

Business Notices.

LADIES' DRESS FURS.—Wishing to dispose of the balance of our stock of Ladies' Dress Furs, offer them to buyers at our store. LEAHY & CO., 110 Broadway, Astor House, Broadway.

INDIA RUBBER GOODS.—S. & M. E. TOWLE & CO. will open this day a large stock of Damask Table Linens, Cloths, Napkins, Towels, Dry-Caps, and Sheetings, Linens, Blankets, Counterpanes, Toilet Covers, &c., at greatly reduced prices. Also 2500 lbs. Heavy Brown Madder at 6d. a yard by the piece. Warranted to be the best made in the City. Address, No. 251 Grand-st.

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to live where he will in the Union, and in migrating from one State to another, he carries with him all his rights of personal property, and is entitled to legal protection therein. In emigrating from one State or Territory to another, American citizens "carry with them every right and every privilege which they possessed while in our midst," &c.

Very good: A citizen of Iowa sees fit to emigrate to Louisiana, Arkansas or Texas, and takes with him his property of whatever kind. The laws of his new home protect him fully in the use and enjoyment of said property. Well: A citizen of Louisiana or Texas chooses to migrate thence to Iowa, and to take with him his property, including household and farming slaves. With what fidelity to their great American principle of equality of rights among all citizens do the Democracy of Iowa do to that immigrant of his slave property on reaching the soil of that State? Why not protect him in its enjoyment as the emigrant from Iowa is protected in the enjoyment of all his property in Arkansas or Texas? Is this equality? Is he not still on "American soil?" What matters it whether he is on this or that side of some river or imaginary line? Is not a right a right anywhere in this country? Who is it that would "un-Americanize any portion of our common country?"

The Iowa Democracy have made a long jump; but the ground on which they have landed is a quicksand. They must either go on or fall back. The doctrine that opens Territory previously Free to Slavery, faithfully applied, must open Free States to it as well. Not until Senator Toombs shall be legally entitled to call the roll of his slaves at Bunker Hill Monument will the fundamental principle of the Nebraska bill be fully triumphant.

CROTON WATER.

From the Croton Aqueduct Department Report, just sent in to the Common Council, we find that the general permanence of the works is unimpaired, the slight settling of the dam in Croton River being of no serious effect. The interior survey of the aqueduct in October proved the excellence of the structure, showing that instead of deteriorating it is growing more solid every year. During the year considerable progress has been made in fencing and otherwise protecting the works. Seven miles of new pipes have been laid, including two miles of thirty-inch pipe along the Eighth avenue. Through the Fifth avenue (where there are two very large pipes) comes the principal supply of water for the city. There is also a line from the Eighth avenue through Forty-second street, which gives an additional supply to the Distributing Reservoir on the Fifth avenue. The business of laying pipes has regularly progressed, and now nearly all the densely populated portions of the city have been penetrated, and mains run through hundreds of miles of streets. The revenue in 1855 exceeds that of 1854 by \$65,770 27; brought about chiefly by the natural increase of the city in extent and population. The waste of water has, in the same time, been materially repressed, and the people enlightened upon the importance of the careful use of so great a blessing.

The building of a new reservoir, in connection with the Central Park, is now the principal measure to be determined by the people of the city. Upon the utility of both there is no material difference of opinion, and we hope soon to see both in process of construction. With such a supply of water as the proposed reservoir would give, New-York might safely live through a longer drought and a heavier fire than ever yet fell to the lot of a city.

THE SECRET DIVULGED.

