THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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The story teems with the racy, the spicy, the pungent and the agreeable.—Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.
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It is ten times the superior of "Ruth Hall," in every respect; and great as was the sale of that book, we should not wonder if this were ten times greater.—Boston Saturday Evening Gazette. MASON BROTHERS, Publishers, N. Y.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

IN PURSUANCE OF AN ORDER OF THE SURROGATE of the county of New York, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against Thomas Price, late of the city of New York, deceased, to present the same, with vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at her residence, 45 Division street, in the city of New York, on or before the 29th day of May next.
ANN PRICE, Administratrix.
Dated New York, the 27th day of November, 1855.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL PERSONS WHO are creditors to the estate of the late Edward Neville, of the Kings County Hotel, late Williamsburg, are requested forthwith to deliver the full particulars of their respective claims against the estate to the clerk at the desk of the hotel, and all persons indebted to the estate are requested to pay the same at the same place. The livery establishment and the hotel are for sale by private contract entire, and if not so disposed of, then to be sold at private sale in two parcels. All persons who are willing to treat for the whole can examine the property, as also those who desire to treat for one part. Their respective proposals, in writing, must be left as above, and each and every person shall have notice to meet the undersigned—first the parties who offer to purchase the entire establishment, and next those who desire to treat for the hotel and livery establishment separately. It is desired that these proposals shall be made without delay, many applications having been made. This opportunity is given equally to all. Dated the 21st day of December, 1855.
DANIEL O'CONNER, } Administrators
ELIZABETH V. NEVILLE, } of the estate.
JOHN COOK & SON, Attorneys and Counsellors at Law for the estate.

SUPREME COURT DECISION—BEFORE HON. CHAS. A. Peabody.—Susan De Angelis vs. Lorenzo De Angelis. A decree for a divorce is allowed.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

OUR SPECIAL DESPATCHES.

THE HOUSE—THE MARINE CORPS—A STREET FIGHT BETWEEN A CONGRESSMAN AND AN EDITOR—GEN. GARLAND, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1855.

No approach towards an organization to-day. Banks' friends are still sanguine.

Quite a sensation has been created in the Marine Corps by the death of Major Miller—some officers seeking promotion, others fearing an overslaugh.

Hon. William Smith, of Virginia, attacked the editor of the *Star* this afternoon, about an article which had appeared in his columns. A street fight ensued, in which but little damage was done on either side. The parties were soon separated.

Col. Nicholson, of the *Union*, has left for Tennessee, to assist in securing for General Pierce a re-nomination, with himself as the candidate for the Vice Presidency. He hopes to be able to pack the 8th of January Convention at Nashville, so as to accomplish that object.

My despatch in regard to General Garland and President Pierce I am satisfied was erroneous. I learn that no man in the service stands higher in the confidence of the executive, and I make this correction with the more pleasure as I would not willingly do injustice to a gallant and meritorious officer. E.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES—INTERESTING CASE—CAN THE PRESIDENT GRANT A CONDITIONAL OR QUALIFIED PARDON—THE RENCONTRE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1855.

The whole question of slavery is to be up before the Supreme Court here this winter, in this way:—An abolition editor of the name of Booth, in the State of Wisconsin, was brought before a United States Commissioner on the charge of rescuing a fugitive slave from the United States Marshal, and discharged on *habeas corpus* by the State Court. He was afterwards indicted and tried, and convicted in the United States District Court, and then again discharged, on *habeas corpus*, by the Supreme Court. Thus the whole question of the legal foundation of slavery, the constitutionality of the fugitive slave law, and the right of a State Court to interpose in such case by *habeas corpus* or otherwise, will come up in two separate cases, to be determined by the Supreme Court of the United States.

A very interesting question is to be argued in the Supreme Court of the United States to-day. It is that of the constitutional power of the President to grant conditional or qualified pardons. In 1852 President Fillmore commuted the punishment of a man named Wells from death to imprisonment for life. Wells made a written agreement, accepting the condition. His counsel apply by petition to the Supreme Court for *habeas corpus*, alleging that Wells is unlawfully imprisoned, on the ground that the President cannot grant a qualified pardon, and that the pardon must therefore be construed in law as an absolute one. Charles L. Jones, a son of Gen. Walter Jones, of this city, is counsel for the prisoner. The pardon was granted by President Fillmore on the advice of Attorney General Crittenden, and Attorney General Cushing will appear for the government, to maintain the positions assumed by Mr. Crittenden.

