In conformity to the instructions of their constituents, and requested a convention of delegates at New York on the 12th of June next, there to concert plans necessary, and make a nomination consistent with American principles as set forth by the American party of Pennsylvania; and that we hereby approve the holding of the said Convention, and cordially sustain and approve the actions of our delegates in retiring from said Convention in Philadelphia.

Mr. Johnston supported his resolution with a lengthy and able speech, in which he reviewed the entire action of the Philadelphia Convention, denounced Fillmore in bitter terms, and asserted that he merely sneaked into the Council, and had never done and said anything in favor of the American principles, or publicly aided the party, and closed his remarks by appealing to his personal friends to sustain him in the course that he had pursued in the Philadelphia Convention, evidently considering that he was in a hopeless minority in the Convention.

Mr. Reed, of Philadelphia, followed with a sarcastic and cutting speech, in which he reviewed the course of Johnston, eulogised Fillmore, and said that Johnston, in his appeal to his personal friends for their support, had made the issue in that Council, Johnston or Fillmore, and that the delegates were now called upon to say which they would have—Fillmore or Johnston—whether they would repudiate the nominee of the American party, and say that they would follow at the bidding of Johnston, or endorse the nomination and take Fillmore for our candidate. He made a lengthy speech, and fully answered all points raised by Johnson. He was followed by Sewell (Johnson worshipper), who accused the Philadelphians of defeating their ticket, in the recent Mayor election, by endorsing or calling their ticket the Fillmore and Donelson ticket, and that they had departed from their Americanism in endorsing Fillmore. He was followed by Mr. Small on the other side, and Mr. Williamson (seceder from the Philadelphia Convention and Johnson worshipper) in the same style as Sewell. At the close of his remarks the vote was taken on Johnston's substitute, and was lost by nearly three to one; this vote showed Johnston that he had twenty-two persons in the Convention, all told, that would follow at his bidding.

The vote was then taken on the original resolutions of Mr. Small, which were adopted by about the same vote as the Johnston resolutions were rejected with. Thus the Johnston faction was four times repudiated by the State Council in one day. Johnston then pursued his usual course of bolting, followed by about twenty delegates. He immediately went over to Governor Ford's room for sympathy and consolation, where they held a private caucus to see what should be done for the June convention. This Council meeting was called by the president at the request of Johnston, who considered that he would be able to control the Council and secure the election of delegates to the New York Convention, but in that he was sadly defeated, and retired from the Council with the consolation that—"The brightest hopes often vanish like the dew before the summer's sun."

The American party is now rid of Johnston, who has for a long time been an eye sore to the party. We shall probably next hear from him taking his long talked of trip to Iowa.

Resolutions were then adopted, unanimously, endorsing the fusion State ticket, placed in nomination in March.

The president was ordered to call a State Convention on the 25th of August, to meet in Harrisburg, for the purpose of forming an electoral ticket and appointing a State Central Committee.

The Council after transacting its private business adjourned *sine die*, with perfect harmony and good feeling.

The Virginia Know Nothing State Convention—Mr. Fillmore's Election Figured Out.

OUR STAUNTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Staunton, May 6, 1856.

The Know Nothing State Convention of Virginia met at 12 o'clock to-day, at Union Hall, and organized temporarily by the appointment of Hon. S. McDonald Moore, of Rockbridge, chairman, and Messrs L. W. Waddell, Jr., and R. Mauzy, Secretaries.

Mr. Moore, in taking the chair, made a few remarks by way of definition of his principles. He stated that he was an old line whig, but was, nevertheless, prepared to sustain the candidates of the American party in the forthcoming contest. He felt assured that in the nomination of Mr. Fillmore there was presented every guarantee that the South could demand, and feeling thus, he, for one, had no hesitation in giving in his adherence to the party under his lead. After a few other remarks, characterized by a vehement denunciation of democracy, the convention proceeded to ascertain the number of delegates present, by calling over the counties, some delegate from each county of those represented, handing in the names of those who were in attendance. A list of the delegates is, I suppose, unimportant to you. It will be sufficient to state that out of one hundred and fifty-three counties in the State, but eighty-two were represented. At the close of this preliminary, the convention adjourned until half past four o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention re-assembled at half past four o'clock P. M., pursuant to adjournment. A committee consisting of one from each congressional district, (fifteen in all,) was appointed to nominate permanent officers of the Convention. This committee, after a brief retirement, submitted the following report:—

President.—Robt. Saunders, Esq., of the city of Williamsburg.

Vice Presidents.—First district, Dr. Geo. T. Eyerley, of Northumberland; Second, Nathaniel Riddick, of Nansemond; Third, Walter H. Middleton, of Prince Edward; Fourth, Maurice Langhorn, of Lynchburg; Fifth, B. Magruder, of Albemarle; Sixth, Martin P. Brooke, of Fauquier; Seventh, Jas. R. Fisher, of Richmond City; Eighth, Wm. Andrews, of Frederick; Ninth, John F. Lewis, of Rockingham; Tenth, Col. David Bassett, of Montgomery; Eleventh, Wm. S. Gilman of Wheeling; Twelfth, Richard Barton, of Randolph; Thirteenth, Henry S. Gibbon, of Washington.

Secretaries.—S. Waddle, Augusta; R. Mauzy, do.; Alexander McDonald, Lynchburg; C. H. Lewis, Richmond; J. S. Cochran, Albemarle; A. A. Little, Fredericksburg; Alonzo Smith, Rockbridge; —— Suster, Botetourt; Abraham Anderson, Danville; and A. G. Sloter, Culpepper.

Committees from each electoral district were appointed to nominate electors for the State.

On motion of Mr. Hart, of Albemarle, it was resolved that Alexander H. H. Stuart, of Staunton, Secretary of the Interior under Mr. Fillmore's administration, be requested to address the Convention to-night; whereupon the Convention adjourned to meet again at 8 o'clock P. M.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Convention re-assembled at the hour to which it adjourned. It was found soon after that Mr. Stuart was laboring under temporary illness, and would be compelled to forego the acceptance of the invitation addressed to him that evening. He promised however, to comply with the wishes of the Convention the following morning, when he hoped to be sufficiently well to address that body.

Loud calls were then made for Mr. Wm. Gilmer, of Albemarle, known in this State as one of the most successful farmers in it, and as the most comic character in the Union, probably. He surpasses your Captain Rynders by many degrees, in wit, fun and repartee, and is highly esteemed by all parties.

After repeated calls, Mr. Gilmer came forward and said:—Mr. President and members of the Convention, I pray you not to be in a hurry, I have a thundering speech on the stocks, with plenty of documents too, but I am not yet quite ready to launch it. I will give the dirty democrats particular hell. I am bound to speak—you need'nt be in a hurry, I shall be the last man to leave Staunton, and before I do so I will give you a specimen of my glib. (Loud laughter.) If there are any democrats here, I should like very much that they should attend to hear me. (Laughter.) It will do their hearts good to hear me describe what they are. They are a dirty crowd—that's certain. Pity Wise, "our ebo skin and gizzard foot" Governor, is not here to listen to me. Mr. President, are you aware of the fact that I am going to run against him the next time—not for the Governorship, for he'll never get that again—I'll run against him for the Presidency. I am told he has an idea of getting that. If small men were to get it he would beat me; but there is another standard, and in that I have the advantage. (Loud and continued laughter and enthusiastic applause.) Don't make such a noise—I can't stand any such thundering as that. (Laughter.) Leave all the halooing to the democrats. We will do the work, and that will be to whip them as certain as daylight. (Loud cheers.) They are small potatoes, anyhow, and when we get done with them they will be still smaller—so small as that such beings will be nowhere known. When that is done, you shall be all right. I'll be Secretary of State; but I don't know, that is probably too much for me. I'll be in the Cabinet, anyhow, and I'll attend to you all. (Loud and long continued laughter.)

