brought no applause. This exposes the kind of material of which the meeting was composed. It was essentially a black-republican meeting, and not an anti-Lecompton democratic meeting, as it has been most industriously represented.

The Rockland (Maine) Democrat rejoices over the result of the election in that town on the 1st instant. The republicans elected the mayor, but the democrats secured a majority of the aldermen and councilmen and the judge of the municipal court. It is the first time the democrats have had possession of the city government since Rockland became a city.

No individual of the party, nor a portion even of the whole, can prevent any voter from sustaining the principles and policy of a party by his voice, his pen, and his vote. It is the individual who decides his affiliation and connexion with a party, and not the party the association, or position of the individual.—*Indiana State Sentinel.*

MAINE.—The republicans of the Maine legislature have adopted a series of resolutions on Kansas, of which the following is a specimen:

Resolved, That if that constitution shall be finally forced upon Kansas against the solemn remonstrance of its people, then, in the opinion of this legislature, they will be justified in resisting it at all hazards and to the last extremity; and in so righteous a struggle the people of Maine are ready to aid them both by sympathy and action.

The last number of the Independent Democrat, a republican paper of Concord, N. H., published previous to the election in that State to-day, contains, in the way of documents for the campaign, Mr. Stanton's speech at Philadelphia, Governor Wise's Philadelphia letter, and Judge Douglas's views on the Kansas question as a member of the Senate Committee on Territories.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS.—"A Democratic Administration Club" has been organized at Peoria, Illinois, which adopted the annexed resolutions at its last meeting:

Resolved, That the course pursued by President Buchanan on the Kansas question receives the unqualified approbation of this club, and that he is entitled to the enthusiastic and hearty support of every true democrat.

Resolved, That the Peoria Democratic Union deserves the support of every man who voted for James Buchanan in 1856, or who claims to stand upon the Cincinnati democratic platform.

PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

SPEECH OF HON. JAMES L. DAWSON,

President of the Convention; delivered March 4, 1858.

Mr. DAWSON, on taking the chair, addressed the convention as follows:

On taking the seat, which your partiality has assigned me, to preside over your deliberations, I must return you my hearty acknowledgments for the honor done me by your selection. The occasion is one of no ordinary importance; and, from the number of tried men from every part of the Commonwealth whom I see around me, I doubt not that your action will be fully up to the line of a common duty.

It is also the occasion for mutual congratulation, as this is the first convention of democrats which has assembled at the capital since the election of the present chief magistrate of the State. [Applause.] Elected by a majority of most flattering magnitude, he has, in that election, the seal of approbation of his past acts, and an earnest of a warm support in the new career upon which he has just entered, simultaneously with the inauguration of new constitutional reforms, providing additional guarantees for the rights of property and for the gradual and certain reduction of the State debt, and effectual security against a similar improvidence in the future.

In addition to the regular nominations, in which, I trust, all will be well and for the best interests of the party, it is proper that we should give some decided expression upon the one question which, more than any other, is now agitating the country. [Applause.]

This Kansas question—which events have in some degree complicated, and which, for partisan purposes, has become involved in perplexity until, to the imaginations of many, it seems fraught with portentous evils—is, in fact, a simple and plain one.

It is to be remembered that this government is not a pure democracy, such as existed in ancient times. It is a government of written law. It is, in form and in fact, a representative republic. The popular will is ever ascertained and imbodied into law through the legal action of the representative. There can be no liberty without law.

