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From Washington.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1859.

MR. SICKLES'S SPEECH.

Mr. Sickles opened the discussion to-day with a two-hours' dull speech, principally in reply to Mr. Hickman, disputing his positions, and contending that the South had not violated compromises, as he alleged. He attracted little attention on the floor, though the galleries were thronged, as usual. Only Mr. Florence and two others congratulated him at the close.

MR. ADRAIN'S SPEECH.

Mr. Adrain followed, denouncing the charges of *The Constitution* against him as infamous. He stated that during the progress of the Lecompton struggle he was approached by leading champion of the Administration and assured that his near friend could receive an important foreign mission. He spurned the offer, and maintained his principles. He had not altered his convictions, while the President had abandoned every profession. He defended his political action, and would uphold every right, of every section.

EFFORT FOR A BALLOT.

Mr. Curtis of Iowa, at the close, endeavored to get a vote, but

MR. McRAE CATECHISED.

Mr. McRae of Miss. insisted on speaking. He asked Mr. Adrain if he would support a Democratic nominee on the Cincinnati platform. The latter answered that he would, if the candidate stood on the ground assumed by Mr. Buchanan. Mr. Adrain inquired if Mr. McRae would sustain a nominee on the Douglas platform. Mr. McRae declined answering.

Mr. Hickman interposed, saying he would vote for no man on the naked Cincinnati Platform. He would go with any party against the Administration, which was the most obnoxious of all others.

Reference being made by Mr. McRae to the Southern Opposition as preventing an organization, Mr. Etheridge stated that Mr. Gilmer could receive over 30 votes, which, with Democratic aid, would elect, while the Democrats had not shown, by any test, that, with a coöperation of his friends, Mr. Bocock could be chosen.

Mr. Hardeman of Georgia proposed interrogating Mr. Bocock or Mr. McRae whether his opinions on the Cincinnati Platform coincided with those of Messrs. Douglas, Pugh and Stuart, saying if he declared decisively against them, he would support him as a Southern man. Mr. McRae ended the inquiry by desiring to understand their construction first. Mr. Moore of Kentucky then demanded if Mr. McRae would support Mr. Douglas on the positions assumed in the Harper Magazine article. Mr. McRae replied that he would wait till the contingency came. Horace Clark, responding to some reference of Mr. McRae's, and said he would support Douglas if nominated at Charleston. He required the candidate for Speaker to be against legislation by Congress for the protection of Slavery in Territories; against any relaxation of the laws prohibiting the slave-trade; and against the dissolution of the Union. Who would refuse to declare Mr. Seward President if constitutionally elected? He admitted the full power of Congress over Territories concerning Slavery, though it might be inexpedient to exercise it, and would not put any man in the chair who was hostile to the sentiment of the Northern people.

Mr. McRae again refused to say whether he would sustain Mr. Douglas, if nominated, but avowed himself in favor of reopening the African Slave-trade though disclaiming the responsibility of speaking for the Democracy. He yielded to a motion for adjournment in the midst of his speech. Though much badgered, Mr. McRae preserved a fine humor throughout, and exhibited much dexterity in foiling various adversaries. These proceedings resulted in fixing the votes of Messrs. Adrain and Clark against any Democratic candidate for Speaker. Mr. Clark was expected before, but Mr. Adrain's defection is a virtual gain to the Opposition.

MR SHERMAN'S CHANCES.

The States to-day concedes the certainty of Mr. Sherman's election, which our side never doubted. When the Democracy realize the fact, the consummation will soon follow. Better temper prevails in the House than before. The organization may occur accidentally this week or be protracted till New-Year's. The chances incline toward delay. It is difficult to imagine the quarter in which Mr. Etheridge expects to get an accession of strength to give Mr. Gilmer thirty votes, when his friends steadily refused to compliment one Northern man. North-Western and other Democrats openly protest that they will not vote for any American, if Mr. Winslow and John Cochrane should make a hundred bargains.

THE MESSAGE.

The Message was expected yesterday and to-day. It is conditionally promised to-morrow. All interest in it is lost.

THE CLERKSHIP.

No agreement has been signed or made by the Republicans to elect Mr. Forney Clerk, and none is contemplated.

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT-ATTORNEYSHIP.

Judge Parker is the most prominent candidate for Mr. Sedgwick's vacancy. Peter Coulter, Gen. Ward, and others, are named, but with little prospect of success. Judge Dean is pressed by Fernando Wood.

THE SENATE.

An animated debate took place in the Senate. Mr. Clay of Alabama arraigned the North as faithless to constitutional obligations, and cited individual illustrations to sustain his position. He regarded Northern aggressions as constantly increasing, and an ultimate separation inevitable, from inflamed sectional hostilities.

Mr. Gwin followed in even a more violent strain, announcing that the election of a Republican President would be cause for a dissolution, and the South had the resources to carry out her purpose effectually.

