WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1850.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.—The elaborate and able debate of this measure, when it was before Congress, placed our readers so fully in possession of the reasons for and against it as to preclude the necessity for any further extended argument of its merits through our columns. A legal gentleman, however, having taken the trouble to prepare the history and bearings both of the late and antecedent legislation in regard to fugitives from labor, we have thought it might not be unacceptable to our readers to have the whole matter in this embodied form, and we therefore give a place to his article.

Every day's mail brings us the proceedings of some large assemblage of citizens in the free States, holden to give utterance to sentiments of loyalty to the Constitution and the Laws, and of disapprobation of the spirit of fanaticism which, with a clamor greatly disproportioned to the number of its disciples, would madly resist all law that does not square with its own bigoted notions. We would gladly, for the information of our Southern readers, insert all these evidences of sound public sentiment in the North and West, but they would greatly exceed our space, and we are obliged to limit ourselves to such as, from their locality or importance, claim more than ordinary attention. Yesterday we presented to our readers the spirited and patriotic proceedings of a great meeting at Dayton, Ohio; and we now subjoin those of a large gathering of people in another prominent city of the West, the city of Chicago, in Illinois. These we give with the more pleasure, because the Common Council of Chicago, made up principally of Abolitionists, had just before held a meeting and adopted a series of resolutions denouncing in the most violent language all the Senators and Representatives from the non-slaveholding States who assisted in the passage of the fugitive slave law, and requesting the city police to render no assistance in the execution of the law. These disgraceful resolutions of the Council had the effect to arouse the friends of law and order and peace, and on the 23d instant a tremendous popular meeting was held at Chicago, headed by the patriotic Senator DOUGLAS. The proceedings of the meeting are described as follows:

CHICAGO, OCTOBER 24—7 P. M.

The meeting at the City Hall last evening, to hear Judge DOUGLAS, was the largest ever congregated in this city. The room was literally crowded. The assembly must have contained over three thousand persons. The meeting was organized by calling JAMES CURTIS, Esq., the Mayor of the city, to the chair, and B. S. MORRIS, Secretary.

At a few minutes after eight o'clock, Judge DOUGLAS commenced his speech, which was three hours and a half long, and the most triumphant vindication of himself and colleague for their course and action upon the great measures of compromise that was ever listened to; and, what is of much importance, it was a triumphant, conclusive defence of the law, about which there had been so much ranting by the madcaps of our city. Judge D. commenced by a discussion of a series of measures known as the compromise bill, and discussed them *seriatim* with much clearness, force, and vigor. It is impossible to give any thing like a condensed statement of a speech of that length, and covering so many questions.

The laws—the fugitive slave law among others—are to be and will be carried out, maugre the fury of bigots, of the canting of those sham pretenders, who have attempted to inflict deep disgrace upon the good name and order of our city, by causing rebellion against the only safeguard of us all. In the course of his remarks, the Judge commented with no little severity upon the base folly of our Common Council in passing the resolutions, setting aside as far as they could the law of Congress, and made their motion too ridiculous to laugh at.

While he admitted that he did not vote for the fugitive slave bill, he also avowed most explicitly that his absence from the Senate was accidental, and that if he had been in his place, he most certainly would have voted for it; remarking, in this connexion, that he much preferred voting for an unpopular law to sneaking, in the language of the resolutions of the council, from it. At the conclusion of his remarks, Judge D. presented the first five of the following resolutions, stating at the same time that, whatever might be the action of the meeting, he wished to place himself right elsewhere, and, as his speech might not be reported, he had embodied some of his conclusions which he desired not to be misunderstood.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted. The two concluding resolutions by B. S. Morris, Esq., were read to the meeting by S. F. S. Hayes, Esq, and were adopted with almost equal unanimity. Thus concluded, after three hearty ringing cheers for Judge Douglas, the largest meeting ever convened in Chicago, and its results will be the most auspicious for our success as a moral, law-abiding people of any that has been or can be held.

The rebuke so cutting and severe administered to the disorganizers it is hoped may do them service. It is probable, however, that on Friday the gathering will be held, and, so far as is in the power of fanatics and demagogues to do mischief, they will attempt; but the power and integrity of the city is against them.