Extra Billy Smith, of Virginia, and Mr. Wallach, had a fight on Pennsylvania avenue, just after the adjournment of the House, this afternoon. The popular version of the affair—for the exact correctness of which I cannot vouch, though I believe it is substantially correct—is that Extra Billy first struck Wallach twice in the face. They clinched, fell, and rolled in the dirt. Extra Billy got Wallach's hand in his mouth and bit it badly. Wallach damaged Smith's face considerably. During the scuffle a dagger dropped between the parties. A gentleman picked it up and threw it away. The bystanders separated the combatants. The difficulty is understood to have originated in the inuendoes against Extra Billy in Wallach's *Star*. B.

MEMBERS GOING HOME TO ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS—CHARACTER OF THE DEBATES IN THE HOUSE—THE RENCONTRE.

WASHINGTON, Dec 21, 1855.

A number of members left this evening, and more will leave to-morrow. They will not return until after the holidays. They have given up all idea of electing a Speaker for the present. To-day the speeches have been exceedingly rich, and to-morrow they will be more so. Stephens, of Georgia, will be in the ring.

The rencontre between Extra Billy Smith and Wallach, editor of the *Star*, is the general topic of conversation. The end is not yet.

Col. French did not, I understand, present his credentials to Mr. Marcy. Marcoleta informed me this evening that the despatch in yesterday's HERALD, with reference to him, was an error. B.

BOUNTY LANDS FOR THE CHEROKEES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1855.

The Secretary of the Interior has decided that the volunteers engaged in the removal of the Cherokee Indians are entitled to bounty land.

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.
FIRST SESSION.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1855.

Mr. GIDDINGS, (black rep.) of Ohio, denied that he had used such a remark as was attributed to him by Mr. McMullen, viz., that the government would eventually go into the hands of the North, and that the abolition party would elect their candidate for the Presidency, and that then the Union must and ought to be dissolved. He trusted no man would expect him to reply to that gentleman, (Mr. McMullen,) except in case of palpable misrepresentation.

Mr. MCMULLEN, (dem.) of Va.—What does the member mean? Does he suppose he is capable of insulting any member on this floor? When I am assailed by the contemptible member from Ohio I will defend myself, here or elsewhere. (Sensation.) I did condemn the course of that member—and have nothing to take back.

Mr. COX, (nat. K. N.) of Ky., resumed his argument of yesterday, endeavoring to show that the national American party could not unite in the election of Speaker with the Northern anti-slavery party.

Mr. COX debated the question of slavery, and defended its existence under the constitution.

Mr. ETHERIDGE, (K. N.) of Tenn., differed from the gentleman, claiming that the South held their slaves in contempt of the constitution.

Mr. COX, after giving several gentlemen opportunity for explanations concerning the Kansas-Nebraska bill, concluded his three hours' speech in advocacy of the recognized principles of the American party.

Mr. OLDS, (dem.) of Ga., defended his democratic friends from the charge that they are responsible for the failure to organize the House, inasmuch as being in the minority, they are powerless, without a union with those with whom they cannot sympathize. The proscriptive principles of the Know Nothings, he said, formed an impassable barrier to a union with them. He invoked the friends of Mr. Richardson to stand firm and not waive the democratic organization, especially at a time when it is purged of the last vestige of free soilism, and is entering upon new triumphs of principles.

Mr. FOSTER, (K. N.) of Ga., replied, saying the democrats had wedded themselves to a measure and not to a great principle, for it had come out to-day that the Nebraska bill is understood differently in one section from what it is in another. If principle is the test, let it speak but one language. He condemned the democratic caucus resolution.

Adjourned.

United States Marshal's Office.

ARREST OF TWO MEN ON A CHARGE OF MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS.