Though for some time fully aware of the real reason why the House of Representatives at Washington does not organize itself, we have hitherto judged it best to keep that reason to ourselves. It is seldom that a wise man, especially if he be also kind-hearted and good-natured, judges it expedient to tell more than half of what he knows. But as patience and appeals to reason and conscience have all been tried in vain, and as there seems no longer any hope that a Speaker will be chosen, it is time for the Press to speak out. By preventing an organization of the House, the men who have thus defeated the popular will have lost all claim upon our respect and forbearance. Having with their own hands stripped off the peacecock's feathers with which a deceived and ill-judging constituency had decked them out, reduced by this act of their own to their natural and normal condition, they can have no right to accuse us of ill-nature, or of any disrespect for constituted authorities, if we show them up to the public precisely as they are. For all constituted authorities we hope ever to exhibit that degree of respect, whatever it may be, which position and office as distinct from talents and virtues are entitled to claim from a republican journal. But those Members of a House of Representatives whose sole effort is to prevent the choice of a Speaker are not constituted authorities; they form a mere rowdy collection of turbulent, intriguing, faithless, roisters—we might even say swindlers—who have, by plundering the public treasury of eight dollars a day, obtained under pretense not a whit less false than if they had forged pension certificates, or otherwise had undertaken to pass themselves off for what they are not.

But to come to the point at once. The true reason why no Speaker is chosen, the reason why the plurality rule is not adopted, is this: The present House, as has happened to some of its predecessors contains a number of very small men, totally unfit for the station to which their own ambition and intrigues, the mistaken favor of friends, or deceptions deliberately practiced on the people, have raised them. There is one merit, however, which they have, and for which they ought to obtain full credit. Sensible of their own incapacity, and anxious if possible to conceal it from the public, they have again their little glimmer of sense deserts them, and in their anxiety to hide their littleness from the public, they imitate the example of the ostrich who sticks his head into the sand, under the idea of thus concealing himself from the hunters. The double-faced gentlemen at Washington, and indeed the majority of all the Members, seem to imagine that so long as the House remains unorganized, so that they are not called upon to act in the capacity of legislators, the public never will find out how totally incapable they are—and hence their steady pertinacity in voting against the plurality rule.

This is a device worthy of the geniuses with whom it has originated; yet we fear it will hardly save them from somehow betraying themselves—if not by making speeches, at least by writing letters. Mr. Volk, for instance, seems to have done pretty well for himself already, and there are others in the same predicament. We know of but one means by which such Members can effectually screen themselves from public observation,

and that is by resigning their seats which they obtained by false pretenses, and giving their constituents an opportunity to fill their places with gentlemen—men who won't attempt to face down their own handwriting.

Another Member of this Head-in-the-sand party made a great fuss, the other day, (in which he found support from Humphrey Marshall and others,) over what he represented as an attempt to bribe him to take his vote for Speaker by the offer of the chairmanship of a committee which did not exist. Too stupid to take a joke—for to take a joke requires some wit as well as to make one—he was quite indignant at this attempt not merely to bribe him, but to cheat him; and no sooner did he find out that there was no such committee, than he ran with his complaints to his brethren in the House.

We beg leave to suggest to that body another case of bribery and corruption of a much more serious character. It is stated in several public journals that the Sergeant-at-Arms of the last House, in conjunction with some city brokers, has made to several Members, out of his own funds, without any authority of law, in anticipation of their daily pay, advances amounting in the whole to quite a large sum of money—The N. Y. Commercial Advertiser says \$60,000. If this be so, it can hardly be regarded in any other light than as a direct money bribe on the part of that officer to secure his reelection, and of the brokers concerned in it to advance some job of their own. It certainly is a matter that requires looking into, and should the House ever get so far as to choose a Sergeant-at-Arms, we hope the election will be preceded by the appointment of a committee of investigation.

END OF A GREAT PARTY.

When the sun, after rising bright and glorious, shedding as it climbs its heavenly way more and more of light and heat, having reached its zenith, sinks rapidly again and already begins to dip below that very horizon from beneath which it had in the morning risen—then we know that the day is almost done. When the sun in its circling course makes again that first degree of Aries, from which twelve months before it had set out, then we perceive that the year is ended. When the young man who started in life with empty pockets indeed, and without fame or reputation, but rich in hope and full of promises, grown at length an old man, with broken constitution, lost character, and forced to maintain himself by begging, thinks no more of anything except to live from hand to mouth, and not without difficulty accomplishes that—it then becomes too clear that his next move will be to the Alms-House or into a coffin. The same course of rise, progress, decline and disappearance to be traced in physical history and in the case of individuals, is just as observable in the career of parties. They too have their rise, progress and culmination; they too have their decline, fall and disappearance—often as rapid and sudden as that of the sun beneath the tropical horizon, leaving no twilight behind it, or any indication hardly that it had ever shone.

