

O. H. P. STEWART, is our authorized agent for collecting accounts due this office, and for obtaining new subscribers in Virginia.

All letters on business should be addressed to "The Sentinel Office," Washington.

We have sent bills to such of our subscribers as are indebted to the Sentinel newspaper, rendering their accounts to the 24th September, at which time the second volume of the Tri-weekly edition will close.

While returning our thanks to those who have, from the beginning, sustained our enterprise, we desire to say that all who wish to continue their subscriptions will be required to remit PAYMENT IN ADVANCE for the next volume, commencing on the 25th instant, as, otherwise, no paper will be sent from this office. The terms, it is known, are FIVE DOLLARS A YEAR.

We are compelled to this course owing to the difficulty of collecting our subscriptions, scattered as they are over a wide surface of country. Our friends will, therefore, see the necessity of complying with our terms. No offence is intended to any, since friends and strangers are embraced in the same category.

Subscribers not receiving by the first of October, their names will be stricken from the list.

FUSION—BLACK REPUBLICANS—THE HON. RUFUS CHOATE, &c.

The disciples of Daniel Webster, with the Hon. Rufus Choate as the organ and exponent of their views, have lately held a meeting at Faneuil Hall, in Boston, at which Mr. Choate made an eloquent and lucid exposition of the views; and also, of the intentions of the fusion party; and the views and purposes of himself and of those who stand with him on what, he considered, a national platform.

The Fusion party he demonstrated to be, what in fact its leaders avowed it to be, a melting of all parties into one, a Black Republican party—a mixture of all parties, by which each party should abandon every principle hitherto avowed by it, and which had been professedly deemed essential to the best interests of the country and of society. Every one of these parties was to bring its principles as a sacrifice on the altar of the Black Republican party, which was to be created on the ruins of all which each of these parties professed to consider vitally essential to the general well-being.

On this altar the tariff and free-trade advocates lay down their hostility and agree to elect that man to office, State or National, regardless whether he be free-trade or tariff, so that he only be a Black Republican. The temperance man so completely abandons his conscientious convictions, that he will support a distiller, a liquor dealer, and a drunkard, if only he be a Black Republican, and will give him his preference to a genuine, consistent temperance man, who adheres to his conscience, and will not sacrifice all principle on this new altar of Black Republicanism.

The Know-nothing throws into this boiling caldron, on this new and black altar, his antagonism to popery and to foreign influence, and will prefer a bigoted Catholic and foreigner, to a genuine native candidate of his own conviction, if the first be only a devotee to the Black Republican altar, and the other not. The foreign Catholic will vote for the rankst Know-nothing in preference to his warmest democratic advocate, if he does not worship at the Black Republican altar, and so with every party. Every heresy is deemed a virtue if found kneeling at this altar, while a whole galaxy of principles, hitherto deemed cardinal, are now stigmatized if found kneeling at the altar of National Patriotism and not at the altar of this Black Republicanism—this moloch altare which, devouring every virtue, converts them into filthy vice. The essence to this party, and the only one, is fealty to Black Republicanism. No watchdog of principle, virtue, or patriotism, can open its doors; there is but one magic password—negrodom; that is watched will admit every hue and shade—free-lovers and free-drinkers, the Catholic foreigner and the American Know-nothing.

Mr. Choate well puts the question. What vital good is to be obtained—by this universal sacrifice, by all parties, of every principle hitherto deemed so essential. This great and general ignoring of all other principles and all other interests purports to arise, from the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. But as Mr. Choate observes, the parties who avow this repeal do so for the motive for this wanton and general abandonment of the principles hitherto honestly and warmly cherished, do not propose or promise its restoration—the only end and aim of this conglomerate party, which is avowed by its leaders, is hatred to the South—and in order to render this as widespread and as bitter as possible, that no man shall be elected or appointed to any office, national, State, municipal, or corporate, who will not deem it his paramount duty in his official, as well as personal capacity, to exhibit hostility to the South, and to take antagonistic action against it in all cases, and in every manner; and in this career of hostility they must be pledged to disregard alike the Constitution of the United States, the laws of Congress, the rights of States, all comity and any and every dictate, which shall conflict with the extreme hate and hostility to the South, while aggression in every aggravated form is to be pressed to the extreme.