A Voice—What about Pierce?

Oh, he is too small potatoes for me. That man was dead three years ago. He is known like a book, but he was not known in the beginning. The New York Herald can give you his history. By the way, do you know, gentlemen, that there is among you here one of the myrmidons of the Herald. Yes he is here. I have my eye on him, and he has his eye on me, I am sure. We can go nowhere that you will not find one of that crowd. Not here in this little town, situated in the mountain fastnesses, can we escape the vigilance of that great journal. However, the gentleman who has come, is welcome, so far as I am concerned, and I might venture the same remark with regard to you all. We have no fear of him. Let him report us every word, and ... it is so much the better for us, for our friends, the ... crats—no, our enemies—will have a good opportunity of seeing how we stand. When I began, I had no idea of going this length; I merely came forward to promise you a speech some other time, before the adjournment of the Convention. (Loud cries of "Go on, go on, Gilmer.") Ye will soon get tired of me; won't ye? (Cries of "Not for a week.") I couldn't stand that. I'll tell you what I intend to do to-morrow. I intend to propose, instead of two electors at large, that we have four. I want to watch the democrats, and follow them wherever they go. We must have for this purpose some of our big guns—men like the Hon. A. H. H. Stuart and myself. (Loud laughter, which continued for a minute or two.) Yes, we can do the work brown. The democrat that meets us, if he is ever worth chasing again, you may call me a democrat. (Loud laughter.) I say, call me a democrat, because that would be the highest offence any one could give me. (Laughter.) If Mr. Stuart makes his appearance, tell me of it, and then I quit. (Cries of "Go on.") Democratic rule is a great curse. (Cheers and laughter.) They have increased our taxes in this State for the coming year by one hundred per cent. But this is a trifling matter compared with their conduct in the administration of our federal government. But being good cheer; we are going to get rid of the crowd, with all the evils incident to their administration, next time. When that takes place, I shall die content, and not till then. Here we are, seventy-four thousand of us free born citizens of this glorious old commonwealth, without the poor privilege of having a second representative in Congress—proscribed, and actually aliens here. The day will soon come when we shall repay this kindness with interest. They whipped us at the last election by mere tricking and intrigue. We shall meet them openly the next time, and give them such a confounded bad whipping, that they shall never again raise their heads in Virginia, at least. They are d—n tough, I know, and need to be well done up to kill them right out; for a promise of a little spoils can resuscitate them to life, while they have a single breath in them. (Laughter.) We wont even leave them that chance, we will put them in a condition from which there will be no hope. (Loud laughter.) I hope that the Herald will give what I say correctly—every word—*verbatim, seriatim et ad literatim*. I know he will, and so much the better, because I want the democrats to see that Billy Gilmer is still alive and kicking, ready during the next canvass to meet them and give them fits. (Loud laughter.) I am getting tired, and I suppose you are already tired of hearing me. (Cries of "No, no;" "Go on.") Oh, no. There are others here whom you may desire to hear, and it is now getting late. I ask you, in conclusion, to gird up your armor for the contest which we are now about to commence. Do it with proper zeal and energy, aye, work from dark to dark, if necessary, in order that we may overcome this deadly enemy of ours, who is sucking our life's blood, leaving us nothing more than "hewers of wood and drawers of water." It seems but a proper exercise of that talent and energy which exist so profusely in our ranks to rout that party from the positions which they have for so long a time filled with so much disadvantage and disgrace to the country. If by any chance—a fact which I believe to be impossible—they again get the reins of government, and retain it for any time, we will be doomed to lapse into a disreputable plight—a position to which the acts of the present administration—I mean Pierce, Marcy & Co.—have well nigh brought us. So perfect is our ruin—I mean the country's ruin, of course—it would be but necessary to continue that clique in power for another term. I would predict the same results with reference to any democratic administration, for upon a fair trial, we have found them to fail utterly. Go it, then, I say, and save the country from such evils as I predict. You can do that only by depriving democracy of all connection with our federal government, and keeping them out forever. I'll do my part towards accomplishing so desirable a result, and do you yours. If we do, success is as certain as that to-morrow's sun will rise. The democracy are now split up into miserable factions. The result of operations at the Cincinnati Convention will leave them in a condition so helpless as to render them unable to withstand any attack. This is cheering, and I beg you to prepare for such a crisis. I will now conclude by introducing to you Mr. T. Turner, of Fauquier.

Mr. Turner came forward and addressed the Convention. His speech consisted principally of appeals to the old line whigs to come to the aid of the Know Nothing party in the coming contest. He reviewed the conduct of Mr. Fillmore while in public life, showing that he embodied in his acts and opinions all that could influence their adhesion to him.

The Convention then adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow.

SECOND DAY.

Staunton, May 7, 1856.

The Convention assembled at 10 o'clock this morning, pursuant to adjournment the evening previous.

The President stated the first business in order to be the reports of the commitees appointed on yesterday, to report the electors from their respective districts.

Reports were then handed in from the various committees, giving the name of one elector from each district and one from each county, the aggregate number amounting to perhaps not less than one hundred and seventy. A list of the names is, I presume, unnecessary, as most of them occupy no prominent public position, or are associated with any acts of public service which could render the publication of such a string of names interesting to any, except those in their immediate localities or in some way particularly interested.

Mr. Wm. Gilmer arose and said—Mr. President, in compliance with a notice which I gave on yesterday evening, I beg leave to offer the following resolution:—

Resolved, That this Convention appoint four electors at large—two from Eastern and two from Western Virginia.

The resolution was adopted, whereupon

Mr. Gilmer said: Mr. President, I rise to put in nomination the Hon. Thos. Stanhope Flournoy, of Halifax, for the south side of James river, in Eastern Virginia. Eulogy is unnecessary in this instance, for Mr. Flournoy is too well known throughout this commonwealth, as the eloquent advocate of the great principles of our party, to require it of any man. (Applause.)

Col. Lewis, of Richmond city, said: Mr. President, at the instance of a very large number of delegates, from every section of the commonwealth, I rise to propose the name of one well known throughout this wide spread republic as the able, consistent and fearless advocate of American principles, and not less known as the faithful champion of the constitution and the Union. The gentleman I allude to is the Hon. John Minor Botts, of the city of Richmond. (Loud applause.)

Mr. McCue, of Augusta, said:—Mr. President, I place in nomination a distinguished citizen of the county of Augusta—one of the members of that administration whose public services have entitled him to the plaudit of "well done, thou good and faithful servant," from the people of this Union. Had he no other claim to distinction, this would be enough; but, like the distinguished gentleman already nominated, his public services speak for themselves and for him. I nominate the Hon. Alexander H. H. Stuart. (Loud and long continued applause.)

Mr. Gilman, of Wheeling—Mr. President, I nominate the Hon. John S. Carlisle, of the county of Harrison, the "lone star" of the Virginia delegation in Congress—a position he fills with credit to himself and usefulness to the country. (Applause.)