It was incontestably the principle of the act of 1854, organizing the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, (for which I had the honor of voting,) that the people of those Territories should be at liberty to form their own institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States. It is also a fact, which no one will venture to deny, that, in pursuance of legitimate authority, a convention of delegates was elected to frame a constitution for Kansas, under which, by regular proceedings on the part of Congress, it was to be admitted as a sovereign State into the national confederacy. The members of that convention were elected by the people with a full knowledge of their sentiments upon this and all public questions involved in the case, and especially in reference to the introduction or exclusion of slavery as one of the domestic institutions of the new State. Now, does it at all affect the validity of these proceedings, that when the people were afforded an opportunity, by the only authority legally competent to do so, of determining by their own votes the political complexion of the convention, and so of the character of the constitution to be formed by them, a portion of the people, from whatever purpose, choose to absent themselves from the polls, and allow to their adversaries the victory? The convention so elected was still a legal convention; the constitution adopted by that convention was a legal constitution; and if, perchance, it imbodies the views of a minority, it was the fault of the majority, who voluntarily absented themselves from the post of duty, and by default to allow another sentiment to prevail. Surely their negligence or wilful dereliction of public duty is no reason why others should fail to meet the question manfully and decisively. [Great applause.]

But why should it be insisted on as so essential in the case of Kansas alone, that the whole constitution should have been submitted to a vote of the people, when the practice, as settled by precedent, shows the point to be one wholly of discretion. There is nothing in the terms of the Kansas and Nebraska law, nor in the Cincinnati platform, nor in the act of the Kansas legislature, authorizing the election of a convention, which exacts such submission. The proposition is an after thought, and the test a new one. [Great applause.] What is there in the case of Kansas which requires a different rule from that which was applied in the case of Vermont, of Kentucky, of Tennessee, of Missouri, of Indiana, of Arkansas, of Ohio? Is a punctilious compliance with her caprices due to the rebellious attitude which she has occupied towards the federal government, from the formation of the Territory down to the present moment? Although I—and I have no doubt, all of you—would have preferred, with the President, in his annual message, that the whole constitution should have been submitted to a popular vote, we still must regard the action of the convention as the legal expression of a sovereign people. Non-intervention—popular sovereignty—forbids inquiring beyond that expression. Such inquiry would be palpable usurpation of authority—a virtual condemnation of the great principle which the democracy have struggled to establish.

As a practical question, then, what have the people of Pennsylvania to do with it, except to insist upon its speedy settlement—to uphold, sustain, and approve the course of the national administration in its patriotic determination to accept the constitution, so as to entitle Kansas to a prompt admission into the family of States?

There is one other point which I will notice in connexion with this subject, and that is that the admission of Kansas, even with an objectionable constitution, by no means fixes permanently the character of her institutions; but, on the contrary, it withdraws her from the national arena, in which, as the President has said, she has occupied too much attention, to the prejudice of the best interests of the country; and it will give her the separate and independent existence and organization of a sovereign State. It is the best enabling act that can be passed by Congress.

Let this be done, and let Kansas in her sovereign capacity, which invests her with the right at once—and without delaying until 1864—to retain or abolish slavery—proceed to strike out the obnoxious provision. This will give peace and security to Kansas, peace to the whole country, and stability to the national administration. Gentlemen, the integrity of the democratic party, the memory of its former triumphs and glories, demand that we should stand firm and united in urging its speedy settlement. [Applause.]

There never was a time, in my opinion, when it was more the duty of the citizen to look before him and around him, so examine the security of the ground upon which he stands, and whither his pathway directs him. The occasion may be momentous. It is not to be disguised that there is a party in the North, as well as in the South, who consider the dissolution of the Union as the sovereign remedy for every real or imaginary grievance. Let us suppose for a moment that the Union was dissolved, and that an east and west line marked the limits of free and slave territory from the Atlantic to the Rocky mountains. By this arrangement the subject of slavery south of the dividing line forever passes from the control of the north. In this condition of things the South would have a community of interest which would render her a unit upon every vital question, and I hesitate not to say that she could form a new and stable government in a month's time. The idea so popular in the North that the South is dependent upon the North for the protection of slavery would then be found to be a delusion. Whatever the evils of the institution may be within her own limits, a common interest would unite every section. Growing almost exclusively the great staple which enters so largely into the consumption of every portion of the world, she would then be sustained in the enjoyment of her institutions by England and France, and perhaps the other European powers. If cotton is not indispensable to the manufacturing prosperity of New England, it certainly is so to that of Great Britain; nay, it is indispensable to her domestic tranquility. Take away the cotton manufactures of England, and her myriads of operatives thrown out of employment and rendered destitute, at once threaten a social revolution. English statesmen understand this well, and are ready to guard against it, when occasion requires, by giving protection to the cotton-growing interest. They would, in a moment, unite with the slave power to protect this great interest.

