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LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1860.

The delegates to Charleston are moving in that direction; and for some days past large numbers of them have been here, and no small amount of log-rolling has been the consequence; of course no person can predict who is likely to receive the nomination, as that event may, in the end, be controlled by circumstances that no human foresight can definitely predict. There is a strong disposition in the States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, to give the nomination to the South, and consequently the claims of southern men are now being canvassed. Hunter is strong with southern delegates, but as the delegates from Pennsylvania and New Jersey declare most positively that neither of those States can be carried for him if nominated, and as it is necessary—to ensure the success of the nominee—that Pennsylvania should go for him, this at once places a damper upon his prospects. Johnson, of Tennessee; Davis, of Mississippi; and Breckenridge and Guthrie, of Kentucky, are, after Mr. Hunter is out of the way, the most prominent southern candidates. So far as the feelings of the delegates can be ascertained, with a few exceptions there is a disposition to abandon personal preferences for the good of the party, and present, as a candidate, that person most likely to concentrate the entire Democratic vote. This person may never have yet been named, and the nominee may thus be some one not thought of.

The House yesterday passed the bill admitting Kansas into the Union under the Wyandotte constitution. The vote stood yeas, 120—nays, 73. All the nays were southern men with the exception of English of Ind., and Sickles of New York. Its fate in the Senate is doubtful, not only on account of the insufficiency of the population, but also from the fact that the boundaries include a portion of the Cherokee territory, which is non-slaveholding. It is not supposed the bill can be disposed of by that body before the Charleston Convention meets, as the state of the business now before it will not admit of it.

The Cuvods smelling committee has now about played out, and its authors have long since repeated of their movement, as well they may, for such a party as the Black-Republican, which is reeking and festering with fraud and corruption, to institute inquiries into the expenditures of the Democratic party is absurd in self; but when gotten up and placed under the supervision of Covode and his colleagues, is an outrage upon decency and the public good morals. But when the thing was originated, its mover never anticipated that their conduct should be the subject of investigation, but using the device of old offenders, they raised the cry of "stop thief," to withdraw the attention of the public from their misdeeds. But this dodge will not avail them, and sooner or later they are heartily sick of the movement.

It is thought Congress will take a recess during the session of the Charleston convention, and Mr. Monroe introduced a resolution into the Senate on yesterday, taking a recess from the 19th to the 30th instant.

A duel between Pryor, of Virginia, and Potter, of Wisconsin, is upon the tapis, owing to a certain remark of the latter, made during a debate some days ago. Potter now has it that he never meant to make the remark attributed to him, and Pryor has invited Potter to leave the District for that purpose, but it is not supposed there will be any fight, as Potter will take especial pains to have the police interfere.

After all the noise made about the high rates that will be charged at Charleston, during the sitting of the convention, and the inability of the place to entertain the crowd that will be in attendance, it now appears that all that may be expected will be accomplished upon fair terms, so that none need stay away on that score. J.

LETTER FROM McLEMORESVILLE.

EDITORS APPEAL: Rumor has gone out that small-pox is prevailing in the community of McLemoresville, Tenn., and inasmuch as there is quite a number of young men here connected with Bethel college, for whom, no doubt, great interest is felt by their parents and friends. We ask the privilege to say through your paper that said rumor is false. There have been few cases I learn, some one or two or eight miles north of this place, but none in the community of McLemoresville, and they feel no uneasiness in reference to it.

April 14th, 1860. A. E. COOPER.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

The following is a comparative statement of the imports of foreign dry goods at New York for the week ending since January 1:

	1860.	1859.	1858.
Entered at the port	$386,635	1,445,839	650,060
Thrown on the market	1,309,651	1,324,441	760,040
Entered at the port	$21,054,780	20,442,169	19,900,345
Thrown on the market	19,800,651	19,854,441	18,140,040

It will be seen by the above tabular statement that the entries of dry goods at this port last week, as well as the amount thrown upon the market, exhibit a marked diminution when compared with those of the same period last year, while the entries were slightly less than those for the same period in 1858. The goods thrown upon the market, however, were in excess of those for the same time in 1858. Of the goods entered for consumption, it appears that the entries of woolens amounted to $209,510; cotton, $86,287; silk do., $114,119; flax do., $101,650; miscellaneous do., $818,197; total $1,372,763.

