

Governor Floyd's Special Message in favor of a National Convention.

Governor Floyd says: I would recommend the adoption by the Legislature, of resolutions inviting all the States of the Union to unite in sending delegates to represent the whole people in a general Convention, which ought to be held at an early and convenient central point, for the purpose of bringing to an end all sectional controversies relative to slavery.

We have great respect for the opinions of Governor FLOYD and his motives. But we cannot see how the movement he proposes, will promote the Union or tranquility of the country.

The proposition is singularly anomalous and incongruous. It proposes that "delegates to represent the whole people," shall meet in general convention.

Now, about three-fourths of the Northern States are pretty well known to be in favor of the repeal or essential modification of the Fugitive slave law—hence they would be excluded.

If those States only in the South who are content with the compromise, were to send delegates, and those from the North who are in favor of sustaining the Fugitive slave law, the convention would be a very meagre one.

If a convention were proposed to amend the Constitution to provide for difficulties now existing that were not foreseen—and to settle the pending controversy, it would be quite a different thing.

But a convention of delegates from States only that were in favor of the late omnibus, could do but little to give peace to the country.

By the way, it may be as well to remind Virginia that Georgia has now virtually deserted the Fugitive slave law. For she does not enumerate it as one in the list of causes for which she would separate.

We must beg Virginia to remember that all the rights of the South involved in the late measures, were only as respected, by Congress, and that was a right affecting the border slaveholding States chiefly.

The Southern States will co-operate cordially with Virginia in asserting the rights of all. They will take no part in maintaining the single right in which she and two or three other States only, are principally interested, upon the condition of finally renouncing the more important territorial rights of all.

A Southern Congress is already called by a Southern Convention. Let Virginia and the other Southern States assemble together—let them adopt a moderate conciliatory, but definite declaration of the basis on which they will maintain the Union.

Fall of Parties. The majority in the Georgia Convention, that adopted the report and resolutions, met afterwards, and formed a political coalition or Union party, to supersede the Whig and Democratic parties of that State.

There are two names rumored in connection with the enterprise—Lumley, of London and Paris, and Mr. Martineau, of the Italian Company. It is understood that the great London manager, Lumley, is the man; and that he intends to put New York on a par with the European capitals in musical celebrity.

Jenny Lind arrived at Richmond on Thursday evening in an extra train. She gave a Concert there last evening.

Georgia Convention.

The fourth resolution reported by the committee of 33 to the Georgia Convention, was in these words: Fourthly, That the State of Georgia, in the judgment of this convention, will and ought to resist, even (as a last resort) to a disruption of every tie which binds her to the Union, any future act of Congress, abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, without the consent and approval of the slave owners thereof, or any act abolishing slavery in places within the slaveholding States, purchased by the United States, for the use of forts, magazines, arsenals, dock yards, navy yards, and other like purposes; or any act suppressing the slave trade between slaveholding States, or in any refusal to admit as a State any territory hereafter applying, because of the existence of slavery therein; or in any act prohibiting the introduction of slaves into the territories of Utah and New Mexico, or any act appealing or materially modifying the laws now in force for the recovery of fugitive slaves.

And we inferred from the telegraphic despatch that it was passed, as reported. But this was not the case. It was changed to the following: Fourthly, That the State of Georgia, in the judgment of this convention, will and ought to resist, even (as a last resort) to a disruption of every tie which binds her to the Union, any act of Congress, upon the slavery in the District of Columbia, or in places subject to the jurisdiction of Congress, incompatible with the safety, the domestic tranquility, the rights and the honor of the slaveholding States, or any act suppressing the slave trade between slaveholding States, or any refusal to admit as a State any territory hereafter applying, because of the existence of slavery therein; or any act prohibiting the introduction of slaves into the territories of Utah and New Mexico, or any act repealing or materially modifying the laws now in force for the recovery of fugitive slaves.

It will be seen that the Convention declined making the issue of Disunion on the abolition of slavery in this District even without the consent of the owners, or on the abolition of slavery in the forts, arsenals and dock yards. This was a definite issue, by which Unionists might be embarrassed, so the words were altered to the more vague expression of doing any thing incompatible in the premises with the safety, the domestic tranquility, the rights and the honor of the slaveholding States.

