

FROM WASHINGTON.

SAILING CLOSE TO THE WIND.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29, 1860.

The prebald coalition in the House came nearer to an election of Speaker on Friday last than is generally supposed. In fact, but for an error of the Journal Clerk—the first he has made, probably for ten years—it would have been successful.

It will be recalled that Mr. Smith, the coalition candidate, voted for Mr. Vance on the first call of the roll. After the Democratic stampede over to Mr. Smith, and after Mr. Joy Morris and four other American-Republicans had withdrawn from him, the vote was privately reported to stand thus:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Votes. Includes Mr. Smith (112), Mr. Vance (112), Mr. Johnson (112).

He thus lacked three of an election. And, after a severe prostration, kept up for an hour, Messrs. J. G. Davis, Holman, and Allen (Democrats), agreed to change to Smith, provided their doing so would strictly elect him.

At this juncture, it became known through the Chamber, that Mr. Millward of Philadelphia, an ardent American, not relishing the denial of Smith's sympathy with Americanism, which his new Democratic friends were making on the floor, had resolved to withdraw his vote from Smith, and give it to some one else, if that were necessary to defeat him. This would have left the tally in this condition, according to the count of the Journal Clerk:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Votes. Includes Mr. Smith (115), Mr. Vance (112), Mr. Johnson (112).

So, the votes of Davis, Holman, and Allen, would not have elected him.

Then it was proposed by the coalitionists that Smith should withdraw his own vote altogether from the ballot, provided his so doing would reduce the number necessary to elect. Inquiry on this point was anxiously made by Democrats at the Clerk's table. And the Journal Clerk informed them that Smith's withdrawal would leave the whole number of votes 288, and that 115 would even then be necessary to elect him. The count of the coalition tilters agreed with that of the Clerk. The Republican tilters said nothing.

Now, the fact was, as finally appeared on a careful version of the lists kept by the tellers, that the whole number of votes cast was two hundred and twenty-eight, instead of two hundred and twenty-nine. But for this error, the following would have been the result:

Table with 2 columns: Name, Votes. Includes Mr. Smith (122), Mr. Vance (112), Mr. Johnson (112).

Of course, Mr. Smith could have withdrawn his ballot wholly from the list only by a vote of the House; but this would have been insisted upon, the Clerk would have ruled it in order, and after a desperate struggle the coalitionists would have carried the point by a majority of one or two. And then, Davis, Holman, and Allen, yielding to the manipulations of their friends, would have changed to Smith, and elected him!

RICHARD REALY UPON JOHN BROWN.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Permit me, who have barely escaped from being lynched as an Abolitionist in the South, only to find myself denounced as a recreant apostate in the North, and who therefore can hardly be suspected of bidding for sympathy from either section, to say a word or two in answer to the allegation, asserted with so much heat and clamor, that "the Harper's Ferry 'insurrection' of John Brown was the natural, legitimate, and inevitable consequence of the teachings of 'the Republican party.'" In contradicting and disproving this charge, I am moved not by any particular regard for Republicanism, nor any particular hatred of Democracy, but only by a desire to do justice to the memory of John Brown, between whose principles (which I revere) and their latest mode of application (which I condemn) a great many persons seem unable to distinguish.

The charge thus alleged is wholly and altogether untrue, and this for the simple reason, that the movement of John Brown was conceived and originated at least a score of years antecedent to the formation of the Republican party. While yet Clay was in the zenith of his fame, and Webster had not "sold himself to the South," and the issues have long since been known, John Brown was brooding upon his scheme. In the Convention held at Chatham, C. W., he made a speech declaratory of his purposes and expressive of his views, wherein he stated that for twenty years the project which he realized so fatally to himself and strenuously to the South, had been the absorbing passion of his nature, to which all other parents and purposes had been rendered subservient. In the year 1831, he being then an Ohio wool-grower, went to England, bearing samples of wool as his contribution to the great International Exhibition, and his literary undertakings solely on account of the reasons which follow:

With a view to the abolition of Slavery, he had been a close student of the theory of mountain and guerilla warfare, through a long series of years; and, being desirous of practically examining the different modes of fortification, entrenchment, and the strategy of the Old World, he chose for the period of his visit that in which London would naturally be thronged with the representatives of Continental Europe, and when, consequently, it would not be a difficult matter to provide oneself with letters of introduction to people in all parts of those countries. Accordingly he had secured admission to the exhibition, and he had been there, whence, after a very careful inspection of its fortifications, he started for Spain, Italy, Austria, Prussia, &c., through which countries, especially their mountainous portions, he made a lengthened tour, with the sole view of applying the knowledge thus obtained to the prosecution of the great enterprise which he had in view. The Republican party had no existence until 1854. The statement, therefore, that the insurrection into Virginia resulted as a consequence of the ineffectual doctrines of Republicanism, is now disproven.