Mr. Hale said he had heard enough of this sort of menace, and if one old woman in his State could be scared by it, he would resign and go home.

Mr. Wilson denied any such hostility to slaveholders as Mr. Clay charged upon the North. The North made no war on individuals in opposing the system of Slavery, and desiring its repression and final extinction. His people could not be intimidated by threats here or elsewhere, and Massachusetts would give 50,000 majority for the Republican candidate next year. Boston had elected a Republican Mayor on the heels of a Union-saving meeting, and that was significant of the dominant feeling. Altogether the debates were interesting and important in both Houses. A personal affair was apprehended between Senator Johnson and Mr. Hindman, Representative from Arkansas.

XXXVITH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, Dec. 13, 1859.

Mr. KING presented a petition from Daniel F. Tiemann, Mayor of the City of New-York, and 163 others, in favor of the passage of the Homestead bill, and opposing a monopoly of the public lands.

Mr. Mason's resolution was then taken up.

Mr. CLAY said he wished to know where we stood. Let there be no concealment. Senators on the other side profess to respect the constitutional rights of the South, and declare they will preserve and maintain them. If that declaration is sincere, and the Republican party will keep the pledge, there is no cause of complaint. But the South has good reason to distrust these professions when the conduct of the Opposition Senators is so different. One Senator treats the whole matter with levity, which would be offensive if he did not always treat every subject in the same manner, and he will probably die like Rabelais, with a jest upon his lips, and never wake to the responsibilities of life and death until he is called to judgment. Another ridicules the cowardice, weakness, and impotence of the South, in suffering a handful of men to seize the armory at Harper's Ferry, in the face of 1,500 inhabitants. Another entertains us with newly-discovered opinions of Washington, Jefferson, and other fathers and framers of the Declaration of Independence and Federal Constitution, disapproving of Slavery. Another endeavors to excite domestic dissension and discord within our own ranks at the South by appealing to non-slaveholders to come to the support of the Republican party, professing to vindicate their rights, and rescue them from the curse of Slavery—thus striving to scatter dragon's teeth over the plains of the South, in the hope that there will spring up armed men. Others would frighten us with fierce and brave words, threatening us with coercion to make us submit to their authority, no matter how oppressive and unconstitutional it might be. These are the evidences of fraternal affection, respect, and regard for the South which you present to us. Wendell Phillips has said, speaking of John Brown's foray in Virginia, that it was the natural result of Anti-Slavery teaching, and that he for one expected it. He (Clay) admired his courage and candor. It was the truth. Others had predicted the same things. He then quoted the remarks of prominent Republicans, showing that hostile feelings existed toward the South. Gov. Chase had said he hated not only slaveholding but slaveholders, and his colleague here had said substantially the same thing.

Mr. WADE—Does the Senator refer to me?

Mr. CLAY—Yes, Sir.

Mr. WADE—I would like to have him give my language, and specify the time and place.

Mr. CLAY—If the Senator was not misreported in a speech delivered in the State of Maine in 1855, he declared that the North and South hated each other as cordially as the English and Russians who were then engaged in the Crimean war. Such a sentiment had been often avowed in different language by the Senator from New-York (Mr. Seward). The Republican party in the North have opposed Slavery by non-action, in refusing to enforce the constitutional guarantees, and also by unfriendly legislation. For many years past negroes have been stolen, either by individuals or organized bands of predatory invaders, sometimes openly and shamelessly, and at other times secretly—yet the Northern States refuse to execute the Fugitive Slave Law, and endeavor to throw obstacles in the way of the owner, who seeks to recover that species of property. Who among the Republican Senators would rise and say he condemned such a course of policy? He (Clay) paused for a reply. None being given, he proceeded to say that the silence of Senators showed that they all would encourage these depredations upon Slavery by non-action. All admit that their Legislatures are right in endeavoring to destroy Slavery as far as they dare to do it. Not content with non-action, they have actually gone so far as to adopt unfriendly legislation in Massachusetts and elsewhere.

Mr. DOOLITTLE stated that the Constitution of the United States, properly construed, gives to Congress no power to pass a fugitive slave law. It simply inhibits the States from discharging the fugitive from service who may be held by the laws of the State from which he escapes.

Mr. CLAY would enter into no Constitutional argument respecting the Fugitive Slave Law of 1855 or 1793. But the Wisconsin Legislature has never passed any act for the rendition of fugitive slaves. Will the Senator say here that he would advise his Legislature, in the absence of Congressional Legislation on the subject, to pass a law for the punishment of stealing our negroes and provide for their rendition.

Mr. Doolittle made no answer.