DEC. 21.—Some days since the United States District Attorney received intelligence from Liverpool, stating that two men, named Andrew Richie and Wm. Pollard, had arrived there from New Orleans in the American vessel Assyrium, and that they had both died in hospital a few days after their arrival. From the dying statement of Pollard and other evidence, the Coroner's inquest rendered a verdict that the deceased came by their death from injuries inflicted at the hands of William Wilson, second mate, and John Hanson, boatswain, of the Assyrium. The Coroner in Liverpool issued his warrant for the arrest of Wilson and Hanson, but they had left for New York on board the ship R. Robinson, which fact was also communicated to the authorities here, and officer Holmes was deputed by Marshal Hillyer, and proceeded to Sandy Hook in the revenue cutter Washington, Capt. Faunce, from whom Mr. Holmes received every assistance. They met with the R. Robinson, Capt. Robinson commander, coming up the Hook, and having boarded her found the two accused parties, who shipped under assumed names—one as third mate, and the other before the mast. Capt. Robinson also rendered every assistance to the United States authorities. The accused were brought up to the city and held for examination.

The French government demanded of the Holy See that the reply to the Piedmontese memorandum should not be published contemporaneously with the visit of the King of Sardinia to Paris.

City Intelligence.

FAMILY MARKETING.—The near approach of Christmas and the attendant holidays has filled the markets with all kinds of game and poultry. Immense quantities of game has been brought to Washington Market by the various railroad companies and transportation lines—more, it is said, than on any previous season. Prices this week are somewhat higher than they were at the last quotations. Meat this week is a trifle cheaper in all varieties, except veal, which is scarce and of course dear. Fish maintains about the same prices. Butter shows a slight advance, and eggs are still very dear. We have added to the list of our vegetables, which will be found a compendium of all the markets contain in that line. There is a great deal of venison in market, which is as cheap as other meats.

FIRE IN BAXTER STREET.—LOSS ABOUT $15,000.—The particulars of the fire at No. 9 Baxter street, which occurred on Thursday night, about 8 o'clock, are as follows:—The six story front building belonged to Mr. Caleb Kirby. It is totally destroyed. Loss about $8,000; insured for $5,000: $2,000 in the Fulton Insurance Company, and $3,000 in the Merchants'. Mr. Kirby had just got in a new steam engine, which he intended to erect; it has been almost totally destroyed. Loss about $1,000; no insurance. Mr. Amos E. Kendall occupied the second and third floors of front building as a chair manufactory. His loss and insurance could not be ascertained. A rear building, owned and occupied by Mr. Kirby, as a segar box manufactory, sustained damage to building of about $150, and to stock about $100. Insured for $1,000 in the Stuyvesant, and $1,000 in the Rutgers Insurance Company. The two story frame building No. 11 was crushed by the falling of the wall of No. 9. The building belonged to the Wade estate, and is covered by insurance. Mr. Joseph Moroney occupied the first floor as a clothing store; his stock was mostly removed; he estimates his loss at about $100. He has an insurance of $600 in the Stuyvesant Insurance Company. The second floor was occupied by Peter Mahoney, as a dwelling; his furniture is insured for $200 in the Astor Insurance Company, and is damaged to about that amount. There were one or two other families occupying a part of No. 11, who sustained some damage, probably to the amount of $100. No insurance. The building No. 13 belongs to Mr. H. V. Valiee; it was slightly damaged. The occupants had a number of articles stolen, and their furniture damaged by removal. No. 7, occupied by Hyman Israel as a clothing store, damaged by water to the amount of about $1,000. Insured in the Astor Insurance Company for $1,000, and in the Rutgers Insurance Company for $1,000. The building belongs to Mrs. Miller; it is damaged to the amount of $400, and is fully insured. Mr. Amos E. Kendall has an insurance in the Rutgers Insurance Company of $600. He estimates his loss at about $1,000.

FIRE IN HOUSTON STREET.—About six o'clock on Friday morning a fire was discovered in the grocery store of Abram S. Hults, corner of Houston and Allen streets. The alarm soon brought the firemen to the premises, who extinguished the flames before they extended beyond the store. The stock of groceries was considerably damaged by fire and water. Loss about $500. Insured in the Peter Cooper Insurance Company for $1,000 on stock and $200 on fixtures. The fire apparently originated under the counter. The affair is under investigation by the Fire Marshal. The building is owned by Mr. Denton Pearsall. Damage to the building will be about $50, which is covered by insurance.