The original form was weak enough. This is so vague that it amounts to nothing—but words.

We insert to-day two poetical productions of the anti-slavery school, one by a poet of Pittsburg, the other by a poetess of the East. The popular effect of ballads is well known and is a good deal employed by the fanatics. We give these as specimens of many we have seen, in order that our Southern readers may know the agencies employed against them.

It is a great mistake to suppose that the Abolitionists are either few in number, or inferior in talents, standing or wealth at the North. They have their full proportion of all. They gave sixty thousand votes at the late elections in Ohio, New York and Massachusetts, notwithstanding both the national parties in those States conform to them so much.

As a further evidence of their spirit and zeal, the National Era, their organ in this city, has a subscription of fifteen thousand—the largest of any paper here.

To suppose that with a party thus numerous and thus induced with zeal, ability, wealth and influence, we are to have peace on the slavery question, is one of the most extravagant chimeras of the day.

A NOVEL IDEA.—The proprietors of the Astor House, New York, obtain daily by telegraph for the benefit of travelers, the state of the weather at various points of the Union.

SOLOUQUE is to be crowned Emperor of all Hayti on Christmas day. His crown and other insignia of royalty has been received from France. The first of February has been fixed for him to march to capture that portion of the Island which does not acknowledge his sway.

A NEW MOVE.—Mr. John W. Davis of Indiana, formerly Speaker of the House of Representatives, and more recently United States Commissioner to China, has left himself called upon to communicate his views upon various matters to the public in a letter. The person who communicates it to the public, through the columns of the New Orleans Delta, thinks the author good timber for a President; and the New York Post thinks that it was with that letter was written.

RAILROAD IMPROVEMENTS.—The citizens of Sussex county, Virginia, recently held a meeting to consider the expediency of connecting the Western States with the Atlantic by railroads. It was resolved to request their delegates and senators in the General Assembly of the State to co-operate in promoting the construction of a line of railroads from the Chesapeake river to the city of Norfolk—providing two-fifths of the necessary amount of stock be raised and secured by individual subscriptions.

SPLENDID OPERA HOUSE IN NEW YORK.—The New York Tribune says that they are about to have a new opera house on a splendid scale. It states: We learn that initiatory steps have been taken for the creation of an immense opera house one worthy of the magnitude of the metropolis of the western world and of the genius of the famous impresario who is supposed to be the main mover in the enterprise.

THE BABES IN THE SNOW.—A correspondent of the Boston Transcript narrates a singular incident which happened in the village of Piedmont, N. H., last week. Two little children, one five and the other three years of age, strayed from home. Not returning at dark, a general search throughout the night was made by the people of the village.

THE EXPLOSION OF THE ANGLO-NORMAN. There were 210 persons on board the Anglo-Norman when she exploded at N. Orleans, on the 10th inst. She was bound for New Orleans, and was carrying on board 100,000 lbs. of gunpowder, and 100,000 lbs. of saltpetre.

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The National Era.—Their Gross Attempt at Disunion.

Everybody has, no doubt, been amused for some time past, at the spectacle exhibited by the writing of the *Intelligencer* and *Union*, under the late nullification law of Vermont. It came in so unexpectantly to disturb the harmony of their congratulations of the country under the blessed effects of the "peace measures." They have written with each other from day to day, in their expressions of surprise and horror at the occurrence. It is so unreasonably so out of place! so wonderful! so absurd! Surely it was a monster, a *lusus nature*! or at least a joke! Vermont did not mean it! The Legislature was certainly asleep when it got through. Of course there would have been a clamor, an outcry! Such have been their laughable declamations for the last ten days. Luckily, or perhaps designedly, to enable them to mislead their readers, an anonymous communication appears in a New York paper, professing to be written from Vermont. The writer declares that the bill was passed without examination, and without discussion, and it seems, too, without one word of objection from any single member, at the end of the session.

The writer then complains that the Governor, the newspapers of the State, &c., are so much in favor of the measure, that they will not tell the truth about the affair, and that the people of the State are not in favor of the law. This silly absurdity has been seized upon by both the national organs here, and paraded before the public with a view, as they pretend, of enlightening their readers.