Mr. J. D. Imboden, of Staunton, a member of the late House of Delegates of Virginia, said:—Mr. President, before the vote on the electors at large is taken, I will read a letter which I received from the Hon. Thomas Stanhope Flournoy, in reply to an invitation extended to him by the Committee of Invitation to be present at the Convention.

Halifax Court House, May 2, 1856.

My Dear Sir—It would give me unfeigned satisfaction and pleasure to be with you on the 6th, and participate in the proceedings of the Convention of the American party; but the circuit of our county is now in session and will continue its session until the middle of the month. I would not, however, permit that to prevent me from joining you on the 6th if there were not a still more urgent demand for my presence at home, in the sickness of my family, which almost prevents me from attending the sessions of the court just at my door. I am sure that there is no man in the State who is more impressed with the importance of, and feels a more ardent desire for, the election of Fillmore and Donelson. The great principle that "Americans must rule America" must prevail, or the time is not far distant when for all the purposes of "rational liberty and Protestant civilization," America will not be worth seeking; and I do hope that, during the progress of the canvass, I shall have an opportunity to demonstrate to my friends the sincerity of my convictions and the ardor of devotion to the great principles of the American party, and its great leader, Millard Fillmore; and there is no part of the State that I should prefer to visit to the gallant and patriotic county of Augusta. Accept my sincere thanks, and present me most kindly to friends and brothers. Yours, sincerely and truly,

Mr. J. D. Imboden. THOS. S. FLOURNOY.

During the reading of this letter several thunders of applause went forth from the crowd.

The question having been then put on agreeing to the nominations made for electors at large, was decided in the affirmative, by acclamation.

Col. John S. Anderson, of Botetourt county, offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That a committee of thirteen be appointed by the President, to report resolutions for the consideration of this Convention.

Col. A. said—Mr. President—There has been no action yet taken in relation to the nominations for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. I think there are other important subjects, with reference to which this Convention should express an opinion. They ought to express their opinion about our "eboshin and gizzard foot" Governor. I offer that resolution, and move that the whole subject be referred to the committee of thirteen, proposed to be appointed under that resolution.

Col. Lewis, one of the editors of the Richmond *National American*, said—I do think, Mr. President, that a mere endorsation of the nominees of the Philadelphia Convention will be all the resolutions that we need. Mr. Fillmore, standing upon the broad platform of the constitution and the Union, is platform enough; and I hope the gentleman from Botetourt, (Col. Anderson,) will accept that suggestion, and offer a resolution of that sort as a substitute for that which he has offered.

Mr. Gilmer, of Albemarle—That is platform enough for all creation. (Laughter.) Mr. Fillmore is the greatest man in the nation—the greatest man in the world. (Loud laughter.) That is platform enough for me, any how, though I am ready to go for anything to kill up democracy. (Laughter.) It must be constitutional, however.

Col. Anderson—It is customary to refer these subjects to a committee; and it is better, it seems to me, that whatever is done in this respect should come before the Convention, having the sanction and approval of a committee. I think we ought to express our sense of the course of the dominant party in Virginia, with reference particularly to the American party. I, sir, a native born citizen of Virginia, am treated, so far as the policy of that party is concerned, not only as an alien, but am held as unworthy to hold office.

Mr. Gilmer—We will give you an office after awhile; be patient. (Loud laughter.)

Col. Anderson—I think we ought to speak out.

Mr. McCue, a Staunton lawyer, said—I agree with the gentleman from Richmond city (Col. Lewis). There was something that the gentleman from Botetourt (Col. Anderson) has said, in which I do not agree. Let us not look so low as to notice anything which the "ebo shin and gizzard-foot" Governor of Virginia has said. It is sufficient that we endorse the nominees of the Philadelphia Convention.

Mr. Samuel McDowell Moore, of Rockbridge, said—I entirely concur as to the impropriety of noticing anything that the Governor of Virginia has said. I do it upon the ground that a man took during the last war, who received a challenge from one of the routed party. He said that "powder was too high to be wasted in killing snipes." (Loud laughter.) I will avail myself of this opportunity of making some explanation in relation to what I said yesterday. When I was spoken to this morning to know whether I was willing to serve as elector for this district, I declined, on the ground that I had become too old for the important duties attaching to that position. With the frosts of sixty years upon my head, it cannot be expected that I could do what will properly devolve upon the occupant of this post; and although, when I look to the conduct of the adverse party in Virginia, I feel it to be true in relation to myself, that like the snow upon the top of Mount Etna, it never could cool the fire below, yet I apprehend that it will not be in my power to go much abroad to make speeches. When I happen to be wherever anything is said, and where there happens to be nobody to reply to the opposite party, I will do what I can. (Loud cheers.) In reference to some observations that fell from me in relation to the purity of the whig party, I repeat it is a pure party. We have been in process of refining for twenty years, and we have become so pure, that the democratic party have been, and are now, satisfied to pick up the offscourings we have thrown off, and made them Governors, Senators, &c. (Cheers.) I have admired the Americans at all times. There was a great American party in the days of the Revolution, and I believe they are actuated now by the same motives that actuated the party in those days. In regard to the whigs, of this county of Augusta, I will say I admire their cause, but I cannot help thinking that when the people of other States look to Virginia and see the stand they take, a feeling of regret at their peculiar position must be felt. Here is this party, some eight or ten thousand in the minority, battling with such odds against their old enemy, and some of the ablest of the whig party looking with folded arms at the unequal warfare. It was hardly to be expected, but it is to be regretted that it is so. I am sorry to find some whigs occupying this position here. Whigs ought never to occupy a doubtful position. Let them imitate the example of the whigs of the Revolution. They never stood in a doubtful position. I would rather go forth like the Poles, who were driven from their country, and wherever I found the flag of freedom, plant myself there, than occupy a neutral position, separated from all parties. Let us fight on in Virgina. I do not mind one or two keeping away. (The speaker was understood to have reference to Messrs. Michie & Baldwin of Staunton two of the greatest champions of the whig party in this State.) I think we shall defeat them in the United States. Look to the prospects in New York. We have a great whig party there, as we have a great democratic party here, who stood by the Union. They have been defeated once, but they will not be defeated again. They imitated the wisdom of the lady who was married, and immediately after took a pleasure trip with her husband. They went to bed, and soon after, the husband remarked, "Were you aware, my dear, that if you allowed me to take before marriage, the privilege I now take, I never would have married you." "I know that, my dear," was the reply. "But tell me," said he, "how you know it." "Why," said she, "I was told so once before, and treated precisely as you told me you would have treated me under the circumstances you mention." The gentleman took his seat amid uproarious laughter.

Mr. Gilmer—I move that the Hon. A. H. H. Stuart, who no doubt has his speech oozing out through his finger's ends for the last hour, be called up to the stand.

Col. Anderson—I withdraw the resolution for the appointment of a committee, which I offered a while ago. I have no wish to thrash the democratic party through their Governor.

