KANSAS AFFAIRS.

Closing Scenes of the Pro-Slavery Convention—The Constitution as Finally Adopted—Form of the Provisional Government—Feeling of the People.

[From the Tribune—Nigger Worshipper.]

THE LECOMPTON CONVENTION.

LECOMPTON, Nov. 7, 1857.

After some preliminary business in reference to the Committee on the whole Constitution, Mr. H. M. Moore arose and said that he had voted last night on the final vote to adopt the report as a whole, as amended, in order that he might move a reconsideration. He made that motion. Here a question of order arose as to whether the gentleman could move for a reconsideration, as the yeas and nays had not been called. After considerable discussion, and some hard words as to a question of veracity, the vote was taken by yeas and nays to reconsider the vote of last night (which decided that the constitution should be sent direct to Congress). The vote stood yeas 27, nays 24. This is the largest vote yet thrown in the Convention. Last night forty-nine voted, a few new hands having come in. This morning 51, the other two having been fished up. One man was deafched from the ultras. An attempt was next made to spring the previous question—this failed. Mr. Hereford offered as an amendment the substance of the majority report, together with Mr. Mobley's test oath, and also a proposition to submit the whole constitution to a vote of "Constitution" or "No Constitution"—if the nays throw a majority of the votes cast at the election, the constitution to be null and void.

The proposal thus introduced was merely a trap to catch those men who insisted that the constitution should be submitted. Those who introduced and voted for it intended and did vote to strike it out.

Mr. MOBLEY said that this proposition contained the substance of the treacherous matter of the majority report. It was the same serpent with a different light upon its scales. Gentlemen must know that the interests of the South were not left wholly to the mercy of political speculators. Those who entertained the minority report had with them and had been counselled by the first statesmen of the nation. There are friends of this party in the Cabinet. There is at least one man there that the lust of office cannot buy. These men have corresponded with the friends of Southern rights in this Territory. They have exposed this trick and its authors. There are those here who can meet, it in spite of the power and frowns of official patronage. He was for a fair submission or no submission at all.

HUGH H. MOORE replied to Mr. Mobley ironically. He was irresistibly ludicrous, and the Convention laughed; but whether at him or Mr. Mobley is perhaps doubtful. He finally undertook to show the inconsistency of Mr. Mobley, but was not equally lucid as to his own. He admitted the caucusing, but urged that it was merely for the benefit of the Territory and the Union.

Mr. LITTLE complained of the remarks of President Calhoun and others, who had, he thought, spoken disrespectfully of the intelligence and integrity of those voting for the minority report. He read an extract from Mr. Douglas' Springfield speech of last June to prove that Congress would receive this constitution without any vote on it. He asked what the majority report men meant by their arguments. They had urged their way of submission, on the ground that the abolitionists had a large majority; and if they wanted to submit, and were sincere, did they not see that the effect would be to make no constitution? Did they mean this? Would they take this position here? There was an inconsistency in their arguments, or there was some deception in their proposal. He charged Mr. Moore with changing for selfish or ambitious considerations. He contended that Congress must and would admit Kansas.

Mr. DANFORTH made some sarcastic allusions to the theatrical oration of Mr. Moore, whose remarks offered nothing new. The Convention had already decided on the proposal before them, and those who again dragged it up ought to sustain their positions with some new light on the subject. When Mr. Danforth speaks he uses few words. He is the real leader of the ultras.

On the reconsideration, the vote stood for Mr. Hereford's amendment, 26 to 25. A motion to adjourn until after dinner was immediately made by Judge Elmore. Mr. Danforth moved to insert *sine die*. (Excitement and confusion.) After some explanation, Mr. Danforth withdrew his amendment, and the Convention adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Gen. Eastin in the chair. The question occurred on adopting the section. Mr. Jenkins rose to speak. Mr. Calhoun objected that he was not in order. Some discussion ensued, threatening a storm. Mr. Calhoun said, that in order to put the matter in a debatable light, he would move to strike out that part of the section, as amended, that allowed the people to vote on the constitution. He did this to put the subject before the Convention.

Mr. DANFORTH said the men in this Convention understood the matter. They understood all this manœuvring. They were not to be caught with all these baits. He hoped Mr. Jenkins would be allowed to speak.

Mr. JENKINS rehearsed the steps of this struggle—the reports—the decisions—amendments and considerations. He assailed the majority report as an administration measure, brought here to be lobbied through by official influence.

Mr. JOHN RANDOLPH offered this resolution:—

Resolved, That this Convention adopt the Topeka constitution, and then adjourn *sine die*.

Mr. RANDOLPH wanted to speak, but the Chair decided him out of order.