The only hostility which England has to the American people is to our republican example. Our close approximation to her soil by means of the triumphs of steam upon the ocean, with our vast commercial intercourse, and intimate social relations, spreading democratic ideas, through the mighty agency of the press, excites throughout her population a continued inquiry and restless anxiety for enlarged privileges and republican institutions. This disturbs the quiet of her ministry and the security of the crown. She struggles to ward off the blow, and to stay the great progressive movement by the dissolution of the Union. She hopes to see this effected through the agitation of the slavery question. This accomplished, a treaty of peace and alliance would at once follow with the southern section. This would suit England, while it would be fatal to us. Young America would no longer instruct by example. Her power and glory would be gone forever, and the patriot left to mourn over the melancholy catastrophe.

Nor would the line of separation deprive the South of any advantages of locomotion or transportation which she now enjoys. Cast your eye over the map of the States, and you see that every river west of the Hudson to the Rio Grande has its outlet to the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico through slave territory.

On the other hand, in the event of the dissolution of the Union, what would be the position of the North? Could she so readily unite in the formation of a new government? There are numerous considerations which forbid the idea. An insuperable barrier to the formation of a common government would present itself in the want of fellowship which would be found to exist between the States of New England and those of the Ohio valley and of the upper Mississippi. The New England character, intellectual and enterprising as it is confessed to be, by its constant inclination to novelty in politics, morals, and religion, and its morbid love of *isms*, has, ever since the landing of the Mayflower, been invested with a peculiarity rendering it alien to the tastes of its more southern neighbors. Then, what would be the proportion of influence assigned to New England in the new government? Would her six little States—comprising altogether a territory and aggregate population no greater than that of Pennsylvania—be allowed a representation by twelve senators? Or would not Pennsylvania and New York, and the rest, insist that two senators should be the fair allotment for all New England?

Then, again, how will you reconcile the interests of New England, which are manufacturing, with the commercial interests of New York, and the agricultural interests of the West? While the former will be anxious for high duties for protection, the latter will be eager for free trade. Before embarking on such "a sea of troubles" as that prospect discloses, it may be the part of true wisdom to ascertain whether the evils of the present system may not be tolerable, or whether, indeed, they are aught more than the creatures of imagination released from the wholesome restraints of reason; whether they are not the offspring of reckless ambition, or narrow and selfish motives and contracted views, alike unpatriotic, and destitute of every quality of statesmanship. [Applause.]

But assume that the organization could be made complete, what man of reflection will say that any security can be found in an imaginary boundary, such as Mason and Dixon's line? Border conflicts would be inevitable, finally embroiling the adjoining States in deadly strife, teaching again the lesson so often taught by history, that the love of battle and of conquest will prevail over civil organization. The pursuits of peace, the simplicity of our republican habits and example, will then be at an end. Our commerce, our manufactures, the great line of our public works, comprising the system of our national improvements, and all the monuments of our national glory, would decline and perish.

For our encouragement and guidance in reference to this Kansas subject, we are not without precedent. The past is fraught with instruction. It will be remembered that when, a few years ago, the attempt was made to attach the "Wilmot Proviso" to all future territorial governments, the timid hesitated, faltered, and many precipitately abandoned the national standard they had hitherto assisted to support. A similar stampede once occurred among the democratic members of the legislature in regard to the renewal of the charter of the Bank of the United States. Then the timid and nerveless abandoned the post of duty, and at once vanished from the places which they held in public esteem.