Mr. Tyre Maupin, senior editor of the *National American*, of this city, said:—Mr. President, I renew that resolution. I cannot consent, for one, to allow this Convention to adjourn without obtaining some expression of opinion as to the course which they intend to take in this contest. The proposition of the gentleman was to appoint a committee to report resolutions—a course I never knew any Convention to neglect taking. There are some subjects which may be brought up before that committee, to which some objections are made. That may be very well; but can there be any objection to the appointment of a committee, who shall consider the subjects and determine whether it is necessary to report resolutions or not? Can there be any objection to that? Whether they will condescend to take any notice of this "ebo shin, gizzard-foot" Governor or not, is a matter for them to consider. When they do report, it does not follow that that report shall be adopted. But something should be presented to the consideration of this Convention, setting forth the programme of this canvass, so that gentlemen here appointed to the posts of electors may know what they are to do. As to the resolution endorsing Mr. Fillmore's nomination, I take it for granted there is not a member of the American party who does not endorse it. But is this all that is necessary to be done? Sir, if it was it would be a very agreeable task. We have an enemy to meet—a most potent enemy—who has beaten us very frequently before. They say they can beat us easier now than before. I don't believe it; but, unquestionably, if we do not go into the contest with a resolve to do all we can, we will be defeated. Will the adoption of a resolution endorsing the name of Mr. Fillmore be enough? I think not. Sir, there are some questions of a public nature, about which it is absolutely necessary that the sentiments of this Convention should be understood. Hence it is, I am opposed to the withdrawing of this resolution. I could go into a discussion and give many reasons why a committee should be appointed for the purpose of discussing privately among themselves what is best to be done. I will not undertake to present the reasons which govern my action in this matter, but I insist upon it, that this committee is important, it is necessary; it is in accordance with the universal usages of all assemblies of this kind which have ever convened within the limits of Virginia. They do it in the democratic Conventions. After a session of three days in Richmond recently, they reported resolutions which were adopted; and we come here to do what? To adopt a resolution endorsing Mr. Fillmore's nomination. That follows as a necessary consequence. There will be no dispute on that question; but other questions will come up, sir, which will be of some importance, no doubt, and which it is necessary this Convention should pronounce upon. Do you mean to turn loose these electors without letting them know what shall be the issues in this election? You have probably, in such an event, one on one side advocating certain views, and another on the other side advocating the contrary. I think that gentlemen upon reflection must say, that it would be fatal to our prospects, fatal to our success here, to adjourn with the adoption of a resolution endorsing Fillmore's nothing more. Let me say in regard to our prospects, I feel assured, if you go and meet the enemy man to man, fight him boldly, gallantly and resolutely, that our success will be certain; and now is the time we are to whip him in Virginia. I have no doubt but that we shall do so by taking the proper steps. It was remarked by a gentleman who has been up before that we made a better fight last time than we did at any time before. We polled fourteen thousand more votes than ever belonged to the old whig party. They polled about sixty thousand, and we polled seventy-four thousand. (Loud cheers.) We ought to make a bold fight, for another reason. We have been the minority party in Virgnia; and if we exhibit any lack of vigor in our preparations for the contest, we are beaten in the beginning. Give us this committee; and if they say it is better to make no report, let it be so. Let us have the committee, however, and let them determine whether it is necessary to make a report or not.

Mr. McCue—I concur with the gentleman that a committee will be necessary; but, sir, let us resolve ourselves into a committee of the whole, and let us, sir, put forth a platform upon which we all can stand—a platform upon which the whole American people can stand; and let that platform be in about these words—"That we stand upon the constitution, the compromises of the constitution, Millard Fillmore and Andrew Jackson Donelson." (Cheers.)

Mr. Gilmer—Good; I go for that, anyhow.

Mr. McCue—That is a platform broad enough, long enough for us all to stand upon, and all who live in this country. We have not come here, sir, for the purpose of considering anything in reference to that miserable Governor of ours in the city of Richmond, Henry A. Wise. I want none, none to consider Henry A. Wise, or any proposition which he might have urged against the American party. Platforms are useful things when you have men of steadfast principles to stand upon them. When you have men who present as many different phases as this man Wise does, platforms are useless things—they are useless when you have such men as Pierce and Wise, whose sentiments upon the slavery question are not known to the American people. When you have such men as Millard Fillmore, whose sentiments upon this subject are known to the world, and whose career is set down as a model worthy to be imitated by the greatest ... of any country, we want none. No, gentlemen, let ... rely upon ourselves; let us go into this fight upon this platform—

Let us strike for our altars and our fires,
God and our native land.

(Loud and long continued cheers.)

Col. Anderson—As the gentleman from Richmond city (Mr. Maupin,) objects to the withdrawal of my resolution, I withdraw my motion to withdraw it. I have never seen any good done in a committee of the whole in my life. I have always known business of this kind to be better prepared in a committee room, where they can sit down and deliberate quietly. There will be very little difficulty in revising their action. I will make another remark, sir, I have been misunderstood in the allusions which I made to the Governor. I alluded to him in connection with a system which he himself had inaugurated—that is, the system of universal proscription, which his party throughout the State are endeavoring to carry out. In the election of county officers, now, for the first time an attempt is being made to apply this system. Now, for the first time, the intention is openly avowed, in pursuance of a recommendation emanating in high place, to carry out this system, with reference to the American party, in every grade of offices in the gift of the people of Virginia. It is designed to exclude the American party from all offices in the State. If a question like this is not of sufficient importance for the consideration of this Convention, I cannot imagine what is. I hope this Convention will unite with me in pronouncing gainst such a system.

The question on the adoption of the resolution was put and carried. The President appointed a committee of thirteen, of which the Hon. Alexander H. H. Stuart was chairman.