Nor was Brown himself, nor were any of his coadjutors, committed to the Republican cause. Henry Wilson, in 1857, advised the party in Kansas to secure the legislature to themselves by voting under the provisions of the Leecompton Constitution. The advice was taken, and the result predicted was achieved. Not one of Brown's original party voted. Some of us were at that time correspondents of the Eastern press, and in the interim between the Great Harper Falls Convention (which was decided upon to vote), and the day on which the election occurred, we opposed the action of the party in every possible way, by letters, speeches and in every available manner, for which we were denounced as Abolitionists by the leading Republican journals of the Territory.

These were, the only representatives of Republicanism who received any inkling of John Brown's plans, learned them from a hostile quarter, and took immediate steps to put to rest of Brown's power to commit any illegal act whatever. I allude to Senator Wilson and his letter to Dr. Hildreth, and to the Republican party, whether rightly or wrongly, of course I do not undertake to say. He called it a party who had assumed the name of Liberty, and proscribed it to have purposes. He said it declared all men to be free, equal, entitled to liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and yet degraded every man to the level of a slave in the States where he existed, a craven-heartedness which met only with his contempt. So, putting no faith in the professions of that party, he undertook to abolish Slavery himself.

the South, that he entered upon his ill-fated movement. For, he argued, the same elements of resistance to oppression which would result in all bloody excesses, not widely and properly directed, might be made subservient to the accomplishment of high purposes of humanity, if the governing intelligence was at their side. Therefore, in order to supply that intellectual sagacity which the slaves lacked, and enable them to achieve their freedom, we must instruct them from the cradle to the grave, and their instincts would be ever true to this enterprise.

In regard to his personal character, I must, though I reside in the South, where I expect to live and die, be permitted to say that it has been most judiciously and elaborately misrepresented. There is not a man more desirous to promote human welfare and human happiness than I am. My name is never mentioned in connection with any man whose name has been so unworthily and ungenerously misapplied. My name has been so unworthily and ungenerously misapplied. My name has been so unworthily and ungenerously misapplied.

There has been a bit of controversy as to whether the State or National flag should be hoisted over the State House during the sessions of the Legislature. This matter has heretofore been left to the discretion of the Sergeant-at-Arms. On Inauguration day he flung out a flag emblazoned with the State arms. The people generally liked the looks of it, though probably not one man in a thousand dreamed, that there was any political significance in the event. But, luckily, Uncle Samuel had vigilant friends on the watch. The smellers of several venerable Fogies were erected toward General Hill, and they snuffed treason in the wind. The alarm was given, and in obedience to any duty, I cannot tell, the Union was laid low. The House ordered him to be hoisted again, but the Senate indefinitely postponed the order, probably thinking that the controversy did not amount to much.

Collector Austin has not yet received notice to quit. I suppose the Custom-House is convulsed with agitation on the subject of his removal, but the people do not care enough about him to inquire what are the causes of complaint against him. I believe there is a standing quarrel between the Irish and the American element in the Democratic party. The Pilot, which is the chief Irish newspaper here, is hostile to Austin. The Irish, however, are somewhat divided. They are as much divided as the Mooneyites, and the Irish of the kind of the name, was turned out of the Custom-House by Austin, because he persisted in having an opinion contrary to Austin's, on the subject of a proper representation of the party in the Charleston Convention. Tucker is Mooney's rival in Ward Three. He is the shrewdest and ablest of the Irish politicians, and by keeping on pretty good terms with the Republicans, while still upholding all Democratic and Pro-Slavery measures, he has thus far contrived to defeat his enemies on every occasion when he has met them. He was chosen to the House of Representatives by one majority over a Mooneyite, and the House on Friday confirmed him in his seat, which was contested. The people, as I intimated, care very little what becomes of Austin. If Mr. Buchanan will be good enough to consider the subject of moving Postmaster Cameron, his appointment will be made with greater interest, especially by State street, where that functionary is decidedly unpopular on account of his attempt to abolish the Post-Office, which came so near succeeding.

