Weekly State Sentinel.

From the Taunton (Mass.) Democrat.

The Next Great Issue.

The Presidential election of 1856 will be the grand test of the stability of the Union. It will be a positive and unequivocal meeting of the two extremes of slavery and abolition in hostile and irreconcilable conflict. There will be—there can be—no further concessions or compromises in the matter. The issue is simple, manifest and well understood. For a long while there has been active training going on in either section of the Union to prepare for this crisis. There have been southern conventions called to feel the public pulse on the question of secession at the establishment of a southern confederacy. At the North, the Abolition organs have lent themselves strenuously to fomenting this spirit of discord by every means and measure at hand. There is no doubt, then, in the minds of either party as to the subject of dispute, or the battlefield upon which the contest is to be waged. No other questions of public policy will be allowed to interfere with the free and uninterrupted collision which both hope to see take place. The tariff—the public lands—internal improvements, and a host of minor questions, will all be sunk and swallowed up in the superior issue of that day. It will be in fact, as we have styled it, "the next great issue, and will require the strongest conservative principles of both North and South to avert that danger to the Union which would follow defeat in such a struggle.

In such a contest as that, overshadowing the future weal or woe of the Republic, the people will be called upon to act with pretty much such a spirit of determination as actuated them in the early days of the Constitution. They will naturally have to divide themselves into two great parties, that in favor of the Union of the States as they are, and that opposed to it on the ground of a possible or probable extension of slavery into new States not yet formed. That this latter fear is sufficient to form the ground-work of a new party, we are not yet prepared to believe. Because of the present troubles in Nebraska, and the bitterness to which ill-regulated measures have driven either party there; because of the determination on the one hand to introduce, and the other to exclude, savery, we cannot justify ourselves into the belief that the South, as a whole, intend any very serious onslaught upon any territories now or hereafter to be created. At the North, we of course wish to see the triumph of freedom any and everywhere. If consonant to the wishes of a majority of the inhabitants of either Kansas or any other territory, about asking for admittance to the Union, we would rather hail them as a free than a slave State; but if the majority decide in favor of slavery, we should be compelled to bow to their choice, and feel it equally incumbent upon us to welcome them to a place in the confederacy on terms of equality with the elder States.

In taking our position in any such division of parties with that great patriotic organization which will uphold the Union of the States with one heart and hope for its protection and salvation, throughout the vast area of country over which its broad ægis is now extended, we should do so with a perfect confidence in the justice of our cause, and in the full faith that if the spirits of departed sages are permitted to look down from their abodes, the living patriots who will be with us in such a conflict will receive the smiles of those "just men made perfect" whose wisdom framed the sacred compact of the confederacy, and whose example of fraternal attachment to its teachings is the greatest legacy which has been transmitted to our generation. Such a party will be denounced by its antagonists, as "southern" and as "proslavery" but they know, just otherwise they are as harmless and senseless as were the bitter names of "Jacobin" and of "loco-foco" when once applied to the Democracy.

But the extreme and revolutionary party at the North make no concessions calculated to meet any contingencies of the future. They act in the supposition that things will be so unfailingly, and make no allowances for changes in public sentiment. With them, as with the Parks, "all things are written," and so instead of spreading the salve they apply the blister. The masses, for seventy-nine years, have seen each succeeding year bring an affliction with an institution most hostile to the Declaration of Independence, rising rapidly—holding its own, and extending the respect for its name, among the nations of the world. They have seen, too, that the whole secret of strength and prosperity lay in that compact of Union, which made each State strong by its intimate connexion with the rest. Like a cable of wire, made up of small weak threads, the mass was made strong only by being knit together.

Passports.

Some time since we published the following regulations of the State Department, relative to the granting of passports to American citizens about to visit foreign countries. As such information is very frequently sought for we re-publish it. Such of our readers as contemplate, at any time, going abroad, would do well to preserve this paper for their guidance in obtaining the necessary authentication of their citizenship:

Citizens of the United States visiting foreign countries, are liable to serious inconvenience, if unprovided with authentic proof of their national character. The best security against this is a passport from the Department of State, certifying the bearer to be a citizen of the United States; which passports are issued *gratis*, upon application supported by proof of citizenship.

This proof need be transmitted but once. On all subsequent occasions, a simple reference to it, and to the period when it was presented, will be sufficient.

When the applicant is a *native of the United States*, he must transmit an affidavit of this fact, stating his age and place of birth, signed by him, and sworn to by himself and one other citizen of the United States named therein, to whom he is personally known, and to the best of whose knowledge and belief the declaration made by him is true. This affidavit must be attested by a Notary Public, under his signature and seal of office. When there is no Notary in the place, the affidavit may be made before a Justice of the Peace, or other officer authorized to administer oaths.

If the applicant be a *naturalized citizen*, his certificate of naturalization must be transmitted for inspection. It will be returned with the passport.