Of the Democratic party in these United States Thomas Jefferson was the true foster-father. It was he, Virginian and slaveholder though he was, who picked up the poor, helpless thing, unable to run or even to stand, left forlorn and deserted at the wayside by its natural parents, the people of New-England and Pennsylvania. This Thomas Jefferson was an enthusiastic believer in natural rights, human rights, the equal rights of all men, and that was the milk upon which he fed his adopted child. The bantling thrived wonderfully under it; so much so that, from a weak and puling infant, in twelve years or less it became strong enough not only to carry Thomas Jefferson on its back into the Presidency, but the body of slaveholders along with him into the administration and full control of the Federal Government.

So far did the Democratic party carry its enthusiasm for the doctrine of human rights, that for the sake of the right of a few British sailors to run away from the pretended claims to their services by the crown of England under certain alleged laws of that realm, and instead of serving the king, to earn their living if they chose by working on board American vessels, that party did not hesitate to plunge the United States into a disastrous war with Great Britain, which, instead of breaking down the Democratic party, as many expected, only rendered it more absolute than before, and that rather by virtue of the great principles for which it struggled than from any conquests which it made or military glory which it gained in that war.

This was the culminating point of the Democratic party. From that moment it began to decline. Jackson and Van Buren shed, indeed, a certain afternoon splendor upon it by the struggles of the one against the financial domination which the United States Bank strove to establish for itself, and of the other against the pet banks which, in reward for the special patronage of the Administration, strove to saddle the country with a depreciated paper currency. Under Polk, the light of liberty, claimed hitherto as the peculiar beneficence of the Democratic party, became sadly obscured by a slavish dog, of which, indeed, some mist had darkened the Democratic sky ever since the time of the Missouri Compromise; and now, under Pierce, the Democratic sun sinks and suddenly disappears in the black thunder-cloud of judicial slave-catching encroachments and the Kansas-Nebraska bill.

Mr. Pierce, or Mr. Cushing, or to whomsoever the authorship may belong of the historical essay on the Federal Government which forms the concluding part of the President's late Message to Congress, informs us that the object of the Revolutionary War was "to disenthral the United Colonies from foreign rule, which had proved to be 'oppressive, and to separate them permanently from the mother country; the political result was 'the foundation of a Federal Republic of the free white men of the Colonies, constituted as they were in distinct and reciprocally independent State Governments. As for the subject races, 'whether Indian or African, the wise and brave statesmen of that day, being engaged in no extravagant schemes of social change, left them as they were, and thus preserved themselves and their posterity from the anarchy and ever-recurring civil wars which have prevailed in 'other revolutionized European colonies of America.'" Such is the statement made on the first day of January, 1856, by those post-revolutionary patriots, Messrs. Pierce and Cushing. As an offset to this account of the matter, we shall beg leave to cite a contemporaneous official document, not emanating, indeed, from a President and Attorney-General in esse, and a President and Chief-Justice in posse, but which may yet be deemed by some old-fashioned people, of almost equal authority. Madison, Hamilton, and Ellsworth, in an address to the States which they reported to the Continental Congress, of which they

were Members, and unanimously adopted by that body on the 26th of April, 1783, coterminaneously with the treaty of peace, gave the following statement on this subject:

"Let it be remembered that it has ever been the pride and boast of America that the rights for which she contended were the rights of human nature. By the blessing of the Author of those rights on the means exerted for their defense, they prevailed against all opposition, and form the basis of thirteen independent States."

As the Continental Congress began the struggle for independence by a proclamation of the equal right of all men to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, so it closed the war by a fresh recognition of the same rights, and a declaration that they formed the basis of thirteen independent States. Not one word in either of these documents about "free white men" or "subject races." There was not a man in the Continental Congress, from the beginning to the end of the struggle, who would not have kicked out of his company, with loathing and contempt, any man who had dared to talk in his presence about "subject races." The idea of individuals in a state of subjection was familiar to those times; the idea of "subject races" is quite a new thing among us, the poisonous, toad-stool growth of a dead and decomposing party.