Mr. Stuart, in obedience to loud calls from all parts of the hall, ascended the platform, and addressed the Convention as follows:—Mr. President and gentlemen of the Convention—I beg you to accept my cordial thanks for the compliment which you have bestowed upon me in inviting me to address you. I wish that I was prepared to deliver an address worthy of this occasion, and of this enlightened audience, but I have to acknowledge myself entirely unprepared; and even if I had the ability, I should not have the time, without trespassing upon the patience of this Convention now, to present the views which I would like to submit to them. The whole field of discussion, of all the great political issues which divide the country, lies before me. The difficulty would be, not in finding material to present, not in determining the mode in which that material should be used, but the difficulty arises out of the very abundance of the causes of complaint which we have against our adversaries, and the abundance of arguments by which we could sustain the cause in which we are now engaged. I would like, if I had the time, to address you upon the history of parties that existed from the foundation of the government down to the present time. I would like to show the principles upon which these parties had been organized. I would like to show the great missions which they have been called upon to fulfil; and to show that when they have successfully fulfilled their missions, they died away, and gave place to others ... are to carry on the partisan questions of the day, and give expression to the living sentiments of the country. But, gentlemen, my time would fail me. Although it would be important to understand the political issues which divide the country, yet I must forego this opportunity of giving my views upon them, and address myself to one or two topics which lie before me. I will premise that the compliment which has been bestowed upon me is not to myself—I regard the fact of my being called upon by this Convention to address them as entirely owing to the peculiar relations which I have sustained to the distinguished nominee of the American party, and that, under those circumstances, I might be prepared to bear some testimony to his patriotism and his high, lofty qualities. I shall, then, commence the remarks which I propose to submit to you from the time of my official connection with Mr. Fillmore. It was in the month of September, 1850, that I was called into the national councils; unexpectedly to myself, I was summoned to take a seat in the Cabinet of Mr. Fillmore. You all recollect the condition of the country at that time; you recollect the great questions which agitated the country; you recollect the important topics which had been discussed in the Congress of the United States; the great measures which had then been debated there; you recollect about that time our indignation at the fact that the great measures of pacification which had been introduced by Mr. Clay had been defeated; you recollect the gloom which overspread the whole country, the deep feeling which agitated the people, as well as the leaders of the people; you recollect that when the news of the failure of that great bill went before the country, that even the humblest citizen felt that the institutions of our country were in danger. These measures were renewed, not in such violent forms as they were originally submitted by Mr. Clay, but brought forward as independent propositions, embraced in different bills; but the whole series of measures constituted one system of abstractions which were urged upon the country by the combined wisdom of the leaders of the democratic as well as the whig party. It was a question of doubt whether these measures would secure the sanction of the Congress of the United States, and many entertained serious fears whether, if they should pass through the two houses of Congress, they would receive the Executive sanction. The country was filled with rumors that even if these bills were passed they would receive an Executive veto. To the call made upon me, I gave a qualified answer in the affirmative. I agreed to accept conditionally; I agreed that I would go in and hold an interview with the President, and that that would determine whether I would participate in his Executive Council. Accordingly I went to Washington, a little before the middle of September, 1850. On my way to the city I heard the news that the Fugitive Slave bill had passed, and that it was about this time being presented to the Executive for his signature. Great uneasiness was felt among the passengers as to what would be the result of that measure in the hands of the Executive. On the evening of my arrival I had an interview with the President, which lasted about two hours. And what was the result? I found, fellow citizens, what I expected to find—that there was no faltering, that there was no wavering, that there was no doubt resting upon his mind as to his constitutional duty. I saw that he had a perfectly clear perception of the position in which he was placed; I saw, from his own declarations, that he was perfectly apprised that when he put his signature to that bill he signed his own political death warrant. He felt that, in the then excited condition of the country, the fixing of his signature to that bill was equivalent to his own abandonment of his political aspirations in relation to the succession to the Presidency; and yet, I repeat, that never for one moment did he hesitate as to the course that he should take. He acted upon the principle that actuated our great and glorious adopted leader, Henry Clay—'I would rather be right than be President.' Yes, fellow citizens, and he faithfully redeemed every pledge that he gave to me, in that language, in innumerable conversations which I had with him, and during the time that I was associated with him. From the time of my first interview with him, until the close of his administration. I never saw one symptom of wavering, of faltering, of doubt, as to the discharge of every duty that rested upon him. You recollect that these various questions which agitated the country, called upon the Executive for the exercise of great wisdom, prudence, and firmness. It was not the mere question of signing the Fugitive Slave law; but there were questions North and South, which required the exercise of even a higher moral courage, and a greater degree of wisdom. Do you recollect that a civil war was threatened between Texas and Mexico? You recollect that Texas threatened to take forcible possession of the territory claimed by New Mexico. What was the course of the President on that occasion? Just what it was throughout. Never hesitating for a moment—never looking whether the measure was popular or unpopular—but looking only to the constitution as his guide, looking only to the welfare of the country as the motive of his action, he promptly issued a proclamation, giving those persons to understand that if they dared to violate the territory of New Mexico, the whole power of the government would be brought to bear to put them down. He is a man that knew no North, no South, no East, no West. I tell you candidly, gentlemen, if I had not known the place of his nativity, I never should have discovered it during my official connection with him. In his official action upon every question, there was perfect impartiality. He looked only to the interests of the country; and I never saw in any one measure that there was the slightest preference for the North over the South, or the South over the North. Why, the very organization of his Cabinet is proof of this. When I state to you the reasons which, as I have heard from himself, had influenced him to organize it as it had been, you will at once see that fairness with which he was disposed to fulfil every duty incumbent upon him. You recollect that in the organization of his Cabinet he gave four to the South and three to the North. He stated to me, that as he was a Northerner, it was proper the Cabinet should be balanced, thus making four Northern men to four Southern men, and preventing the possibility of the ascendancy of either section in the Cabinet Council. Gentlemen, the Fugitive Slave bill was passed, and I could not tell all that I may know of the influences that were sought to be brought to bear upon him in reference to his action upon that subject. I might tell you of the appeals to his ambition—the representations that were made to him that he would be the idol of the North; that his re-nomination and re-election were inevitable, if he refused to sign that bill; that he was told, on the other hand, "If you affix your signature to that bill, then your political career is ended—then you may despair of ever again being elected into any elevated position by the North—then you may expect the hatred and virulent abuse of what they call the friends of freedom to be poured out in unnumbered quantities upon your head." But you might as well expect one of the showers of May to wash away the rock of Gibraltar as that representations like these was to influence the conduct of Millard Fillmore. He did his duty firmly, fearlessly and faithfully; and, fellow citizens, it was but a short time after the feeling which had been represented to exist, and which, it was said, would manifest itself in hostility to him, did exhibit itself in the North. You recollect the resistance to the Fugitive Slave law which occurred in Massachusetts. You recollect the resistance to the same law which occurred in Philadelphia, when it seemed as if the old Cradle of Liberty had forgotten all her ancient history, had forgotten the days of Hancock, of Adams, and of all the illustrious heroes of the Revolution, and had given herself up to a wild fanaticism. You recollect that a negro in the custody of the law was forcibly rescued from that custody; and, fellow citizens, let me here say, that some fault has been found with Mr. Fillmore for not removing the Marshal who had that negro in custody. And, fellow citizens, I will tell you the reason. At the time of that rescue the Marshal was not within three hundred miles of the city of Boston. To my personal knowledge, he was in my house at Washington about the time, and had probably got so far as Baltimore on his return home, when the rescue occurred. But such was the anxiety of the President to do right, that immediately upon the news of the rescued being being brought to him, he submitted the question to the Attorney General, to say whether the Marshal was to blame—whether he was guilty of any fault, either of commission or omission. The Attorney General's reply was, that the Marshal took every step that prudence would require, and reported to the President that he ought not be removed. The President, therefore, did not remove him; but he communicated his judgment with these remarks:—"I inform the Marshal that his conduct would not justify his removal; but I notify him, if another case occurs, he will be removed, whether he fails or not." It will be enough to know that he was unlucky. Another circumstance occurred in Boston, which called for further action. The President was informed that there were military companies and a large mob preparing to rescue the fugitive Burns from the custody of the Marshal. What was the course then of this man—that these democratic editors now, with a full knowledge of the facts before them, dare to say is an abolitionist—what was his course? He put the naval and military power under the control of the Executive, and he gave specific instructions as to the course they were to pursue in the crisis. Companies of marines were marched to guard the prison, and his instructions were, that there was to be no childs play there, no firing of blank cartridges. The officer of marines was ordered to have his park of artillery charged with grape shot, and he was placed under the control of the civil authority of the country, and if necessary, to sweep the city of Boston. His orders were, that every man who was found in resistance to the laws of the country was to be treated as an enemy to the country; and you hear a great deal of credit given to General Pierce for issuing orders to place the military at the control of the civil police. I venture the assertion that he gave no orders to that effect. I venture to say that all the orders given were those of Mr. Fillmore, which were permanent. Fellow citizens, you recollect how this thing terminated; you recollect that the mob were overawed, and that the result was, the law was maintained; violence was prevented, and the supremacy of the constitution and of the law, made in pursuance of it, was maintained with a firm and steady hand. But scarcely had that great question been adjusted when one occurred in the South. Many of the facts connected with the dissatisfaction which existed in the State of South Carolina are not known to the country. But I tell you about that time there was a dissatisfaction in South Carolina, which threatened to break out in open rebellion. The government was well informed upon the condition of things there; and such was the state of public feeling, that not a lawyer could be obtained in Charleston to accept the office of District Attorney. It was offered first to Mr. Pettigrew, but he declined it, not from any fear of the consequences, but because it conflicted with his other duties. It was offered to others, and they refused, upon the ground that it might bring them in conflict with their fellow citizens; and it was only after several fruitless efforts to obtain an attorney who would maintain the laws of the country that Mr. Pettigrew, that noble fellow, whose name I never mention except with feelings of pride, came forward and solicited the appointment, saying that he would uphold the President in maintaining the laws. Such was the state of feeling, that it was said there would be an attempt made to take Fort Moultrie. The fortification was completely unarmed, and it was said there would be an attack upon the fort. Troops were poured into it, and stationed in the neighborhood, with a determination that the flag of the United States should not be pulled down from Fort Moultrie. A correspondence took place on that occasion between the Governor of South Carolina and the President, which never saw the light. The Governor took occasion to ask the President by what authority he had sent such a force of troops to Fort Moultrie. Mr. Fillmore informed him that he was the President of the United States; that as such he was commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States, and that it devolved upon him to place the troops wherever, in his discretion, it was thought necessary. That was the reply he received. I tell you that Mr. Fillmore would have maintained the supremacy of the laws in Southern soil just as firmly as he maintained them on Northern soil. He never looked to the section where they were combatted; he looked to his constitutional duties, always adhering to the principle that the constitution made it his interest, ... upon him, to defend the laws of the United States wherever they might be assailed. There is one point upon which I have heard a great deal of blame ... to Mr. Fillmore, and, as I have thought, most unjustly. I have been written to, to give a statement of the case, but refused to do so, on the ground that the record evidence being accessible, should be referred to in preference to parole evidence. I heard it said that Mr. Fillmore exhibited a strong abolition feeling in pardoning some kidnappers who were imprisoned in Washington. I will tell you the facts of this case, to the best of my recollection, believing that in every substantial feature it is correct. If not, the record evidence will be submitted, and by that it will be seen how far my recollection of the affair is at fault, if at all. In 1847, when the abolition feeling was running very strong, a number of that party in the city of Washington hired some four or five agents to aid a large number of negroes to escape from the District of Columbia. They made their escape, but the alarm was given; they were pursued, arrested, brought back, indicted and tried for the offence, under the laws of the District of Columbia. The law of the District, as it then stood, made this offence not a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the Penitentiary, but a simple misdemeanor, and the punishment was not confinement in the Penitentiary, but a fine; and it further provided further, that in the event of the non-payment of the fine, imprisonment should follow until the fine should be paid. The imprisonment was given, not as the period of punishment; in other words, no fixed term of imprisonment was indicated by the imposition of a fine, but of course, in default of its payment, he was confined. A fine of $12,000 was imposed upon them. They were all poor, and the consequence was they were unable to pay the fine, and they were therefore incarcerated in 1847, where they remained until 1852—something about five years. Maryland, after the district had been ceded, or at least that portion given by her, changed her law. She made the offence a felony, punishable by confinement for five years. Virginia, just across the river, made the same offence a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for five years. Thus, on both sides of the District, the punishment was confinement in the penitentiary for five years. These persons having suffered a confinement of five years, it was considered by the citizens of the District of Columbia, and by many of the owners of the slaves themselves, that they had sufficiently atoned for this offence, and they accordingly united in a petition to the President for their pardon, on the ground that they had already suffered the punishment which would have been inflicted upon them if the offence had been committed in Maryland or Virginia. This being so, they held that it would be a strange anomaly if in the District of Columbia the term of imprisonment should be greater than that imposed by the two adjoining States. They said it was a reproach upon the national justice, upon humanity—that if the men had been rich, they never would have gone to jail at all; because they happen to be poor, they should be confined until $12,000 was paid—which would be equivalent to imprisonment for life. And I say here that I advised the President of the United States to pardon these men, as they had already had sufficient punishment. My object in detaining you in respect to this matter is, that when the canvass opens, you will hear all these things brought forward, and I wish you to be informed in reference to the facts of the case, that you may know how to meet slanderous charges that have been brought against him. Fellow citizens, I have given you this review of the prominent measures of Mr. Fillmore's administration, connected with the sectional questions for the purpose of showing to you that if there is any man upon the face of this earth worthy to be called to the executive chair, to hold the reins of government with a firm hand, and to do equal justice to all sections of the country; who is ready to maintain the supremacy of the law and the guarantees of the constitution—who is disposed to look at this country as if there was no section in it—and here let me tell an anecdote of Mr. Webster, which the use of the word "section" reminds me of. On one occasion some gentleman, in making some remark at the Cabinet table, used the word "section" in reference to our country. Mr. Webster, in his peculiar, solemn and impressive manner, said:—Mr. ——, will you allow me to correct your language; I trust you never will again use that word in connection with our country; "section" is something cut off; I thank God there is nothing yet cut off from this glorious country.