As Mr. Choate well asks, what is the North to gain by this proceeding. Let every man in the North ask himself this question. Let every man of them answer it to himself, and say if he can, that it will prove either wise or beneficial.

To our mind, and we believe it will so appear to every reflecting mind, which will judge without passion, and without bias, the true and only cause of this whole movement is plainly discernible, and is simply this:

That if there be any clearing as the noon day sun, it is that no Freeholder, voter of the Con-

stitution, can reach the Presidential chair, or fill the high offices of the National Government. A secured movement has therefore been made to secure and engross, in the first place, all State power of offices, and the members of both branches of Congress, thus securing appointments at West Point and the Naval Academy at Annapolis. With the weight and power of these influences, they hope to coerce some concessions from the National Government. The whole movement is a strike for the spoils, which it had become clear could never be attained by a Presidential struggle, at least, until they should have secured the exclusive patronage of the free States.

This state of affairs reflects itself from this movement, as from a mirror, and would convince any one, as it would us, if even we had not information confirming it.

The whole tenor of Mr. Choate's speech, pencils this aspect of the matter, while it holds up to all who look, not to office and the spoils of office for support, but to their own industry and private business, and asks them if they are prepared to sacrifice their own interests, the interests of their families, the peace and harmony, and the welfare and the glory of their country, to provide these political corruptors with office.

Mr. Choate might have gone further, and these might have conclusively shown even to those who were on foot, and by power, that by far the sooner, as well as the wiser, would be to stand resolutely and uncompromisingly by their national faith, by the Constitution and the laws, and in good fellowship with all their countrymen of this whole broad continent; that adherence to these will alone secure a sure and permanent triumph; that the success upon a subordinate and distracting principle cannot be enduring, if achieved even for a time.

In a Presidential contest there are 296 electoral votes, of which 116 from slave States are immutably in favor of a national man, leaving only 33 votes more to render certain such an election.

Can any doubt that there are sane and intelligent men enough that the North and value their own and their country's interest more than the dictates of cunning, which appeals only to the fanatic, which would sacrifice both to an idle and wicked crusade against the South and against the Union; and if even that did not abundantly suffice, the entire career of the Northern States would afford as ample temptation to the spoils and office-seekers as is held out by the leaders under the black flag, and more so, as they would have both State and national.

It is impossible to conceive that there would not always be some one at the North who could supply sufficient votes with the great and sure support of the entire South to secure votes enough to give a majority in the electoral college.

Candidates could be run in every free State, and when they came to the electoral college, enough of them would feel authorized to vote for a candidate having the support of fifteen States, in preference to their own candidate, who could not by possibility be elected, if the election were thrown into the House.

It appears to us that this whole move is a clear, sheer, desperate, and unscrupulous rush of frenzied and disappointed aspirants, who seek to accomplish their selfish aims at any sacrifice; their hope is to secure State power and office now, that national office is beyond their possible reach.

While these figures reveal the impossibility of a Free Soil President of the Constitution ever reaching the Presidential chair, it also discloses the true and only motive for the treasonable movements now in progress.

These same figures also glaringly reveal the fact of the utter impossibility of the South being able to pass any aggressive measures against the North, there being a majority of 64 Northern votes in Congress. As, therefore, it is impossible for the South to pass any aggressive act against the North, these figures also reveal the perfidy of this unhallowed movement, avowed to be for the purpose of engendering sectional hate.

SENATOR MASON AND THE BOSTON COMMITTEE.

We find in the Richmond Enquirer of Saturday last, the following letter of Senator Mason, of Virginia, in reply to a letter of invitation, written to him by the Boston committee. This committee has become quite famous of late. It has scattered its cards of invitation all over the country, and in one or two instances has gotten pretty hot denunciations for its pains.

