THE COURIER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING BY
JOEL H. SANDOZ & ANDREW MEYNIER.

Opelousas:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th, 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 towns:

AUGUSTE MARAIST,	St. Martinsville, (La.)
ARTHUR BULLIARD.	Breaux's Bridge, (La.)
A. MILLSPAUGH,	Washington, (La.)
E. E. COCHRANE,	Marksville, (La.)

☞ We are authorized to announce Mr. CHARLES BOURQUE as an Anti-Know-Nothing candidate for Assessor, at the next election.

Opelousas, August 30th, 1856.

MESSRS. EDITORS COURIER.

Please announce that I have withdrawn from the American or Know-Nothing party.

ANDRE MECHE.

Parish of St. Landry, Sept. 13, 1856.

A WARNING VOICE FROM THE WIGWAM OF RAPIDES.—We would recommend to the special attention of our readers, the letter of Judge O. N. Ogden, of Rapides, in regard to the political crisis in which we are now. We would also like to see our neighbor the *Patriot*, reproduce this letter, as it is from a high source in his camp, and from a distinguished member of the American or Know Nothing party.

☞ We learn with regret that the army worm or caterpillar has made its appearance in our Parish, and may be seen in every planter's field doing rapid and irreparable damage. It was not enough that a rigorous winter froze the plant—not enough that the wind and rain should deal destruction among the crops last month, but the caterpillar had also to come and destroy the last hope of a fraction of a small crop. It is painful to relate, but it is certain that nearly the entire cane and corn, and cotton crops of our Parish and throughout Attakapas are annihilated.

PORTRAITS.—Messrs. Clark & Hedrick are busily engaged, in taking likenesses at the Varieties since ten or twelve days. We thought proper not to trust to the many beautiful specimens they brought with them; as they might have been *borrowed* from other artists. But now, we can assure the public that these gentlemen are good, i e, excellent artists. We have seen likenesses of some of our townsmen, friends and acquaintances, and we hesitate not in pronouncing them perfect in point of art as well as in point of resemblance.

The Ambrotype is decidedly the master system for taking likenesses, it throws Daguerreotype into the shade and will probably supersede this system entirely.

We would advise our friends and the public to call at the room of these artists, and our word for it, they will be satisfied of the work and of its moderate cost.

CALCASIEU COURT.—Monday 22nd Sept. inst., is the day fixed by law for the regular session of the District Court in that Parish.

We are told that there is some excitment in Calcasieu about the case of Bass, accused of the murder of Cochran, some four months ago, rumor goes so far as to say that the Bass party is organizing and arming, for the purpose of rescuing the prisoner.

Our readers will remember that Bass has been lodged in our jail for safe keeping, the jail of Lake Charles not being a sure place for a prisoner accused of murder in the first degree.

GARRISON ON THE AMERICAN UNION.

The following extracts from the 4th of July "oration" of Mr. Garrison, show the spirit and objects of this notorious abolition agitator:

To me, the path is plain. To-day I disown the American flag, as the symbol of unequalled hypocrisy and transcendent oppression, and, casting it into the broad Atlantic, defy all the waters thereof to wash out its bloody stains. To-day I renew my accusation against the American Constitution, that it is "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell," which ought to be annulled now and forever. To-day I pronounce the American Union a league of despotism, to perpetuate which is a crime against our common humanity, and a sin against God. To-day I affirm the "Higher Law" to be the rightful and paramount law of the land, to the subversion of every statute, agreement and compromise, inimical to human freedom. To-day I stand outside of the tyrannical government, a seceder on principle, a revolutionist with Hancock, and Otis, and Warren, but upon a broader platform, with a loftier spirit, with better weapons, and for a nobler object. * * * * *

Let us, then, to-day—rejecting as wild and chimerical, all suggestions, propositions, and contrivances for restraining slavery within its present limits, while extending constitutional protection to it in fifteen of the thirty-one States—register our pledge anew, before Heaven and the world, that we will do what in us lies to effect the eternal overthrow of this blood-stained Union, that thus our enslaved countrymen may find a sure deliverance, and we may no longer be answerable for their blood. Let us not be drawn off by any side issue in regard to Kansas, nor be deluded by the cry of "*Liberty national, slavery sectional!*"—seeing it is the existence of Slavery in the South which is the root of all our troubles, the cause of all our dangers, the source of all our perils. Away, then, with all nostrums, concessions, compromises, expedients truces, and the like! But one course is to be pursued—one object aimed at—one blow struck:—"*The North must separate from the South*, and organize her own institutions on a sure basis.