Mr. CHRISTISON moved to strike out all of the report as adopted that allows the people to vote on the constitution. The amendment was laid before the Convention, when Mr. John Randolph, having still the floor, proceeded to speak to the amendment of Mr. Christison. He referred to his position; he had been elected as a non-submission man. He had never voted for submission in any shape, and never would. He would vote for submission only in one way. He would submit it to such of the free State men as had been two years in the Territory, and who could get fourteen decent pro-slavery men to swear that they were fit to vote, and that they should also swear to support the Kansas-Nebraska bill, the fugitive slave law and the laws passed by the first Legislature. He derided the democracy. It was said that the democracy could save the country—why could they not save Kansas? He alluded to the letters and opinions from "great men" outside of the Convention. He, too, had conversed with great men. Ignorant as he was, rough as he was, and "undomesticated" as he was, he had gone arm in arm through the streets of Atchison and Leavenworth with some of the first men of the nation. He "knowed" what was the opinion of the great men of the nation as well as any of them, and it was not for submission.

The CHAIR decided that the question to be voted on was the amendment of Mr. Christison. When the vote was taken, it stood—for the amendment, 26; against it, 23.

An amendment was offered, so that the President of the Convention shall appoint three Commissioners in each county, who shall appoint judges of election for said county. Carried.

It was also amended so that the word "citizen" was stricken out, and the words "white male inhabitant" inserted. A variety of amendments were adroitly introduced and considered, or acted on, before another vote was allowed to be taken, and when it was acted on circumstances had been brought to bear in the best manner, and a victory was obtained. The vote on the section as amended was—yeas 26, nays 20, with several absentees. When the vote was taken on the schedule as thus loaded and amended—and such an omnibus never before went over the political pavement—it stood, yeas 28, nays 22. Mr. Jenkins protested indignantly and left the Convention, which adjourned till 7 o'clock.

NIGHT SESSION.

JOHN RANDOLPH offered a resolution that the pages of this Convention receive the same per diem as members. Carried.

The Committee on Arranging the constitution reported, and its Chairman (Judge Carroll) read the order of the constitution.

The executive report was slightly amended and accepted.

The legislative report was amended so as to include a part of a section relating to calling yeas and nays.

The report on elections was amended so as to make a change in the representative districts of Wise, Butler and Hunter counties.

An amendment to the report on internal improvements, so that the school sections or funds arising therefrom shall be a general fund for the whole State rather than a separate fund for the separate townships, was adopted.

Mr. WELLS offered a clause, defining treason against the State, as follows:—

Treason against the State shall only consist in levying war against it, and in adhering to its enemies or giving them aid and comfort. This to be proved by two witnesses to one overt act.

On motion to incorporate it in the miscellaneous report, it was adopted without a dissenting voice.

On the final passage of the whole constitution, as amended, the yeas and nays were called, and only 28, a minority of the Convention, could be got to vote for the constitution. Several members had resigned. It was just midnight when they adjourned.

SCHEDULE AS FINALLY ADOPTED.

Sec. 1. That no inconvenience may arise by reason of a change from a Territorial to a permanent State government, it is declared that all rights, actions, prosecutions, judgments, claims and contracts, as well of individuals as of bodies corporate (Admendment—except the bill incorporating banks by the last Territorial Legislature, which is hereby declared null and void), shall continue as if no such change had taken place, and all processes which may have issued under the authority of the Territory of Kansas, shall be as valid as if issued in the name of the State of Kansas.

Sec. 2. All laws now in force in the Territory of Kansas, which are not repugnant to this constitution, shall continue and be of force until altered, amended or repealed by a legislature assembled by the provisions of this constitution.

Sec. 3. All fines, penalties, all forfeitures, accruing to the Territory of Kansas, shall enure to the use of the State of Kansas.

Sec. 4. All recognizances heretofore taken shall pass to, and be prosecuted in the name of the State of Kansas; and all bonds executed to the Governor of the Territory, or to any other officer or court in his or their official capacity, shall pass to the Governor or the State authority, and his successors in office, and for the use therein expressed, and may be sued for and recovered accordingly; and all the estates or property—real, personal, or mixed, and all judgments, bonds, specialities, cases in action, and claims or debts of whatsoever description of the Territory of Kansas, shall enure to, and vest in the State of Kansas, and be sued for and recovered in the same manner and to the same extent as the same could have been by the Territory of Kansas.

Sec. 5. All criminal prosecutions, and penal actions, which may have arisen before the change from a Territorial to a State government, and which shall then be pending, shall be prosecuted to judgment in the name of the State; all actions at law, and suits in equity, which may be pending in the courts of the Territory of Kansas, at the time of the change from a Territorial to a State government, may be continued and transferred to any court of the State which shall have jurisdiction of the subject matter thereof.

Sec. 6. All officers, civil and military, holding their offices under the authority of the Territory of Kansas, shall continue to hold and exercise their respective offices until they shall be superseded by the authority of the State.

Sec. 7. All county and township officers shall continue to hold their respective offices, unless removed by a law of the Legislature provided for by this constitution.