Mr. Gilmer—That's a fact. There never will be. Give us more of that.

Mr. Stuart, continuing—I would just as soon rely upon Mr. Fillmore to maintain the rights of the South as upon John C. Calhoun, if he were now living. I speak this, not as a partizan, but upon my responsibility as a Virginia gentleman. I say that, under all the obligations which an oath could impose, Mr. Fillmore was as much to be relied upon as John C. Calhoun; and I believe that there is no man who would be truer to the North, so far as she had rights that were guaranteed to her by the constitution. He is emphatically a national man. His only guide was the constitution and the law; his only motive, one of true national patriotism. Just as I had foreseen, when the whig Convention made Seward and his mercenaries the chief managers at the chess board, Mr. Fillmore was thrown overboard, and General Scott was nominated for the succession. Far be it from me to throw any imputation upon General Scott. I believe that General Scott would be as true to the constitution as Mr. Fillmore himself. I believe he would have maintained the constitution as faithfully as any man that walks the face of this earth. But General Scott was not identified with those measures that were so obnoxious to that class, and, therefore, Mr. Fillmore was thrown overboard, and General Scott taken up for the purpose, I have no doubt, of cheating the people of the United States, by holding him out as a Southern man by birth and education, and, therefore, not obnoxious to the charge of being in feeling a Northerner. Then came the National Convention of the democratic party; and what did they do? The whig party having been demoralized by renouncing the champion of the principles which they declared to be the true and correct principles, and by the nomination of Gen. Scott, the democratic party followed suit, for the purpose of contending with the whig party for the abolition vote. It threw aside Cass, Buchanan and Douglas, and brought forward Pierce. And why? Was there anything in his antecedent history, in the National Council or the tented fields, which would entitle him to this great distinction? Nothing whatever. It was his very obscurity—the very fact that he was represented to hold this opinion in secret, and that he happened to be a Northerner, that secured for him the nomination. The democrats thus outbid the whigs for the abolition vote. They got it, and by the aid of that abolition vote and the foreign vote, together with other scattering votes, they secured the election of Mr. Pierce by an unprecedented majority. And what is their condition now? You saw that after Gen. Pierce was elected, the country became perfectly demoralized. He was represented as a national man, and held to be such at the South. At the North he was represented—and no doubt correctly—as having certain affinities with anti-slavery men; and you can see that that view is sustained by his course in the Presidency, for you find that he has been the friend of both parties—that he has been "out Heroding Herod" in a determination to carry out the policy of the South; and yet if you look the other way, you find that while he sets forth in his message doctrines in reference to Southern interests which Mr. Calhoun would have hardly advanced, he is removing every national man, like Bronson, in New York, and puts Dickinson completely under the ban—you find that while he puts forward the Nebraska bill, he is telling the Northern men that it is a great measure for the North; and we find that his platform is to be this Kansas Nebraska bill and slavery extension for the South, and Kansas Nebraska and no more slavery States for the North. And while he made this measure the test of political orthodoxy, what was his course when the bill passed? Why, he sends to Kansas a well known abolitionist, and when an outcry was raised in reference to this act, he was understood to plead ignorance of his proclivities, and to quell the clamor in the South he substitutes another for him. Mr. Stuart, after a few other remarks of this character relative to President Pierce, went on to state, as a certainty, that the electoral votes of the following States would go for Fillmore:—Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Louisiana, Missouri, California, Delaware, Texas and Florida. These fifteen States cast 157 electoral votes, viz.: Massachusetts, 13; New York, 35; Rhode Island, 4; New Jersey, 7; Pennsylvania, 27; Maryland, 8; Kentucky, 12; Tennessee, 12; North Carolina, 10; Louisiana, 6; Missouri, 9; California, 4; Delaware, 3; Texas, 4; Florida, 3. This would give Fillmore a majority of eleven electoral votes.