FROM BOSTON.

From Our Own Correspondent.

BOSTON, January 30, 1860.

The news of Friday's proceedings in Congress aroused the dormant interest of the people in the action of that body. While the Republicans congratulated themselves on the narrow escape of their Representatives from the election of a Speaker by the Democratic party, they were generally disposed to rejoice at what seemed the close approach of a crisis in affairs. Up to last Friday the responsibility for non-organization was clearly with the opposition to the Republicans. If they were a majority, they should proceed to organize; if a minority, they should allow others to organize. But they were both; a minority so far as power to organize was concerned, and a majority so far as power to prevent an organization was concerned. The foolish action of Messrs. Morris, Junkin, Nixon, Scranton, and Wood, in voting for a man they did not mean to help elect, and in withdrawing their votes when they saw the danger, threw the blame upon them the responsibility for the present, of non-organization. Of course they understand this, and will do all in their power to extricate themselves. Both the leading parties seem to have been at the mercy of a set of political moss-troopers, known as Americans, the same men who gave the election to Mr. Buchanan in 1856, by throwing away votes upon Mr. Fillmore. The Republicans alone were their prey in that year; and it is some satisfaction to know that they have turned upon our enemies this year as well as upon us. The vote of the entire Democratic delegations from the North-West, with three exceptions, for a slavholding Know-Nothing must go far to counteract the mischief effect of the former nominations of the Republicans with the Know-Nothings of the North. If these North-Western Democrats deny that he is a Know-Nothing, and say he is a Whig, the case is not made materially better for them. They have abandoned their party, and voted for a man who was chosen in opposition to one of their candidates; and solely for the purpose of giving the organization to the slavholding party, a party opposed to the interests of the West on every conceivable question—Freedom, Free Land, Pacific Railroad, and the Union itself.

There is a general expectation here that the Republicans will unite upon Mr. Pennington of New-Jersey, and elect him by the aid of two or three men, whose pride or obstinacy, or some other worse quality or motive, has kept them from voting for Mr. Sherman. There is a current report also, that a number of those who have supported Mr. Sherman steadily, have not intended that he should be chosen. The election of a Speaker as a Republicanism, and nothing else would place the party in a position to render it independent of outside dictation, in its Presidential and Congressional nominations, and this would not be agreeable to certain aspirants for office who hope to be nominated, not spontaneously or willingly, but by outside pressure. The ill success of late administrations, National and State, is in a large degree due to the fact that the minority were allowed to dictate the candidates for the purpose of bringing in, temporarily, men who had no intention of remaining. It is quite common to elect a man to the Legislature, not because he is acceptable to the one or two hundred men who form the mass of the party, but because he can get the votes of half a dozen men of no party. And it generally happens that the representative, in every vote, is the man who looks to the interests of a handful of the half dozen, rather than to the two hundred. Of course his legislative career is a failure; and so is the career of Governors, Members of Congress, and Presidents, elected on the same principle. It will be a great misfortune, in this point of view, if the Republicans abandon Mr. Sherman.

Some days ago, Mr. Brodhead of Boston introduced into the House of Representatives a resolution expressing appreciation of the conduct of the Massachusetts delegation in Congress, specifying particularly their refusal to engage in needless and unprofitable discussions, their unwavering adherence to Mr. Sherman, and their readiness at a time to end the unparliamentary and sectional controversy at the capital. This resolution was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations, who reported it to the Senate. It was there amended, by prefixing the words, "and resolved, That Massachusetts is, as ever, devoted to the Union of the States, as established by the Constitution; therefore, &c., &c., &c. I don't know how to describe this. It was, but it is to be considered necessary that Massachusetts, which is about the only State in the Union which does strictly fulfill its Constitutional obligations, should be the loudest in proclaiming its purpose to do so. I don't know but it is intended to adopt this

formula in all cases. If so, we shall have all our acts and resolutions, whether providing for the extension of a horse railroad or the offering a reward for discovering the cause of the potato rot, profaced by a declaration of attachment to the Union, and the inevitable "therefore." After the news came on Saturday of Mr. Smith's narrow escape from the Speakership, a proposition was made in the Senate to amend the resolve by striking out the words, "their unwavering adherence to Mr. Sherman." The design of the mover was to prevent any seeming instructions to adhere to Mr. Sherman. The amendment was rejected. In the present position of affairs, it will not probably be considered best to press the resolve. It does not seem to be worth while to express an opinion as to the wisdom of our representatives, until we see the result of their action.