Sec. 8. This constitution shall be submitted to the Congress of the United States at its next ensuing session, and as soon as official information has been received that it is approved by the same, by the admission of the State of Kansas as one of the sovereign States of the United States, the President of this Convention shall issue his proclamation to convene the State Legislature at the seat of government within thirty days after its publication. Should any vacancy occur by death, resignation or otherwise, in the Legislature or other office, he shall order an election to fill such vacancy; provided, however, in case of refusal, absence or disability of the President of this Convention to discharge the duties herein imposed on him, the President *pro tem.* of this Convention shall perform said duties, and in case of absence, refusal or disability of the President *pro tem.*, a committee, consisting of five members of this Convention or a majority of them, shall discharge the duties required of the President of this Convention. * * * * * Before the constitution shall be thus forwarded to Congress, the President of this Convention, or in his absence, by reason of his death, resignation or otherwise, the President *pro tem.*, shall by proclamation declare that on the 21st day of December, 1857, at the different election precincts now established by law in the Territory of Kansas, an election shall be held, over which shall preside three judges, to be appointed by the President of this Convention, or in his absence, by reason of death, resignation or otherwise, the President *pro tem.*; at which election the constitution framed by this Convention shall be submitted to all the male citizens of the Territory of Kansas over the age of twenty-one years for ratification or rejection, in the following manner and form:—The voting shall be by ballot. The judges of said election shall cause to be kept two poll books, by —— clerks, by them appointed; the ballots cast at said election shall be endorsed "Constitution with slavery," or "Constitution without slavery." One of said poll books shall be deposited with the President of this Convention, or in his absence, by reason of his death, resignation or otherwise, the President *pro tem.*, and the other to be retained by the judges of election, and kept open for inspection. The President of the Convention, or in his absence, by reason of his death, resignation or otherwise, the President *pro tem.*, with two or more members of this Convention, shall examine said poll books, and if it shall appear, upon said examination, that a majority of the votes cast at said election be in favor of the "Constitution with slavery," he shall immediately have transmitted the constitution so ratified to the Congress of the United States for admission into the Union as a sovereign State, under said constitution. But if, upon such examination of said poll books, it shall appear that a majority of the votes cast at said election be in favor of the "Constitution without slavery," then the article providing for slavery shall be stricken from this constitution by the President of this Convention, or in his absence by reason of death, resignation or otherwise, by the President *pro tem.*, and slavery shall no longer exist in the State of Kansas (except that the right of property in slaves now in this Territory shall in no manner be interfered with), and he shall immediately have transmitted the constitution so ratified to the Congress of the United States for admission into the Union as a sovereign State, under the said constitution.

Sec. 9. Every white male inhabitant, who is a citizen of the United States at the time of the first election, and is above the age of twenty-one years, shall be deemed an elector at the first election to be holden in this State; and any elector qualified as aforesaid shall be entitled to be elected to any office or place under this State constitution at such election.

Sec. 10. The President of this Convention shall issue writs of election to three householders in the several counties, requiring them to cause an election to be held for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Representative to Congress of the United States, members of the State Legislature and all other officers elective under this constitution, in their respective counties, districts and places of election on the first Monday and day following of January in the year 1858, which election shall in all other respects be conducted in the manner prescribed by the now existing law in the Territory of Kansas; and all returns of said elections shall be made to the President of this Convention; who is hereby authorized to receive, examine and count the votes and to declare who is elected; and all officers thus duly elected shall enter upon and continue in the discharge of the duties of their respective offices until their successors are elected and qualified.

Sec. 11. Until the Legislature elected in accordance with the provisions of this constitution shall otherwise direct, the salary of the Governor shall be — per annum; and the salary of the Lieutenant Governor shall be double the pay of a State Senator; and the pay of members of the Legislature shall be —— until otherwise provided by the first Legislature, which shall fix the salaries of all officers other than those elected by the people at the first election.

Sec. 12. This constitution shall take effect and be in force from and after its ratification by the people, as hereinbefore provided.

Sec. 13. Oaths of office may be administered by any Judge, Justice of the Peace or Clerk of any Court of Record of the Territory or State of Kansas, until the Legislature of the State may otherwise direct.

Sec. 14. That after the year 1864, whenever the Legislature shall think it necessary to amend, alter and change this constitution, they shall recommend to the electors, at the next general election, two-thirds of the members of each House concurring, to vote for or against calling a convention; and if it appear that a majority of all the citizens of the State have voted for a convention, the Legislature shall, at its next regular session, call a convention, to consist of as many members as there may be in the House of Representatives at the time, to be chosen in the same manner, at the same places, and by the same electors, that choose the representatives. Said delegates, so elected, shall meet within three months after said election, for the purpose of revising, amending or changing the constitution. But no alteration shall be made to affect the right of property in the ownership of slaves.

CLOSING HOURS OF THE CONVENTION.

LECOMPTON, K. T., Nov. 9, 1857.

The intense effort and anxiety of a protracted struggle had thrown a lassitude over the Convention and its members. The subject at issue once determined, it was difficult to keep the delegates together or to keep them at work. Only a few, whose acute perceptions of their own suitableness for the task kept them at work, toiled at the fag end of what Father McGee, the chaplain, would have styled their "useful and graceful labors."