Having thus set out with ignoring that fundamental idea of the American Revolution, upon the basis of which Thomas Jefferson built up the Democratic party, it is not to be wondered at that President Pierce and his Attorney-General—a blind man led by a blind guide—the further they proceed on their historical travels the oftener they tumble into the ditch. The following, for instance, is the account they give of the Federal Constitution, and of the rights recognized by it and existing under it:

"When the confederation of States found it convenient to modify the conditions of their association, by giving to the General Government direct access, in some respects, to the people of the States, instead of confining it to action on the States as such, they proceeded to frame the existing Constitution, adhering steadily to one guiding thought, which was to delegate only such powers as were necessary and proper to the execution of specific purposes; or, in other words, to retain as much as possible consistently with those purposes of the independent powers of the individual States. For objects of common defense and security, they intrusted to the General Government certain carefully defined functions, leaving all others as the undelimited rights of the separate independent sovereignties."

This account of the matter quite overlooks the important fact, that even the Federal Constitution—framed in the interest, as it was, of the Conservative and retroactive party, and little palatable as it therefore was to those who at once organized themselves into the Democratic party in order to prevent that Constitution from being made a stepping-stone to aristocracy if not to monarchy—yet did in fact recognize a third power beside the Confederacy and the States, to wit: the people, whose rights it guarded with no less vigilance against the encroachments of the State Governments than against the encroachments of the Federal Government, and whose welfare it set forth as the great leading object which the Federal Constitution itself had in view.

Having passed as it has from horizon to horizon, from being the special advocate of the rights of human nature, to being the special advocate of the vested rights of slaveholding and nigger-whipping—from the doctrine of the equality of all men to the doctrine of "subject races," and of the special right of "free white men" to make slaves of everybody else—from Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence to Franklin Pierce and the Kansas-Nebraska bill—is it not evident that the party still presuming to call itself Democratic must be near its utter and final extinguishment? The rich new wine has been changed into rapid vinegar. The golden chain of human rights let down from God's throne, has dwindled to the kind of cobweb floating on the breath of politicians, out of which Mr. Pierce and his assistants have woven the concluding part of his Message. The trumpet of Liberty to which all the nations of the earth listened with ravishing delight, is changed into the croupy tin horn with which the driver summons the slave gang to their morning labors. Surely, the end must be near. It was a bad omen for the permanent prosperity of the Democratic party that its great apostle and founder should have lived and died a slaveholder. This rottenness in the root could not but affect the growth of the plant; and no wonder that its matured fruit should prove a smiling villain rotten at the heart—a doughface President.

But though the so-called Democratic party expires, let it not be thought that the idea of human rights is extinct. The torch thrown down and trampled under foot by the eager scramblers for Southern votes has already been caught up by faithful hands. Borne aloft, its light streams and gleams again through the thick darkness. Already the men of true hearts everywhere, recognizing that ancient beacon of hope and signal of victory, are hastening to muster around it! Already the watchword passes from rank to rank—Union and Victory!

We publish in another column a letter on the condition of the Fugitive Slaves in Canada, by one who has drawn his knowledge from his own observations, and which we recommend to the especial attention of our Southern readers.

Nothing is more certain than that the sentiment against Slavery, which is now making itself so strikingly felt in American politics and literature, is by no means exclusively confined to any particular section of the country, or to any particular class of the population. It is felt alike in Canada and in Alabama; and not less on the plantations of the South than in the churches and lyceums of the North.

So powerful a sentiment, so universally diffused, and operating in so many different directions and upon such diverse materials, cannot fail to produce remarkable results. There is, indeed, one element of the calculation which we apprehend is in general totally overlooked by our slaveholding brethren, but which cannot fail to have a most remarkable bearing upon the solution of the problem, and that is—what the slaves themselves think about the matter. To hold slaves and to preach democracy and the rights of man at the same time, is much like smoking a cigar or letting off fireworks seated on a keg of gunpowder; and it is precisely the very thing which our Southern friends have been doing for the last three-quarters of a century.