The southern trade is almost over. The amount transacting is irregular, and simply confined to the disposition of former orders, found necessary to maintain shipments. The activity in the western and eastern trade referred to by a cotemporary sheet (the Indepedent)—johnny-on-a general thing, will be most happy to learn that they are doing "unprecedented business," and that "the great war by trade, however, is yet to present its chief demand"—and that "the sales of the season have yet to be doubled;" and that the trade from the interior of this State "and New England will go far toward doing this;" and "that French goods have rallied, and desirable styles have advanced 5 to 10 per cent."

Now, our observations are directly the reverse of the foregoing opinions, and to have emanated from a house in the silk and dry goods trade. There is not an "unusprecedented business doing" by any jobbers, great or small. "Trade" has slackened and does not "increase in activity." No jobber posted on the subject believes for one moment, that "the sales of the season have yet to be doubled;" or that prices of French silks and desirable styles of French goods have advanced 5@10 per cent. Everybody knows that immense quantities of French Brown and Fancy goods within the last month or six weeks, have been slaughtered in auction houses, which have, in many cases, been largely purchased by jobbers; and hence, instead of advancing, jobbers have thus been enabled to sell them at lower rates. The trade is aware also that, with few and there are exception in favor of long and well established and long known houses, the spring trade has been less satisfactory than was previously anticipated, and that dealings from the South was more irregular, and sooner over than usual; and worse the doctrines of the Independent to prevail as effectually in the Federal Administration as at Albany, it would not be long before the trade of the South would, with its great agricultural products, be driven from northern markets. We have some pains to inquire, and have seldom, if ever, found general trade much duller at this season of the year. This does not apply alone to dry goods, either wholesale or retail. If we go into boot and shoe houses, into fancy stores, into woolen goods houses, into wholesale clothing houses, or into those in various other pursuits, we shall find that the general complaint in all is that of marked dullness for the time of year.

Many mechanical pursuits, including those of ship building, are also very dull. No one doubts but there was an excess of importations last year, which, under the sectional bitterness raised by the "irrepressible conflict," have had to contend with restricted purchases from the only part of the country most able to purchase. "Negro" ownership may be a political luxury, but, carried into the business affairs of trade, it becomes enormously expensive. It may be estimated by some well informed business men that John Brown's raid and its indorsement by Phillips, Cheever, Beecher, and others, and the complications of the Republican leaders with them, and their indorsement of Helper's book, has cost the merchants of the North, including the merchants of this city, not less than five millions of dollars. The trade from the Northwest is backward and irregular. Breadstuffs have an imposing tendency; but the farmers having made light crops last year, have pretty much parted with what they had to spare, which is now held in transit by middle men, or is held by millers in their factories. The old debts of the people are not yet liquidated, and their capacity for the consumption of goods continues to be limited. It will take more years of good crops, and at remunerative prices, before their trade will regain its healthy tone and approximate its former dimensions.

The auction sales of the week have not been large. The chief offerings have been confined to catalogues of ribbons. About 900 cartoons of which were sold by Messrs. Haggerty & Gamble; the 11th inst., of the importations of Lehman, Kiefer & Thomer. The sale was active and milty lots were duplicated. They also held a sale of Cashmere matting to-day. The catalogue, though comprising a large number of lots, was gone through with, and at a decline on previous sales of three to four per cent. In domestic cotton goods prices were steady, and heavy grades suitable for export were in good request at full prices, while stocks were light. Browns of the Agents for week's prices, especially quantities suitable for the China trade. Other cotton goods, with the exception woolens and mixed articles, were unchanged.

