

Approved Nov. 6, 1850.

**Sec. 53.—An Act** providing for a further distribution of the acts and resolves of each session of the General Assembly. It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows: Sec. 1. In addition to the distribution of the acts and laws of each session of the General Assembly, provided for in the eighth section of chapter five of the Revised Statutes, there shall be allowed and furnished to each organized town in this State, one copy of said acts and laws for each two hundred inhabitants, and one copy for each school district in such town; to be distributed within such town under the direction of the representative from such town in the General Assembly; or in case there be no such representative, under the direction of the town clerk of such town.

Approved Nov. 9, 1850.

**Sec. 54.—An Act** relating to the removal of Trustees by the Probate Court. It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont: Section sixth of chapter fifty-five of the Revised Statutes is so amended as to read as follows:—When any trustee shall become insane or otherwise incapable of discharging his trust, or obviously unsuitable, and when for any cause the interests of such trust estate require it, the probate court, after giving notice to such trustee, and all other interested parties, may remove him.

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**Sec. 55.—An Act** relating to the official bonds of sheriffs and other County officers. It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows: Sec. 1. Each sheriff shall, within ten days from the first day of December in each year, and before entering upon the duties of his office, execute and file with the probate court, a bond required by section three of chapter five of the Revised Statutes; and in case of the neglect of any sheriff, to execute and furnish such bond for the space of ten days from the first day of December in each year, the office shall be considered vacant.

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**STATE OF VERMONT.**  
SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,  
Montpelier, Nov. 20, 1850.  
I hereby certify that the foregoing sixty-five chapters are correct copies of such Acts and Resolves of the General Assembly, passed at the October session thereof, A. D. 1850, as have been designated by me for publication in the newspapers.  
FERRAND F. MERRILL,  
Secretary of State.

## The Middlebury Register.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1850.

Our paper will hereafter be published on WEDNESDAY morning, instead of Tuesday. This change becomes necessary, on account of the present regulations on the different mail routes, which render it impossible for us to distribute the Register in several towns on Tuesday. We trust that all subscribers in this county will hereafter receive their papers regularly, on the day of publication.

### Our new Habeas Corpus Law.

Last week, we expressed our views, at some length, of the recent enactment of our Legislature, which has been so widely and severely denounced as nullification. We have little to add to what we then said, nor do we think it necessary to occupy much more space with a matter really so unimportant. The last Vermont Watchman has, however, to establish its constitutionality. Its remarks are too extended for quotation. The relation of State and National legislation has always been executed, in many cases, a nice and difficult question to be determined. Such being the case, it is not at all ways wise to be too confident in these matters, except on good legal authority.

The most sensible article we have seen on this law, from without the State, we find in the Providence Journal—a paper second to none in the Union for the ability and candor with which it is conducted, and strongly Anti-Slavery in its sentiments. We quote the following from that paper—without, however, endorsing what is said of the unconstitutionality of the law:

An act has been passed by the Legislature of Vermont, calculated to impede the execution of the fugitive slave law, as far as it is possible for an act of a state legislature to impede a law of Congress. Such an enactment, which is undoubtedly wrong and impolitic at any time, is doubly unfortunate now, when good men of all parties are endeavoring to quiet the agitation which has so disastrously affected the country. Similar laws, although not quite so marked in their unconstitutional character, have existed in many of the free states, and were passed in retaliation for the equally unconstitutional and far more outrageous laws which were previously passed in South Carolina, Louisiana and other states, in relation to free negroes from the North. The act of Vermont appears to have been passed in haste, and without any deliberation, and the resolutions passed at the same session, it does not embody the true sentiments of the Legislature.

We notice that the act of Vermont is almost unanimously condemned. The press has very generally taken the ground that the law must be sustained, and that there is no way of avoiding its provisions, short of a repeal by Congress, or a decision of its unconstitutionality by the Supreme Court. There is little probability of either of these.

But while we join in the condemnation of this act, we do not conceal our astonishment at those Northern presses which are loudest in its condemnation, yet quite silent upon the corresponding violations of the constitution which have so long prevailed at the South. These presses can see no fault in unconstitutional legislation in favor of slavery. It is only when such legislation is against slavery that their indignation arouses. They look on unmoved when a Northern free man, charged with no crime, is imprisoned in South Carolina, and unless he is able to pay the expense of the outrage, is sold as a slave to the forces of the South, going to Charleston with the commission of the state, prepared to test in Southern courts and before Southern judges, the constitutionality of such proceedings, was mobbed and compelled to flee for his life. In all this they see nothing of special moment. They do not call for the repeal of the law which authorizes this outrage; and in retaliation of which, the unconstitutional legislation of which they complain at the North originated.

It is this silence which disgusts Northern men, whose sympathies naturally are all with the constitution and the law, and whose disposition is to keep the Northern sentiment true and faithful to the constitutional compact. But when the papers among us which are loudest in claiming the fulfillment of constitutional obligations North of the Potomac are so regardless of them South, their counsel has little weight upon those to whom it is addressed.

### Vermont Nullification.

A correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce shows that the passage of the act nullifying the Fugitive Slave Law, by the Legislature of Vermont, was a fraud upon many of the members of that body. It was a trick of the disorganizers, and was played off at the last hour of the session.

That act, however, will stand upon its own merits, and will not be repealed. The corresponding says that Governor Williams was consulted about the bill and that it was his own idea; that it came upon the people of the State like a thunder-clap, and many of the Senators and Representatives were entirely ignorant of its existence until they saw it in the newspapers; and all declare that it never could have passed had it been brought before a full House.