Again, the same wavering occurred in the convention which, in 1854, met here for the nomination of governor. That convention failed to endorse the principle of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, adjourned prematurely, and with a hurried step to escape the imaginary danger. In all these cases it has been seen that the democratic party sustained no permanent loss. Contending always for principle and law, with a firm and determined step, it marched steadily forward, without a stop or stagger, to the accomplishment of its purpose. [Great cheering.] It is the party of freedom and of progress. [Applause.] This review may suggest to us the fugitive nature of the excitement on the subject of Kansas. From its very nature, having no true basis of principle, it must be short-lived. The sober second thought of the people will again come to the rescue of the country.

Whatever the enemies of both may aver, there is really no hostility between the people of the North and the South. There is no just cause for hostility. It is an error to say that the South has been aggressive. True to the cause of liberty in our revolutionary struggle, and since then true to the federal compact, now that she is comparatively weak in political power, it is natural that she should be jealous and tenacious of her rights. The North is strong, numerically, and can afford to be just, if not generous. The aspiring demagogue works himself to place and to power by addressing the worst passions of the community. It has always been so, from the days of Cataline down to Robespierre and the Sewards. I say without hesitation that in any serious difficulty in which the welfare of the South might be really in peril, the North, certainly from the Hudson to the Mississippi, would rally to the rescue and make common cause with her. [Great applause.]

Who that has read colonial history will not remember with pride the generous bearing of Virginia when Massachusetts was oppressed, and Boston harbor blockaded by the mother country? Virginia was at that time the favorite colony of England. Her tobacco crop was nearly as great then as now. She was full of wealth, and enjoyed a prosperous commerce, and her people were generally communicants of the English Church, which existed in every hamlet. She had many ties to bind her to the crown. Still, she made common cause with the people of Massachusetts. [Great applause.] At a somewhat later period her Jefferson, aided by the counsels of Franklin, produced upon the soil of Pennsylvania the Declaration of Independence, for the permanent establishment of which her soldiers met with our soldiers, and marched hand in hand to the battle-fields of Trenton and Yorktown. [Great applause.]

Notwithstanding the importance, however, which this question has assumed in the politics of the day, it is evident that Kansas can never be a slave State. The character of her population is an insuperable barrier, as well as her climate, which is as cold as that of New England. The efforts of some of the southern people to establish slavery there are as unwise as they are feeble. They must look in another direction for southern expansion. Cuba, Mexico, and Central America are all fairly in the pathway of our destiny. Their acquisition is but a question of time. The climate of those countries makes them the natural abode of the African race prior to its departure to its native home. The North is watching with an eagle eye for those acquisitions, and would readily unite with the South in any honorable effort to obtain them. We want extended markets for our manufactures. We want our republic to be conterminous with the Atlantic and Pacific oceans; to plant our institutions throughout its vast extent; to bring the whole under the influence of our National flag, and to make it prosperous under the indomitable tread of the Anglo-Saxon race. [Great applause.]

We must be satisfied that the administration has met this question with the right views and in the true spirit, and with a breadth of statesmanship which merits the approbation of the whole country. Pennsylvania at least cannot hesitate. True to those antecedents which have made her name a terror to tyrannism, and fixed her position as the stronghold of the constitution, she will not falter in this danger with her chosen son at the helm. [Great applause.]

Relying upon your kindness, and with but little experience in presiding over deliberative bodies, I shall endeavor to discharge the duties of the chair to the utmost of my ability and with the greatest impartiality.

Mr. Dawson concluded amid great applause.

CORRUPTION AT ALBANY.—The New York legislature has gone into the business of appointing committees to investigate charges of corruption against some of its members. It is alleged that a certain State senator received $5,000 to secure the passage of the Brooklyn local assessment bill, and that $10,000 had been raised and used to accomplish its passage. A committee of five was accordingly authorized by the assembly to investigate the matter.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald says:

"There is a perfect organization of the republican party in the United States Senate. It is composed of the old republican senators, Douglas and the other two seceding democrats, and two southern know-nothings, making in all twenty-five votes, of which Douglas is the recognised leader. Their numbers, constant attendance and thorough drilling, will compel the democratic senators to as thorough a counter-organization, to stricter attention to their duties, and a better attendance at the sessions of the Senate."