At the close of Mr. Stuart's speech, the Convention adjourned, to meet again at half-past eight o'clock P. M., to receive the report of the committee of thirteen, appointed under Col. Anderson's resolution, to report resolutions for the consideration of the Convention.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Convention re-assembled at half-past eight P. M. Mr. Alex. H. H. Stuart, from the committee appointed to draft resolutions, reported the following:—

1. Resolved, That this Convention do cordially ratify the nomination of Millard Fillmore for the Presidency of the United States, knowing him to be a tried statesman, who has heretofore, in the same high and responsible position, fulfilled every duty incumbent on him, in the true spirit of the constitution; and in the firm belief that if elected again to the Presidency, he will be true to the constitution and the Union—knowing no North, no South, no East, no West, but looking with the eye of a patriot and a statesman to the interests of the whole country.

2. That we will, with equal cordiality, support Andrew J. Donelson for the office of Vice President, believing him to be a firm friend of the Union, and a true patriot; and feeling assured that in any contingency which may arise he will be faithful to the constitution, and inflexibly opposed to every measure calculated to impair the rights or endanger the safety of any portion of the country.

3. That this Convention do most emphatically condemn those features of the Kansas Nebraska bill which recognise the principle of squatter sovereignty, and the rights of foreigners to vote immediately upon their making a declaration of their purpose to become, at a future day, citizens of the Territories; believing, as we do, that those features are not only in violation of the principles of our naturalization laws, but eminently calculated to create dissension in the Territories, and ensure the ascendancy of the anti-slavery sentiment in every Territory which may hereafter be formed out of the public domain of the United States.

4. That in the opinion of this Convention, the ruthless proscription, and the harsh invectives which have been employed by the democratic party towards the members of the American party, are not only unjustifiable and unpatriotic, but merit the severe condemnation of all good citizens of Virginia.

5. That the democratic party are justly responsible for the embarrassed condition of the finances of Virginia, and the onerous burden of taxation under which her citizens groan.

The question on the adoption of these resolutions was taken *seriatim*. When the third was read,

Mr. McCue, of Staunton, arose and opposed it. He argued the necessity of withholding any opinion upon the subject of that resolution. He said they were not in a condition to argue the slavery question, and the bearing of the resolution was strongly in that way. The adoption of that resolution he held to be liable to a construction of a purpose to revive the agitation of the slavery question. He admitted having objections to this Kansas-Nebraska bill, but said they were not insuperable. In the present issue, all that was involved was fidelity to the constitution and the laws, and he for one would deplore any reopening of a question which was now settled, and thereby give an advantage to the enemy.

Mr. Stuart said the gentleman misapprehended the purport of the resolution. He denied that it was calculated to re-open the agitation of the slavery question. It simply condemned the infamous squatter sovereignty features, and that which allowed foreigners to vote after they had declared their intention of becoming citizens. As at present, they can come into the territory in the morning, and having declared their intentions, vote the same day.

Mr. McCue said that no one was more opposed to these features of the bill than he, but he had an objection to any interference at this time with the Kansas bill. If there were such evils as represented, why was not a remedy proposed for them. His opposition was dictated by a desire to put a stop to any unmeaning agitation, such as he considered this resolution was calculated to bring about. Their complaints at this time, with reference to those features, were worth nothing. When they got into power it would be for them then to get rid of them. The question on the adoption of the resolution was put and carried, Mr. McCue being the only dissenting voice.

The other resolutions were then adopted.

After a few uninteresting speeches, the Convention adjourned at a late hour, *sine die*.

Judge McLean defines his Position, and is Qualified for the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Nomination.

CONGRESS AND THE TERRITORIES.

House of Representatives, May 13, 1856.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer:—

Thanking you for reproducing yesterday the communication from Judge McLean of December 22, 1847, I have now to request that you will give a place to the accompanying brief correspondence between the Judge and Senator Cass, which has grown out of the allusions of the latter in his speech on the 12th instant to that communication. The purpose of General Cass was to fortify, by the opinion of so able a jurist as Judge McLean, his argument against the power of the Federal government to legislate on the subject of slavery in the Territories, and he very properly now, as he did in 1850, cites the authority of the Judge in denial of the power of Congress to institute that relation in a Territory; and so far he and Judge McLean occupy the same ground. But here they part company, General Cass denying and Judge McLean as emphatically affirming the power of Congress to prohibit. Of this power, as Judge McLean says in his note, he never entertained nor expressed any doubt; but, on the contrary, has often asserted it. The object of General Cass, as it appears by his reply, was not to impute to Judge McLean a denial of the power to prohibit, but, by way of argument, to infer from the absence of the power to institute, as asserted by Judge McLean, the absence of the power to prohibit. Of the force of the argument I have nothing now to say, for it is not my purpose to raise any question with Gen. Cass on the subject.

The doctrine of Judge McLean, as clearly deducible from his communication, is briefly this:—That Congress has no power to institute slavery in the Territories, and, *a fortiori*, cannot delegate that power to a Territory; and that a Territorial government cannot exercise that power; and hence it results that slavery cannot lawfully exist in a Territory so long as it remains in a Territorial condition, except in the case of territory in which that relation exists at the time of its acquisition, and in such a case Judge McLean holds that Congress, in the exercise of a police power, may regulate and prohibit that relation in its discretion.

Washington, May 13, 1856.

My Dear Sir—A friend stated to me yesterday that he understood you to say that I did not consider that Congress had power, under the constitution, to prohibit slavery in a Territory. I never doubted that Congress had this power, and I could never have expressed any doubt on the subject.

You may recollect that I have, in conversations with you, often said that Congress, having the power to establish a Territorial government, might, in the exercise of a police power, prohibit slavery, although they had no constitutional power to institute it.

I informed my friend that I was sure he misapprehended you. I drop this note that, in the publication of your speech you may correct any mistake of the stenographer on this subject. Very truly yours, JOHN McLEAN.

Hon. L. Cass.

Washington, May 13, 1856.

My Dear Sir—I received your note just as I was preparing to resume my speech, and therefore could not answer you then. Your informant is in error. All I said was to present precisely the view I took in 1850.