LOOK OUT FOR THUNDER.—We have it on good authority, says the Huntsville (Texas) Item, that Senator Houston, immediately on his return to Washington City, will publicly proclaim his disconnection with the Know-Nothing party, and denounce it and its objects in his own style. Alas, for Know-Nothingism.

☞ A drowning boy was recently rescued in Boston, by a Mr. Lemon, whereupon a bystander remarked, that the little fellow would have perished had it not been for Lemmon-aid.

LETTER FROM JUDGE O. N. OGDEN.

ALEXANDRIA, La., Aug. 20th, 1856.

HON. THOMAS O. MOORE,

Democratic Elector Fifth District:

Dear Sir,—I have received your esteemed favor, dated at the White Sulphur Springs, July 28th. You ask—"Is it possible that Southern people will be so blind as to cast their votes in a direction where it will be equivalent to throwing them away?"—and express the hope that the old line Whigs, and K. N.'s (among us) "will, for a while at least, so far lay aside their prejudices, as to aid the Democratic party of the Union in an effort perhaps the last peaceable one that may be successfully made, to secure to the South the rights guarantied to it by the Constitution."

As to myself, I am not aware that I have any politic *prejudices*, that are not easily overcome by reason, and a sense of right: for although a Whig since my earliest vote (1838), I have never hesitated, as is probably very well known to you, to support Democratic men and measures whenever I deemed it my duty to do so. The most odious of all tyrannies is that of party; and you will pardon me for saying that yours has given more examples of it than any other in the history of this country,—probably for the reason that it has been in the ascendant longer and more uninterruptedly than any other. To this tyranny I have not yet succumbed, and assuredly do not mean now to do so.

I answer you that as the Whigs, the settlement, by repeated verdicts of the people, of the issues which formerly divided the country, and the virtual disbanding of our once great party leave, in my opinion, every Whig perfectly free to support Buchanan and Breckenridge, without being obnoxious to any charge of inconsistency, or of a want of political fidelity.

Let me observe, however, that as to one of the old issues (the question of Internal Improvement) your party seems lately to have adopted the views of the Whig side. I mean of the moderate Whigs. Of this old liners of this party certainly cannot reasonably complain!

As to the obligation of the Whigs and Democrats, who had affiliated with the new organization, to support the nominees of the Philadelphia Council, *I consider it as entirely released and discharged, so far as Southern men are concerned, by the radical creed of the Order, made by the last Council, in striking out the 12th Section of the "Platform and Principles" adopted by the Council of 1855.* The American organization, (K. N.'s as you style them) had in view certain objects which were laudable and patriotic. And when liberalized as it was hoped by many the Order would soon become, as to citizens of foreign birth already here, and freed from any infusion of religious intolerance, we had the right to hope that men of all parties would aid it, (for it professed to look for and receive recruits from all,) in its endeavor to check the tide of pauper and criminal immigration, that was polluting our shores, and in the noble effort to restore the purity of our elections, and to extend and strengthen an exalted sentiment of American Nationality. But in the platform adopted at Philadelphia in 1855, a principle was announced, and a pledge was given, which were peculiarly acceptable to the South. We look for them in vain in that of 1856. With the institution of slavery existing in one portion of our Republic, and the war against it openly and fiercely maintained in another portion, it is clear that no party ought to be regarded as a National party, or should be sustained by Southern votes which does not recognise and uphold the rights of the slave-holding States to the extent to which they are guarantied by the Constitution. Is this done by the American party throughout the Union? What answer shall be made for that wing composed of the "*Bolters*" from the last Philadelphia Council, by whom Fremont is now claimed as a better American than Mr. Fillmore? The Southern division of the Order is, *of course*, true to the South; otherwise it could not exist here. I will observe, besides, that Mr. Fillmore when called to the Presidency,—by the demise of General Taylor,—notwithstanding his repugnance previously declared, and well understood, to slavery in the abstract—and to which while honestly entertained, and not pushed to the extent of interfering with our Constitutional rights, as equal partners in the Territories, Southern men ought not to object, as a matter of individual opinion—exhibited, during his Administration, a regard for the rights of the South entitling him, as I think, to our fullest confidence. There are few public men at the North, I presume, who are not opposed to slavery and to its extension. But notwithstanding the votes in Congress, and published declarations, of Mr. Fillmore, on this subject, before his accession to the Presidency, among which I instance his votes on the Atherton resolutions, and his Erie letter, I hold that there is no man in the wide circuit of these thirty-one States who merits more the confidence of his countrymen, North, East, South and West than Millard Fillmore. His course during his Presidency was eminently national, patriotic and conservative. I do not consider that his just and well earned fame needs that we should style his Administration "*Washingtonian*;" but whatever difference of opinion may exist as to some of his measures, he will go down to posterity as one of the best Presidents we have ever had. Indeed if it were not for the peculiar and unprecedented state of parties existing at this time, North and South, I should deem his rejection by the American people an example of the ingratitude of Republics almost as flagrant as the ostracism of Aristides.