The supremacy of the law must be sustained, in defiance of all mischief-mongers and half-crazy visionaries, who would cause desolation and ruin if their one idea might prevail.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That it is the sacred duty of every friend of the Union to maintain and preserve inviolate every provision of our Federal Constitution.

Resolved, That the law enacted by Congress in pursuance of the Constitution should be respected as such by all good and law-abiding citizens, and should be faithfully carried into effect by the officers charged with its execution.

Resolved, That so long as the Constitution of the United States provides that all persons held to service or labor in one State, escaping into another State, shall be delivered up on the claim of the party to whom the service or labor may be due, and so long as members of Congress are required to take an oath to support the Constitution, it is their solemn and religious duty to pass all laws necessary to carry that provision of the Constitution into effect.

Resolved, That if we desire to preserve the Union under our great republic inseparable and perpetual, we must perform all our obligations under the Constitution, at the same time that we call upon our brethren in other States to yield implicit obedience to it.

Resolved, That as the lives, property, and safety of our families depend upon the observance and protection of the laws, every effort to excite any portion of the population to make any resistance to the execution of the laws of the land should be promptly and emphatically condemned by every good citizen; that we will stand or fall by the American Union and its Constitution, with all its glorious memories of the past and precious hopes of the future.

FLORIDA.—The Democrats have obtained a majority in the Legislature of Florida, whether of *one* member or *four* is not yet ascertained. The Tallahassee Sentinel ascribes this success of the opposition solely to dissensions and bad management in the strong Whig counties. A United States Senator is to be elected to succeed Mr. YULEE, whose term of service expires in March next.

On Saturday last there was a great meeting at Geneva, New York, to sustain the Union and the Constitution. It is described as one of the most respectable assemblages ever called out on any occasion. The highly respected veteran General JOSEPH G. SWIFT presided, assisted by twenty Vice Presidents from Ontario, Seneca, Yates, Wayne, and Chemung counties. A Committee of Safety, auxiliary to that of the city of New York, was appointed. Letters from Senator DICKINSON and others were read amid much enthusiasm, and after several powerful and patriotic speeches by gentlemen present, the meeting adjourned with nine cheers for the Constitution and its defenders.

WHAT MR. STEPHENS SAYS OF GEORGIA.—Hon. PHILIP CLAYTON, Second Auditor of the Treasury Department, has received letters from Mr. STEPHENS, the member of Congress, and others, assuring him that the Union party will carry every county in the State of Georgia.—*Balt. Sun.*

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

We received a few days ago a pamphlet of some twenty pages, printed at Charleston, and containing a Letter to the Governor of South Carolina on the state of things in the South, and particularly on the project of a Southern Confederacy. It is the production of WILLIAM J. GRAYSON, Esq., formerly a Representative in Congress from the Beaufort and Colleton District of South Carolina. All who had the pleasure of serving with Mr. GRAYSON must have a favorable and respectful remembrance of him as a gentleman, not indeed prominent as a floor member, but as a man well known to possess an unusually sound reflecting mind, and of unblemished purity of private life. He signs his name to the Letter, as well he may do, without fear or shame, for even his most inflamed opponents must admit that it is such a production as, whatever side it advocates, is highly creditable to the author. It is a book with those two things, soft words and hard arguments. It is written in a spirit offensive to no man, while it makes the most forcible and straight-forward appeals to known facts and common sense.

We have read this letter with great pleasure, not alone from its ability, but because it is, as far as we have heard, the only voice which has been publicly raised in South Carolina against the deplorable infatuation which has come over the leading citizens of that State to such an extent as to require some degree of boldness for any man to come forward in opposition to it.

We have not space for the Letter, or for any extended review of it; and must content ourselves with presenting to our readers the leading points it discusses, which are briefly recapitulated in one of its closing pages:

"This then is the substance of the foregoing remarks:

"That the Union is the source of Peace, Prosperity, and Power to the *Nation*, and its dissolution would be followed by disorder, violence, and civil wars.

"That if the present Confederacy is broken up, the formation of any other would be difficult, and its continuance impossible.

"That no causes exist to justify the dissolution of the Union.

"That the measures lately adopted by Congress are not infringements on our constitutional rights; and, if they were, are of common concern to the whole South.

"That the wrong of which we complain comes from the people of certain States, not from the Congress of the United States; and the appropriate remedy would be a cessation of social intercourse.

"That the mere apprehension of aggressions in the future will not justify the resort to extreme measures at present.