PUNISHMENT TO THE TOPS.—An old toper was induced to sign the temperance pledge, which he kept religiously for some weeks. At last he got decidedly balmy, and one of his friends remonstrated with him for his faithlessness to his obligations. He answered, "To be sure, I signed the pledge, but I was tremendously dry, and all signs fail in a dry time."

REAL ESTATE.—During the past three months real estate in Philadelphia and its vicinity has been selling at ruinously low prices. We are gratified, however, to learn that within the past two weeks there has been a better feeling manifested; and the auction sales show that much higher rates have been realized than could have been expected so soon after the late financial crash.—*Pennsylvanian.*

ENGLISH VIEWS RESPECTING THE ALLEGED MOVEMENT OF THE MORMONS TO VANCOUVER'S ISLAND, AND THE SETTLEMENT OF AMERICANS ON BRITISH TERRITORY.—THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

The English government seems to have taken alarm at the reports that the Mormons were about to vacate Salt Lake City, and move to the British possessions north of the 49th parallel. The London Post, the official paper, of the 27th of January says:

"The authorities of the colonial office, we suspect, will hear with equal surprise and regret that the Mormons at the date of the last advices from America were preparing to leave Utah for the neighboring British possessions, and that pioneer parties 'had already left' to spy out the promised land which this strange sect of fanatics has already selected for its future home. We believe there is no right-minded person in England who has the slightest desire to see even the solitary and unimproving reign of the Hudson Bay Company supplanted by the despotism of an arch impostor, whose power is based upon systematized licentiousness and organized blasphemy. The general impression was, that this new Mormon exodus would direct itself towards the western portion of Mexico, where neither the authorities of the State nor the population would have power to impede its ingress. If, however, comparison be drawn between the weakness of the Mexican government and the utter imbecility of the Hudson Bay Company for every purpose except that of trade, there can be no doubt that Brigham Young has exercised a wise discretion in directing the attention of his followers to a region in which nothing that can be dignified with the name of British law is even asserted to exist. We confess that we cannot contemplate without pain the probable complications to which this movement of the Mormons may give rise.

"Is England to receive within any part of her territories a horde of armed rebels who have fled from that retributive justice which the United States, in vindication of their national sovereignty, and for the repression of odious crimes, are bound to inflict? How is England, or rather its *decrepit representative*, the Hudson's Bay Company, to keep in order this colony of polygamists? *We are inclined to think that England, as a Christian nation, would feel bound to scatter and disperse the members of this extraordinary community, who, for aught we know, may quietly sit down upon and fortify Vancouver's island*—an island which, from its position, to say nothing of its valuable productions, commands the north-western coast of the Pacific, and which, but for the sordid and selfish policy of the Hudson's Bay Company, would years ago have been the seat of an industrious and enterprising British population."

With reference to the settlement of Americans on British territory, and to the great interest the English at present feel relative to their northwestern possessions, and to which attention was called in a communication in our columns of the 11th ult., the same journal remarks:

"We are glad that the condition of that vast territory which extends from Canada to the Pacific is at the present time engaging the attention of the colonial office. *The Hudson's Bay question must be settled during the approaching session of Parliament*, and now that extinction is impending over the great East India Company, no amount of credulity will induce the public to believe that Parliament can consent to perpetuate the Hudson's Bay monopoly.

"It is well known, from the recent explorations of Mr. Palliser, *that fertile prairie lands extend from the Red river settlement to the foot of the Rocky mountains*, and that Americans from the neighboring State of Minnesota are in large numbers settling within British territory, and talk openly of annexation. The self-assumed lords of the soil, the Hudson's Bay Company, having no power to warn them off or to prevent them from accomplishing that which Mr. Palliser records as a fact—the erection within the British border of a town, the inhabitants of which acknowledge, not the jurisdiction of Queen Victoria, but that of President Buchanan."