It is true that within the last few years they have begun to throw cold water on the doctrine of the rights of man; but what if they should happen to be too late? What if smouldering for so many years the other doctrine should have penetrated the thick wool of the negroes? It will take quite as long, we suspect, to put the fire out as it did to kindle it; and who knows what may happen in the meantime?

The Carolina Times, printed at Columbia, has the following alarming paragraph as part of an article entitled, "The great struggle approaches"

an article principally made up of comments on an extract from THE TRIBUNE:

"The passions of our people are fast becoming roused, and should they once overleap the bounds of prudence, and an appeal be made to arms on the plains of Kansas, there is no foreseeing the direful results. We trust the question of a separation may come up before Congress, should they ever organize, and ere they adjourn some plan be submitted to each people of dividing the common property as would be equitable, for we verily believe that two sections cannot long exist together harmoniously."

Our private advices from Columbia, contained in a letter which we print to-day, do not represent the state of excitement at that place as being anything so alarming as this paragraph would lead us to suppose. On the other hand the members of the Legislature lately assembled there seem to have been disposed to take things in an exceedingly easy way; nor, outside of the editorial sanctum of The Carolina Times, does there seem to have been the least danger of any "overleaping of the bounds of prudence," or "appeal to arms on the plains of Kansas." All this sounds quite alarming in the columns of The Times, but the letter to which we refer takes one behind the scenes, and shows things not as Southern editors and politicians represent them, but as in fact they are. If any person of weak nerves has been alarmed by those Southern threats, he may find in the letter to which we refer an agreeable anodyne. We especially recommend its perusal to all the members of the Castle-Garden Committee.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.

Judging from present appearances the meeting of the National Democratic Committee, which was summoned to convene here to-morrow, will be but thinly attended, unless there should be accessions within the next twenty-four hours. The principal business of this conference will be to fix the day for holding the Convention at Cincinnati, although it may assume to shape other matters bearing upon that occasion. An effort will be made in official quarters to direct the proceedings with reference to individual advantage, and thus, as it were, to get possession of the preliminary organization. The friends of those candidates who are supposed to have "the track"—in racing phrase—will urge the earliest day; while others, who are looking to the development of new contingencies, will advocate delay, as most convenient for their prospective movements. It is suggested that the first Monday in June would be acceptable to those who stand between the two extremes and who are quite willing to adopt whichever may appear the stronger interest.

The harmony of the Southern Know-Nothings, which has been often threatened during the contest for the Speakership, was damaged materially to-day by a demonstration from an unexpected quarter. Mr. Eustis of Louisiana took occasion to declare that the party in his State not only ignored, but deprecated the religious test, as inconsistent with the spirit and letter of the Constitution, and announced his purpose, here and elsewhere, to resist any such bigoted restrictions. This declaration called out Mr. Smith of Alabama, who regarded hostility to Catholicism as a cardinal feature in their political faith, upon the ground that the spiritual allegiance of that sect involved a surrender of political independence. Mr. Walker of Alabama was free to say he would renounce the American party if any religious test was to be made the basis of its organization, and occurred mainly in the views of Mr. Eustis. It is quite evident, from these and other indications, there is no bond of cohesion in this Southern section, and that separation is inevitable as ultimate fusion with the Democracy is probable. All the fevers which have heretofore been thrown out in the House have contemplated such a practical combination, as all the advances which have been made were preparatory to a conditional surrender. The individuals composing this organization are aspirants to distinctions of one sort or another, and they are not embarrassed by any compunctions which might interfere with such cherished expectations.