"That the South will lose nothing by waiting; she is rapidly advancing in wealth, population, and power; and nothing can arrest her progress but the imprudence of her own people, and the rashness of her leaders."

On each of these several heads Mr. GRAYSON dwells with a free yet temperate earnestness, which, while it carries with it at once the conviction that he is sincere, can scarcely fail, one would think, to arrest the rash haste and calm the headlong fury of men who would precipitate their country into the returnless plunge of revolution, anarchy, and civil war.

We can give but one extract from the body of the Letter. It is that in which the author, after having eloquently summed up the benefits of the Union, examines the project of a Southern Confederacy:

"But it is said we can form a great Southern Confederacy and become, more than ever before, prosperous and powerful. Who can tell whether, even if separated from the North, this formation of a Southern Confederacy would be practicable? Where would it begin? What States would it include? Certainly not Virginia, or Kentucky, or North Carolina, or Tennessee, or Louisiana. But suppose them all willing to take counsel for the purpose, can any one be assured that they would unite in a general Southern Government? Will there be no differences of opinion, no antagonist interests? We all know the difficulty with which the present Confederacy was formed, the obstacles that delayed and almost defeated its adoption by the States after it had been laboriously shaped and settled by the Convention of States. Will not the same difficulties beset the union proposed? Why, there is hardly a State in which there are not opposing interests within its own limits. Up-country and low-country, property and population, have each their stanch and sometimes bitter advocates. We all remember the hot and uncompromising disputes between West and East in the last Virginia Convention, and do we believe that in a Convention of the Southern States, supposing such a one to exist, there will be nothing but the milk and honey of mutual concession and forbearance, no hostile feelings, no conflicting interests, no impracticable, obstinate, unyielding minds? He that believes this knows nothing of men or public bodies. For my part, I firmly believe that the present Confederacy is the first and last which the country will ever see. If that be destroyed, there is forthwith forever an end to confederacy in North America. This is my solemn conviction, and I forewarn our citizens of this truth. No future Confederacy can be sanctified like the present by the memories of the past; by associations with the great men and great events of the grand epoch of American history; by the wisdom and virtues of the Father of his Country. If this Union cannot stand, there is no hope for the continuance of any other. The spirit of impatience to confederate rule which our example will sanction and establish will prevail forever. The smallest real or supposed injury or inconvenience inflicted on any one member of any future supposed Union of States will be enough to induce that member to abandon it—to secede, to break it up without scruple or remorse. They would become mere temporary partnerships, as the great English Statesman describes it, like partnerships for the sale of dry goods or groceries, to be dissolved with as little reflection or difficulty."

The pamphlet closes with a frank concession to those who differ from him of the utmost purity of motive, and a graceful expression of personal esteem, "which a long and intimate acquaintance has continually increased," for the Governor whom he addresses.

Senator FOOTE arrived at Jackson, Mississippi, on the evening of the 16th ultimo. He was welcomed by the firing of cannon, and received the congratulations of his fellow-citizens until a late hour that evening. He was to address the people in Jackson on Saturday, the 19th ult. From evidences afforded by the press, we presume he will canvass a large portion of the State before his return to Washington.

The Nashville Convention meets, according to its own resolution of adjournment, on the 11th of November. This assemblage (says the Alexandria Gazette) has fallen into great neglect, and its action, for good or for evil, may be of very little public concern.

This is very true; and so many of its members have seceded that it is doubtful if a majority of those who attended the first meeting will appear again. Even its President has renounced it, and we are certain of but one faithful member—Mr. Senator BARNWELL, of South Carolina—who has announced his intention to be present.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION.

The Virginia Convention has been engaged for some days upon a proposition to adjourn over its proceedings until the 1st of January, upon the ground that they could not prosecute their labors successfully in the adjustment of the basis of representation and the ratio of taxation, until they had before them the statistics of the First Auditor on the taxable property of the State, and the Census of the United States, of the population of each section of Virginia. The question was finally disposed of on Saturday, when, by a vote of ayes 66, noes 62, it was agreed to adjourn to-day until the first Monday in January next.

We heartily concur in the subjoined commendation of the noble letter of the Hon. WILLIAM R. KING, which we give below. It is refreshing to read such a letter from this enlightened and veteran statesman. How honorably do its calm good sense and elevated national sentiments contrast with the miserable narrow railings and unpatriotic views into which many other leading men in the South have permitted sectional prejudices to plunge them.