The application should be accompanied with a description of the person, stating the following particulars, viz: *Age:* years. *Stature:* feet inches (English measure.) *Forehead:* *Eyes:* *Nose:* *Mouth:* *Chin:* *Hair:* *Complexion:* *Face:*

When the applicant is to be accompanied by his wife, children or servants, or by females under his protection, it will be sufficient to state the name and ages of such persons, and their relationship to the applicant.

Persons who leave the country, expecting to obtain passports while abroad, from the Diplomatic or Consular agents of the United States, are liable to disappointment; inasmuch as it is the duty of those agents to observe the utmost caution in granting documents in the nature of a certificate of citizenship, to those persons only who are certainly known to be entitled to them; and it is sometimes difficult, if not impracticable, to procure proof of this fact in a foreign country.

Certificate of citizenship or passports issuing from the State Authorities, or from the Judicial or the Municipal Functionaries of our country, are not recognized by the officers of foreign Governments; and if the Diplomatic and Consular agents of the United States are called upon to certify to the authenticity of such document, they cannot do this, for want of that official information in regard to those authorities and functionaries, and to their respective signatures and seals of office, which is indispensably necessary in the case of every such certificate.

NORFOLK.—The mortality among the doctors on Saturday last was surprising. Five physicians died on that day in Norfolk and Portsmouth, viz: Dr. Capre of New York, Dr. Dilliard, of Montgomery, Alabama, and Dr. Burns, in Norfolk; and Dr. Rizer, of Philadelphia, and Dr. Walter of Baltimore, in Portsmouth. Dr. Rizer had left Portsmouth and returned home once, but went back again and fell a victim to the plague. This is the largest mortality in one day among the physicians, except on the 5th of September, when seven died.

A WARNING.—A few days since a small child, daughter of Mr. Featherngill, of this city, was playing with some butter beans, when, by some means, one was lodged in its windpipe. All efforts to remove it were unavailing, and after suffering for two days, the child died. This should prove a warning to those mothers who are in the habit of letting their children play with everything they can get their hands on.—*New Albany Ledger.*

A SORRY SIGHT.—The followers of WEBSTER and CLAY training in the company of MATHEW B. HULL, RAWSON VAIL, STEPHEN S. HARDING, and other Abolitionists. Surely the evil days draw on apace.

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Description.	S.	T.	R.	Acres.
s hf s e qr	1	29	5	80
n hf	6	28	5	320
w hf s e qr	6	28	5	80
se qr s e qr	1	29	6	40
n hf s w qr	6	28	5	80
w hf n e qr	2	29	5	40
n e qr s e qr	1	29	5	40
s hf n w qr	7	28	5	80
s w qr	7	28	5	160
s w qr n e qr	6	29	5	40
s w qr n w qr	6	29	5	40
n hf n e qr	8	28	5	80
s w qr s w qr	5	29	5	40
n e qr s e qr	10	29	5	40
s hf s w qr	11	29	5	80
n e qr s w qr	11	29	5	40
n w qr s e qr	11	29	5	40
s e qr s e qr	11	29	5	40
w hf n e qr	13	29	5	40
n e qr n w qr	13	29	5	40
s w hf n w qr	13	29	5	80
n e qr s w qr	13	29	5	40
n e qr s e qr	15	29	5	40
s w qr n e qr	15	29	5	40
s w qr n w qr	15	29	5	40
s w qr s w qr	15	29	5	40
s e qr s e qr	15	29	5	40
s hf n e qr	25	29	5	160
n e qr n w qr	26	29	5	40
s w qr n w qr	26	29	5	40
s e qr s e qr	26	29	5	40
all	3	30	5	640
s hf n e qr	10	30	5	80
s e qr	30	30	5	160
s w qr n e qr	29	30	5	40
s w qr n w qr	29	30	5	40
w hf s e qr	29	30	5	80
s w qr s e qr	29	30	5	40
n e qr n w qr	32	30	5	40
n w qr n w qr	33	30	5	40
s e qr	33	30	5	160
w hf n w qr	35	30	5	80
n hf s w qr	6	31	5	80
n w qr	6	31	5	160
n hf n e qr	31	31	5	80
n hf s e qr	31	31	5	80
s w qr n e qr	31	31	5	40
s w qr n w qr	31	31	5	40
s e qr	31	31	5	40
s hf s w qr	14	31	5	160
n e qr	17	31	5	160
n w qr	18	31	5	80
n e qr s e qr	21	31	5	40
s hf s w qr	21	31	5	80
s e qr	21	31	5	160
s hf s w qr	23	31	5	80
s hf n e qr	23	31	5	80
n w qr s w qr	23	31	5	40
n e qr	23	31	5	160
s w qr	25	31	5	160
s hf n e qr	25	31	5	160
s hf s w qr	25	31	5	320
s e qr	25	31	5	40
s w qr n e qr	25	31	5	40
s w qr n w qr	25	31	5	40
s e qr s e qr	25	31	5	40
s hf n e qr	27	31	5	80
s hf s w qr	27	31	5	80
n e qr	27	31	5	160
s w qr	27	31	5	160