Police Intelligence.

MURDER WILL OUT.

In the month of August last, a woman named Mrs. Flannagan, residing at 157 Eleventh street, had her pocket picked of a wallet containing $133, while she was purchasing fish at a pedlar's wagon. Soon after the occurrence two boys, named James Bergen and James Horan, were arrested on suspicion of being the thieves, but as there was no evidence adduced against them showing any criminality, the magistrate was obliged to discharge them from custody. A few days ago some additional testimony was procured against these youths, and one of them (Horan) was arrested. Since then this lad has revealed the entire truth in regard to the matter, and says that Bergen committed the theft and gave him $50 to keep the matter secret. Officer White, of the Seventeenth ward police was directed to arrest Bergen, but the latter was no where to be found. His mother, whom it is charged by Horan received a portion of the stolen money, was arrested for receiving the plunder with a guilty knowledge. The boy Horan is now confined as a witness in the Essex Market prison.

STABBING AFFRAY BETWEEN WOMEN.

Anna Gleason, a girl about nineteen years of age, was taken into custody yesterday by Sergeant Jourdan, of the Lower Police Court, charged with feloniously assaulting Mary Williams with a knife, inflicting a severe gash in her face. These girls, it appeared, have been at daggers points for some time past, and on Thursday night last came into violent collision with one another at the corner of Broadway and Reade street, where it is alleged the deadly weapon was used with severe effect upon Mary's countenance. Anna was brought before Justice Welsh, at the Lower Police Court, where she was held to bail on charge of felonious assault.

ALLEGED GRAND LARCENY.

A few nights ago, Mr. Stephen Fuss, a resident of Chicago, but at present residing at No. 79 Bowery, was robbed of two bills of exchange for $400 and $50 in cash, by some thief who broke open his trunk, and escaped with all the property. Suspicion fell upon a man named Henry Brodel, who had been a lodger at the above place at the time of the robbery, and accordingly officer Slowey, of the Tenth ward police, took him into custody. Brodel tried hard to escape, but he found the officer an over-match, and calmly resigned himself to his fate. The accused was conveyed before Justice Brennan at the Third District Police Court, where he was committed for examination. None of the missing money was traced to his possession.

ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO PASS A WORTHLESS CHECK.

A person named Ira Fowler, was taken into custody by officer Oakford, of the Lower Police Court charged with having attempted to pass a worthless check upon P. Barnum, the clothier, in Chatham square, in payment for $40 worth of clothing purchased there. Fowler, it is alleged, handed a check purporting to have been drawn by James Ross to the clerk in the store, and then departed with the goods. He was subsequently arrested and taken before Justice Welsh, at the First District Police Court, where he was committed for examination on charge of false pretences.

CHARGE OF ROBBING A STAGE DRIVER.

A man familiarly known as Jerry Cook, was arrested by officer Gillespie, of the Seventh ward police, on charge of stealing some silver from the money till of one of the Telegraph line of omnibuses. The defendant, it is alleged, got on top of the stage with the driver, and, watching his opportunity, abstracted the change and jumped off. The driver, discovering the trick, raised the alarm, when Jerry was closely pursued and was finally captured. The prisoner had just re-appeared from the penitentiary, whither he had been sent for some petit larceny. Justice Brennan committed the accused for trial.

FEMALE FIGHT.

A woman named Sarah Young was taken to the Seventh ward station house in rather a damaged condition: she received a severe beating and a heavy blow on the head from some females with whom she had been engaged in a pugilistic encounter somewhere in the neighborhood of Corlears Hook. The injured woman was attended by Dr. Kimbark, Police Surgeon, who dressed her wounds. A woman named Ellen Roberts was arrested on suspicion of having been engaged in the fight.

Brooklyn City Intelligence.