Petitions kept coming into the Legislature for a new Personal Liberty bill, an absolute prohibition of slave-hunting in the Commonwealth. I do not look for the passage of any such bill at this session. Probably it will not come so near as Mr. Griffin's bill did last year, which only lacked three votes in the House. But it is idle to expect that the aggressive measures of the slavholding party will always be patiently endured by the people of the Free States. The Fugitive Slave act of 1850, and the amendments into Kansas, brought upon the South John Brown and his invasion, and Douglas's new measure of repression, and the decision which the Supreme Court are probably ready to make in the Lemmon case, will provoke other measures of retaliation.

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There have been a series of forgeries and speculations in this city and the neighborhood. I suppose men are following Gen. Cushing's advice, and converting not only their own property, but other people's, into gold and hearing it against the day of convulsions, revolutions, and civil war. John E. T. Gold, one of the Senators from Worcester County, and heretofore reckoned a very honest man, has been obliged to resign his seat, having been detected in acts of forgery. The Boston Courier is disposed to class him with Peck and Shepard, and hold the Republican party responsible. To offset this charge, I might give you the name of a merchant, one of The Courier's own set, who has lately disposed of as much of his worldly goods as he well could, for cash, has borrowed as much more of his friends, and has left the city and the dear society of his wife and creditors, taking with him a considerable amount of gold, in a valise, and he thinks he can make his fortune in California, or any other way, any more than the fall of Dr. Pomeroy proves the unsoundness of the doctrine of election, or that the fact that John Brown was a Presbyterian proves that the tenets of that sect tend treasonward? This would be an awkward conclusion to come to, as it would involve the leading writer for The Courier itself in the general condemnation.

At the November election, the 1st Representative District in Essex County, which consists of one of the Wards in the City of Newburyport, and one of two neighboring towns, elected a Democrat. He has been compelled to resign, and a Republican has been chosen in his place by 260 majority. It is very much to be feared that public opinion, even in Mr. Cushing's own neighborhood, is, as Mr. Hilliard would say, "dormant."

FROM THE AFRICAN SQUADRON.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

UNITED STATES STEAMER SUTLER.

FERNANDO PO, Nov. 28, 1859.

We left Monrovia on the 12th of October, and came to anchor at Cape Palmas on the 11th. Capt. Armstrong went on shore, and called upon the Rev. J. Kambo, the Missionary, who lately came over in the M. C. Stephens. His school is in a flourishing condition. Capt. A. was much pleased with the exercises, and before leaving made some very appropriate remarks to the children. We left Cape Palmas on the evening of the 13th for Prince's Island, at which port we arrived on the 21st. Found the United States steamer Mystic at anchor in West Bay. This place is the principal anchorage of Madras Fernao, and is a beautiful Portuguese town, and is the only one of the kind in the West Indies. The houses are built on a hill, and are all of a uniform style. The land is high, and covered with groves of palm, pine, and various trees known to the tropical climate. The branches of which birds of the brightest plumage fit and make the air resound with their songs. There is a small town about seven miles from here called St. Antonio. It is a place of some trade; but, as West Bay is the best place to procure wood and water, vessels of war usually come here. Fruit is plenty and very cheap, but most kinds of provisions are high.

We left Prince's Island on the 26th for Fernando Po, and came to anchor in Clarence Bay on the 27th. Found in port the Spanish frigate Perofana, having on board the Spanish Governor, José de la Gandara, and family; the English mail-steamers Retriever, the bark Louisa Biles, and the brig Marshall. The Louisa Biles came out of the land, and was the only one of the kind in the West Indies. The Perofana had on board the Spanish Governor, who was unable to land her cargo for some months. While waiting here, the worms made and have with her hull, eating through it in many places. Our officers had a survey on her, and the carpenters work to fix her, so that she should be able to proceed in ballast to the United States. The crew at first refused to go in the vessel, but, upon the assurance of Capt. Armstrong that she was seaworthy to go in ballast to the United States, and the promise of their own captain to make the nearest southern United States port, they returned to duty. The vessel was then sent to sea, but had scarcely done so, when she was again ordered to return to the harbor, and she once more dropped her anchor in Clarence Bay.