Mr. CLAY (Ala.)—Does the North suppose we of the South intend to bow our necks to the yoke, to submit to the domination of our masters? That we intend to sit here as hostages for the good behavior of our conquered people—a people under your Republican administration not sovereigns but subjects? Surely Republicans must entertain a more contemptuous opinion of us than even that expressed in their platform, if they thought the South would ever submit to that last degradation. There are men, I rejoice to say, in the North, not only of the Democratic, but of the old Whig party, who appreciate our rights, who estimate our virtues, and who respect our honor more than Republicans professed to do. Millard Fillmore was one, and he spoke, I trust and believe, the sentiment of the freemen of the South, when he said that they never would submit to be governed by a Republican President. I am not here to indulge in menace. I have been menaced with the halter and hangman if I dared refuse subjection to your Republican authority. I know that those who are foremost to threaten are generally hindmost to execute. I indulge in no menace, make no prediction and no promise for my own State, but I will say that if she is faithful to the principles which she has professed—if she is true to her own interests and her own honor—if she is not recreant to all that State pride and political integrity demands of her, she will never submit to your authority. And I say furthermore, that unless she and all of the Southern States of this Union, with, perhaps, two or three exceptions—are not faithless to the pledges they have given, they will never submit to your Republican domineering in this Government. You remember that after the adoption of the Compromise measure of 1850, Georgia led the van in declaring that, upon the happening of certain events, she would disrupt the ties that bind her to the union. Those contingencies were, the refusal to admit a State into the Union because it was slaveholding, or recognized the right to hold slaves, the repeal or modification of the Fugitive Slave law, any attempt to abolish the interstate slave trade, or any prohibition of Slavery in the Territories of the United States. Every Southern State, I repeat, with the exception of two or three, by the unanimous action of their Legislatures and Conventions, both Democratic and Whig, and, latterly, American, have pledged themselves to maintain those resolutions, and to dissolve this Union if they possess the power, upon the happening of any of these contingencies. I ask whether there is not much stronger cause for the Southern people to separate from the Union upon the election of a President of a party pledged by a platform to carry out all these things? A fair majority of Congress might not faithfully express the will of the people. It might be said in deprecation of any extreme action on the part of the South or any Southern State, wait, let us appeal from the servants to the masters, from Congress to the people, and see whether they approve of this unjust and iniquitous legislation. But when the people themselves at the ballot box deliberately avow a purpose on the part of the North, to exclude us from all the Territories of the United States by abolishing Slavery therein or prohibiting it therein, to refuse to keep that article of the Constitution which pledges you to return a slave on the demand of his master, to abolish Slavery in the District of Columbia, and wherever the Federal flag floats, I ask you whether we would not be either insensible to, our rights, or indifferent to their maintenance, or unworthy of them, if we quietly and peaceably submitted to the inauguration of that President? I forbear to say more. I trust now that the country, or at least that section from which I come, will be fairly forewarned of the designs of those who hate Slavery and the slaveholder.

Mr. GWIN (Cal.) thought sentiments had been uttered by Republican Senators which were calculated to arouse the indignation of the South and disturb the Union. They had said that in the event of the election of the Republican candidate for President, if there is any resistance, they will hang those who resist. Now, who are they going to hang? One of the Senators very plainly said that they intended to hang the Governors of States. How were they going to get at them? By invasion?—for was not this threat an indication that they intended to invade the Southern States? Such threats should not be indulged in the Senate if gentlemen wished to preserve the Confederacy. It is a species of degradation to Senators representing slaveholding States to use such threats in the event of their resisting, or any part of their population resisting, the inauguration of a Republican President; and it afforded ground for the Southern States to prepare themselves for defense against the execution of the threats, and for a separation from the North. It is inviting a dissolution of the Union. It will result in that if this sort of remark be indulged here or elsewhere. There is another reason why the Southern States should prepare for a dissolution of the Union. Look at the recent elections in the Non-Slaveholding States. The Republican party has triumphed in almost every State on the Atlantic borders, but not on the Pacific, in the recent elections. Notwithstanding these Union meetings, which are very creditable to those engaged in getting them up, I can see no change in public sentiment or the Republican majorities in those States where these meetings are held. I noticed in the newspapers to-day that in the City of Boston, where a short time ago a great Union meeting was held, the Republicans succeeded in electing their Mayor by a large majority. The South should be forewarned by these elections to prepare for the result, for, as the Senator from Alabama has said, there are a number of Southern States pledged to resist any aggressions upon their rights, such as the election of a Republican President, who will be dishonored and disgraced if they do not carry out their expressed intentions. Now, Mr. President, I undertake to say that the Southern States must prepare, in the face of the facts presented by the Senator from Alabama, because the Republican organization looks to the conquest of the South. It is a sectional party. Where are there any Republicans in the fifteen Southern States of this Confederacy? If there are any, it is only in certain localities, and even there it is dangerous for them to avow their sentiments because the people of those fifteen States believe the utterance of such sentiments to be treason; therefore I consider it as the inevitable result of the principles avowed by the Republican party that the South should prepare for resistance in the event of the election of a Republican President. How could he carry on the Government of any Southern State? Where would he get the Federal officers, the collectors, the postmasters, the district-attorneys, and the marshals? I believe that, in a large majority of the Slaveholding States, any men who would accept a commission from a Republican President would be looked upon as public enemies, and could not execute the duties imposed upon them. In my judgment, it is impossible for a Republican President to administer this Government over a Slaveholding State. Mr. Gwin further stated that while his love for the Union was unchanged, and that it was his earnest wish that it might be preserved forever, still, in the event of a separation, California would be found with the South. He appealed to the Republicans to give up their opposition, for if it was founded on Kansas affairs they had defeated the South in their attempt, if any such had ever been made, to force Kansas into the Union as a Slave State, and had triumphed in the certainty that Kansas, when admitted into the Union, would probably be the strongest Slave State in it.