But the President is not the Government. In determining whether, as a Southern man I can support Mr. Fillmore, I have attended to two considerations. The first (and it is the most important) is whether the platform of principles announced by the remnant of the Council that nominated him is one on which, in the hour of our extremest need, the South may rely? For, admitting, as I have done, his soundness as to Southern rights, and there being no question as to their fidelity to themselves, and to their own interests of the Southern wing of the American party,—yet, if it should appear that the declaration of principles made by the nominating Council, even when purged of the "Bolters," is not satisfactory to Southern men, it will be vain and useless, to tell us that the candidate put forward is a tried, true, and conservative man. Now how stands the case? I remember well, as a participant to some extent in the popular discussions of our last State canvass, with what pride and pleasure we pointed to the *Twelfth Section* of the Platform of 1855, claiming that while *our party* kept time to the music of the Union, we marched in one solid phalanx from Maine to Texas, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, to the defense of the equal rights of the whole Confederacy! What was that 12th Section?

I will recite the material points. After a somewhat lengthy preamble, it declared that "the National Council has deemed it the best guarantee of common justice and of future peace *to abide by and maintain the existing laws of slavery, as a final and* CONCLUSIVE *settlement of that subject in spirit and in substance.*" Also, "*that Congress ought not to legislate on the subject of slavery within the territory of the United States; and that any interference by Congress with slavery as it exists in the District of Columbia, would be a violation of the spirit and intention of the compact by which the State of Maryland ceded the District to the United States, and a breach of the national faith.*" It declared also unequivocally that Congress has no rightful power to exclude any State from admission into the Union because its Constitution does or does not recognise slavery as a part of its social system. The Council which proffered these satisfactorily guarantee to the South, adjourned to meet on the 22d February last, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. They did nominate their candidates; but they also adopted a new Platform, the majority of the Northern delegates seceding, and refusing to recognise either the candidates or the Platform. Surely the latter conceded enough to them, but the spirit of wrongful exaction is ever an insatiable cormorant, and the disciples of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher doubtless read thus the Divine injunction: "If any man will *let thee* take away *his* coat, *do thou* take his cloak also!" The sixth section of the new Platform advocates the recognition and maintenance of the reserved rights of the several States—recommends the cultivation of harmony, &c., and the non-interference by Congress with questions appertaining solely to the individual States, and non-intervention by each State with the affairs of any other State. The section recognises "the right of the native born and naturalized citizens of the United State, permanently residing in any territory thereof, to form their Constitution and laws, and to regulate their domestic and social affairs, in their own mode, subject only to the provisions of the Federal Constitution, with the right of admission into the Union whenever they have the requisite population for one Representative in Congress." All this is very well *as far as it goes.* But what is the miserable substitute offered by the last Philadelphia Council for the *Twelfth Section* so boldly adopted by their predecessors, and so proudly and triumphantly hailed and proclaimed by us of the South? Here it is, and it has the merit of brevity if not of comprehensiveness; and I rather incline to the opinion that it "*pretermits*" more than it expresses:

"XII. The maintenance and enforcement of all laws *until said laws shall be repealed or declared null and void by competent judicial authority.*"

The next section gives to this poor substitute a meaning and significancy pregnant with warning to the South; for it denounces the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and the enactment of the Kansas and Nebraska Laws! Are not the Black Republicans in the House now threatening to stop the wheels of government, by refusing the supplies, until their demands are complied with? And if they can do this in regard to the admission of Kansas, can they not, and will they not, by the same mode, exact the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law?

But no thanks any body, or the caucus of any party in this country, for saying that the existing laws shall be enforced *until repealed? "Cela va sans dire."* Did not Franklin Pierce, abused as he has been (in many instances unjustly) North and South, put forth the power of the Federal Government to sustain its law officers in enforcing the fugitive slave law even in the city of Boston?