To expose this humbug, we present below, taken from the statutes of the State of Vermont, a law passed as far back as the year 1843. This has been the law of Vermont for the last seven years. It is even more stringent in its provisions than the late act. No wonder, therefore, that the recent movement created no surprise, and found no opposition in the State, according, as it did, with her entire legislative policy.

No discreet man, in reflecting on the compromise, can regard Mr. FORT as the author of the measure. He proposed the committee of thirteen, it is true, but with the avowed purpose of countering and defeating Mr. CLAY's resolutions in his speech of February last. His soul was stirred within him at the horrible outrage which they inflicted on the South, and his committee was to be the panacea to restore health and tranquility. It is true that he was active, busy, and even ready to interfere, but he was no more the author of the compromise than the iron casting in which the meat is cooked is the author of the dinner.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows: Sec. 1. No court of record in this State, nor any judge thereof, nor justice of the peace nor any magistrate, acting under the authority of this State, shall hereafter take cognizance of, or grant any certificate, warrant or other process, in any case arising under section three of an act of Congress, passed February twelfth, seventeen hundred and ninety-three, entitled "an act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters," to any person claiming any other person as a fugitive slave, in this State.

Sec. 2. No sheriff, deputy sheriff, high bailiff, constable, jailer, or other officer or citizen of this State shall, hereafter, seize, arrest, or detain, or aid in the seizure, arrest or detention, or imprisonment in any jail or other building, or regarding to this State, to any county, town, city, or person therein, of any person for the reason that he is or may be claimed as a fugitive slave.

Sec. 3. No sheriff, deputy sheriff, high bailiff, constable, or other officer or citizen of this State, shall transport, or remove, or aid or assist in the transportation or removal of any fugitive slave, or any person claimed as such, from any place in this State to any other place within or without the same.

Sec. 4. If any such judge, justice of the peace, magistrate, officer or citizen, shall offend against the two preceding sections, such judge, justice of the peace, magistrate, officer or citizen, shall be subject to the penalties provided in section 5 of this act.

Sec. 5. Any judge of any court of record in this State, any justice of the peace or other magistrate, any sheriff, deputy sheriff, high bailiff, constable, or jailer, or any citizen of this State, who shall offend against the provisions of this act, by letting directly or indirectly under the provisions of section three of the act of Congress aforesaid, forfeit a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars, to the use of the State, to be recovered upon information or indictment, or be imprisoned in the State prison not exceeding five years.

Sec. 6. An act entitled "an act to extend the right of trial by jury," approved October 29th, 1840, is repealed.

Sec. 7. This act shall take effect from its passage. Approved Nov. 1, 1843.

According to the statement of the Governor of South Carolina, there are forty thousand persons in that State who can neither read nor write. Had not the State better appropriate all her spare funds to the purposes of education, than to throw them away in building fortifications, buying gunpowder, and such like curiosities?—*Louisville Dem. crat.*

Some of the other States had better appropriate money to send a delegation of their editors and politicians, to learn of the twenty thousand people of South Carolina, who can neither read nor write, a knowledge of constitutional rights and spirit to maintain them.

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THE POTATOE TRIBE.—They tell a laughable story of the late Indian sub-agent at Fort Snelling, and an excellent officer, to this effect:—that when the Major first met the Indians at Fort Snelling, he introduced himself to their acquaintance as follows: "Tell them, Mr. Prescott, (interpreter), that I am their father—that I am Major Murphy, the Big Potatoe." Mr. Prescott according said to the Indians, "this is your father, *Mendo Tonka*, (big potatoe). The Indians granted out an admiring sigh, and shook their heads cordially by the hand. When Major McLean, Murphy's successor, was introduced to the Indians, Mr. Prescott was not instructed to inform the Indians what McLean's name was, but they, taking it for granted that he too must be one of the Potatoe family, sent to supply their necessities, called him, probably with reference to his personal contrast to Major Murphy, their "father, *Mendo Christian*," (small potato)—and the Sioux, in Dakota, now uniformly call him "the Small Potatoe."

For the Southern Press.