Lord Bury, in a late lecture on Canada, considers that great inconveniences must arise from the fact that the present boundary between the territories of the two countries is only an undefined astronomical line, or, as he appropriately described it, "a mere mark on the map which no United States emigrant would care to respect who saw ahead of him good land to be had for the trouble of taking it."

The boundary line fixed by the treaty of Oregon is about to be marked, the commissions of both countries being ready to commence operations during the opening season. The officers of the United States commission are Archibald Campbell, esq., commissioner, and Lieut. J. G. Parke, United States topographical engineers, chief astronomer.

The British commission consists of Capt. Hawkins, R. E., commissioner-in-chief; Major Lovell, R. E., first astronomer, with other officers of artillery and engineers, and a staff of civil assistants to make scientific observations. This commission will define the northern boundary of Washington Territory. But it is obvious that the immediate formation of another branch of the same commission, to proceed westward from the Lake of the Woods to meet the branch which will start from the Pacific side and proceed east, would greatly facilitate the accomplishment of this work.

This was the plan submitted to Congress in 1854 to settle and define the northern boundaries of Minnesota in such a manner as to prevent our citizens from ignorantly trespassing on British ground. Our citizens have no necessity of crossing our northern bounds. The vast and fertile prairies, the great forests of timber, and the immense mineral wealth of Oregon and Washington Territories are yet to be developed, and our emigrants should turn their steps towards those regions before thinking of settling upon "debatable ground" or encroaching upon our northern neighbors. This boundary question is one of great importance, and which commends itself to the careful attention of the present Congress; and we trust that prompt action will be had, and a joint commission at once appointed to continue and finish the survey.

TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON.

Wolfe's Schiedam Aromatic Schnapps.

The proprietor particularly recommends the above schnapps to persons travelling, or about to settle, in the South or West, on account of its medicinal properties in correcting the disagreeable and often dangerous effects produced by a change of water, a visitation to which all travellers South and West are particularly liable. Strangers should be careful in purchasing the schnapps, as the whole country is flooded with counterfeits and imitations. The genuine has the proprietor's name on the bottle, cork, and label. For sale by all the druggists and grocers.

UDOLPHO WOLFE,
Dec 15—dlm*f* Depot 18 Beaver street, New York.

BAPTIST BOOKS.—A Depository of the American Baptist Publication Society has been established at the bookstore of WILLIAM BALLANTYNE,
498 Seventh street,
Where may be had, at the society's prices, all of their publications.
Also, always on hand the publications of the American Tract Society, Sunday School Union, Methodist Book Concern, Presbyterian Board, Carter & Brothers, Gould & Lincoln, and the principal religious publishers; all of which are sold at the publishers' prices.
Depository of the Washington City Bible Society, 498 Seventh street.
Mar 5—2t

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, by H. C. Carey, vol. 1, now ready.
Thoughts for the Holy Week, for young persons, by Miss Sewell.
Miss Leslie's New Cookery Book.
For sale by BLANCHARD & MOHUN,
Mar 7 Successors to R. Farnham.

HENRY C. CAREY'S PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL Science, vol. 1. [illegible] $2 50.
Just published and for sale by TAYLOR & MAURY,
Mar 7 Booksellers and Stationers, 344 Penn. avenue.