Until "*the higher law*" obtains in this country, the laws of the land, such as they are, must be and will be enforced, and this declaration of the late Philadelphia Council will probably not contribute any more thereto, than its recognition of the existence of a Supreme Being will to that eternal truth. I do not suppose for a moment, that this changing of front in face of the enemy was done to deceive the North. I rather believe it to have been for the purpose of *conciliating* our Northern "*brethren*," (nice *Brothers* Sumner and Seward, Wilson and Wade, Greeley and Garrison, and Gerrit Smith, *et id omne genus!* and of postponing, in the hope of what "a returning sense of right at the North" might possibly do for us, the crisis which is now unexpectedly upon us. But may they not, and will they not, take us at our word, and as soon as they have the power in the Senate, as they have now in the House, and have a Free Soil President in the person of ex-Lieutenant Col. Fremont, (to some portion of whose renown it is said Kit Carson may lay claim, and write *sic vos non vobis*) REPEAL the fugitive slave law?

But contrast now these stinted concessions, so grudgingly made to the South, with the straightforward and unequivocal propositions of the Cincinnati Convention.

1.—Re-iterating the former declarations of their party, they deprecate the exercise by the Federal Goverment of doubtful Constitutional powers.

2.—Denying to Congress the right to interfere with the domestic institutions of the several States, they denounce, in the stronest manner, its interfering with the faithful execution of the fugitive slave law.

3.—They oppose all slavery agitation *in or out of Congress;* and pledge themselves to abide by, and maintain, *against all attempts to repeal it*, the legislation of 1850. They go still further, and by their Resolutions, superadded to their former declaration of general principles, they pronounce boldly in favor of the Kansas and Nebraska acts, "and the right of the people of ALL the Territories, including Kansas and Nebraska, acting through the fairly expressed will of the majority of actual residents, and whenever the number of their inhabitants justifies it, to form a Constitution, with or without domestic slavery, and be admitted into the Union, upon terms of perfect equality with the other States." "Look here upon this picture and on this!" Is it not "*Hyperion to a Satyr?*"

But after stating my objections to the present *revised platform* of the American party, expressing at the same time a sentiment of the fullest confidence in Mr. Fillmore, I will say that of Mr. Donelson I know little more than that he is said to be the nephew of General Jackson's wife, (*le neveu de ma tante!*) was for a time the Editor of Mr. Polk's government paper, the course of which journal, under his management, was principally remarkable for its reckless and intemperate abuse of Mr. Fillmore; and that he held under Mr. Polk some second rate diplomatic appointment, which he signified to General Taylor his entire willingness to retain (of course for a short time only!) but that it was considered by General Taylor, and probably by Mr. Fillmore too, that he had better return home! But it seems now that the gift of prophecy is claimed by, or for, him! He predicted, it is said, that Old Zack would be President, and finding what great injustice he had done Mr. Fillmore, he hoped that he also would attain to the same super-eminent position! If a valid claim could be made out for him to the gift of vaticination, I do not know but that, in this epoch so apparently filled with signs of the latter days, with wars and rumors of wars, with heresies in the Church, and convulsions in the State, it might be well enough to have a Prophet in the Chair of the Senate. But those who prophecy *after the fact* are generally correct. And I do not myself believe that the time is yet for the wolf to dwell with the lamb, and the leopard to lie down with the kid, although this conjunction of Fillmore and Donelson would seem to indicate the advent of at least a political millenium!

I come now to the second consideration which will govern me in regard to this election.

It is that, in the view I feel myself constrained to take of the matter, there is really no serious contest, throughout the Union, except between the supporters of the Democratic and Black Republican nominees; and that, therefore, every vote given to Mr. Filimore, in the South, will be indirect aid and comfort to the enemy; and it will not, in the least degree, lessen the injury to us, that it is inflicted by ourselves, unintentionally and unconsciously. Suppose the election to go to the House, and this is the most favorable result that Mr. Fillmore's supporters can hope for. What friend of his country, and the Union of these States, can wish to bring about this result? Does not the election of Mr. Speaker Banks sufficiently fore-shadow the consequences to us of an election of President and Vice President by a vote of the States in the House?

I have no idea that even Fremont's election would lead directly and immediately to a disolution of the Union; but I do believe that in the insolence of their triumph, and with the prestige of success to encourage and strengthen them, the Black Republicans would very soon make inevitable this deplorable result.

It is time for this business men, the working men of the country, of all sections, to take measures before it is too late to do so effectually, to save themselves from the frightful consequences of a dissolution of this Union.

We have no longer now the great "Triumvirate"—no longer those Dictators more powerful by their eloquence, and the influence of their illustrious names, than they whose single will give assurance of safety to the Roman Republic when its existence was endangered by foreign invasion or domestic insurrection. And we have but the echo from the tomb of that potential voice which, when disunion reared its head, in a different quarter than now, said in a tone which commanded obedience—"The Union, it must *and shall be preserved!*" Is it that we have none now like the.