In some instances its invitations have not been honored with replies, in others they have encountered severe rebuke, in others they have been courteously answered, but declined, and in others they have been accepted. How this committee and its invitations should be treated by Southern men, cannot well be determined by any rule. Each person can best determine for himself. General Houston judged for himself, and he lectured in Boston. Judge Butler judged for himself, and he partially agreed to lecture, as also did Senator Toombs. Mr. Wise judged for himself, and he poured upon the committee a torrent of invective. A courteous man judged for himself, and, in a courteous letter which contains a protest against their right to interfere with the rights of the South, he declined. We are clear for each gentleman pursuing his own mode. Abolitionists have no right to interfere with Southern property. It is presumptuous in them to invite us to discuss our title to that property. They may do so either politely or rudely. But the style of the invitation is nothing.

The polite thief who quietly picks your pocket, has no more right to the money than the brutal highwayman, who, with pistol in hand cries, "Stand and deliver." We incline to the opinion that the Abolition Boston Committee can properly complain of no mode of treatment they may receive from Southern men.

Yet we confess that the manner in which Senator Mason answers them is exactly to our taste. He declines them for their officiousness, and politely rebuffs their invitation. His excellent letter will be found below:

SELMA, FREDERICK, CO., VA. October 9, 1855.

To Messrs. Sam. G. Howe and others, Boston: Gentlemen: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 5th inst., inviting me to de-

liver a lecture on Slavery, in Boston, on the evening of the 13th of March next; or at such other time as may be convenient to me, between the middle of November and the middle of March—and as an inducement to the service, you inform me, "that a series of lectures upon the subject was instituted, at (Boston) during the past winter;" and further, "that during the next season, a large number of gentlemen from the North will be invited to favor us (you) with the views prevalent in their vicinity; thus, in connection with others, presenting during the course every shade of opinion on this question."

I am at some loss to know what useful end it is thought will thus be attained by the series of discourses you thus propose before the people of Boston.

Slavery of the African race as a form of domestic servitude, in the earlier history of the country, had no geographic line of demarcation. Climate, and climate only, gradually caused its discontinuance at the North; and the same controlling influence is gradually concentrating it at the South. The climate reversed, it will be invited to favor us (you) with the views prevalent in their vicinity; thus, in connection with others, presenting during the course every shade of opinion on this question."

It is not surprising that the abolitionists of the North, either as regards their social or political condition, whether to elevate or depress, both or either, we at the South do not think it becomes us to determine. We may have our opinions, but it would be justly deemed intrusive, if not offensive, to express them. Yet we might, with as much propriety, challenge you to discuss such topics, with a view to affect or modify your social institutions, as you can challenge us in reference to ours.

When, therefore, it has been ordained by physical laws, that domestic servitude, as it exists at the South, is much peculiar to that section; and when it is conceded, (as I must take for granted it is,) that the States in the respective sections, North and South, are alone to determine what is best for themselves, in regard to such institutions, I can see no propriety, far less wisdom, in the people of either section seeking to inquire into or to cavil at the social relations of another.

An experience of two centuries and a half has done much to enlighten the public judgment at the South, on the institution of slavery in the African race, as it exists there. We are satisfied not only to retain it, but, as far as we can by fundamental law, to ensure its perpetuation amongst us. That experience and its results (for the reasons considered) can be of no value to you; and, considering that, that the people at the North cannot want information on the subject of slavery, for the purpose of determining what is best for themselves, there should be no determining concession even, of their right so to determine for others. And lest such should be in any way implied, I deem it proper to decline (though I do so as courteous) if you were given, your invitation to participate in the lectures proposed at Boston.

Very respectfully, I am, gentlemen, Your obedient servant, J. M. MASON.

STATE EQUALITY AND THE PROPERTY.

We find in the Washington Union of a late date the following paper, which purports to be an emanation from the fertile mind and fruitful pen of Attorney General Cushing. Like the ghost of Hamlet, it comes in such a "questionable shape," that it must "speak" to us.

The doctrines it announces challenge our cordial approbation; but what puzzles us is, how he came to be announced just at this time. No case appears calling for an exposition of the relations of the States. No occasion, that we are aware of, rendered necessary the following excellent but *volunteer* pronouncement. It is altogether extra-judicial. The Attorney General seems to have been holding a mock court all to himself, in which, with that marvellous versatility that distinguishes him, he represented the parties, the jury, the judge, and all.