The movement above described will undoubtedly have the effect to excite and arouse the South. Already the telegraph announces that on Wednesday Gov. Floyd, of Virginia, on hearing of the passage of such an act by the Vermont Legislature, sent a special message to the Legislature of Virginia, in which he characterized the act

action in Vermont as an injury and an insult to the whole South, and remarks that it demands an instant settlement for the restoration of complete and effectual harmony. The Governor recommends the Legislature to invite all the States of the Union to unite in sending delegates to represent the whole people in a general Convention, to assemble at Baltimore, or some other convenient and central point, not later than May next. He further recommends that the State of Virginia, speaking through her legislature, earnestly and sincerely to her sister States of the South, to postpone any extreme action in relation to present difficulties, until the result of the deliberations of such a Convention shall be known. He concludes by saying the motto of the South must be as it has been, "Union if we can—Independence if we must."

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An act has been passed by the Legislature of Vermont, calculated to impede the execution of the fugitive slave law, as far as it is possible for an act of a state legislature to impede a law of Congress. Such an enactment, which is undoubtedly wrong and impolitic at any time, is doubly unfortunate now, when good men of all parties are endeavoring to quiet the agitation which has so disastrously affected the country. Similar laws, although not quite so marked in their unconstitutional character, have existed in many of the free states, and were passed in retaliation for the equally unconstitutional and far more outrageous laws which were previously passed in South Carolina, Louisiana and other states, in relation to free negroes from the North. The act of Vermont appears to have been passed in haste, and without any deliberation, and the resolutions passed at the same session, it does not embody the true sentiments of the Legislature.

We notice that the act of Vermont is almost unanimously condemned. The press has very generally taken the ground that the law must be sustained, and that there is no way of avoiding its provisions, short of a repeal by Congress, or a decision of its unconstitutionality by the Supreme Court. There is little probability of either of these.

But while we join in the condemnation of this act, we do not conceal our astonishment at those Northern presses which are loudest in its condemnation, yet quite silent upon the corresponding violations of the constitution which have so long prevailed at the South. These presses can see no fault in unconstitutional legislation in favor of slavery. It is only when such legislation is against slavery that their indignation arouses. They look on unmoved when a Northern free man, charged with no crime, is imprisoned in South Carolina, and unless he is able to pay the expense of the outrage, is sold as a slave to the forces of the South, going to Charleston with the commission of the state, prepared to test in Southern courts and before Southern judges, the constitutionality of such proceedings, was mobbed and compelled to flee for his life. In all this they see nothing of special moment. They do not call for the repeal of the law which authorizes this outrage; and in retaliation of which, the unconstitutional legislation of which they complain at the North originated.

It is this silence which disgusts Northern men, whose sympathies naturally are all with the constitution and the law, and whose disposition is to keep the Northern sentiment true and faithful to the constitutional compact. But when the papers among us which are loudest in claiming the fulfillment of constitutional obligations North of the Potomac are so regardless of them South, their counsel has little weight upon those to whom it is addressed.

Vermont Nullification. A correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce shows that the passage of the act nullifying the Fugitive Slave Law, by the Legislature of Vermont, was a fraud upon many of the members of that body. It was a trick of the disorganizers, and was played off at the last hour of the session.

That act, however, will stand upon its own merits, and will not be repealed. The corresponding says that Governor Williams was consulted about the bill and that it was his own idea; that it came upon the people of the State like a thunder-clap, and many of the Senators and Representatives were entirely ignorant of its existence until they saw it in the newspapers; and all declare that it never could have passed had it been brought before a full House.

The movement above described will undoubtedly have the effect to excite and arouse the South. Already the telegraph announces that on Wednesday Gov. Floyd, of Virginia, on hearing of the passage of such an act by the Vermont Legislature, sent a special message to the Legislature of Virginia, in which he characterized the act

action in Vermont as an injury and an insult to the whole South, and remarks that it demands an instant settlement for the restoration of complete and effectual harmony. The Governor recommends the Legislature to invite all the States of the Union to unite in sending delegates to represent the whole people in a general Convention, to assemble at Baltimore, or some other convenient and central point, not later than May next. He further recommends that the State of Virginia, speaking through her legislature, earnestly and sincerely to her sister States of the South, to postpone any extreme action in relation to present difficulties, until the result of the deliberations of such a Convention shall be known. He concludes by saying the motto of the South must be as it has been, "Union if we can—Independence if we must."

So the spirit of fanaticism will run from one State to another in the South, on account of the predominance of a similar fanaticism in the North. The disorganizers of the South had become quite rational in their conduct, and were in the habit of being reasonably reasonable in the face of disunion and destroy the effect of the last year's labor of the ablest statesmen.—Boston Bee.

The correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, above alluded to, is probably ignorant of all that he assumes to write about. There was no "trick" in the passage of the law, so far as we could see—at all events, the bill was regularly reported by a committee, and by one of the leading Whig members, who was chairman. We doubt very much the truth of the statement that Gov. Williams was ever "consulted" on the subject before the bill came to him for his signature—or that he signed it without some hesitation. So far from coming upon the people of the State "like a thunder-clap," it was scarcely ever spoken or thought of, until attacked by the newspapers out of the State—and it never would have been. It is proper to say, too, that though introduced on the last day of the session, it was "brought before a full House," and passed without a single vote in the negative.

If any one must take it upon him to apologize for our legislature in this business, to people abroad, it would be prudent for him to keep within hailing distance of the truth.

Williams on the subject is not quite as good as that of any of