The night, outside of the hall, was dark. In wending my way up for the closing night session, so impenetrable was the gloom that nothing short of the luminous body I was approaching could have enabled me to reach the place in safety. The twinkling lights of the grog shops were only beacons to mark the rocks and shoals where many a mortal craft had foundered. As I passed some thirty yards from one of these, I heard the noise of a regular battle—oaths, threats, blows, and finally a crash, which I subsequently ascertained was the demolition of a chair over the head of one of the belligerents. Not deeming it my particular province to inquire whether the damage had been inflicted on the occiptis bregmatis, or the lambidoidal suture, I went by, like the Pharisee, on the other side, hearing somebody yell before I got out of ear-shot:—

"I'm a Southern rights man, by G—d." I'll stand up for the rights of the South."

Whenever I met a group, it was a group of drunken, or partially intoxicated men, and the sound of profanity was the only indication that humanity was in the darkness.

The hall was not very brilliantly lit up. It is a plain room of some twenty-five by forty feet, partially filled with tables covered with black cotton velvet—in mourning, I suppose, for the demise of popular representative government. The half-dozen candles in the room gave a dim light, like the scene of a badly managed magic lantern. Some of the honorable members sat, and some of them stood, and some marched about. Most of the sitters had their feet projected up, some of them at an angle of forty-five degrees, while, from no inconsiderable number, wreaths of tobacco smoke were sent gracefully up.

As the night wore on several members stretched themselves on the tops of the tables, like bills that had not found favor. It became clearly evident that the majority of those present had facile access to "something to drink," and not a few, by their rather eccentric "walk and conversation," indicated that they must have been the recent participants in a spiritual circle. At one time a resolution was offered to increase the pay of their official reporter, and on a motion to lay it on the table, the President announced the question thus: "The question is to lay the reporter on the table." The poor reporter was accordingly thus dealt with, but as they had already voted him $1,200 without affixing a condition of fulfilling the task for which he had been employed, he could lie there complacently. The committee, to string the constitution together, made a few very radical amendments, such as making the School Township Fund a consolidated one for the State. On the final passage of the whole of this imposing instrument, only twenty-eight affirmative votes could be obtained. And thus it was the constitution of the minority of a Convention, while the speakers of that Convention, in their own debates, admitted that the delegates were elected by one-fifth or one-seventh of the people.

Among the closing scenes were the usual complimentary resolutions and speeches. Among these the remarks of the President were as significant of the character of this Convention as they were amusing. He said:—

"This Convention met under the most embarrassing circumstances. Elected by but a small vote, and their authority to act called in question by a lawless set of men who had got into this Territory; struggling on, scarcely able to get a quorum, and for some time without one; their very existence threatened, and uncertain what moment a lawless set of people would take their lives; necessitated to get the military for their protection; yet, under all these circumstances, they had gone on and neither turned to the right hand nor to the left, but had framed a constitution for the State of Kansas."

No wonder the President complimented them for their coolness in persevering under circumstances so "embarrassing." The Vice President, or President *pro tem.*, did not rise to compliment them or himself, but to give assurances in the most solemn tones, "before his God," for the purity of his motives, and that he had not been bought nor corrupted.

At length the fire of partisan duty had burned down in its socket, and several of the candles had winked out, when this august bogus body completed its labors, and the gavel of the illustrious President—now the illustrious Prince Regent of Kansas—proclaimed the termination of its legal existence. At that moment one characteristic feature exhibited itself. One prominent member exclaimed with a loud voice, "Now, boys, let's come and take a drink!"

The Convention having thus "gone to take a drink," let us turn to the people of Kansas, and see how they are to meet this new struggle which ruffianism in the Territory and duplicity out of it have thrust upon them.

It will be seen that the Convention is largely of Southern men. Several of them subscribe themselves an nullifiers, or what is the same thing. Objection was made to the Topeka constitution on the ground that it was framed by those not politically orthodox. Let them note the above. It is proper to state that most of those who subscribe themselves "democrats" merely mean pro-slavery. Kentucky gives 19 members, Virginia 8, Tennessee 5, Georgia 6, 2 each from North and South Carolina, 2 from Alabama, 2 from Missouri, 4 from Pennsylvania, 3 from Ohio, 1 from Illinois, 1 from Massachusetts, 1 from New York and 1 from Michigan. Of their professions, 19 are farmers, 10 are lawyers, 8 merchants, 5 editors, 4 physicians, 2 surveyors, 1 carpenter, 1 stonemason and 1 mechanic. It is needless to add that all of them drink.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS.

LAWRENCE, K. T., Nov. 11, 1857.

The last detachment of military have crossed Kaw river and are off in the direction of Fort Leavenworth. The moment the Convention adjourned at Lecompton, the troops around it began to break up camp and hurry back to the Fort. They have all gone—artillery, infantry and cavalry—and the rebellious of Lawrence are as much left to the "freedom of their own will" as the border ruffians are to their own resources. A large number of troops will winter in Kansas. Extensive although the accommodations are at Fort Leavenworth, mechanics have been busy there for some time increasing them. It is the same at Forts Riley and Kearney.