SENATOR KING, OF ALABAMA.

We give below a letter from this long-tried public servant of a sister State to his friends in Tuscaloosa, which in the estimation of every prudent and sensible man is worth all the frothy speeches of the swarm of itinerant demagogues who for some months have infested the eastern part of Alabama and the western part of Georgia. Mr. KING is to-day the second officer of the Government, and might to-morrow, if Providence should so order, be the Chief Magistrate of this mighty republic. A Southern man by birth, education, and interest, he stood at his post during the past session of Congress, the able and fearless advocate of every measure which tended, in its practical operation, to secure the rights of the South and perpetuate the Government of his country. Opposed as he was to some of the measures which so signally marked the action of that Congress, he nevertheless believes that the honor of the South has been preserved and the constitution of the country saved inviolate.

With these feelings Senator King, as every other friend of the South should be, is opposed to unnecessary agitation, and refuses to attend every public dinner of his friends, on the ground alone that he is unwilling to do any thing that will minister to the angry feelings already too fearfully aroused. Such sentiments are like apples of gold set in pictures of silver; they show that there are yet alive in the different States men of age and experience—men who have proved the value of the Government, and are determined that its blessings shall not be sacrificed to gratify the poor, contemptible ambition of a few small-potato politicians who find the Union too large for their pretensions, and have consequently endeavored for some months past to reduce it to their own inferior proportions.

It is cheering, and no patriot can deny it, to see such men, in an hour like the present, stand boldly forth, determined to resist the madness which a short time since threatened to destroy the peace of the people, and crush in its reckless power the fabric of American freedom. We are saying, however, more than we intended, for we feel that it would be an act of injustice to all parties to thrust our crude remarks between the reader and the letter referred to.—*Columbus Enquirer.*

TUSCALOOSA, OCTOBER 23, 1850.

GENTLEMEN: The resolution adopted by my fellow-citizens of Tuscaloosa, approbatory of my course on the momentous and exciting questions which engaged the attention of Congress at its last session, has afforded me the liveliest gratification. During my long public service my anxious desire has ever been to advance the interests and protect the rights of those who had generously confided them to my care. The only reward I desired was their approbation. My friends of Tuscaloosa have not overrated the difficulties and embarrassments which I and others had to encounter; for we knew full well that, be our action what it might, we could scarcely hope to escape censure, either because we had yielded too much, or had rendered all adjustment of those fearful questions impracticable by standing on the extreme verge of right. Most sensibly did I feel the responsible position in which I was placed; and I endeavored to survey the whole ground, weigh well all the consequences, and so to shape my course as to preserve unimpaired the honor of the South, protect its constitutional rights, and save the Union. I feel justified in saying that the honor of the South remains untarnished. The Constitution has not been violated. Still we have good reason to complain of the gross injustice we have suffered by the admission of California as a State, with a territory greater than three of the largest of the States of the Union, with the exception of Texas, from the whole of which the Southern people are effectually excluded by the prohibition of slavery contained in her constitution. Against this injustice I exerted myself to the utmost; but does it furnish justifiable ground for a resort to the extreme measures openly and warmly advocated by a portion of our citizens? I think not; for, if every act of oppression or unjust legislation furnished good ground for the destruction of this great Government, the wonder and the admiration of the world, it would long since have been broken into fragments. When the embargo laws carried desolation to the shores of New England, destroyed her commerce, and left her ships to rot at her wharves, what would have been the feeling had that section determined to dissolve the Union? When the unjust, unequal, and most oppressive tariff of 1828 pressed heavily upon Southern industry, which of the Southern States, with the exception of South Carolina, gave countenance to nullification? Far be it from me to palliate Northern aggression? No man has felt it more sensibly than I have, and few, if any, have resisted it with more determined spirit. True, I have differed with many of my Southern brethren as to the measures which a strict regard for Southern rights required me to oppose. I acted, as I am confident they did, in accordance with what we believed duty to our section demanded: which was in error time must determine.