The compromise.—The Design of its Authors and their Views of the Result. It is profitable to review the scenes of a political conflict and analyze the agencies which gave character to its progress and determined its effect. The excitement of the contest prevented impartiality in the formation of a judgment, and inequalities for that min to observation of events indispensable to any valuable conclusion. Matters apparently unimportant, turn out to be those which determined the issue, whilst those which were regarded of the highest moment, prove to be mere accidents, exerting little or no control over the result.

The present is the parent of the future, as well as the offspring of the past. No great revolution is to be wisely attributed to accident, neither can the effect of existing causes be prevented, unless the causes are themselves removed. The policy of a sagacious statesman is always referable to some well conceived purpose, which, though not at all times apparent, is still the end of his efforts and the object of his pursuit. He may mingle in other designs, and unite in other enterprises—may bind himself to parties and to individuals, but a close inspection of all his acts will disclose the master purpose, the ruling passion of his heart.

It is thus that after years of effort, the end is reached, and a review of what has been done, reveals the connexion of all his acts with the purpose sometimes avowed, ever cherished and steadily pursued. Thought, hopes, sentiments, friends, station, power, all made available to "construe the times to his necessities," to minister to the attainment of the darling wish of his end. The letters, speeches and conversations, as well as the votes of such individuals, however varying and sometimes even conflicting, show the coloring which opinions early formed, and determinations early adopted, give to their character and to their actions. The truth of these reflections is most manifest in considering the compromise, the design of its authors and their views of the result.

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THE DEATH OF A HUSBAND AND A WIFE.

At Philadelphia, on Tuesday, the bodies of James Farley and Sarah his wife, were found dead in their bed at their dwelling, on the West Chester road. They had been sleeping in a chamber adjoining, in which was a coal fire. The gas from this fire had for several nights affected Mrs. Farley, who, with her husband, were ignorant of the cause. They were natives of England. A child in the same room escaped any serious effects.

DELICATE AND SINGULAR SUICIDE.—Yesterday afternoon a large sized mastiff, a fine looking animal, was seen walking moderately but directly down Lumber street, towards the river. On close examination it was discovered that he had in some manner become seriously wounded, there being a large gash laying open the flesh to the bone, and several other wounds in different parts of his body. On being taken to the river, he pined no attention, but still continued his course towards the river, and upon reaching the dock plunged off, swam a few feet out into the stream, dove under and was seen no more. This was witnessed by a number of persons.—(Albany Evening Atlas.)

COMPLETE CENSUS OF MAINE.—We find in the Portland Advertiser the official table of the complete census of that State, by which it appears that the population on the 1st of June last was 583,026. Ten years previously it was 501,796. The census for 1850 does not include 1,875 inhabitants residing North of the St. John river, who were included in the census of 1840, but, being in the territory ceded to Great Britain by the boundary treaty, are now out of the State.

THE SOUTHERN CONVENTION.—This body adjourned on Monday, the 18th inst., after having adopted an exposition of wrongs which the Southern States have suffered, and a declaration of rights to which they are entitled under the federal compact, together with a series of resolutions.—We published the result of the convention's action, to-day, and fully approve and endorse it as a suitable platform for the whole South to adopt. The bill of rights (as the preamble may be appropriately styled), is, with slight modifications, the same as that proposed by Mr. Clay, and the resolutions are substantially those offered by Mr. Davenport, of Mississippi. We cannot perceive any good reason, why any State rights republican, whether he be a Free-Soil Whig or Democrat, should object to the action of the convention. There is nothing in it inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, disloyal to a constitutional Union, or repugnant to the resolutions of Virginia and Kentucky in 1798, the former of which were adopted by Mr. Madison, the latter by Mr. Jefferson, which have ever since been regarded by all but Federalists, the truest exponents of the rights of the people, as the standard of compromise. The convention had done less, it would have betrayed a timidity unworthy of freemen, the representatives of freemen, and would justly have forfeited the respect and confidence of their constituents.