We are not so sure that the assumption of the power by any department of the Federal Government to issue such edicts, when there is no case in court, is not a violation of State-rights, even when it declares for "State equality." If such power of decision exists in the Attorney General, it may be exercised either way.

Now, while we warmly approve the positions assumed in the Attorney General's pronouncement, we do not understand the occasion or the object of it. It means something, for it appears in the grave organ of the Administration, whose columns, by the way, are often graced by the official productions of the Attorney General. We incline to think that it is one of the diversions of that learned and industrious officer of the Government. But we respectfully suggest that in these times the rights and equality of the States ought not to be jested with.

Attorney General's Opinion. It has been adjudged by the members of the Supreme Court that the United States do not hold any municipal sovereignty, jurisdiction, or right of soil in the territory of which any of the new States are formed, except for temporary purposes, namely: to execute the trusts created by deeds of cession of Virginia, Massachusetts, Georgia and other States in the original compact of the Union, or by treaties with France, Spain and the Mexican Republic, in the territories of Louisiana, the Floridas, New Mexico, and California.

It has been adjudged by the same series of decisions that the provisions of the ordinance for the organization of the Northwest Territory are extinguished by the constitution; or if any of them retain continuing validity, it is only so far as they may have authority derived from some other source, either the compact of cession or acts of Congress under the constitution.

This doctrine has been applied in leading cases to questions touching the property in public lands, the relation of master and slave, religion, navigable waters, and the eminent domain, and may be taken as the established legal truth.

In obedience to the same principle, and proceeding in the same line of adjudication, it must have been held, if the question had come before the judicial determination, that the provisions of the act of March 6, 1820, which undertakes to determine in advance a perpetual rule of municipal law for all that portion of the province of Louisiana which lies north of the parallel of 36 deg. 30 min. north latitude, was null and void *ab initio*, because incompatible with the organic fact of equality and inalienable right in all respects, between the old and the new States.

It seems that in New York they have what would be considered here a novel mode of electioneering. Candidates, it is said, treat electors and target companies to short excursions, followed by a dinner, and of course any amount of noise and excitement. For the past three or four weeks the streets have been continually filled with small squads of men and boys, with bands of music, to the great inconvenience of business, and annoyance of quiet citizens. In view of this state of things, and the exciting election near at hand, Mayor Wood has issued the following proclamation—*Balt. Sun.*

"The appearance and parade of soldier

upon the eve of an election suits Republican France, but not America. The statute of the State forbids it from now until Wednesday next, unless called for by authority. No contingency like the latter is expected by me. But I deem it my duty to advise officers and commanders of all companies that the law forbids 'appearance' and 'exercise' of their men within the time above mentioned. A heavy penalty is imposed for violation. The law is excellent in its spirit. Every showing of excitement is to be carefully avoided during the next five days. My fellow citizens will remember that last year a target company, on the evening before the election, promoted a disturbance in marching by a political assemblage. It will become the duty of all police men to notify me of any parade between this date and the day succeeding election, that I may take measures to enforce the law. If engagements for parades have been made in ignorance of the law, commanders will immediately postpone them. "FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor."

IMPORTANT FROM CENTRAL AMERICA. By the arrival of the Star of the West, we have interesting news from that part of the continent. The following is a synopsis of the more important items of intelligence.

The war in Central America is assuming a serious aspect. Col. Walker attacked Grenada on the 14th ult., which, having been previously almost deserted by its inhabitants, he took without much resistance. On the 22d, Gen. Cerral, commander of the forces of the late government, surrendered to Walker, and a treaty of peace was formally ratified between them. Don Frisco Mayorga, the late Secretary of State, having been detected in correspondence with the enemy outside the city, was shot on the 22d at Grenada.

The Transit Company's steamer San Carlos, with the passengers which left New York in the Star of the West on the 5th ult., was fired into by the government forces from the fort at the junction of the San Juan river and Lake Nicaragua, and a lady and child were killed and the boat damaged. The passengers were most reluctantly reached the Pacific without further molestation.

On the evening of the 19th the government forces from Rivas made a murderous attack on the returning Californians at Virgin Bay, killing four and severely wounding eight. Both the above acts appear to have been dictated by a spirit of revenge at the success of Walker.