The approval of my course by the intelligent and patriotic citizens of Tuscaloosa, serves to confirm me in the correctness of the views I had taken, and strengthens my conviction that I may rely with confidence on the sober judgment of the people of Alabama to justify and sustain me. Little did I suppose that I, a Southernor by birth and education—bound to the South by the strong tie of interest, and the still stronger of gratitude to a generous and confiding constituency, who for nearly thirty years have sustained and supported me—that I, of all men, could be charged by any one as having proved faithless to the land of my birth, must excite the surprise of all who have observed my public course, uninfluenced by passion or prejudice. Some twenty years past I was subjected to similar denunciation. I disregarded it then; I shall do so now, satisfied that the result will now be as it then was. The advocates for secession, as I should judge from the resolutions adopted at several public meetings in this State, are actuated more from an apprehension of what may take place than from what has already occurred. There is I fear but too much reason to apprehend that the spirit of fanaticism, combined with the thirst of power, may still prompt the North to persevere in her aggressive course. Should such unfortunately be the case, and, regardless of the guarantees of the constitution, our rights of property should be invaded and the work of emancipation commenced, every Southern man—and none sooner than the citizens of Tuscaloosa—would hurl defiance at the fanatical crew, and unitedly determine to defend their rights at every hazard and every sacrifice, even to the dissolution of the Union. God grant that the intelligence and the patriotism of the North may succeed in arresting the mad career of these fanatics and unprincipled aspirants for power, and that harmony may be restored to our distracted country! Believing as I do that, in the excited state of the public mind, we should do nothing which could by possibility add to that excitement or have the appearance of arraying one portion of our people against another, I beg leave most respectfully to decline the invitation to a public dinner, which through you my fellow-citizens of Tuscaloosa have kindly tendered me. Accept, gentlemen, the assurance of my high respect and personal regard.

Faithfully, I am your obedient servant,
WILLIAM R. KING.

A HAPPY MAN.—The editor of the Pittsburg Chronicle says: "Talk about enjoyment of wealth; it never can be enjoyed! An abundance is a heap of misery. A man who owns a house, a small farm, a small wife, a big dog, a cow, two or three fat pigs, and a dozen children, ought to be satisfied. If he ain't he never can be."

CONSERVATIVE SENTIMENT IN OHIO.

The fanatical opposition which the Fugitive Slave Act has encountered in some parts of Ohio, has drawn out the friends of the Union and the Laws in that State, to give public expression to their sentiments in support of the Peace Measures of the late session of Congress, including the Fugitive Slave Law. Amongst the men eminent for wisdom and virtue, and for the public esteem, who have from the retirement of private life sent forth their opinions in defence of the law, is the venerable Judge CRANE, so well known and so highly respected for his judicial knowledge and upright character. It gives us great pleasure to lay before our readers the letter of this venerable and enlightened jurist. At a very large public meeting in the city of Dayton, on the 26th ultimo, without distinction of party, the annexed correspondence was read:

DAYTON, OHIO, OCTOBER 23, 1850.

SIR: The undersigned, citizens of Montgomery county, concurring in the call just issued for a meeting of all those who are in favor of sustaining the recent efforts of the Executive and Congress of the United States to compromise and adjust the vexed questions which for so long have agitated the country and endangered the stability of the Union and the peace and harmony of its different sections, and who desire that quiet, good feeling and fraternal affection, as in the earlier years of the Republic, shall once more and henceforward prevail between us and our brethren of the South, respectfully unite in the earnest request that, despite the many years which have crowned you with so honorable an old age, you will consent to preside at the meeting to be convened on the ensuing Saturday evening in the City Hall, for the purposes above expressed.

Very respectfully, &c.

C. L. VALLANDIGHAM,
LUTHER GIDDINGS,
D. G. FITCH,
RICHARD GREEN,
T. J. S. SMITH,
GILBERT KENNEDY.

To Hon. Jos. H. CRANE, Dayton.

Judge Crane's Reply.

DAYTON, OCTOBER 25, 1850.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter of the 23d instant was handed to me yesterday. I should readily comply with your request, if sanctioned by the meeting, if I were able to do so. But in the present state of my health I am unable to attend, still less to take part in a public meeting, which may and probably will be protracted to a late hour in the evening.

I most cordially concur in the wish you express that quiet, good feeling, fraternal affection, and, may I add, the old good humor, as in the early years of the Republic, may once more and henceforward prevail between us and our brethren of the South?