The great bugbear to Federalists, who want a strong, consolidated central government, to overawe the separate States, and ride roughshod over the liberties of the people, is, the existence of a single party, which is not distinctly avowed. It is right claimed for the several States by Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Madison, Gen. Jackson, Judge Philip P. Barbour, Mr. Tazewell, Mr. Calhoun, and a host of able and great men, who were distinguished by Mr. Madison, the latter by Mr. Jefferson, which have ever since been regarded by all but Federalists, the truest exponents of the rights of the people, as the standard of compromise. The convention had done less, it would have betrayed a timidity unworthy of freemen, the representatives of freemen, and would justly have forfeited the respect and confidence of their constituents.

We cordially concur in the recommendation of the convention to all the parties in the slaveholding States, to refuse to go into or countenance any National Convention, whose object is to nominate candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States, under any party denomination whatever, until our constitutional rights are secured. We do take and have for some time taken little or no interest in the elections in the Northern States, because neither the Whig nor the Democratic party at the North is free from free-soil tendencies and a strong aversion to the National Convention. The Democrats have, of late, shown any disposition to do the South justice. We are, therefore, in favor of regulating all party connection with the North, abolishing all national party organizations, and forming a Southern Union in a great National party, to battle together for Southern rights equality and independence in the Union, as long as there is a reasonable prospect of attaining those objects. If Northern Unionism is to be an inexorable and unyielding in their tyrannical and oppressive demands, drive us to extremities.

We, likewise, cordially approve the recommendation of a congress or convention of all the slaveholding States, to be held at New Orleans, to be composed of delegates clothed with full power and authority to deliberate and act, with the view of arresting Northern aggression, and, if possible, of restoring to the North the rights of self-government, to provide for their future safety and independence. This is no time to mince matters—to doubt, delay, and delay, fearful to assert our rights, and fearful not to do it. Let the issue be made to the North, and let us stand firmly on only conditions on which we are willing to remain in political fellowship with them. The sooner it is done, the better for all parties. The North is largely in the majority, and we are in the minority. Let the Union, if it is possible, let the United South force the people of the North, if possible, to acknowledge her constitutional rights in such a manner that they cannot recede, and if the North persist in denying her rights, let us sever the Union regarding them as our forefathers regarded the people of England, "enemies in war, in peace friends."

REVERSE OF FORTUNE.—The Dublin Evening Mail furnishes some particulars of the history of Mrs. Bell Martin, who recently died in New York city, immediately on her arrival in a sailing vessel from Ireland. Mrs. Martin was the daughter and wife of Thomas Martin, M. P. of Ballinacree Castle, the late Duke of Devonshire's agent, and an immense inheritance, exceeding in extent an entire kingdom of some of the German princes, and yielding a yearly income, above all incomes, of some £5,000,000, or \$25,000,000, five years ago. In two years time the potato rot, famine, pestilence, the claims of money lenders, and the agency of British laws, reduced this lady to a state of absolute poverty. Her whole estate was brought into the Encumbered Estate Court and advertised for private sale, and she herself compelled to go forth as a wanderer without a home. The Mail says of this sad history:— "She was a hard fate reserved for her untiring and active benevolence had been devoted from her childhood to the comfort and relief of those who suffered, and her powerful and original mind was necessarily employed in devising means of moral and physical amelioration in the condition of the tenantry on her father's estates. She gave up her whole time to such pursuits, avoiding the haunts of fashion and those amusements which might be considered suitable to her rank and place, that she might perform the various duties of physician, schoolmistress, and agricultural instructor. Her almost daily habit was to visit the poor and the sick in the remote recesses of the estate, sometimes on foot, and more frequently in her little boat, well provided with medicines and food, which she impelled by the vigor of her own arm through the lakes which stretch along the foot of its mountainous front. The French Government is made to have received a despatch from Berlin, announcing that the Austrian government has demanded the evacuation of Hesse by the Prussian troops, within twenty-four hours. The same report states that the name of the Shipping Gazette of the afternoon, Nov. 29, 3 o'clock, contains the following latest intelligence from the Continent:—"The intelligence from the Continent this morning is against us, and our friends are now at hand. The Prussian and Vienna are now stated to have arrived at a point at which the dispute must merge into open hostilities, the late negotiations between the two cabinets not having led to any satisfactory result. The French Government is made to have received a despatch from Berlin, announcing that the Austrian government has demanded the evacuation of Hesse by the Prussian troops, within twenty-four hours. 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