THE PRISONER GORMAN.—The official announcement of the respite of Michael Gorman, convicted of the murder of the Johnson boys, was made known to the prisoner by Sheriff Lott yesterday morning. The prisoner appeared gratified and said. "Well, I'm glad of it." He looks thin, pale and emaciated, caused doubtless by intense mental suffering for the past day or two. The Sheriff not having received official justification of the respite until shortly before 10 o'clock, he proceeded with the preparations for the execution. The gallows frame was erected and the rope arranged. It is the same establishment upon which Reilly was hung four years ago—rope and all—which had been carefully preserved in an upper apartment of the jail. The timely arrival of Mr. Hadden with the necessary document relieved the Sheriff of a disagreeable duty which he was by no means anxious to perform, although he would have faithfully done so had the necessity of the case required it. The father and sister of the prisoner called to see him, and their meeting was, naturally, an affecting one. The efforts heretofore made by some of the most prominent and influential of our citizens to have the sentence commuted to imprisonment for life, will not be relaxed; and those who have the best means of knowing feel confident that they will succeed. But few persons, comparatively, had assembled about the jail. The publication of the fact that the respite had been received had the effect of keeping away the crowd.

SENTENCE OF PRISONERS IN THE COURT OF SESSIONS.—The following persons, convicted in this court during the present session, were sentenced yesterday:—

John Saldiego, an Italian, arraigned for burglary in the first degree, in feloniously entering the house of Russell Lossee, No. 5 Hamilton avenue, on the 29th of November last, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to the State prison for ten years and four months.

James Thompson, convicted of burglary in the first degree, in feloniously entering the house of James Chadbourne, in Sackett street, on the 12th of September last, was sentenced to the State prison for ten years and five months.

Jane Grady and Margaret Higgins, convicted of burglary in the third degree, in stealing clothes from some women, were sentenced to the State prison for two years each.

Francis Meyers pleaded guilty to petit larceny, second offence, and was sentenced to the State prison for two years.

Francis Higgins, convicted of having a slung shot in his possession, was sentenced to the State prison for one year.

John Walker, a youth, convicted of petit larceny, in stealing a purse from Miss Susanna Felt, as she was walking along Sands street, one evening, was sentenced to the penitentiary for six months.

STATE OF THE NATION.

Great Debate on the Speakership and the Presidency.

Democratic, Know Nothing and Black Republican Leaders Mixing In.

Position of Parties and Factions in the House Explained and Defined

A Most Instructive, Suggestive, Pungent and Important Discussion,

&c., &c., &c.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, Dec. 18, 1855.

The House met at 12 o'clock, M.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. WALKER.—I ask the gentleman from Iowa to withdraw his resolution, to enable me to make a personal explanation.

Mr. THOMPSON.—I will withdraw it for that purpose.

Mr. WALKER.—In taking my seat upon this floor, I had determined, as a general rule for my action here, not to notice newspaper comments upon my course. But at this particular juncture, sir, in the condition of parties in this House, in view of the great popular anxiety caused by that condition, by the failure of this House thus far to effect an organization—knowing that fact, every member upon this floor, however humble, however unknown he may be, becomes the object of scrutiny, of examination; and I feel it due to myself and to the party with which I have acted here, to vindicate my own conduct, and, as far as I can, attempt, at least, a vindication of that party. I hold in my hand a paper published in the Southern extreme of this Union, a leading paper in my own district—a paper devoted to the advancement of the democratic party of this country. That paper, of the 15th of the present month, in commenting upon an article to be found in another paper published in the same city, but which paper supports the great principles of the American party in that country—I say, in commenting upon that article, the paper I hold in my hand—the *Mobile Register*—uses the following language:—