Capt. Sprague reported that as soon as she got outside, where she began to roll, she sprang a leak, and he had to keep the pumps going to keep her free. Another leak was discovered, and it was decided to proceed to shore for help. When this was done she will proceed to the United States.

for a cruise off Benin, and returned to this port on the 27th. The Mystic sailed for the Congo on the 2d. We are going to cruise off Benin for two or three weeks, and then we go to the Congo.

THE FIRST SLAVE HUNT IN NORTH-WESTERN OHIO.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

DEFIANCE, Defiance Co., O., Jan. 26, 1860.

In this day of patent Democracy, patent pills, patent and presumption, a modest man, and particularly a modest patriot, is a great rarity, and while so many pseudo-patriots have become the heros of their own affected virtues, permit me through THE TRIBUNE to give a little notice to a few gentlemen of this place, whose amiable weakness in this respect proves a serious hindrance to their popularity; for with their proverbial modesty, they are among the few persons in this town who "do good by stealth and blush to find it fame."

They lately formed themselves into a "Committee of Ways and Means," and I merely propose to give publicity to their conduct in this respect, so that the ingenious youth of our country may emulate their virtue and ingenuity, and avoid their misfortunes while seeking to raise the wind.

A negro calling himself John H. Washington (and sometimes Henry W. Williams) came to this place several weeks ago, and as he supposed that he was in a land of liberty, he became more communicative than prudent would have suggested, and on last New Year's night he was invited by some of the gentlemen alluded to (who fancied that there was a nigger in the wood pile) to take something to drink.

With this apparently friendly request he cheerfully complied; the beverage loosened his tongue; he thereupon became communicative as to the reasons of his being in the place. He said that he had been a slave in Virginia, and there he had the honor of being an infatuated splinter of the corner stone of our republican institutions; but that not having the fear of his master before his eyes (though having his stripes upon his back), he had stolen himself from the kind enforcement of a restraint which his owner had put upon him, and for the services which he had already rendered him, prompted the reward of \$500 for the apprehension and return of the said Washington, alias Williams. His companions now thought that they had a sure thing worth while, and had the negro, save the Union, and secure \$500 for themselves.

The negro was therefore arrested, and a few dollars in money, said to have been stolen from some of his white blood companions, found in his custody. He was then sent to jail in this place, but, strange to say, he was kept there for two days, and yet neither the owner of the man, nor the person who filed an affidavit for his arrest, nor was there a warrant or any legal process procured therefor, nor for his detention! If the money had been stolen, why not make an affidavit to that effect, and procure a warrant?

Immediately upon the incarceration of the negro, the Virginian patriarchy, to whom he "owed labor or service," that his fugitive chattel was now secure, and to come on pay charges, and take him away as soon as possible. A kind-hearted attorney—a Black Republican, of course—heard, as a secret, that the Virginian patriarchy, who he called the "Chivalry before his eyes," he called upon the jailer, and demanded a copy of the writ by which he detained the chattel; but the jailer told him he had no written authority for detaining him; yet he refused to release him.

The attorney alluded to had then no other alternative than to resort to the habeas corpus act, to test the legality of the imprisonment. The editor of The Defiance Democrat is the Probate Judge, and was the only authority then in the county who could issue a writ for that purpose. As such Probate Judge, he has jurisdiction to try minor criminal offenses in this county, and the prisoner, when arrested, elects to be tried before him.

The Sheriff, Jailor, Probate Judge, and Prosecuting Attorney of this county, are all good (and some of them hard-drinking) Democrats. The Probate Judge, however, has discovered the negro's captivity, and was much excited—the Union was in danger, and what was to them worse, the \$500 reward was in jeopardy. He called on the Probate Judge, and he accordingly promised to do this. The Probate Judge opened his court, the negro waived a trial by jury, and pleaded guilty, and was thereupon sentenced to fifteen days confinement in jail. It was understood by the worthy patriarchy alluded to, that his sentence should be in full, and that he should be changed for the reward, but in this instance, the old adage, "There is many a slip between the cup and the lip," proved true. Judge Latty arrived at home, and upon being informed that the negro was confined in jail without any legal process, he came to the Probate Judge, and he accordingly promised to do this. 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