——————" great ones gone,
Forever and ever by—
No still strong man in a blatant land,
Whatever they call him, what care I,
Aristocrat, democrat, autocrat, one
Who can rule and dare not lie?"

The only rational way, as it appears to me, for us to await safely "a returning sense of right at the North," is to work to secure ourselves, as far as we can, in the mean time. The immediate and practical question now, is of the admission of Kansas into the Union as a slave State. The question which we have been foolishly and weakly avoiding since 1820, ought to have been met when Missouri was admitted. I did not regard the repeal of the Missouri restriction as a matter of especial importance to the South, as it was not considered that slave labor would ever be profitable North of 36 deg. 30 min. But as placing us in a position of degrading inequality as to the North, *guaranteeing*, as it were, us and our institutions out of territory as much ours as theirs, it was a wrong and injustice which, having once got rid of, we shall be worse than fools—*towards*—if we ever again permit ourselves to be subjected to. I am not for arranging any more hollow truces, and adjourning to a later day, when our children shall fill our places, questions which we ought to settle now, for ourselves, and by ourselves.

But why all this pseudo indignation, all this senseless clamor, about the repeal of the Missouri Compromise by the Kansas and Nebraska legislation? It was virtually done away with in 1850. Mr. Clay said in the Senate, in the debates upon the series of measures adopted in that year, and commonly known as the Compromise, that the idea of the Missouri restriction had been reviewed by him and rejected *as unjust to the South*, and that it was better to leave the question of slavery *North and South* of the line of 36 30, and in *all* the territories of the Union, *open and undecided.* Here are his very words—"*Congress is non-acting North and South of the line; or rather if Congress agrees to the plan which I propose, extending no line, it leaves the entire theater of the whole cession of these territories untouched by legislative enactments either to exclude or to admit slavery.*"

The principle of the act of 1850 was given up by the clearest implication by the legislation of 1850, which received the sanction of Mr. Fillmore as President.

And as to the extension by the Kansas act (Sec. 23) of the right of suffrage, and of holding office, to those who shall have declared on oath their intention to become citizens of the United States "and shall have taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, *and the provisions of this act*," which is *the* "Squatter Sovereignty" so much declaimed against, it seems to me that the South has little, indeed, to complain of in regard to the matter; inasmuch as this act which the voters (not citizens of the United States) must "swear to support" provides for the admission of Kansas *with or* without slavery, (Sec. 19,) and extends to this Territory the fugitive slave acts of 1793 and 1850 (Sec. 28). Does it not give infinitely better guaranties to the South than we required when "the *people*" of California, of all nations of the earth, who were attracted thither by the love of adventure or the thirst for gold, formed of their own motion a Constitution prohibiting slavery, and knocked at the door of Congress demanding admission as a State, and were so admitted? This was a "Squatter Sovereignty" before which that of the Kansas act hides its diminished head. Yet the act admitting California was approved by Mr. Filimore. But is Squatter Sovereignty to be allowed only when it prohibits slavery, and not when it permits it? This would be a "heads I win—tails you lose" game, at which I am sure *you* would not care to play *often.*

Our friends have gone to Kansas with a law of Congress before them protecting them, while Kansas is yet a Territory, in the possession and enjoyment of their property, to the same extent that Northern men are protected in theirs, of any and every description. If a State Constitution shall be fairly adopted excluding slavery, we cannot have a word to say. As Mr. Clay remarked, (in regard to California) in the speech from which I have just quoted, "if nature has pronounced the doom of slavery in these Territories—if she has declared by her unalterable laws that slavey cannot and shall not be introduced there, who can you reproach but nature and nature's God?" But assuredly we ought to resist to the last extremity the exclusion of our people from Kansas by either the fraud or violence of Northern fanatics, or a tyrannical usurpation of unconstitutional power by a Black Republican majority in Congress. Kansas is the key to our position, and its loss will lose us the battle of Constitutional rights, and leave us secession from the Union as the only alternative. The rapid extension of our territory South, will then become a more decided political necessity than now; and you can perhaps estimate much better than I can the advantages which the growers of Cotton and Cane are to derive from a sudden enlargement of the area of the great staples of the South, and consequent increase in the supply of our productions beyond the demand for them. Slave labor will never be found where it is not profitable; and from the greater portion of the North-western Territory nature will exclude it by a stronger prohibition than any Missouri restriction or Wilmot proviso. The North ought to be satisfied with this. If our people find it profitable to raise hemp in Kansas with slave labor, so much the better for those who go there, and for us who stay at home.