Mr. Banks's column stood up pretty firmly, through a sitting of five hours, and closed after four ballots, with only two temporary withdrawals. Mr. Bishop and Mr. Clawson of New-Jersey went over to Mr. Pennington, expressing readiness to return to Mr. Banks whenever their cooperation would aid in his election. Mr. Brenton cast his vote for Mr. Bennett of New-York, with a similar declaration to his friends. It has been no secret for weeks past that a fraction of the column voting for Mr. Banks preferred another candidate, and were anxious to try some other experiment. Perhaps they have honestly differed from the body of the true and faithful Anti-Nebraska men, who, having once consolidated their strength, questioned the policy of defection from it, under inspirations of real or imaginary expediency. As they claim to be influenced by upright motives, let us not doubt the sincerity of any movement which may be attempted; but if they should fail to detach sufficient strength to render the demonstration important, an immediate return to Mr. Banks will alone compensate for an error of judgment, which ventured upon the enterprise in defiance of the protestations and against the best advices of the friends with whom they have heretofore professed to act in good faith.

If by an unfortunate concurrence of events, and the operation of secret treachery, Mr. Banks should be ultimately defeated—a probability which I do not anticipate—the responsibility will rest with the few who have filtered in this moment of critical emergency equally with those who have basely deserted the cause they were elected to defend, and flagrantly betrayed their solemn and recorded pledges.

This contest does not involve the mere success of Mr. Banks as an individual. He is but the champion of the cause chosen for a particular purpose. Higher and more momentous considerations are at stake. This is the first trial of the fidelity of a majority of the people's representatives sent here to rebuke and to repeat the iniquitous legislation of the last Congress. A defection now would be an admission both of weakness and perfidy. More than this, it would strike a blow at the moral power of the principle from which recovery might be difficult. Mr. Dunn and his compatriots who have so often and earnestly protested their devotion to this principle should not be indifferent to reasons like these—reasons which address themselves to the plainest comprehension.

After hard and repeated struggles the House acceded to an adjournment till Wednesday, to allow the Democrats an opportunity of causing to-night and of celebrating the Eighth of January to-morrow. A proposition to admit the plurality resolution has—as the readers of this correspondence are aware—been under deliberation for several days, and will be offered to-night with the sanction of several of the leading members, who

are unwilling to protract the struggle longer, and who rightly feel that the whole effect of the delay is to damage all the parties concerned. This sentiment has been growing for a week past, and was nearly ripe to-day.

It is quite certain Gen. Pierce is not wanting in appreciation of the recent Message, or deficient in gallantry in communicating that estimation to the gentler sex here and elsewhere. His frank and superscription of this document decorate hundreds of parlor tables to-night throughout Washington, and the mail-bags groan under accumulations of his industrious and vigilant attention to distant friends and opponents. The new order of things at the White House quite ignores the musty precedents under which the Chief Magistrate rarely entered into competition with the enterprising exploits of County Court and cross-road politicians in Congress.

Mr. Brodhead called up, and got referred to the Committee on Finance, his resolution for originating and expediting the passage of the Annual Appropriation bills in the Senate. This reform is important and necessary, as well as among the most practical which have been suggested. Under the present system of postponing these bills until the last hours of the session, looseness in legislation is not only encouraged, but wholesale schemes of fraud and plunder of the treasury are annually perpetrated. Amendments designed to cover those objects are held back until the last moment, when the appropriations are passing between the two Houses, and when the whole power of legislation is virtually taken out of the hands of Congress and placed in the keeping of Committees of Conference to shape, and job, and patch, at their exclusive discretion. In this way hundreds of thousands, and sometimes millions, are voted away every year. Such a power is monstrous in a Government like ours, and any attempt to correct it should be favored by all men who yet entertain decent respect for its character and integrity.

A foot of snow, the mercury below zero and the merry jingling of sleigh-bells all conspire to impress the conviction, even here in Washington, that there is yet a North left in this blessed Union.

INDEX.

MONDAY IN THE HOUSE.

Editorial Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 7, 1856.

Our friends went into the House to-day with hopes that they would make a Speaker before adjourning, but were doomed to bitter disappointment. Several opponents had left town, but nearly all of them had paired off; and there were Democrats here who would have interposed no obstacle to our success; so that we expected to come within two of an election at first, and to do better thereafter. But Mr. Brenton bolted, as he had threatened on Saturday; then several New-Jersey Members; next, Ball of Ohio, though he came back and voted for Banks on the last ballot. Most of the others said they would