Mr. HALE—In my humble judgment, the position of affairs, represented this morning, presents a more distinct line than has ever before been presented. I desire to speak plainly, when I say that if the position assumed by the gentleman from California be true, that we have been laboring under a delusion, an utter delusion. We are not a Union of States, but subject Provinces. Our people do not choose a President. You, the representatives of fifteen States sit there, according to the remarks made this morning, and proclaim to a majority of the people of this Union, that if they dare to exercise their prerogative and choose a President representing the views which they entertain, and the supposition presupposes they are the views of a majority of the people of these States, or else a President representing them could not be elected, that you will not submit to the will of that majority, and will separate from the Union. You thus declare that the Presidential election is an idle mockery, a delusion, a deception. It is no choice of the People. You people of the non-slave-holding States, you are not a part of the sovereign power of the Confederacy. You occupy to us, the South, the position that the old French Parliament did to the monarch. He made the decrees, and it was the prerogative of the Parliament to register them. That was all. They called that Parliament the government of law. The Senator from California speaks to us as if we had been appealed to. I do not consider it so. I consider it as a declaration of facts, which, if they exist, ought to be known, and cannot be known too soon. If this is to be the remedy, that a majority of the people of the United States shall surrender their convictions and forbear in the exercise of the highest functions with which God has endowed a freeman, I am glad to hear it. He must forbear to let his ballot speak the sentiments of his understanding or his heart henceforth. He must stifle everything that is manly in him, if, by chance, God has planted anything of that sort in him. He must go to the polls next Fall, and go through the idle ceremony of voting for the result is already a foregone conclusion, and if your decrees are not registered the Union is dissolved. Sir, it is dissolved now, if that is the case. We are not here as Sovereign States, or as States having any political rights. We are here, Sir, simply to register,—no, Sir, not that, but our people are to come together in the Fall of 1860, and register the solemn decrees that shall be made for them by the fifteen slaveholding States of this Union. If this is to be the case, I am glad to know it. It has not been proclaimed too soon. But I want to put this a little more in detail for the benefit of the Senator from California. He says that if there is an aggression on Southern rights they will dissolve the Union, and he goes on to say that if the majority of these United States exercise their rights by electing a man to represent their views, the same result will follow. It is an infringement, it seems, for a majority of the people of the United States to carry out their sentiments by electing a President representing their views, and a violation of those rights to refuse to be dictated to by the South. I am not here to speak for the non-slaveholding States. They are represented by more able men than myself. I am the representative here of one of the smallest States of the Union. But I will say for that State, that I believe my people are ready, if this is the issue to which we have come, to meet the emergency. I do not think that an appeal of that sort to them will be very likely to induce a different course from that hitherto pursued. It seems that a fiction—a pleasant political fiction—has been indulged in by some writers, in speaking of us as a Confederacy of equal States. How idle the idea of any equality, when we are told before exercising a right guaranteed by the Constitution, that, if by the exercise of it, and under the forms and by the mode prescribed by the Constitution, we succeed in electing a representative of our views as President, then the Government is at an end. So be it! This was not a new one; it had been made before the recent elections in the Free States, and Senators representing Southern States could learn by examining the returns, how many of the Northern people were frightened by it.

Mr. GWIN replied, alluding to the circumstances attending the admission of California. All he wished to say was that there was danger in the present course, and was it not best to pause before parties get so much excited against each other that it will be impossible to effect a reconciliation?

Mr. WILSON said he thought there was some mistake about Mr. Chase's having said he hated slaveholders. He had known Mr. Chase long and well, and he was the last man to use such language. For himself, he repudiated the charge that the Republicans of Massachusetts hate slaveholders. Yet what are we to think of the feelings of the South toward the North, when advertisements appear in Richmond papers, offering rewards for the heads of Republican members of Congress? These declarations that the Union is to be dissolved if the people of this country choose to elect a Republican President, are received in the Free States as they should be received—with the strongest condemnation. Such declarations here and in the House of Representatives have aroused not a poor, miserable, cowardly spirit of servility, but a manly spirit in men determined to exercise their own constitutional rights, and express their opinions publicly and at the ballot-box. Union-saving meetings are of no earthly significance. He had nothing to say against those political eunuchs who gather around such meetings, but those meetings did not weigh a feather's weight in all Massachusetts. Boston had gone for the Republicans at the recent election, and the Union-saving meeting held there was enough to produce such a result. Notwithstanding these threats on the floor of the Senate, the people of Massachusetts would give fifty thousand majority for whoever shall be nominated as the Republican candidate for President.