The democratic party in Congress has taken its stand upon its principles—principles not of to-day or to-morrow, but principles that will stand the test of time, and remain the true foundation of a party that appeals to the patriotism of the people to support it for their own and the country's good. They have no bargains to offer. They do not choose to buy Southern Know Nothings to do their duty to their constituents with the paltry peril of an office, or a contemptible advantage in the distribution of the powers of the House. They offer a creed and a candidate that *ought* to command Southern Know Nothing votes; but the *Advertiser* and its small party in Congress prefer trifling to duty, prefer to waste their suffrages on impossible candidates to planting them where they will tell against the enemies of the South; and they salve their consciences under this woman mockery by parading a solid body of seventy-nine democrats for not coming to their corporeal's guard of thirty, and electing Humphrey Marshall. Oh, but they are willing to go to Richardson, but they have met with no encouragement from the democrats; they have been treated with contempt. We fancy no democrat would have thrown an obstacle in their way if they had walked up to vote for Richardson. If they have met with a rebuff, then, it is on account of the trade they brought in their hands as a consideration for their voting for Richardson. They are ready to do their duty, ready to make common cause with the only party that is available to combat abolitionism, provided they get a valuable consideration for it. But upon such transparent attempts to hoodwink the people of the South in reference to the true state of this case! the fact stands patent to the public eye that the Southern Know Nothings are engaged in some trifling, while they have built in their power to have defeated the arch-conspirators, Seward, Weed and Greeley, who are plotting against the safety of the South and the peace of the Union.

In the issue of the same paper of the day preceding this, in another article commenting upon the state of affairs in this House, the editors refer to me by name, and charge me with having trifled in the discharge of my duty: they say that upon a certain day I am recorded as having voted for a Mr. Davis for Speaker, and that in turn Mr. Davis voted for me. Now, sir, as I remarked before, under ordinary circumstances I should have taken no heed to such comments; but I think the time has come when every man's position upon this floor should not only be known to his fellow members, but made known to the country. He should make known where he stands, and where he intends to stand. Why, sir, this small body of thirty men have not only been the target for the press of the country, but they have been used in this House with the game of shuttlecock and battledore, by the republicans on the one side, and by the democracy on the other. What has the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Smith) said? That the democratic party was the only one in this House acting upon principle. If so, what is that principle? It is the principle of party exclusiveness. They met in their preliminary caucus, and adopted a resolution which many of the calmer members of the party saw plainly was an insult and a stigma on members upon this floor who agreed with them on the general principle of government, and only differed with them in reference to a mere matter of legislative expediency. Well, what is the condition of this small body of thirty men—and where do they stand? Have they acted thus far in a spirit of captiousness, of caprice? What objects had they to gain? What had been the result of persistency in their efforts upon this floor? Why, sir, is there a man here who has not before this realized the fact that, if these Southern Know Nothings, on the opening of the session, had rallied to the support of the democratic candidate, (and here permit me to say that I am glad to have met that gentleman in this hall—I say it, though not belonging to the party of which he is the standard bearer—the compliment extended to him is justly his due;) the fact, I say, must now be realized by all parties, that, if the Southern Know Nothings had, at the opening of the contest, thrown themselves into the ranks of that gentleman's supporters, there could have been no result other than to have *free soilism* the organization of the House. Then, so far as the mere fact of our organization is concerned, their action has been to stave off such an organization as the one mentioned. But, sir, that party claims to be a national one. It was said on yesterday, that its claim to nationality is predicated on what? On a certain number of Southern gentlemen calling themselves democrats, who have united with fifteen gentlemen from Northern States, only one coming from a State farther north than Pennsylvania. This union of a portion of Southern members upon this floor with a small fragment of the northern representation, constitutes, in their apprehension, a full and complete title and ground to the claim of nationality. Contrast their position, so far as the claim to nationality is concerned, with that of the National American or Know Nothing party of this House. Some twenty-six or twenty-seven Southern gentlemen, with fifteen Northern gentlemen, coming from some of the largest States in the Union, uniting for a common purpose, standing upon a basis known to this country, and pledged by their acts here to do—what? Why, to abide by existing laws on the subject of slavery; to resist with all their efforts a renewal of the agitation of the subject in and out of this hall; and to vote for the admission of a State into the Union, whether its constitution does or does not recognise slavery as one of its social institutions. This is the position of this much abused and vilified American party of this House; and when I use the term "American party," understand me as only making application to those thirty or forty with whom I have thus acted. But, say my democratic friends, theirs is the only national party. Now, I would ask them, and in no taunting spirit, whether they have the power to break down geographical and sectional divisions? I ask them to point me to any principle in their creed potent enough to harmonize the masses coming from the various sections of the country. National! Why, sir, its claim to nationality has a sandy foundation. North of Mason and Dixon's line we behold it broken into fragments. The bulk of it has shared the fate of its old adversary, and been lost in the dark pool of free soil and abolitionism. In the South they are divided in regard to approval of the present administration. And it is a fact known to the country, that nearly all their victories in the Southern States have been achieved mainly by the co-operation of whigs who coincided with them, not in principle, but only in opposition to the American party; victories, too, mainly on a misconception of the great doctrines and high aims of this much abused and vilified American party. Victories thus achieved are in no wise to be regarded as an evidence of any popular recognition of any great living or consummate principle of the democratic party. I ask if this is not a portraiture of the democratic party? Yes, this is their claim to nationality; and because Southern men, having an identity of feeling with them, withhold their co-operation, they are accused as leagueing against that party with free soilers. As long as that insulting allusion stares them in the face, and is not retracted, it places them in a humiliating position. Thus placed, it would in all probability secure a free soil organization of the House. I ask the members of that party, in all candor and kindness, whether they are just in putting us in that position?