I believe that the complete success of the Democratic party in the ensuing election will give some security to the South, and assurance of permanency to the Union. It has always insisted on a strict construction of the Constitution, and all that we ask now is an adherance to the guaranties of that instrument *one* so sacredly reverenced. The Democratic party has also, heretofore, given pledges of fidelity to the Constitutional rights of the South, which it would be alike uncandid and ungrateful in us not to acknowledge. Martin Van Buren was discarded on the sole principle of justice to the South; and we owe to the Democratic party the admission of Texas as a slave State, long before there was any complaint about the violation of the Missouri compromise. If he and his son are now on the Democratic side, it is not that the party has adopted their free soil views, but that *they* have found it expedient to *come back.* The Southern Whigs (I among the number) did unintentional injustice to General Cass in 1848, in regard to his Nicholson letter, as his subsequent course in the U. S. Senate demonstrated. Even Mr. Pierce, whose free soil appointments have been so much complained of at the South, is probably more abused now than any other public man in the country by the Northern Abolitionists. I have but little to say in regard to the particular candidates put forward by your Cincinnati Convention, as I look upon this as peculiarly a contest of measures and principles and not of men. Nevertheless, if the charges made against Mr. Buchanan of complicity in slandering Henry Clay were supported by any sufficient evidence, it would be with great reluctance that the friends of the great Statesman of West could admit an obligation to vote for him under any circumstances; and I should feel myself an especial repugnance thereto. But Mr. Clay acknowledged that Mr. Buchanan had done him justice in reference to this matter; and Mr. Clay's son now exonerates him. The latter (Mr. James B. Clay) says that as "*an honest man*" he is bound to acquit Mr. Buchanan of having had any part in the original slander, or of having done his father any wrong when summoned before the public as a witness against him. He says "I am bound to acquit him upon the testimony of the very person whom he is said to have wronged and slandered; and however little partizan editors may esteem the evidence of my father himself, it is abundantly sufficient for me, his son." The contemporaneous letters and speeches of Mr. Buchanan are extant, and it is well known that they brought upon him the displeasure, and even the express censure of Gen. Jackson.

Mr. James B. Clay says of his evidence, given at the time, that it was "clear and distinct, and fully exculpated Mr. Clay from the charges made against him. So Mr. Clay regarded it himself, and he, the person accused, testified, publicly and privately, that he considered Mr Buchanan had done him no wrong." A careful examination of all the evidence I have seen induces me to conclude that a persistence in this charge against Mr. Buchanan, would be as great an injustice as was the original bargain and corruption slander against Henry Clay. It is to be hoped that after this generous testimony in Mr. Buchanan's behalf by Mr. Clay's own son, we shall have no more of this "unplumbing of the dead, for bullies to assassinate the living." Mr. Buchanan is a national man; and I know of nothing in his antecedents that should make the South distrust him. He is one of the acknowledged great men of the country, and I believe the only one of the few who are left we can now elect to the Presidency. These are not the times in which to risk, by divisions among ourselves, the elevation to this office of a new and untried man, and that man the candidate of the "higher law" party. I recall the word untried, for it now occurs to me that Col. Fremont was *tried by a court martial, and condemned into the bargain!* And I believe that his government accounts, too, were *tried*, and were likewise found wanting.

As to your candidate for the Second Office—of the contingent importance of which the deaths of two Presidents, within a comparatively short period, should admonish us, he presents an unblemished record.

I shall cast my vote for you and your co-electors, in the conscientious belief that upon the success of your party in the coming election depends in a great degree of the country if not the preservation of the Union.

With us whose means of existence, and the safety of whose firesides, are involved in the maintenance of an institution not established by ourselves, but given to us, in part, by the progenitors of the very people now assailing us, the question of slavery must absorb all others. It is like the rod of Aaron, not when it budded and blossomed and brought forth almonds, for there is in this unfortunate controversy for us neither flower nor fruit, but like that rod when it was cast down before Pharoah, and became a serpent, and devoured all the others.

I am very truly and respectfully your friend,

O. N. OGDEN.

BLACK REPUBLICANISM DISCOMFITTED.

The dispatches which we gave yesterday morning announced the final passage of the Army Appropriation bill, without the revolutionary proviso, by a majority of three votes, and the subsequent adjournment of the extra session of Congress. The Black Republicans, or rather their violent and unscrupulous leaders, were forced to give way, and to make the necessary appropriation for a most important branch of the public service, untrammelled by a condition which was calculated to take from the Executive the capacity to perform, as his judgment and the public good might dictate, his duties as Commander in Chief of the Army.