POUR 1858.—Almanach du Bon Ton. 15 cents.
Almanach pour rire. 15 cents.
Almanach Gourgue. 15 cents.
Almanach Immoligue. 12 cents.
Almanach Bouffon. 15 cents.
Almanach de Whist. 12 cents.
Almanach de Mere Gigone. 15 cents.
Almanach Pulchinelle. 15 cents.
Almanach du Chasseur. 15 cents.
Almanach Musical. 15 cents. FRANCK TAYLOR.
Mar 6

THE NEW BOOK STORE.—Franklin Philp respectfully informs his friends and the public that he has leased the store (now in the occupancy of Messrs. White & Co.) No. 332 Pennsylvania avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets. Having just returned from the northern cities, he has personally made a selection of English and American books and stationery, which will be found on examination to be of the choicest kind.
From F. Philp's long and varied experience in Europe and America, coupled with connexions in London and Paris, his facilities will not be inferior to any house in the United States.
F. Philp purposes opening this establishment on or about the 10th of March next. Further particulars in future advertisements.
Feb 13—eod*t* FRANKLIN PHILP.

LIFE AND CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES Iredell, one of the associate justices of the Supreme Court of the United States; by Griffith J. McRee.
For sale by BLANCHARD & MOHUN,
Mar 3 Successors to R. Farnham.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Hon. J. F. Potter and Hon. C. C. Washburne, members of Congress from Wisconsin, have been appointed by Gov. Randall of that State as members of his staff, with the rank of colonel. The Madison State Journal expresses the opinion that they received their appointment in consequence of the valor they displayed in the recent frams in the House!

Hon. Mr. Niblack, the congressman from the fourth district, Indiana, on whom the black-republicans and Douglas men have been counting largely, writes to a friend in Indiana that he will support the Lecompton constitution, because he believes the President's policy the surest to restore peace to the country.

[*Louisville (Ky.) Courier.*

T. D. Claiborne, esq., has sold his interest in the Danville (Va.) Republican to A. S. Cabell, esq., who succeeds him as associate editor of that paper.

Our respected and esteemed fellow-citizen, Josiah Bradlee, esq., is now, we believe, the oldest merchant of Boston. Since the departure from among us of Messrs. Robert G. Shaw and Thomas Wigglesworth, who commenced business somewhat earlier, Mr. Bradlee takes rank as the oldest merchant still connected with the business affairs of Boston. He commenced business in the year 1809. He was born in Boston on the 7th day of March, 1778. Consequently, to-morrow—March 7th, 1858—completes his eightieth year.—*Boston Courier.*

The Hon. George Vail, of New Jersey, recently appointed as consul at Glasgow, left New York on the 4th inst. in the steamship City of Washington for the scene of his duties.

On a recent public occasion in Lisbon, at which a great many Roman Catholic priests of various nationalities were present, Mr. O'Sullivan, our minister to Portugal, replied to an allusion to his country, first in English, then in Portuguese, and finally, for the benefit of some who did not understand either language, in Latin. The priests, we are told, were astonished not only at the purity of his Latin, but at the fact that a representative of the United States could speak any language but his own.

George Mason, esq., United States district attorney for Texas, is a son of Senator Mason, of Virginia. He removed from Winchester only five years ago, and having made Galveston his place of residence, where he practised the profession of law, has evidently made rapid progress in gaining the confidence of the people of his adopted town—the compliment of the appointment having been the more enhanced by the recommendation of his name to the President from the entire congressional delegation of Texas.

ARMY INTELLIGENCE.

It is stated that Gov. Perry, of Florida, has authorized Dr. G. Troupe Maxwell, of Tallahassee, to raise a company of mounted volunteers to be mustered into the service of the United States, for another six months' campaign against the Indians, and that he has accepted the commission. It is further stated that three Indians were captured by Captains Spurkman's, Lesley's, Carter's, and Bulloch's companies, under the command of the former, in the late hunt in the Big Cypress. The Indians captured were a warrior, squaw, and child. The squaw claims to be the wife of Asiluwa; says that the child is hers; was willing for it to be taken; and says that when she gets able she will bring in the rest of her children.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

The funeral obsequies of the late Commodore M. C. Perry, which took place in New York on the 6th instant, were unusually impressive. During the day the flags of the shipping and on the public buildings were at half-mast; the bells of the churches on the route of the procession tolled as it passed, while minute guns were fired from the military and naval stations. Some two hundred