In foreign goods the business doing was moderate, and chiefly confined to certain styles of fashionable articles wanted to meet the local and near by trade, and to fill replenishing orders from the interior. Some English woolens were selling at low prices for clothiers for manufacturing into stock for the fall trade.—*N. Y. Herald, April 14.*

SPEECH OF HON. E. P. HALLETT,

Before the Young Men's Christopher Club, at Norwich, Conn., March 31, 1860.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the "Christopher Club":

I am honored by your special invitation to address you and the citizens of Norwich tonight. You have selected a spirit-stirring name for your club, synonyms of patriotism, of bravery, of victory, and of the gallant leader who has since that name famous in the annals of the country. When I saw the long line of your brilliant torch-light procession which escorted me to this hall, to the tread of martial music, with banners flying and mottoes swaying, and cheers ringing, I thought if you were marching up the steep ascent in the face of a foe to storm another Chapultepec, with the gallant Seymour at the head of your column, how surely victory would perch on these banners and the flag of a whole Union, and not of a faction or a section, wave over the wall of a conquered enemy.

but you are not called upon to fight a physical battle for your country, but a bigger, a nobler contest than the clash of arms—the battle of the Ballot; the battle of the Constitution!

Disguise it as they may, disclaim it as they will, that is the great moral and civil conflict at the ballot-box to which your opponents, calling themselves the Republican party, invite you; and not only you here in this local State election, but in every State of the republic, from now until the ballot battle shall be fought and won in November, at least for the time being, whether we are to continue to have a Union of thirty-three States, with the expansive power of covering this whole continent under the folds of our glorious flag, or whether we shall be divided into white and black republics, fighting with each other about slavery, surrounded, and preying like hyenas on our country into tatters, to divide its stars and stripes among the disembowelled members.

And let me tell you what all our political history demonstrates, that there is no safety, there is no success in such a conflict, for the life of the Union, but the union of the northern and southern Democracy which in every struggle for State rights, for the expansion of Territory, for fidelity to the Constitution, and for the upholding of American liberties in their largest, constitutional sense, has triumphed, and must triumph again, if it now is, forever, the most among the powers of the earth. Twelve out of fifteen presidential elections, since the inauguration of Jefferson, have been carried by this union of northern and southern Democrats, and it is again about to triumph by the same bond of fellowship and brotherly love. What is to the way of it now? Nothing but the imaginary negro. That is the whole issue, and the American people have got to decide for themselves whether we are to have a country and a Union for white men, or have the clash of arms between the old world to share equally with us our liberties; or whether we shall transform our beloved country, our Union, into a white Constitution, this Saxon and Celtic blood of the higher race of man, into a black union, a mixed union, an amalgamated union of negroes and men; whether we shall turn all our statesmanship into the solution of this Abolition problem our opponents assign as the high "duty of freedom," namely: if the white race shall be absorbed in the black or the black in the white, or the admixture go on until it shall reach the refished and deteriorated condition which is everywhere found upon earth where the experiment has been tried, of a milk and molasses population undertaking to govern government.

Is it not so? The great party cry of the opponents of the Democracy is "Freedom! Freedom!" "Give us Freedom! What is freedom by it? Is it the freedom of the white man? Is he oppressed, degraded, despoiled of his liberties anywhere by the Constitution and laws of these United States? Has he not all the liberty that is consistent with good order and good government? Do our opponents propose to take away from him, to enlarge the liberties of the white man? On the contrary, do we not find that wherever the Abolition-Republican party has got the power in a State they have sought to reduce the white man, to make the negro not only the political equal, but the superior of the white man if he happened to be born out of the swamp? Take the example of my own State, Massachusetts, where this "negro power of the North," which they set up against the pretended "slave power of the South" reigns supreme. One of their statutes was to disfranchise the foreign born, and the people of that highly educated State, led away by the cry of false philanthropy for the negro, this unreasoning fanaticism, this hatred of foreign born, have actually changed their Constitution so that a white man, after he has become a citizen of the United States by naturalization, must live in the State and pay taxes two years before he can vote, while a Congo negro, or a fugitive slave, who can never become a citizen of the United States, has to reside there but one year to make him equal to the native born! That amendment has spread its wounds in this State and in every State where Abolitionism shall get the power.

And yet in the face of this outrage upon the rights and the self-respect of the adopted citizens, this brand of degradation put upon them, and all else that flows from the oppression of the old world, the Republican party here and everywhere are begging the votes of the foreign-born American citizens to place them in power to elevate the negro at the expense of the white man! The Germans love liberty, and they appeal to them to join the Abolition party because it is opposed to slavery. I know your motto there, dashing in the long line of this splendid torch-light procession:

"Germans by birth; Americans by choice; Democrats by principle."