Governor Walker is at Leavenworth City. He is expected here to-day. There are rumors that he is about to leave the Territory, and that he will never return; that he has accomplished all he came for, in securing a slave State constitution in reality, while it is so arranged that he and his compeers can pretend that the people have adopted it. On the other hand several free State men confidently expect that he will convene a special session of the Territorial Legislature, in order that this highhanded scheme, which threatens the public peace, may be arrested in a constitutional way. We shall soon see.

The pro-slavery men have already begun their intrigues for this dodge election. Some of the strongest men they have will take the stump, not so much to make converts as to be an apparent explanation of the kind of election they will have.

A free State convention will now be called to determine what action it is best to take in view of these elections.

There has been some excitement the past week about negro hunts. Several days ago some companies of dragoons went up with a civil officer to Topeka, seeking runaway negroes from Missouri. A similar party had been up there a week before on the same errand, and had considerably outraged the popular sentiment by their violent mode of searching houses. On this latter occasion, the civil officer referred to was our old friend Butcher, ex-Sheriff of Douglas county, who received the office of Deputy Marshal from the good democratic functionary sent here by Buchanan. Mr. Butcher, true to his instincts, led a company of dragoons up to Topeka in his negro hunting operations. Having conceived it to be necessary to the success of his mission, he left part of his military force, and, taking six dragoons, proceeded to the house of Mr. Ritchie of that place, and there demanded admittance. Mr. Ritchie having an idea of squatter sovereignty of his own, threatened to shoot any one who might venture to come in. Upon this the indefatigable Butcher went after the remainder of his dragoons and proceeded to force open the door and make good a search of the premises. No negro was found, however, there or elsewhere, and bootless and negroless the "democratic" party went the way it came. Upon the whole, I think it will be better for the elegant Butcher and his cotemporaries to conduct these "democratic" proceedings in a milder form, unless they want to get into trouble.

A considerable amount of feeling is exhibited by the free State men at the result of the Pro-Slavery Lecompton Convention. A feeling of rage is the most common. At Topeka, when the citizens got intelligence of what was done, some of them openly talked fight. The free State men had been temporarily lulled into security by supposing that they had in the late struggle settled the matter. You may imagine their feelings, then, when they see the fruits of the October election thus jeoparded, and their impudent enemy stepping into rob them even yet of their rights.

Cold, bleak weather has set in. Yesterday a slight snow fell. Kansas river is very low; it is already frozen up toward its sources. Building is still carried on briskly in Lawrence, and a considerable amount of business is done. The commercial difficulties do not seem to affect business materially. Prices of everything are high—much higher than at this season last year. Provisions are likely to be dear this winter. The Missouri river navigation will probably close in a few weeks.

There is not much doing in real estate or town speculations, although prices are nearly the same. Do not be uneasy about the rumors which tell you that Gov. Walker and Secretary Stanton are likely to be murdered by border ruffians. They are perfectly safe, in that quarter at least. I also think that the howling about Gov. Walker on the part of fire-eaters elsewhere is merely a part of the same scheme to cover up the iniquity of this constitutional movement.

I observe that some of the Eastern democratic journals take up and circulate a report that armed men came from Nebraska at the October election and voted the free State ticket. This was like a good many of the stories that the defenders of Kansas democracy get up. The story was a very stupid one. By referring to the results its absurdity will be seen. The three counties bordering on Nebraska are Brown, Nemaha and Marshall. In Brown, only some 90 votes were cast in all—not one-third of what the county could have polled. In Nemaha only 175, one-third of which are pro-slavery. In neither county was the full vote out. In fact there were only some two or three precincts opened in both of them; consequently many votes were lost. In Marshall county the result shows 261 pro-slavery votes to one free State. Now, in which of these counties did the "three or four hundred armed men from Nebraska" vote? About the Marshall county vote, I have learned what I at first suspected, that the free State men at the Black Vermilion and another precinct threw between two and three hundred votes. At Marshall, where there are not twenty voters, a vote of 260 was made up and returned, and as the county officials got hold of the returns from the other precincts, they suppressed them.

[Correspondence of the Cincinnati Gazette.]

MORE ABOUT GOV. WALKER'S PURCHASE OF THE FORT LEAVENWORTH RESERVATION—$25 AN ACRE—THE QUARTERMASTER REMONSTRATES AGAINST THE SALE.

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kansas, Nov. 8, 1857.

The purchase by Gov. Walker and the notorious Geo. N. Sanders, of a part of the Fort Leavenworth reservation, though not authentically announced yet, has received confirmation from such a variety of circumstances that it is universally believed here.

The sale was negotiated by Gen. Harney, and it is said, though I cannot vouch for it, that he also has an interest in the purchase. The amount of land transferred by this sale is variously stated at from five hundred and seventy-five to seven hundred acres. It is the part immediately joining the town of Leavenworth, and embraces the most of what is known as the "Government Farm."