While no one will question the right of the citizens individually or collectively to express their views and opinions on all questions affecting the public interest, it must be granted that those opinions, when publicly announced, are equally the subject of discussion and criticism.

The resolutions adopted at a public meeting held in this city last week censure the act of Congress of last session commonly called the fugitive slave act, as "unjust and oppressive, inconsistent with the spirit of our institutions and the rights of men under them, and disgraceful to the Government." Such are the general charges; the specifications are that marshals, &c. are compelled, under heavy penalties, to obey and execute process issued under this law, and subjected to liability for the escape of such fugitives, whether with or without their assent. This would seem rather an objection to the common law than to this particular act of Congress. Sheriffs and other ministerial officers are compellable at common law to obey and execute all lawful process to them directed, and subjected to heavy penalties for neglect or refusal. The same common law makes the sheriff, &c. liable for the escape of a prisoner in his custody, whether voluntary or not. The marshal by this act is only placed in the same predicament and subject to the same responsibility as a sheriff.

I need only refer to the opinion of Mr. Crittenden, the Attorney General, to disprove the specification that this act renders ineffectual or suspends the writ of *habeas corpus*. This writ is a writ of right, and every judge, on a proper application to him, must issue it, and when the party is brought before him must determine whether the imprisonment be legal or not. This writ can only be suspended by Congress in the cases specified in the constitution.

The complaint that this law makes the petty officers of a court the judges in questions of personal liberty and perpetual slavery, without appeal or review, applies with equal force to the act of 1793, which was the law of the land for more than half a century. That act gave the same summary remedy; authorized the arrest of the alleged fugitive by the claimant, his agent or attorney; gave the circuit and district judges of the United States Courts or any magistrate of any county, city, or town corporate where such arrest was made, jurisdiction to hear and determine, without a jury and without appeal or review: and the certificate of such judge or magistrate was a sufficient warrant to remove the fugitive to the State or Territory from whence he fled.

The principal difference in this respect between the act of 1793 and this act amendatory and supplementary thereto, is that Commissioners appointed by the Circuit and District Courts of the United States are substituted for the county, city, and town magistrates, and though petty officers, or rather judges of limited jurisdiction, will probably be found quite as well qualified to hear and determine as their predecessors under the act of 1793. Judge Story, in his Commentaries on the Constitution, has shown the reason and necessity of this summary remedy, adopted in 1793 and continued under the amendatory and supplemental act of 1850.

It is further objected that this act, under certain circumstances, compels the removal of the fugitive to the State from whence he fled, by the marshal and at the expense of the United States. The Constitution secures to the owner the right of reclaiming his slave in any State into which he has escaped. The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that Congress has the sole and exclusive power of legislation on this subject, and to carry into effect this provision of the constitution. The act 1793 as well as that of 1850 has established tribunals to hear and determine cases of this description. But the jurisdiction of a court would be maimed and defective without the power of carrying its judgments into effectual execution. This amendatory act of 1850 has guarded against the forcible rescue of one adjudged to be a fugitive and bound to service, by requiring the marshal to remove him to the State from whence he fled, and empowering him to summon assistance to overcome such apprehended force. The sheriff may command the power of his county where the process of the court is forcibly resisted. This act in the case specified gives the marshal a similar power to enforce the judgment of the court. Have we not reason to believe that in many cases such judgments would prove wholly nugatory and unavailing without some such provision for enforcing them? But "it is on the oath of the claimant and at the expense of the United States." He is the one most likely to be apprized of an intended rescue, and to feel apprehensions of its success, and is the proper person to make the affidavit. And why should this extraordinary expense fall on the claimant? The constitution has secured the right of recapture; he has established that right before the tribunal created by law to hear and determine such questions, and ought not the Government to secure to him the benefit of such judgment against unlawful force and violence?

I have gone through the specifications in support of the general charges contained in the resolutions. However they may affect others, they do not satisfy my mind that this amendatory and supplemental act deserves the character given to it by those resolutions.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully yours, &c.

JOSEPH H. CRANE.

To Messrs. GREEN, KENNEDY, GIDDINGS, VALLANDIGHAM, FITCH, and SMITH.