Mr. JONES, of Pennsylvania—Will the gentleman allow me to make a single remark?

Mr. WALKER—Certainly.

Mr. JONES—As I had the honor of submitting the resolution to which he refers, I wish to state exactly what was meant by it. I will merely state that the nationality of Pennsylvania, instead of being represented upon this floor this day by six national votes, would poll seventeen for Mr. Richardson, if it were not for Know Nothingism, which is understood in my country to be synonymous with free soilism. The nationality of the democratic party in this House, in my opinion, consists in this fact: that the *whole body* of the democratic members from the *North* and the *whole body* of the democratic members from the *South*, act together here as a unit. No other party here presents that aspect. Now the gentleman from Alabama certainly does not impute to me, or those gentlemen who voted for my resolution, an intention to insult any individual, or any class of individuals. I am sure such was not the case. My friend will search those resolutions in vain to find a word about the American party. We speak of the Know Nothing party, which, in my country—and I presume it is the same elsewhere—means free soilism concealed, in contradistinction to free soilism openly and publicly professed. I merely wish my friend to understand, as an allusion was made to the same thing yesterday, that, as I understand the democracy, they only wished to place themselves on a national platform before the whole country, so that neither gentlemen from the North nor gentlemen from the South should misunderstand their position. They mean to stand upon that platform without compromise or concession; they do it from devotion to what they believe to be a great principle, and as a duty which they owe to their country; they never did design to cast any imputation upon any class or classes of men. I hope, therefore, my friend from Alabama will understand that, in speaking of the Know Nothing party, as a Pennsylvania democrat, I mean to say that but for that party by that name called and known—and the records of the country sustain me in that position—I believe that Pennsylvania would this day cast a vote that no man would question the nationality of.

Mr. ALLISON—Will the gentleman from Alabama allow me to put an inquiry to my colleague from the Berks district?

Mr. WALKER—I will yield for that purpose.

Mr. ALLISON—I wish to know whether I understood my colleague aright. I understood him to say that the principles of the Know Nothing party and of the free soil or anti-Nebraska party were identical, and, therefore, that there was not a majority of national democrats from Pennsylvania on this floor. Now, if I understood my colleague aright, I wish to say that I endorse the idea expressed by him—that had it not been for the fact that the people of Pennsylvania condemned the Kansas and Nebraska act of the last Congress, it might have been that seventeen national democrats would have been found upon this floor; but having condemned that act, the Know Nothings and free soil party united, and Pennsylvania is represented here by a majority of those who condemn that act. (Laughter.)

Mr. JONES—What was my colleague's question? I did not understand it.

Mr. ALLISON—The question I desired to put to my colleague was this: Whether I understood him aright to say that the sentiments of the free soil party and the Know Nothing party were identical upon the question of the extension of slavery?

Mr. JONES—Yes; but I wish to explain myself in three words, so that I cannot be misunderstood.

Mr. ALLISON—I perfectly agree with my colleague.

Mr. JONES—What I meant to say, Mr. Clerk, was this, that the national democratic party of Pennsylvania are