

THE COURIER.
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING BY
JOEL H. SANDOZ & ANDREW MEYNER.
Opelousas:
SATURDAY, JULY 12th, 1856.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.
FOR PRESIDENT:
JAMES BUCHANAN,
OF PENNSYLVANIA,
FOR VICE-PRESIDENT:
JOHN C. BRECKENRIDGE,
OF KENTUCKY.
ELECTORS:
FIRST DISTRICT.
Elector—C. J. VILLERE.
Substitute—L. ST. MARTIN.
SECOND DISTRICT.
Elector—W. A. ELMORE.
Substitute—T. J. SEMMES.
THIRD DISTRICT.
Elector—T. LANDRY.
Substitute—A. JOURDAN.
FOURTH DISTRICT.
Elector—JOHN McVEA.
Substitute—W. E. WALKER.
FIFTH DISTRICT.
Elector—T. O. MOORE.
Substitute—A. GARRIGUES.
SIXTH DISTRICT.
Elector—H. GREY.
Substitute—WM. BEARD.

OUR AGENTS.
The following gentlemen are authorized to collect and receive subscriptions and advertisements for the Opelousas Courier, in their respective parishes:
Auguste Mallard, St. Martinville, (La.)
Arthur Bullard, Breau's Bridge, (La.)
A. Millsaps, Washington, (La.)
E. E. Cochrane, Marksville, (La.)

Grand Ratification Meeting and Barbecue.
A Mass Meeting of the Democracy of St. Landry and adjoining Parishes, will be held on the 15th day of July next, at the Court House, in the Town of Opelousas, for the purpose of ratifying the nomination of James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, and John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, as candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of these United States, after which meeting, there will be given on the right bank of Bayou Teesson, a splendid repast and Barbecue, which all and especially the ladies of this and surrounding Parishes are most respectfully invited to attend.

Several speeches will be delivered in English and in French, by distinguished orators. Democrats awake! Rally to the cry and standard of Buck and Breck!!!

We would most respectfully call the attention of the members of the Board of Police to the present condition of our Fire Engine and Engine House. Some months since the expediency of purchasing a new Engine and building a new Engine House was brought before the late Board and if we do not mistake their opinion was that a subscription list should be opened and that a sufficient amount was not subscribed that the corporation should make up the balance. Since then we have seen the list above alluded to with the names of a good many subscribers. Now we would merely suggest that that list should be handed over to the present Board and let them deliberate upon the matter. We would say that something should be done. From what we have understood a very good Engine can be purchased for about seven hundred dollars in the city. Should such be the case it strikes us that nearly that amount if not more can be raised by private subscription—if not it seems as that the Board of Police might, with all propriety make an appropriation to make up the deficit. As to the expediency of building a new Engine House or repairing the old is a matter to be decided by the Board of Police. We are aware that the Police Jury granted to the town a certain amount of land on Court-house square, for the purpose of building a house. It is a matter in which our citizens should take a lively interest as most of them are property holders.

We are not fond of extravagance but would make this suggestion; that is that the old one is in a desperate condition it would be almost as cheap to build a new one as to repair the other.

The Strangers—We are requested to announce that the broken bridge on the route to the Bell Cheney and Beaver Creek Springs, are now in first rate order, and that the public is invited to find good roads and bridges on the route to the Springs.

Notice: Visitors are arriving very early at the Bell-Cheney Springs. One of our correspondents who has just returned from there, says that the Directors are very active, very polite, and show all well calculated to manage such an establishment. They have had a great deal of trouble in putting everything in good order, and now, the public can rest assured that they will find a very commodious place that can reasonably be expected there.

We are gratified to announce to our readers a **CATHARTIC PILL**, of which we have advertised in our columns, from that justly celebrated physician and Chemist, Dr. J. C. ALEX. His **Cherry Pectoral**, everywhere known as the best remedy ever offered to the Public for Coughs, &c., has prepared them to expect that anything from his laboratory would be worthy of attention. As no one medicine is more universally taken than a Physical Pill, the public will be glad to know of one from such a trustworthy source. We happen to know and can assure them that this article has intrinsic merits, fully equal to any compound that has ever issued from his Crucibles, and consequently is well worth a trial whenever such a medicine becomes necessary.—*Racine, Conn. Ad.*

Another Filmore Know-Nothing Fox Paw.—The Richmond Enquirer is requested by Mr. George R. Train, of King William, to state that he declines the position of County Elector, conferred on him by the Know Nothing State Convention at Staunton. Mr. T. is a zealous Democrat, and out and out opposed to Know Nothingism. Eight of the fifteen Filmore Electors in Virginia have declined the service. John Minor Estlin is killing "Sues" in the Old Dominion with telegraphic dispatch.