This letter was so entirely in accordance with the sentiments of the meeting that it was, as the Dayton papers state, "received with the most rapturous applause." We cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of giving also the admirable preamble and resolutions which were, with enthusiastic cheers, adopted by the meeting. They are as follows:

Whereas, in the opinion of the meeting here assembled, a crisis of imminent peril exists in the affairs of the nation, which demands of every citizen that it be written upon his forehead what he thinks of the Republic; and whereas, also, Congress at the session just adjourned, after many months of wearisome and dangerous excitement and agitation, have presented to the people of the United States a system of measures designed to settle and put at rest forever the vexed questions and embittered strifes which so far and for so long have weakened the ties of common interests and a common brotherhood, and periled the existence even of the Union itself—we, a portion of the people of Montgomery county, in public meeting assembled, do declare and resolve:

1. That we are for the Union as it is, and the Constitution as it is, and that we will preserve, maintain, and defend both at every hazard, observing with scrupulous and uncalculating fidelity every article, requirement, and compromise of the constitutional compact between these States, to *the letter* and in its *utmost spirit*, and recognising no "higher law" between which and the Constitution we know of any conflict.

2. That the Constitution was "the result of a spirit of amity and of that mutual deference and concession which the peculiarity of our political situation rendered indispensable;" that by amity, conciliation, and compromise alone can it and the Union which it established be preserved; and that it is the duty of all good citizens to frown indignantly upon every attempt, wheresoever or by whomsoever made, to array one section of the Union against the other; to foment jealousies and heartburnings between them, by systematic and organized misrepresentation, denunciation, and calumny, and thereby to render alien in feeling and affection the inheritors of so noble a common patrimony, purchased by our fathers at so great expense of blood and treasure.

3. That, as the friends of peace and concord, as lovers of the Union, and foes, sworn upon the horns of the altar of our common country, to all who seek and all that tends to its dissolution, we have viewed with anxiety and alarm the perilous crisis brought upon us by years of ceaseless and persevering agitation of the slavery question in its various forms; and that the Executive and Congress of the United States have deserved well of the Republic for their patriotic efforts so to compromise and adjust this vexed question as to leave no good cause for clamor or offence by any portion of the Union.

4. That a strict adherence in all its parts to the compromise, thus deliberately and solemnly effected, is essential to the restoration and maintenance of peace, harmony, and fraternal affection between the different sections of the Union, and thereby to the preservation of the Union itself; and that GOOD FAITH imperatively demands that adherence at the hands of all good citizens, whether of the North or of the South.

5. That, believing this compromise the very best which, in view of the circumstances and temper of the times, could have been attained, we are for it as it is, and opposed to all agitation looking to a repeal or essential modification of any of its parts, and that we will lend no aid or comfort to those who, for any purpose, seek further to agitate and embroil the country upon these questions.

6. That "all obstructions to the execution of the laws, all combinations and associations, under whatever plausible character, with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of the fundamental principle of our institutions and of fatal tendency;" that all such efforts, wherever made or by whomsoever advised, find no answering sympathy in our breasts, nothing but loathing and contempt; and that we hereby pledge ourselves to the country that, so far as in us lies, the UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE LAWS must and shall be maintained.

7. That the resolutions adopted in this Hall on the 19th of October do not meet our concurrence, either in language, temper, or object; that in the opinion of this meeting they do not express the sentiments of the people of this county, and will not by them be endorsed; that we regard the Fugitive Act of 1850 as a constitutional and necessary enactment—an amplification and fulfilment of the constitutional compact, founded directly upon and demanded by it, and no more stringent than that compact authorized and the exigencies of the times required.

GEO. W. HOUK, Esq. having moved the adoption of the resolutions—

EDWARD W. DAVIES, Esq. in a very courteous manner desired that, if there were any in the meeting who were opposed to the sentiments expressed in the resolutions, they would give a full and free expression of their opinions, and assured them that the meeting would hear them with the most respectful attention. He desired this, and extended the invitation, hoping that if such sentiments were entertained, the invitation might be responded to, inasmuch as he was open to conviction and always wished to hear both sides of all questions.

There being no response to the invitation, T. J. S. SMITH, Esq. was called for, and responded in a short speech, giving his entire approbation to the object of the meeting and the resolutions.

C. L. VALLANDIGHAM, Esq. was next called to the stand, and responded, sustaining the Law and the Constitution, and reviewed at considerable length the objections to the law.

The question was then put upon the adoption of the resolutions, and UNANIMOUSLY carried.