Mr. CLAY said he had spoken with calmness, and his assertions were fully sustained by proof. He could go further than he had done to show the aversion and dislike, if hatred were regarded as too strong a word, for slaveholders as well as slaveholding. He would quote from the speech of Mr. Seward, whose talents and ability give him undisputed claim to be the Republican leader, in which he said: "The world without "sympathize with the servile foe." That showed that in the case of servile insurrection, Mr. Seward sympathized with negroes against their masters.

Mr. WADE then obtained the floor, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The question being on the motion of Mr. HICKMAN to amend Friday's journal by inserting that he offered a plurality resolution, Mr. SICKLES observed that he would not trespass on the House but did he not deem it his imperative duty to protest against much which has been said on this floor, in the course of discussion, as to the sentiment of the North. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Hickman) avowed that the irrepressible conflict is not in the future, but is a fact, and is here. Mr. Sickles said the Northern sentiment is otherwise. There are in the North millions of hearts devoted not only to the Union, but to the Constitution on which it rests, and they would never relinquish their allegiance to it, or be unmindful of the duty of performing their obligations with which that allegiance is inseparably connected, and without which their love for the Constitution and the Union would be hypocrisy and a delusion. He said Mr. Hickman's view of Northern sentiment is as unfounded as the charge he makes in the name of the North, and as the reasons for this feeling are unjustifiable. In the course of reply to Mr. Hickman's charge that the South has violated all covenants, compacts and compromises, he referred to the history of the adoption of the Constitution and to kindred subjects, to show that there had been no violation of good faith by the South. He desired an antidote to go forth with the poison. The gentleman from Pennsylvania could not sustain himself in his first charge that the clause in the Constitution abolishing the slave-trade was a concession to Freedom on the part of the South, when he (Sickles) had proved that the clause, as originally reported by eleven States, was enlarged and sustained on motion of gentlemen from the North. There was no instance where the Southern Courts had failed to take cognizance of or punish those engaged in the slave-trade. Expeditions with this view were fitted out with vessels sometimes expressly built for this purpose, and the proceeds of the traffic distributed in the North and East, and in all probability at the South. The late District Attorney of New-York, Mr. McKeon, gave it as his opinion that more expeditions were fitted out and sustained by Northern capital than from any other section of the Union. As to the charge that the South has broken the Missouri Compromise, he argued that it could not be called a compromise. It was an experiment, and had ceased to have vitality in a quarter where alone it could be maintained. When the violent and excited feeling produced by the repeal of the Missouri restrictions shall have ceased, the North will, as heretofore, regard the principle of the Kansas-Nebraska bill as congenial to their convictions, and on which the best hopes of the patriot can rest, and entirely fair to all persons in the Confederacy. He maintained that there had been no violation of the Compromises of 1850 and 1854. The gentleman from Pennsylvania had said the great question to be presented in the next Presidential election was, shall Slavery be allowed to go into the Territories? The gentleman had not shown any reason or justification for that issue in view of such contingency in our affairs as existed two or three years ago, with reference to Kansas. We were to understand it was to be brought forward as an abstract, not an existing question. But the North does not desire to enter the Presidential election on any such question. When the people of the North witness the inevitable result of the doctrines of the "irrepressible conflict," and the acts of fanatics and traitors invading peaceful homes and firesides, and creating alarm and death,—when they find such are the consequences of giving an ascendancy to a sectional party, they will sweep it out of existence as summarily as they would drive away an enemy from their own doors. He considered we were in the presence of the most serious danger that ever menaced the confederacy, and therefore as a faithful sentinel it was his duty to admonish the North. He believed that with a full knowledge of the facts, they would give a patriotic response. He alluded to the few demonstrations made in New-York to sympathize with the doctrines professed and practiced by John Brown, and denied that the religious sentiment of the people tolerated or countenanced them. He did not believe there were any communities in the North which would permit assemblages within their borders with the view to proclaim their purposes to carry invasion and death to the firesides of any portion of this country. As a citizen of New-York, he would say that State would be faithful to its past history, faithful to the period of 1800, when it gave its deciding vote to Jefferson for President, and when it laid the foundations, deep as the mountains, of the Democratic party. [At the conclusion of his remarks Mr. Sickles was applauded.]