It is by far the most valuable part of the reservation, not only from its location, but because its surface is very favorable for laying out into town lots, and because it embraces the most of the river front belonging to the reservation. The Western part of the reservation is exceedingly broken, and the northern part does not come to the river, being separated from it by a broad, swampy bottom.

The only part of the reservation left that is of any value, is the spot on which the government buildings stand. This is not more than about forty acres.

I have just learned from the Quartermaster that he has written to Washington to remonstrate against the sale. He says this tract cannot now be well spared, as it embraces nearly all the land that is used for farming purposes on the reservation, and that he has recommended to the department, if the sale is already made, to secure a lease of it for a term of years.

The price paid for this land, it is said, was $25 an acre.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION—ALARM OF THE FREE STATE MEN—AN EXTRA SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE—THE MILITIA TO BE ORGANIZED.

QUINDARO, Kansas, Nov. 9, 1857.

The Constitutional Convention having framed a pro-slavery constitution and closed its labors, the free State men, who have heretofore looked upon the whole thing as a farce, seem suddenly to have awakened to a sense of their danger. A meeting was held in Lawrence on Saturday night to determine what course the free State men should take. Two propositions were before the meeting: one to call on Governor Walker to convene the Legislature at once, and one to provide for an immediate organization of the militia of the Territory.

As there seems but little hope of excluding slavery except by force, the latter proposition was strongly urged.

Even if Governor Walker consents to call the Legislature together, they have no power over the constitution, or over the provisions of the convention that framed it. They cannot alter or repeal the provision which denies its submission to the people. It is said Governor Walker has expressed his willingness to call together the Legislature if requested to do so, and it is suspected that this willingness proceeds in no small degree from his knowledge that this body can do nothing in the premises when convened. The thing is done, and there is no help in Territorial Legislatures now.

The Legislature, if convened, will provide for a popular vote on the constitution, depending entirely upon its moral effect. Though it can have no legal force, yet some free State men here seem to think that if a tremendous popular vote is polled against the constitution, and it is fully and legally shown that nine-tenths of the inhabitants of the Territory are opposed to it, that may deter some Northern democrats in Congress from voting for it.

As the large emigration of last spring has thrown out at the last election by the six months' residence clause, the free State majority is much larger than that would show, and it is confidently believed that if the Legislature will permit all who have resided thirty days in the Territory to vote, the majority against the constitution will be fully ten to one.

The conviction among the free State men here is, that, as every part of the programme in the action to make Kansas a slave State has been so faithfully performed over all opposition, there can be no doubt the last act will be carried through, and that a democratic Congress will admit Kansas with this slave constitution, even if ninety-nine hundredths of the people of the Territory were known to be opposed to it.

No definite action was taken, but a committee was appointed, and it is expected that another meeting will be called in a few days.

THE RESULT OF THE CONVENTION.

[From the Chicago Times, (Senator Douglas' organ,) Nov. 17.]

We think it amounts to very little what has been the action of the Convention. One thing is certain, the constitution has not been submitted to the people, and that constitution is not worth the paper it disfigures. It has no vitality now, yet it has as much as it will ever have. Any State officers elected under it—and they are to be elected forthwith—will have as much authority as the Topeka State officers. Gov. Walker is Governor of the Territory, and we trust as he put down the Topekaites, so he will put down all others who may attempt to usurp the province of governing Kansas without authority of law. We suppose, however, that in a few days we will have a true statement of what has been done in Kansas, and then we will have something to say. It may as well, however, be stated now as at any other time that the people of Kansas have been given a pledge that they should be free to regulate their own affairs for themselves, and that pledge must be made good.

KANSAS AND HER CONSTITUTION.

[From the Washington Union (Pro-slavery).]

The vexed question is settled—the problem is solved—the dead point of danger is passed—all serious trouble about Kansas affairs is over and gone. Kansas comes into the Union on the principle of the great act which organized her and Nebraska as Territorial governments. Another star is added to the republican constellation, not shining on scenes of terror, conflagration and blood, but lending its light to the peaceful pursuits of a contented and prosperous people.

We lay before our readers this morning the schedule of the new constitution prepared by the Convention at Lecompton. The schedule is that part of the constitution which provides for the transition from the system which now is to that which is to be, and prescribes in what manner it shall become binding as the fundamental law of the land. In the despatches received a day or two since, this temporary machinery, with which all new constitutions must be preceded, is called a provisional government, and some nervous persons perhaps were alarmed at the revolutionary sound of the words. It is the mere scaffolding to be used by the people while they are putting up the permanent fabric of their rights, and then it will be used no more. In the mean time all the Territorial laws remain in full force until the constitution takes their place, except in so far as this schedule is used for carrying on the election.