That has something that is worthy an intelligent and thinking people. "Americans by choice." Yes, not by the mere accident of birth-place, but of your own free, intelligent choice, after you had arrived at the maturity of judment to choose. And this reminds me of what I have said on another occasion—that when a naturalized citizen of foreign birth, a citizen with the place of his birth, he may well reply to him—"Yes, sir, because an American by an accident over which you had no control; you happened to be born here, and could not help it; I am an American by my own free choice."

And this as to this matter of being born an infant citizen, or being made a citizen at full age, it amounts to just this, that one citizen cannot take the place of another without any children, and the other with his clothes on.

Vote as you please, fellow-citizens, but be not deceived by false cries of freedom. The laboring man is numerically the sovereign in this free country, and what he wants is equal and just laws, and to make the whole Union, this whole continent, and no divided, cut up, sectional part, for the sake of his labors and the markets for the products of his industry. The Democratic policy has secured that. It has given us the capital and labor of the North all those great markets from Louisiana to California, which have been annexed to the United States by Democratic administrations against—never by a Federal or Whig administration, but always opposed. I need not say, never by a sectional Republican administration, for there has been none such, nor can there ever be such that will have the rule of this whole Union.

The Republicans, therefore, have done nothing for the white working man in the nation, and never had the power; they have done nothing for him in the States where they have got the power, except to degrade him, and to tax him with much more expensive administrations of government than the Democrats.

No, the Republicans have done nothing for labor, but they strenuously "going to do," if you will give them the power; and mind now that these "going to do" people, who have never done anything, are always the most uncertain and unreliable people on the face of the earth. Take care how you trust them with your liberties. History tells you what the Democratic party has done. The map of the country shows it to you expanded into thirty-three States with land enough for a century for the free labor of the world. The face of the ocean and the whole surface of the global waters it is you, wherever floats the American flag, and wherever the American citizen sojourns. If the adopted citizen returns to his native land for a temporary purpose, and if the old government sets up to claim his allegiance by birth, and demand of him military service, the arm of a Democratic administration is stretched out for his protection, and no government of Europe has yet resisted that claim for an adopted citizen of the United States, or even one who has renounced his old allegiance and declared his intention to become an American citizen.

And whence came this great international law of "the right of expatriation," which all the absolute governments of Europe, and especially England herself, has denied to their subjects? Young men, read the history of the year of 1812. A Democratic administration, under President Madison, carried on the second war of Independence with Great Britain, against pretensions for the freedom of the seas, for the right of every foreign-born subject to become an American citizen, and be protected under her flag; and though the treaty of Ghent did not in terms establish that right, yet it has never since been denied or infringed, without restitution, by any foreign power. Democratic administrations have never yielded a hair's breadth of this great right of personal liberty until even the claim of right of search of an American vessel has been abandoned by Great Britain, under any and all pretexts, and the American flag, all over the ocean protects every living thing that sails under it!

Is not that something worth having? Isn't it worth preserving, by not turning aside from your great duties as citizens of these whole United States, to follow after this blind worship of the imaginary political negro? Is it not worth keeping a steady and firm step altogether North and South, and marching in one grand Democratic column "to the music of the Union?" For look you now, if you divide that day between North and South, between slaveholding and non-slaveholding States, what power on earth will it have to protect your commerce or command the respect of the nations?

"AM now what steps is here to endanger the great right of the freedom of the seas? Again it is the imaginary negro of this Republican party of the North. A Senator from the State of Massachusetts has recently risen in the Senate and proposed to give the right of search to British men-of-war on board all American vessels found within two hundred miles of the coast of Africa. Give them that right for two hundred miles and it would be extend to two thousand, and no American vessel could meet a British cruiser on the ocean without being brought to and subjected to the arrogance of some British lieutenant or midshipman. Let the American people never yield up the right of search or of visitation to any power, or for any purpose! You say "no, never!" and yet give the Republicans the power of the country, and here you see from this movement in the Senate, that that is the first steps they would tear out of the flag of United States, or even one who has renounced his old allegiance and declared his intention to become an American citizen.

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And where