Mr. ADRAIN (N. J.)—Mr. Clerk, I will trespass on the House but for a few minutes as indisposition prevents me from entering into discussions as fully as I would have desired. But, Sir, from the appearance of an article in *The Constitution* the other day, the organ of the Administration, it is due to myself that I should speak on this occasion. That article has been alluded to by two of the Anti-Lecompton Democrats on this floor, and permit me to say that so far as they are concerned they have rebuked that most insolent attack. I should not have noticed it now, or do I do it now on the ground that it is necessary that I should stand here in defense of my character as a man of integrity and political consistency. I simply notice it for the purpose of calling the attention of Democrats on the floor, and asking whether that paper is their organ or only the organ of Mr. Buchanan. Appeals are made here, strong and powerful appeals, to our Democratic sympathies and our Democratic principles. We are asked to rally to the support of the honorable gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Bocock, for whom, personally, I have the highest regard; but how can I, under a charge of bribery made by Mr. Buchanan's organ, affiliate or associate with you, and assist in the election of Mr. Bocock? Why, sir, it is a disgrace that I would never survive. They ask me to unite with them in the election of a man who stands now the Administration candidate for Speaker, while that Administration has denounced me as a man ready to sell out, as it has charged Mr. Haskin and Mr. Hickman with having already been purchased with a Republican shilling. Mr. Buchanan, his Administration, and the whole country, know that I am incapable of being purchased, or of being swerved one iota from those principles which I hold most dear and sacred, and which I hold to be most intimately connected with the best interests of the country. During the Lecompton controversy I was approached in such a manner as shows corruption on the part of the Administration. If I had only given my support to the Lecompton policy, I was assured that I could secure a foreign appointment for one most near and dear to me. A leading member of the House at that time came to me, whispering in my ear: "Sir, it is all settled in the Cabinet." "What is all "settled?" "Why, that one who is nearest to you "by the dearest ties of blood, is to receive the ap-"pointment." My reply was: "Send word to the "Administration to make the appointment, and I in-"tend to resist it to the last in its infamous attempt "to force a Constitution on the people of Kansas, "against their will." I did resist it, and because I resisted it I was charged with being a Black Republican, an Abolitionist, and no Democrat. The paper which is now attacking us attacked us then. I do not ask the opinion of that paper or of the Administration in regard to my Democracy—my Democracy was pronounced upon by my constituents. In the last Congressional canvass I took this very paper, then *The Union*, and read portions of it to my constituents, in which I was called a traitor and a renegade, and no Democrat. I put it before my people. What was their response? James Buchanan does not know what a Democrat is. You are a Democrat and have been from your boyhood, and all the power of Mr. Buchanan and his Administration shall be ineffectual to prevent your being returned to Congress. I am here this day as a Democrat, and I should like to see the man that dare say that I am not one by any record I have made in all my life. This Administration has attempted to read out a far greater man than I am, or any of the eight Anti-Lecompton Democrats; it has tried its hand upon a man of greater intellectual power, of greater fidelity to principles, who is true to the Constitution and the Union—and that man is Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois. Had he been read out of the party? I think not. I maintain that Mr. Buchanan, in his insane attempt to read out him and those who stand with him, has actually read himself out of the Democratic party, and does not stand on Cincinnati Platform, or Kansas-Nebraska act, as construed by him in his letter accepting the nomination for the Presidency when he declared that the people of a Territory, like those of a State, should declare for themselves whether Slavery shall or shall not exist within their limits.

Mr. McRAE (Miss.)—The gentleman from New-Jersey, Mr. Adrian, has said that he belonged to the Democratic party, and maintained its principles. I desire to ask him whether he will support the nominee of the Charleston Convention if the National Democracy there adopt the Cincinnati Platform?

Mr. ADRAIN—I will answer by stating that if the Charleston Convention readopt the Cincinnati Platform, and put upon that platform a man who has construed it as Mr. Buchanan construed it in his letter accepting the nomination, I will support the nominee of that Convention, and if such a candidate, who is known to occupy this position by my constituents, is not nominated, neither my constituents nor myself will support the nominee. Now, I will ask the gentleman a question, for I think we ought to understand one another. If Judge Douglas is nominated at Charleston, upon the construction which he had placed upon the Cincinnati Platform, will you support him for the Presidency?

Mr. McRAE—I am, Mr. Clerk, a fair man—known to be such at home—and known to be such by all who have had an opportunity to judge what I am, from any expression of opinion I have ever given. When the gentleman answers my question fairly, I will answer his. [Laughter.]

Mr. ADRAIN—I have answered his question, and I put a direct question to him. He has told the House he is a fair man; let him demonstrate his fairness by answering the question directly, whether he will support Judge Douglas or not.

Mr. McRAE—When the gentleman answers my question fairly, I will answer his [Great laughter]. He says that he will not support the nominee of the Charleston Convention upon the Cincinnati platform unless his particular construction is placed upon it.

Mr. ADRAIN—I say that the man who stands upon that platform must be one who construes it in the way I construe it, and in the way Mr. Buchanan construed it in 1856, because I do not want to be cheated. I want to know whether the nominee of the Convention places the Southern construction upon the Cincinnati Platform, or the construction which we all placed on it in 1856.