This schedule submits the constitution to the white inhabitants of Kansas; acknowledges the people of the new State to be the only tribunal that can rightfully determine what its domestic institutions shall be; and gives full, practical, and fair effect to the great principle of popular sovereignty. On the 21st day of December next the electors may meet at their proper places of voting and express their opinions by ballot on the question of slavery or no slavery. If a majority shall vote in favor of slavery, then the provision which makes Kansas a slave State will remain in the constitution, and in that shape it will be laid before Congress. But if the greater number of ballots be cast the other way, that provision shall be stricken out, and then every negro in the State, or hereafter to go there, shall be free, except the few who are now there in the legal condition of servitude.

The special details of the provisions for taking the sense of the people, so far as we can judge of them at this distance, seem to us admirably contrived for the purpose. If it shall not result in a true expression of the popular wishes, it will be the fault of the people themselves. But we have no right to doubt that the election will be fairly conducted, or that the defeated party, whichever it may be, will cheerfully submit to the will of the majority.

It is barely possible that an ultra abolitionist here and there may take exception to the provision which protects the slave property now in the Territory. But the justice and propriety of this is as clear as noon day. Let it be remembered that slavery was established in Kansas by the constitution, and the question is on the abolition of it. Shall it be swept out of existence at a blow, without regard to the sacred rights of property? or shall it be gradually extinguished? The Kansas Convention has decided in favor of the former course, and has resolved to deal with it as all the other States in the Union dealt with it—that is, abolish it prospectively. What crime has been committed by the slaveholding emigrants in Kansas, who went there in good faith, with their families and servants, under the protection of the law and the constitution, which gave them an undoubted right to do so? Why is it that they should now be driven out of the State or permitted to stay only at the expense of having their property confiscated?

We heartily congratulate the administration on this auspicious event. The President, keeping his eye steadily fixed on the constitution and the laws, and turning neither to the right hand nor the left, kept directly onward in the path he had marked out for his footsteps. This dignified and conscientious policy—a policy which had no motive but the peace and prosperity of the country—will be rewarded with the triumphant success it deserves. He saw the end from the beginning. He never doubted that the truth would prevail. In the midst of all the bickering and contention North and South he bated no jot of heart or hope, but preserved his unruffled serenity and his cheerful faith in the right.

The members of the Convention are entitled to be held in everlasting remembrance for adhering to the great truths of the democratic creed in the midst of temptations which the virtue of most men would have been too weak to resist. They were exposed to the attacks of ultras on both sides. The persuasions of one and the taunts of the other were alike calculated and alike intended to influence them in favor of a wrong decision. It is not often that a representative body is found pursuing the right when its friends and enemies are both inviting it into the wrong. There are some names in that Convention which we shall delight to honor.

This news, so full of hope to every American patriot, will bring sorrow to only one class of our people. The black republican politicians had all their capital staked on the chances of disorder and confusion in Kansas. The enterprise has failed, and they are ruined. The peace of the country, the prosperity of the people and the safety of the Union is destruction to their hopes. We rejoice over it none the less on that account. They had their day when their tools and hirelings in Kansas were filling the Territory with alarms and agitating the whole country; when they employed the press, the pulpit and the rostrum to echo the shrieks with which they hoped to frighten the public mind from its propriety. Those were the days of "bleeding Kansas," and then abolitionism waxed mighty; peaceful and quiet Kansas coming into the Union on the broad platform of equal constitutional rights will consign it again to its original nothingness.

We are glad to say, in addition, that nearly all the members of the Convention who were opposed to the submission have finally yielded to the justice and propriety of it.

New Yorkers on the Road.

[Correspondence of the Charleston Courier.]

NEW YORK, Nov. 12, 1857.

We are having golden weather. Everybody who can do so, these glorious afternoons, desert their parlors, their counting rooms and other places of business. Out of door sports generally abound at this season. A taste of the fresh country air, "a day's shooting" or fishing, are especially agreeable just at this time. Yesterday I indulged in one of our autumnal luxuries—a drive out on the Bloomingdale road. Its associations and pleasures were a great enjoyment, as well as relief from the dull routine of every day demands.

The Bloomingdale is, *par excellence*, our great road. It has become of itself an "institution," especially in these times, for fast horses, loose women and fast men. On some occasions, the crowds of vehicles to be seen on this road of a fine afternoon, such as yesterday, are as innumerable as they are indescribable. Every species of the horse, man and vehicle, too, are here to be seen. Of course, in a "crowd" like this there must be some celebrities. I shall mention one particularly, which will no doubt astonish many of those who have heard of him. Yet I do not know him.

Commodore Vanderbilt loves a fast horse, and he always manages to have one. He and his friend, Frank Work, neglect no opportunities to go out on the road. Sometimes they drive together with their combined teams, and at others each sits behind his own "flyer." This was the case on yesterday. The favorite stopping place on the road now is Jones'. Burnham's, Struckman's and Woodlawn have about had their day. The Abby departed long ago, and Stryker's Bay is something like what used to be called "Natchez-under-the-Hill."