I have just looked it over, and find I have said nothing of your denial of the power. It refers to your opinion that Congress has no right to control the domestic relations, and introduces a quotation from your article of 1847, in which you deny the power of Congress to introduce slavery into the Territories. If I can get a proof copy of that part of my remarks this afternoon, I will send it to you; but, I repeat, the views I have presented of the question are little more than a repetition of my views in 1850. I am, dear sir, truly yours,

Hon. John McLean. LEWIS CASS.

The Maryland Whigs.

[From the Annapolis, Md., Republican.]

From the information which we have received from various parts of the State, within the last few weeks, we are satisfied that old Maryland will cast her vote for the nominee of the Democratic Convention. Hundreds of prominent whigs who last fall did not vote, have united with the democratic party, and will use their influence to overthrow the intolerant and proscriptive party.

The Mariposas Estate of California—Colonel Fremont and Palmer, Cook & Co.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Within the past few weeks I have occasionally seen, in letters emanating from Washington, statements relative to the Mariposas estate which require some notice; and inasmuch as I had certain relations with that property, in this country and England, during 1850, '51 and '52, I should be glad to present, through the medium of your columns, some facts which may be of importance to the public, more particularly, however, to those who may contemplate investments in gold mining operations.

It is somewhat surprising that the exaggerated estimates of this estate—counted only by millions—which have been circulated so assiduously throughout the Union, should not have received some attention from those who may be better acquainted with its resources; and I can only account for it in this way—that those who really are cognizant of the facts have looked upon them as too palpably absurd to demand their notice. If so, they did not know their bearing, and nothing, probably, of the mercenary motives by which certain interested parties are actuated in keeping such statements constantly before the public.

If this "Mariposa" estate is so rich in veins of gold bearing quartz and in placers, how is it that so many of those who have invested large sums in mining machinery, and in its erection upon this property, have realized so little? How is it that Commodore Stockton and Mr. Aspinwall, of New York, after incurring great expenditures in sending out their machinery and a corps of miners from Virginia, abandoned and relinquished the claims which they held by lease from Col. Fremont? Simply because they could not make them pay. To my knowledge they employed some of the most experienced and capable miners from the gold mines in the State of Virginia; likewise, the most efficient stamping and crushing machinery known at that time. Their claims, too, were on the richest lode, and near the town of Mariposa, the same upon which Messrs. Palmer, Cook & Co. had previously erected their stamps and Chilian mill, and I know that I hazard nothing in stating that these gentlemen did not even get back one-fourth of their expenses in Mariposa gold.

If this estate is so rich in gold bearing veins of quartz and auriferous deposites, how is it that the majority of those who were engaged in mining and washing for gold in 1850 and even since, have not realized, in most instances, enough to remunerate them for their time, labor and expenditure?

Why did not Messrs. Jackson and Walker, of Baltimore and Washington, who embarked largely in machinery, &c., also continue their operations on the Mariposas? Because, after expending more than $25,000 they were satisfied, like many others too numerous to mention, they had been deceived. Why did Messrs. Worth & Co., of Richmond, Va., who took out a staff of miners during the summer of 1850, and located near the "Agua Fria" mine, about four miles from the town of Mariposa—also, abandon their operations? Because they did not pay. Why did Messrs. Palmer, Cook & Co., who, having, as was generally conceded, the best claim on the richest vein, abandon it? Why have not the London Agua Fria Mining Company, who had an actual capital of $500,000, with which they bought the mine of the above name, continue their mining operations? Because, after an expenditure of two-thirds of their working capital in sending out machinery and a superior corps of Cornish miners, they, too, found it would not pay. If the mineral resources of this wonderful estate are so astounding, why were several thousand dollars given to Col. Plume by one of the present proprietors, during the spring of 1851, at Philadelphia, for five boxes of rich specimens of gold quartz, which had been collected in different parts of California? Were they bought to facilitate the sale of a certain mining lease upon the Mariposas to the "Philadelphia and California" Mining Company? Or were they purchased in order to sustain more effectually the representations made to the directors of the London "Agua Fria Company?"

It would be encouraging and quite agreeable to know of a solitary individual who has made anything by quartz mining on this property. Some money may have been made by sheer speculation in mines and their leases, but little or nothing by practical mining operations. The accounts published from time to time in the newspapers, would lead one who is not familiar with California to infer that the Mariposas is the modern Ophir—that its riches are incalculable and its possessors the nabobs of this hemisphere! Some of the writers at Washington, in their golden dreams have announced to the world—*mirabile dictu!*—that Col. Fremont, since the confirmation of his title, is worth his millions. This is all very well, and so far as the Colonel is concerned I heartily wish it was so; but it is a myth, intended to mislead those who are expected to invest their money for the benefit more particularly of his associates, in their contemplated canal, &c., for introducing the waters of the Rio Merced upon their property.

The Mariposas estate is, as all may know who are familar with California, situated in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, about two hundred and fifty miles from San Francisco and one hundred in a southerly direction from Stockton. So remote from any important market, and being a great distance in a direct line from the sea coast, its agricultural resources, no matter how good they may be, are not likely for a long time to come, to hold out any very great inducements to the farmer so long as the rich and extensive valleys nearer San Francisco are unoccupied.

In our Atlantic States this property, so far as its mineral resources may be concerned, is not so well known as in England, where more than a million of dollars were put up in 1851-'52 by English capitalists for legitimate mining operations; and now, after a fair and most thorough trial of four or five years, all their mines on the Mariposas have been abandoned, and the London California companies, which have managed to exist up to the present time, have erected their stamping mills, &c., upon more productive lodes in other parts of the State.

Before the abundance of gold in Australia was known in England, this property could have been sold, during the spring of 1852, as a mere speculation, for probably one million sterling; but now it is fair to presume that the whole 45,000 acres would not command more than any other rough, broken and inhospitable tract of the same extent on the gold belt of North and South Carolina, and perhaps not so much. In the northwestern part of Virginia, the topography of which is similar to the foot hills of the Sierra Nevada, there are many tracts of the same area of greater mineral wealth, which will afford their proprietors in time a greater revenue from coal, iron, &c., than will ever be realized in gold mined or washed from the Mariposas.

There are many interesting facts which, with the geological and mining reports carefully and thoroughly made by two engineers, who were sent to explore the Mariposas and other parts of California, will appear shortly in a pamphlet, showing up this property, and some of those identified with it, in no enviable light.

THOMAS DENNY SARGENT.

Washington City, D. C.

N. B.—The statement which appeared in the newspapers a few days since, that "Colonel Fremont had been offered, by a Liverpool house, a very large sum of money for his undivided half interest in the Mariposas," is quite preposterous. No Englishman or Californian in his senses would, I dare say, think of giving more than 50 cents or $1 per acre for the hill land, and, perhaps, $4 or $5 for that which might be susceptible of tillage. To be sure there is gold upon the property; but Englishmen know too well that it costs more to mine it than it is worth, and I should not wonder if some Americans had found it out by this time.

Interesting Discovery of Ancient Medals.

An interesting numismatical treasure was lately discovered in Hirzenberg, near Arlon, Province of Luxemburg. Some workmen engaged in uprooting trees found an earthen vase, strongly covered with slate, which contained from 10,000 to 12,000 small brass medals, many of which, when examined, were found to belong to the third century of the Christian era. The coins are of different dies, and they bear the following inscriptions:—Gallienus et Salolina, (his wife); Claudius Gothicus, Tetricus, senior; Tetricus, junior. On about one-third of the coins that were examined the inscriptions were found to be very plain, on the others they were nearly effaced. This remarkable treasure was removed and deposited in the Police office at Arlon.