NEW-ORLEANS & Opelousas RAIL-ROAD.—We learn from reliable sources, says the Southern Star, that the Directors of this Company have decided to commence operations at this place (New-Orleans) early of the ensuing autumn, and will proceed with all practicable dispatch to grade the railway from this point to Washington, Parish of St. Landry, the present western terminus of the route.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

Adopted by the National Convention, 1856.

The Convention, after reaffirming the Democratic Platform of 1852, has even the following additional declaration of political faith, made necessary by events occurring since that time:

AND WITNESSES. Since the foregoing declaration was uniformly adopted by our predecessors in National Conventions, an adverse political and religious test has been secretly organized by a party claiming to be exclusively American, it is proper that the American Democracy should clearly define its relation to all secret political societies, by whatever name they may be called.

Resolved, That the foundation of this Union of States having been laid in, and its prosperity, expansion, and present example in free government, built upon entire freedom of religious opinion, conscience, and no respect of person in regard to rank or place of birth; no party can justly be deemed national, constitutional, or in accordance with American principles, which bases its exclusive organization upon religious opinions and sectarian bias. And hence a political caucus in the nineteenth century, and in the United States of America, against Catholics and foreign-born, is neither justified by the past history of the future respect to the rights of freedom in union with the spirit of toleration and enlarged freedom which peculiarly distinguishes the American system of popular government.

Resolved, That we iterate with renewed energy of purpose, the well considered and deliberate former Conventions upon the sectional issue of Domestic Slavery, and concerning the reserved rights of the States—

1. That Congress has no power under the Constitution to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several States, and that such States are the sole and proper judges of everything appertaining to their own affairs, not prohibited by the Constitution; that all efforts of the Abolitionists or others, to induce Congress to interfere with the questions of slavery, or to take ineffectual steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences; and that all efforts to have an interference with the domestic institutions of the several States, and to endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend of our political institutions.

2. That the foregoing proposition covers, and was intended to embrace the whole subject of slavery agitation in Congress, and therefore the Democratic party of the Union, standing on this national platform, will abide by and adhere to a faithful execution of the acts known as the Compromise Measures, as reported by the Congress of 1850; "the act for reclaiming fugitives from service or labor," included; which act being designed to carry out an express provision of the Constitution, cannot, with fidelity to domestic institutions, be repealed, or so changed as to destroy or impair its efficiency.

3. That the Democratic party will resist all attempts at reneuing, in Congress or out of it, the agitation of the question, in whatever shape or color, the attempt may be made.

4. That the Democratic party will faithfully abide by and uphold the principles laid down in the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions of 1798, and in the report of Mr. Madison to the Virginia Convention of 1799; that it adopts those principles as constituting one of the main foundations of its political creed, and is resolved to carry them out in their obvious meaning and import.

THE FRENCH PRESS ON AMERICAN EXTENSION.
The *Journal National* has the following observations on American extension:
The English in the interest of their supremacy over the seas, and of the colonies which remain to them in America, must be more active in this movement than that of any other people. In the report of Mr. Madison to the Virginia Convention of 1799, it is necessary to oppose it, no longer by diplomatic representations or by its treaties, but by war; and as they comprehend that the single will certainly, they delay the moment as far as possible. We are far from blaming them; on the contrary, we most express our praise. But we consider it our duty to point out this position, which is being clear to the eye each succeeding year. With respect to the United States, nothing will arrest them but a great catastrophe. They resemble those gamblers and adventurers who, fortunate all their lives, and confident of success, are at last overtaken. Go-ahead is their device. Those who do not desire annexation will be driven away.

In view of such a ferment of ideas, a policy of prudent non-interference is excellent; but it is imperative that this policy be likewise vigilant, self-constituted and prepared for action. England, for the last century, has given only one lesson. The course of conquest and annexation to the United States is justified in opposing the principle of American extension. Why should not the United States effect in Central America what England has done in Asia? The necessity of preventing the recurrence of a massacre at Panama, is a better excuse than that put forth for months past in view of justifying the annexation of Texas. The English, the French, the men of Great Britain, moreover, bear in memory that their policy is that of their predecessors, which has prepared the way for the Yankees and has given up to them the provinces once so flourishing under the rule of Spain.