So Jones' is the popular resort. There every one brings up, and picks up the horses and men he wishes to beat. Knowing, as all the sporting men do, that Commodore Vanderbilt likes a good "brush," it is a very wide spread ambition to pass him on the road. But this is not very easily done. Yesterday everybody seemed to hold back. No one cared to lead off. At last the Commodore and his friend got in their wagons and started for home. They had no sooner done so, than some ten or fifteen other establishments of a fast order were after them. If there wasn't some trotting done about that time, I never did see any. There was only one drawback—there were too many in the race, they kept too closely together, and the road was not wide enough. The consequence was that there were only three break downs, and all tumbled together.

The Commodore came out all right, and must have been ahead. His friend Frank Work, a well known retired dry goods merchant, however, had his wagon broken. Every one in the "brush," some dozen, stopped to see the others through, and all seemed to take their mishaps in good part. Nobody swore, and nobody got mad. Mayor Wood's residence is near the spot of the break down, and this accounted for the appearance of several policemen, and quite a crowd of the women and children of the neighborhood.

But Commodore Vanderbilt is not the only character to be met on the road. In the splendor and uniqueness of his turn outs I doubt if any one surpasses E. P. Christy, the founder of Christy's Minstrels. Ned Christy amassed a fortune from his negroe business, and is now living the life of a fast gentleman. He has two establishments, both noticeable and elegant. Sometimes he is accompanied by a female friend, at others by a "tiger," with a white cravat, and always by a spotted pointer dog. I was informed that Ned Christy drives out every fair afternoon, alternating with a splendid pair of bays and a span of very delicate whites. Among the other well known characters who cut a dash and make a splash on the Bloomingdale road are Genin, the hatter and "bazaar" man, and his boon companion Phalon, the barber, or, as it is more elegantly termed now-a-days, "artist in hair." Neither is to be easily outdone when it comes to extravagant display.

There is another celebrity frequently seen on our favorite road. George Bancroft, the historian, goes in strong for out of door exercise. I don't know that he is afraid of a fast wagon. Perhaps his nearsightedness interferes with his driving. However it may be, he is "down" on light wagons and often seen upon fleet saddle horses. He rides very well, upon a very good looking horse, and seems on such occasions to be in as good a humor with himself as he invariably does when seen talking with some handsome woman at the Academy of Music on a favorite opera night.

The New York Book Trade.

[Correspondence of the Boston Traveller.]

NEW YORK, Nov. 16, 1857.

Quite an important move has recently taken place in the book trade of this city. The publishers belonging to the Booksellers' Association have had a meeting, and resolved to abridge the usual term of six months' credit to four. Besides the usual reasons given for this action—that the term of credits has been too long—the book publishers, with good cause, urge that they are less able to give long credits than almost any other class of merchants. In the manufacture of a book a heavy investment is necessary for stereotype plates, paper, &c. In fact, almost the entire cost of a book consists in labor, which must be paid for before the book is issued. This must always be advanced by the publisher, as he can get no credit upon it. Then, too, he must create a demand for the book by advertising, also to be paid in cash. There seems to be substantial reasons why the book trade should confine their credits to four months. But aside from this, it is high time that all merchants restricted the period of their credits, and it is a gratifying sign that there is now a general tendency in that direction.

S. H. Goetzel & Co. have just published two books by A. B. Meek, Esq., author of "The Red Eagle." They are "Songs and Poems of the South," and "Romantic Passages in Southwestern History." The latter volume consists of orations, sketches and essays.

Sheldon, Blakeman & Co. have just issued Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's new work, "The Saint and his Saviour." This is perhaps the most distinctive work of this remarkable preacher. Good judges consider it superior to his sermons, evincing more connectedness of argument, as well as equal force and vigor.

There will soon be a little movement in the book trade. Some of the publishers will soon commence advertising on a small scale—a bit of good news, we doubt not, it will be to newspaper publishers, whose income from the book trade has been no trifle for several years past. The present is the season for reading, and it is strange if some little animation cannot be infused in the book business. The holidays will soon be here, and with them there must be some demand for books.

The current number of the *Bibliotheca Sacra* contains a long and able article from Prof. Tyler, upon the Homeric question. He proves, from the general resemblance of the Iliad and Odyssey, that they were written by the same person, and completely answers those English and German critics, who, with more nicety than force, have undertaken to prove Homer a myth.

"The Life and Times of Aaron Burr," by James Parton, is now nearly ready. The work will be an octave volume of 700 pages, and will doubtless form one of the most interesting episodes in our national history. The startling significance of Burr's career—his exalted talents and desperate character, have given great interest to his name. Mr. Parton views his character in a rather more favorable light than has before been taken by the historian.

Gift book enterprises are becoming quite a feature in our city, and a great many books are being disposed of, where, were it not for the inducement of cheap jewelry, they could not be sold. It is really astonishing to see the large number of good books which have found their way to the book stalls since the "hard times" commenced. Great bargains can now be made by book buyers, who visit the second hand stores. Some persons seem to have fairly thrown whole libraries of elegantly bound books upon the market. Books for some time will be cheaper than publishers can afford