We do not doubt that time will develop the real motives of the Black Republicans, in and out of Congress, in the proposal of the various provisions to appropriate bills, and the stubborn persistence with which that saddled upon the Army bill was carried out until its authors and abettors were forced to yield their policy. Meanwhile, we take pleasure in believing that the leaders of this unparalleled movement were not without evidences that their course was condemned by the conservative classes of the country, irrespective of party ties, and that they may receive such a rebuke for their factious conduct as will prevent others from following hereafter in their footsteps.—*Courier, 6th inst.*

ANOTHER POWERFUL ACCESSION TO DEMOCRACY.—The Citizen the Irish paper established by John Mitchell, has come out for Buchanan and Breckenridge, and its next issue will contain a letter from John Mitchell in favor of the Democratic nominees. The Citizen has a circulation of 20,000 copies weekly, and no paper in the country exercises so much influence over the Celtic population.

POLITICAL.—The Democratic National Committee have subscribed for one hundred thousand copies of Senators Pearce and Pratt's letters. Reverdy Johnson is preparing a letter, which will be published next week, declaring for Buchanan.

ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED WHIG IN FAVOR OF BUCHANAN.—Senator James A. Pearce, of Maryland, publishes a long letter in the Washington Union of the 2d inst., in favor of the nominees of the Cincinnati Convention. The following is the concluding portion of his address:

At present, the prospect is that the conservative Whig vote will be so divided as to defeat a popular election, and throw the decision upon the House of Representatives—at all times an event to be deprecated, but at this period peculiarly pernicious and dangerous, and threatening the rudest shock to our system. What the result will be I will not venture to predict, but I will say that I do not see the least probability of Mr Fillmore's election by the House of Representatives. I think, therefore, it would be the part of wisdom and patriotism in the Whigs (by which I mean those who have affiliated with no other party) to throw their votes for Buchanan, as the strongest of the candidates opposed to the Northern sectional party. This they may do without renouncing their old political faith, without stain of honor or suspicion of apostacy. The motive being the integrity of the Union, the defeat of a party which is founded on geographical discriminations, and bound together by dangerous sectional schemes, the act will be vindicated by disinterested patriotism.

For my part, I shall not abjure my political creed, and, having in view but the one object which I have stated, I shall hold myself ready to take any other course which may be necessary to effect that object. Should the hopes of Mr. Fillmore's friends be realized; should it appear that he is more likely to carry the great body of the patriotic, but quiet people, who generally come to the rescue in times of public peril; that he is, in short, the best able to subdue this storm of sectional passion and prejudice, I shall rejoice to see him again filling the chair of State. But I will not affect an unalloyed gratification; for I cannot forget that he is the candidate of a party which has proscribed Whigs who were not members of "the order"—of a party which boasted that it had risen on the ruins of the Whig and Democratic parties, and which has pronounced both of them corrupt.

STATE ELECTIONS.—The following States will hold their elections previous to the great contest for the Presidency, Nov. 4:

Kentucky,	Aug. 4	California,	Sept. 4
Alabama,	Aug. 4	Maine,	Sept. 8
Texas,	Aug. 4	Georgia,	Oct. 6
Missouri,	Aug. 4	Florida,	Oct. 14
Arkansas,	Aug. 4	Pennsylvania,	Oct. 14
Iowa,	Aug. 4	Ohio,	Oct. 14
North Carolina,	Aug. 7	Indiana,	Oct. 14
Tennessee,	Aug. 7	South Carolina,	Oct. 14
Vermont,	Sept. 2		

Elections in other States will be as follows:

Mississippi,	Nov. 3	Illinois,	Nov. 4
Louisiana,	Nov. 3	Michigan,	Nov. 4
Massachusetts,	Nov. 4	Wisconsin,	Nov. 4
New York,	Nov. 4	Maryland,	Nov. 5
New Jersey,	Nov. 4	Delaware,	Nov. 11

BRITISH JOURNALS AGAINST BUCHANAN.—The British journals representing the spirit of jealousy towards this country which predominates in England, unreservedly declare that they are opposed to Mr. Buchanan's election because it would promote the harmony and prosperity of the United States. For instance, the London Chronicle, which is second in the Kingdom in power and influence to the Times, says:

"WE SHOULD BE SORRY TO SEE MR. BUCHANAN ELECTED, BECAUSE HE IS IN FAVOR OF PRESERVING THE OBNOXIOUS INSTITUTIONS AS THEY NOW EXIST AND THE UNITY OF THE STATES. There is no safety for European monarchial governments if the progressive spirit of the Democracy of the United States is allowed to succeed. Elect Fremont, and the first blow to the separation of the United States is effected!"

THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT.—The venerable Josiah Randall, of Pennsylvania, who knew all the Presidents, beginning with Washington, made a glorious speech at Tammany on the 4th. He said:

"I come, fellow-citizens, from a free State like your own; I never owned or expect to own a slave. But other men, better than I am, and as good as any who are around me, have conscientiously held slaves. It is in vain to attack the motives of a whole community, when that community is one of the most civilized and refined portions of the inhabited world. (Cries of 'Good, good.') What do the South ask? To be let alone. They do not intefere with us; they do not want to interfere with us. All they ask is to be let alone. But we have certain aspirants for public power and place who will not learn the eleventh commandment—'Mind your own business.' (Laughter.)"

That's the whole of it. These Abolitionists won't learn the eleventh commandment, mind your own business! Pass 'em round.—*Boston Post.*

IMPORTANT BILL FOR REGULATING THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION IN CASE OF VACANCY.—A correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, writing from Washington, says;

A most important bill and accompanying report is to be introduced into the Senate by the Hon. Judge Butler, of South Carolina, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary in that body. The bill provides for those cases omitted in the Constitution, in which not only the President and Vice President, but also the Speaker of the House is unable to perform or are prevented from performing the duties of President. In case the bill provides "that the Chief Justice shall act as President," and if he, too, is unable, then the next oldest Judge, and so on until the whole Supreme Bench is exhausted. The bill also provides for those cases in which the different provisions of the Constitution as amended come in apparent conflict with each other, as for instance in the case in which the Speaker of the House who is called upon to act as President is not a native of the country; the Constitution prescribing that he shall be, or in which one of the officers or judges designated to act as Chief Magistrate has not the age required by the Constitution for President. One of the most remarkable features of the bill is that the President thus called to set by the operation of the law shall be President for four years, and that no new Presidential election shall take place before the end of that period. The bill as will be readily perceived, is of vital interest at this juncture.

RUMORED BOLTING OF A FILLMORE ELECTOR.—It has been rumored in this city that Hon. Duncan F. Kenner, one of the Fillmore Electors in this State, had signified his determination not to vote the Fillmore ticket. This is backing the Fillmore ticket with a vengeance! How many more such Electors has the moribund party which has staked its life on the respectability and prestige of Mr. Fillmore? This kind of old-shouldering will accelerate the moribundity of the party to such a pitch—or such a depth—that, ere the summer flowers are faded, the most scientific artesian borer in New Orleans cannot reach its grave with a new municipal auger. But, possibly, the rumor may be unfounded. Will not the Fillmore organs enlighten us in that regard? It is also said that, before the election, Mr. Kenner will be regularly "out" in a letter, himself to stand with Benjamin, Jones, Reverdy and purposes, for the present at least.—*Delta.*

THE IOWA ELECTION.—In Iowa the Black Republicans have succeeded by a majority of about 3000. The Fillmore men were hardly known in the race. Had they voted with the Democrats against the Black Republicans, they might have defeated the enemies of the Union and the Constitution.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

Adopted by the National Convention, 1856.

The Convention, after reaffirming the Democratic Platform of 1852, lays down the following additional declarations of political faith, made necessary by events occurring since that time:

And WHEREAS, 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 relations thereto, and declare its determined opposition 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 pre-eminent example in free government built upon entire freedom in matters of religious concernment, 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 accidental birth-place. And hence a political crusade in the nineteenth century, and in the United States of America, against Catholics and foreign-born, is neither justified by the past history or the future prospects of the country, nor in unison with the spirit of toleration and enlarged freedom which peculiarly distinguishes the American system of popular government.

Resolved, That we iterate with renewed energy o purpose, the well considered declarations of 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, made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take incipient steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences; and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people, and 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, settled 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 thereto, be repealed, or so changed as to destroy or impair its efficiency.

3. That the Democratic party will resist all attempts at renewing, in Congress or out of it, the agitation of the slavery question, under 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 Legislature, in 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.

WILL THE SOUTH AWAKE?

The New Albany Tribune the most determined Fillmore paper in Indiana, has the following:

COALITION BETWEEN FREMONT AND FILLMORE.—The Fillmore State Convention of Indiana has just united with the Fremont or Black Republican party, *by nominating the same Electoral Ticket for the State.* If any of our Democratic friends have been feeding themselves up with the hope of a division among the American and Republican parties, upon the State ticket, they would do well to give up that hope as utterly futile.

*The fusion of the parties