Further accounts state that, possession having been taken of the capital, a committee of citizens called on the American Minister (Col. Wheeler), and invited him to proceed to Rivas, where, it was said, he would find Gen. Cerral with propositions of peace. He repaired thither, (not, however, wishing in any way to compromise his government,) but not finding Gen. Cerral, he was on the eve of leaving; when he was not only prevented from so doing, but arrested and cast into prison by the governor and prefect of Rivas. Having been thus detained for two days, he was restored to liberty. Of course, our Government will be officially informed of these facts.

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A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Occurred on the Pacific railroad, between St. Louis and Jefferson city, on Thursday last. It was occasioned by a bridge giving way, carrying with it an excursion train of cars. The number of killed and wounded is variously estimated, and one despatch says that, out of seven hundred passengers, not more than two hundred escaped uninjured. We hope, in common with our contemporaries, that this is an exaggeration.

Since writing the above, we learn, by telegraph, that the number thus far ascertained to have been killed is twenty-two, while that of those suffering from broken limbs and severe contusions will probably reach fifty.

Hon. A. H. Stevens, of Georgia, in a recent address at a meeting in Alexandria, for the benefit of the Orphan Asylum and Free School of that city, related the following anecdote:

"A poor little boy in a cold night, with no home or roof to shelter his head, no paternal or maternal guardian to guide, to protect or direct him on his way, reached at nightfall the house of a rich planter, who took him in, fed, lodged, and sent him on his way. These kind attentions cheered his heart, and inspired him with fresh courage to battle with the obstacles of life. Years rolled on; Providence led him on, and he reached the legal profession; his home had died; his father had died; he had no one to rely on, but he had a friend, a friend who had been a companion to him, and that friend was his orphan boy, years before welcomed by her deceased husband. The stimulus of warm and loving remembrance, was now added to the ordinary motive connected with the profession. He undertook her cause with a will not easily to be deserted; he gained it; the widow's estates were secured to her in perpetuity—and, Mr. Stephens added, with an emphasis of emotion that sent an electric thrill through the house, 'that orphan boy stands before you.'"

The case of Passmore Williamson. On Saturday morning Passmore Williamson appeared in the United States district court in Philadelphia, accompanied by Messrs. Meredith, Gilpin, and Hopper, his counsel, and offered a petition, in which he expresses his willingness to purge himself of the contempt in the Wheeler slave case, for which he was imprisoned in July last. Judge Kane received the petition, granted the prayer, and required Williamson to affirm to what he had to say in reply to the interrogatories of the Court. Certain interrogatories were then propounded to him by Mr. Vanduyke, the district attorney, to which he replied:

"I did not seek to obey the writ by producing the persons therein mentioned before the Court, because I had not, at the time of the service of the writ, the power over the custody, or control of them, and therefore it was impossible for me to do so. I first heard of the writ of habeas corpus on Friday, July 20, between one and two o'clock, a. m., on my return from Harrisburg. After breakfast, about 9 o'clock, I went from my house to Mr. Hopper's office, when and where the return was prepared. At 10 o'clock, as I came into court by the writ, I sought to obey the writ by conveying it truly; the parties not being in my possession or control, it was impossible for me to obey the writ by producing them. Since the service of the writ I have not had the custody, possession, or power over them; nor have I known where or power over them, from common rumor or by newspaper reports in regard to their public appearance in the city or elsewhere."

Some discussion arose between the District Attorney and the counsel of Mr. Williamson. Mr. Vanduyke contended that the reply of the defendant was evasive and contradictory. The Judge said the difficulty, he thought, could be easily overcome by amending the answer, and

at the suggestion of the court it was amended in the following manner:

"I did not seek to obey the writ by producing the persons in the writ mentioned before this Court. I did not do so because I verily believe that it was entirely impossible for me to produce the said persons agreeably to the command of the Court."

This answer was then accepted by the court and ordered to be filed.

Judge Kane then remarked that the District Attorney has been invited to aid the court in this case, but that he would be in mind that his relation to Mr. Wheeler was now suspended. This was only an inquiry as to what injury had been done the process of the court.