Thirty-five years ago, when it became evident that the day of emancipation had arrived for the Spanish colonies of America, the great powers of Europe set up a plan which consisted in forming them into independent kingdoms under the rule of princes of the house of Bourbon. Spain, notwithstanding a resistance which may be understood, was the first to give her consent to this proposal. England refused absolutely to consent, and the project became impossible. What the republics have lost by their divisions and rivalries, the kingdoms would have gained by assembling the population around the same flag. Had the example of the Brazils been followed in the emancipated Spanish colonies, the United States would have found before them a solid barrier to the path of annexation, not isolated republics, divided among themselves, almost depopulated by misery, but solid kingdoms, strong in their unity, against which the filibuster would have been shattered. To-day who can arrest their progress; if it is not he who can alone create and quell those insurrections of which we daily trace the painful picture.

Gov. Wise answered an invitation to the ratification meeting at Norfolk as follows:
RICHMOND, Va., June 9th, 1856.

My Dear Sir—I thank you for your call to the ratification meeting at Norfolk. I need not say to you how much pleasure it would give me to meet you at that place. In relation to the Democratic nomination; my first choice, my entire approval, you may imagine the enthusiasm of cordiality with which I greet a Democracy which has so lately given proof that it is resolved to be triumphant. The ticket is the strongest which could have been made, and will overwhelm the issues North and South, and will be driven to the very category, one of them elected—to lasting silence and secrecy!!

Yours, truly,
HENRY A. WISE.

A MAGNIFICENT BRIDGE.—The longest and most expensive bridge that has ever been constructed on this continent, is now building in Canada, and is designed to span the river St. Lawrence at Montreal, where it is but 176 feet less than two miles wide, and flows at a rate varying from seven to ten miles per hour. The depth in summer varies from fourteen feet in the middle to four at the sides. Embankments of solid stone are built out from each side till the width is reduced to 8000 feet or about 1 1/2 miles, and this distance is then to be studied with 24 piers of masonry, which are to support a tubular bridge somewhat on the plan of the famous tubular bridges in England. The height of the tube above low water in the center is to be sixty feet, descending toward each side at the rate of about forty feet to the mile. The bridge is to cost \$7,000,000. The abutments and piers are progressing, and have been for several years, but the bridge is yet a long way from its completion. The total weight of iron in the tubes will be 10,400 tons.

FERRONT.—A Southerner by birth, he is that accepted and forward champion of the worst enemies of the South—speaking all political creeds or principles in the intensity of one idea—hostile to her. Thus we have the spectacle of a Northern Statesman, who, by his long career of wise and conservative action, has secured the most unanimous approval of the South, as at the Presidency, and of a Southern man, trained in

to save by a very feeble and ineffective career in Senate, dignified by no one act but a fist with a brother Senator, taken up by the North on the sole issue of sectional war.—*Charleston Mercury.*

DOUGLAS AND PIERCE ON THE NOMINATIONS.
Senator Douglas and President Pierce both addressed the recent ratification meeting in Washington, cordially endorsing the platform and platform of the Cincinnati Convention. As an evidence of the tone of Senator Douglas' speech, we extract his opening remarks:

Hon. Stephen A. Douglas said he came before the meeting with a heavy heart, and to endorse and ratify the action of the National Convention at Cincinnati. [Applause.] He came not as a matter of form, not in compliance with a custom, but with heart and soul in the cause. He came to congratulate them upon the unanimous adoption of a platform which commands the approval of every Democratic heart; to congratulate them upon the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency worthy to stand upon that platform, and to receive the unanimous support of the Cincinnati Convention. The platform and the standard-bearers were worthy of each other—each acceptable to the whole Democracy of the entire country.

Let us more heartily in this contest than any heretofore before been engaged in, and these were more of importance to be attached to it in result, and more to inspire the patriotism of every lover of his country. This Union was made through the Constitution, must be preserved through the Constitution, and cannot survive for a single day the obligations of that instrument. The Democratic party now stands before the country as the only national party in the whole republic; the only party which avows principles alike to the East and the West, the North and the South; the only party whose principles prevail wherever the Constitution reigns. [Immense applause.]

Look at the creed of the party as promulgated at Cincinnati; and then, in relation to the election of the year of slavery, you find a platform which has received the sanction of every Democratic delegate from every State in the Union. Democracy is now the same in Massachusetts, in South Carolina, in Louisiana, in Michigan, and in Ohio; and wherever the Democratic creed is one and the same. What other party can cross the Ohio river and Mason and Dixon's line, and in the name of the country, [A voice—None.] can this Union be preserved in the hands of a political party whose principle of action is hostility on the part of one-half of the States against the rights and institutions of the other half of this Union? Can sections, articles, in Ohio, in Louisiana, and wherever the American flag waves, where the Democratic creed is one and the same. 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