Mr. McRAY—As the gentleman has absolutely refused to answer my question, and has said he will not support the Charleston nominee without construction being placed the platform, such as conforms to his own idea, I put it to sense of the House whether he can ask me to answer him. [Laughter.]

Mr. HICKMAN—I will vote for no man who is put naked upon the Cincinnati Platform, and I will state the reason briefly. The North insists that the proper construction of that Platform is that the people of a Territory, while in a Territorial condition, have a right to exclude Slavery by Legislative enactment, if they desire to do so. The South construe it that they shall only exclude when they come to form a State Constitution. The issue is there joined between the North and the South as to the proper interpretation of that Platform, and I say, that I, as a Democrat, will not go for any man, even Judge Douglas himself, but upon the Cincinnati Platform without explanation. Now, I wish to know the gentleman's views upon this point.

Mr. McRAE—I have this answer to make to the gentleman, in reference to the position which he now occupies; yesterday he announced his determination not to coöperate further with the Democratic Party.

Mr. HICKMAN—I did not say anything of the kind. What I did say the gentleman will find in *The Globe*, for I have made no alteration in my remarks since I delivered them. I only stated what my intention was under certain circumstances.

Mr. McRAE—Did not the gentleman express himself as willing to coöperate with the Opposition sentiment in the election of a Speaker?

Mr. HICKMAN—I declare myself ready to unite with any party I know of in the country, or against the Administration party, for I consider that the most obnoxious sentiment in the country. [Great applause.]

Mr. McRAE—Mr. Clerk I cannot get a fair answer out of any of them. [Shouts of laughter.] The House will see that if the gentleman will cooperate with any party in opposition to the Administration, that inference is legitimate, that he means to coöperate with the Republican party. Does not everybody see it, and does not the gentleman know it.

Mr. ETHERIDGE suggested whether if thirty-five or forty votes could be polled for Mr. Gilmer, the Democrats would join their forces in his support. He said Southern members could have no objection to Mr. Gilmer, who holds a hundred slaves.

Mr. McRAE asked whether it was fair that eighty-eight or ninety men should go over to the twenty-three. Had it been shown that Mr. Gilmer could not get thirty votes? Why did not the gentleman unite his twenty-three with the Democrats, putting the responsibility of the result upon the Anti-Lecomptonites.

Mr. ETHERIDGE said they could not test the fact when it could be shown that M. Bocock can receive 93 votes. It would then be no difficult task to show how he could be elected. Some of the Democrats how ever refused to vote for Mr. Bocock, and ignored his Democracy.

Mr. BRABSON said he could not vote for a Republican, nor could he vote for a man who indorsed the position of Mr. Douglas, as the latter's doctrines are wholly subversive of Southern rights. He wished to ask Mr. Bocock whether he indorsed the views of Messrs. Douglas, Stewart, and Pugh, that a Territory can exclude Slavery therefrom by unfriendly legislation. He would never support any men holding such opinions.

Mr. McRAE replied that Mr. Bocock had not possession of the floor, and could not get it to answer. [Laughter.]

Mr. McRAE replied that the Democratic party did not make the reopening slave-trade question.

Mr. CLARK was glad to hear that.

Mr. McRAE said that, so far as he was individually concerned, he was in favor of it, and would at a future time give his reasons. Such, however, was not the position of the Democratic party in Mississippi or any Southern State.

Mr. CLARK (N. Y.) said he would never vote for any person for Speaker who was not hostile to legislation by Congress for the protection of slave property in the Territories, who was not thoroughly inimical to the abrogation of the laws against the slave trade, and he must also not be a man who would deem the election of a Republican sufficient cause to attempt a dissolution of the Union. He would not say that Mr. Bocock did not stand on this platform.

Mr. CLARK, in further explaining his position, said he would support Douglas much sooner without than with a platform.

Mr. McRAE—Would you support the nominee of the Charleston Convention on the Cincinnati platform?

Mr. CLARK replied that he would support Douglas.

Mr. McRAE resumed his remarks, causing much good humor. He was frequently interrupted by gentlemen who wished to define their positions or obtain political light.

Without concluding, Mr. McRae gave way for a motion to adjourn, which prevailed. Adjourned.

Mozart Hall State Committee.

ALBANY, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1859.

The State Committee of the Wood, or Mozart Hall, section of the Democracy met at Congress Hall to-day.

All the members of the Committee were present except Mr. Eddy of Niagara and Mayor Wood of New-York. The latter did not attend in consequence of his recent mournful domestic affliction.

The Hon. John A. Greene of Syracuse moved that Mr. Cramer be Chairman.

Mr. Cramer peremptorily declined, when Mr. Greene took the chair.

Mr. Benjamin F. Rae moved to exclude reporters, on the ground that the proceedings of the Committee were of an Executive character, and that it was not desirable to make them public.

Gen. Orville Clark and others opposed the motion, and the proceedings were conducted with open doors.