Mr. Vanduyke said he was aware of the position he occupied.

Judge Kane then said—"The contempt is now regarded as purged, and the party is released from custody. He is now reinstated in the position he occupied before the contempt was committed. Mr. Williamson is now before me on the return to the writ."

Mr. Vanduyke then arose and addressed the court, stating that a *nolle prosequi* had been entered in the case in this court, but that he had, on behalf of Mr. Wheeler, entered a suit for damages in the U. S. Circuit Court. Judge Kane thereupon discharged Williamson from custody. He was immediately surrounded and heartily congratulated by his friends. He is said to look exceedingly well.

Stingling Succed. The Frankfort (Va.) Crescent furnishes an account of one of the most singular of the many cases of the last we have ever heard of.

During the last term of our Circuit Court, a Dutchman by the name of Samuel Where, living in Madison township, was called by the Sheriff to take his seat at the jury, the regular panel not being present. At the time, he remarked to the Sheriff that he was "too Dutch to sit upon the jury," but not being excused, he accordingly took his seat. The case of the Lafayette Steam Road Company vs. The New Albany and Salem Railroad Company was then proceeded with, which occupied the remainder of the week. On Saturday the jury was discharged until the following Monday, and Mr. Where qualified to be in attendance at that time, as the evidence and argument in the above named case were not yet concluded. Accordingly Mr. Where appeared in the jury-box on the following Monday, and acted as a competent juror throughout the remainder of the trial.

After the case was concluded and a verdict brought in by the jury, a motion for a new trial was made; and one of the allegations to sustain the motion, was that of Mr. Where, as a jurymen, had not a sufficient knowledge of the English language to understand the nature of the evidence in the case, and consequently could arrive at no just conclusion in reference to it. To ascertain how far Mr. Where's knowledge of the English language extended, he accordingly took his seat. The case of the Lafayette Steam Road Company vs. The New Albany and Salem Railroad Company was then proceeded with, which occupied the remainder of the week. On Saturday the jury was discharged until the following Monday, and Mr. Where qualified to be in attendance at that time, as the evidence and argument in the above named case were not yet concluded. Accordingly Mr. Where appeared in the jury-box on the following Monday, and acted as a competent juror throughout the remainder of the trial.

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at the suggestion of the court it was amended in the following manner:

"I did not seek to obey the writ by producing the persons in the writ mentioned before this Court. I did not do so because I verily believe that it was entirely impossible for me to produce the said persons agreeably to the command of the Court."

This answer was then accepted by the court and ordered to be filed.

Judge Kane then remarked that the District Attorney has been invited to aid the court in this case, but that he would be in mind that his relation to Mr. Wheeler was now suspended. This was only an inquiry as to what injury had been done the process of the court.

Mr. Vanduyke said he was aware of the position he occupied.

Judge Kane then said—"The contempt is now regarded as purged, and the party is released from custody. He is now reinstated in the position he occupied before the contempt was committed. Mr. Williamson is now before me on the return to the writ."

Mr. Vanduyke then arose and addressed the court, stating that a *nolle prosequi* had been entered in the case in this court, but that he had, on behalf of Mr. Wheeler, entered a suit for damages in the U. S. Circuit Court. Judge Kane thereupon discharged Williamson from custody. He was immediately surrounded and heartily congratulated by his friends. He is said to look exceedingly well.

Stingling Succed. The Frankfort (Va.) Crescent furnishes an account of one of the most singular of the many cases of the last we have ever heard of.

During the last term of our Circuit Court, a Dutchman by the name of Samuel Where, living in Madison township, was called by the Sheriff to take his seat at the jury, the regular panel not being present. At the time, he remarked to the Sheriff that he was "too Dutch to sit upon the jury," but not being excused, he accordingly took his seat. The case of the Lafayette Steam Road Company vs. The New Albany and Salem Railroad Company was then proceeded with, which occupied the remainder of the week. On Saturday the jury was discharged until the following Monday, and Mr. Where qualified to be in attendance at that time, as the evidence and argument in the above named case were not yet concluded. Accordingly Mr. Where appeared in the jury-box on the following Monday, and acted as a competent juror throughout the remainder of the trial.

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