About 50 persons were in attendance, among them the Hon. D. M. Chauncey and others, who had been invited by letter to attend.

The Hon. B. F. Rae suggested the appointment of a Committee of three to report whether it was advisable to adjourn to meet in New-York.

Mr. McMahon of Albany made a speech attacking those who had opposed Mr. Wood in the recent Mayoralty election in New-York, denouncing Dean Richmond and Peter Cagger for the influence they exercised in relation to federal appointments in New-York, and generally condemning the appointments made by Mr. Buchanan.

The Committee then took a recess till the afternoon.

On reassembling they appointed Committees of Five from each Congressional District to call primary meetings and conventions to elect delegates to the National Convention before the 1st of January next.

Mr. McMahon offered a series of resolutions denouncing Collector Schell, Postmaster Fowler, Surveyor Hart, and Marshal Rynders, for their course in the recent Municipal election in New-York City.

The resolutions were laid over for a future meeting by a vote of 4 to 3, the rest of the Committee having previously left.

The Committee then adjourned, subject to the call of the chair.

Massachusetts Municipal Elections.

BOSTON, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1859.

Theodore Otis, Republican, was elected Mayor of Roxbury yesterday by 247 plurality.

In Charlestown James Dana, Citizens' candidate, was chosen Mayor by 256 plurality.

Annual Report of the New-York Central Railroad Company.

"ALBANY, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1859.

"The annual report of this Company can be had at Duncan, Sherman & Co.'s, and at the Bank of Commerce, to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

"G. L. WILSON, Treasurer N. Y. Cen. R. R. Co."

Non-Arrival of the Nova-Scotian.

PORTLAND, Me., Tuesday, Dec. 13—Evening.

There are no signs of the steamship Nova-Scotian, now in her fourteenth day from Liverpool, and fully due.

Municipal Election.

MANCHESTER, N. H., Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1859.

Edw. W. Harrington, Citizens' candidate, was elected Mayor to-day, receiving 1,335 votes against 1,303 for B. B. Cilley, Republican.

Fire in Newark.

NEWARK, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1859.

The Enameled Cloth Factory of William MacMultry (late Halsey and Robles) was set on fire this morning, and partially consumed. Loss, $5,000. Insurance, $3,500, principally in New-York.

The Chicago, Alton, and St. Louis Railroad.

CHICAGO, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1859.

Messrs. James Robb and Charles Congdon to-day obtained full possession of the Chicago, Alton, and St. Louis Railroad, for the benefit of the bondholders.

The Weather at Montreal.

MONTREAL, Dec. 13, 1859.

The weather continues cold and clear. Thermometer 10° below zero. Wind W. There is a good deal of ice in the river, and the ferry boats have stopped running. Freight trains commenced crossing the Victoria Bridge yesterday, and passenger trains will begin to cross regularly next Monday.

The Sailing of the Europa.

BOSTON, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1859.

The R. M. steamship Europa sails at about noon to-morrow. The foreign mails close at 9 a. m. Telegraphic dispatches for Europe, filed at No. 21 Wall street, New-York, in season to reach here by 11 a. m., will be forwarded.

The Approaching Executions.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1859.

Extensive preparations are making for the approaching executions. Nineteen companies of military are now on duty, and guards are stationed at every street corner and cross-road. Picket guards patrol the surrounding country, and six more companies are announced as on their way here. The citizens find difficulty in passing from one part of the town to another. They are brought to a halt, and marched to the guard-house if unable to give the countersign.

Green and Copeland will be hung at eleven o'clock in the morning, and Cook and Coppie at three in the afternoon. All these men are composed, and look calmly on their approaching doom. Their bodies will be given to their friends, if claimed.

The town is quiet, and unexcited by rumors. Military discipline is kept up, however, as if it were encompassed by a besieging army. The people look forward with great pleasure to exemption from military surveillance, and when the civil government is restored there will be quite a jubilee. The people would willingly consent that Stephens and Hazlett should spend the rest of their days in the penitentiary, rather than have another military siege at their execution.

From Cuba and Mexico.

CHARLESTON, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1859.

The steamship Isabel has arrived from Havana and Key West, 10th inst. Gen. Concha was to leave Cuba on the 13th, and a magnificent ovation was anticipated.

Advices from Vera Cruz were to the 8th, and give a confirmation to the reported victories of Miramon, and state that it was probable that the combined forces of Miramon and Robles would soon attack Vera Cruz, and that success would attend their movement, in consequence of local treason among the Juarez party.

The Havana sugar market was quiet, for want of stock, but there was a better feeling in the market, and 9¼ reals were asked for No. 12. Molasses in but little inquiry, and prices weak. Stock of sugar, 33,500 boxes. Freights dull, and vessels leaving for Gulf ports. Exchanges on London, 16@16¼ ⅌ cent premium; on New-York, 4@4¼ premium.

Advices from Key West give nothing satisfactory as to the condition of the ship or bark Juli