We cannot but marvel that while sentiments like the above—so conciliatory, so just, and so fraternal—are proclaimed from so many popular assemblies in the free States, the presses of South Carolina should persevere in representing public sentiment in the North as hostile to the rights of the South, and the violence of a comparatively small number of fanatics in the North as expressive of universal Northern sentiment. This is about as unjust as the stereotyped phrase in the same prints of "aggressions of Congress" on the rights of the South. What has Congress done but protect the rights of the South, and this with the assent and patriotic concurrence of members of both Houses from the free States?

The total amount coined at the United States Mint, in Philadelphia, from the 1st of January to 30th September, was $20,032,327.50. The officers state that they will be enabled to coin five millions a month in future, which will meet the wants of the public.

CHICAGO NULLIFICATION NULLIFIED.—We are glad to see that the Council of Chicago have repealed their late law in opposition to the law of Congress. The injury is thus partially healed. We trust others will learn wisdom, and, however much they may dislike the law, not please the disunionists of the South so much as to array themselves in open resistance to it.—*Ohio State Jour.*

FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW IN MASSACHUSETTS.—Much regret (says the Journal of Commerce) has been expressed by some of the friends of order and law in this vicinity that the Fugitive Slave Law could not be enforced (as they said) in old Massachusetts. We have told all such persons, when the opportunity presented itself, that we knew Massachusetts better than they did, and that we had no hesitation in saying that the law could and would be enforced there. We are gratified to find the same opinion confidently expressed by the Boston Daily Advertiser, which, as well as the Boston Courier, has done excellent service in support of the constitution and laws. Says that paper of the 4th instant:

"We begin to observe in some of the journals at the South, as might have been anticipated, severe comments upon the apparent triumph of opposition to legal authority in this city. It is much to be regretted that the demonstration of a determination to resist the execution of process under the Fugitive Slave Law, somewhat exaggerated in the accounts which have appeared in various quarters, together with the fact that warrants known to have been issued by the highest authority have not yet been executed, should give so much ground for these comments. However plausible may be the inferences discreditable to our city which are drawn from the facts as they are stated, it is premature to judge, from the delays which have occurred, and the show of resistance, when in fact none has been made, that the law will not be executed. There is no occasion for precipitancy in meeting an issue, of which those who know the people of the city of Boston cannot doubt the result. We have little fear that the law will be seriously resisted in Massachusetts, and, if forcibly resisted, it will notwithstanding be surely executed."

The General Assembly of RHODE ISLAND adjourned on Friday evening, after a session of four days, to meet at Providence on the third Monday in January.

The two Houses did not join in grand committee for the election of a Senator in Congress. The Senate proposed to join by a vote of 18 to 15. The House refused by a vote of 35 to 29. So the election goes over to January.

A proposition to remove all disabilities by reason of convictions for political offences was again brought up in the Senate and defeated by a vote of 17 to 14.

A proposition to repeal the law which requires the voter to write his name on the back of his ballot was discussed in the House, and was laid on the table by a vote of 25 to 22.

OFFICIAL.

By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, by an act of the Congress of the United States of the 24th of May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight, entitled "An act in addition to an act entitled 'An act concerning discriminating duties of tonnage and impost,' and to equalize the duties on Prussian vessels and their cargoes," it is provided that, upon satisfactory evidence being given to the President of the United States by the Government of any foreign nation that no discriminating duties of tonnage or impost are imposed or levied in the ports of the said nation, upon vessels wholly belonging to citizens of the United States, or upon the produce, manufactures, or merchandise imported in the same from the United States or from any foreign country, the President is thereby authorized to issue his proclamation, declaring that the foreign discriminating duties of tonnage and impost within the United States are and shall be suspended and discontinued, so far as respects the vessels of the said foreign nation, and the produce, manufactures, or merchandise imported into the United States in the same from the said foreign nation, or from any other foreign country, the said suspension to take effect from the time of such notification being given to the President of the United States, and to continue so long as the reciprocal exemption of vessels belonging to citizens of the United States, and their cargoes, as aforesaid, shall be continued, and no longer:

And whereas satisfactory evidence has lately been received by me from the Government of the Republic of Chili, through an official communication of Señor Don MANUEL CARVALLO, accredited to this Government as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of that Republic, under date of the 31st of October, 1850, that no other or higher duties of tonnage and impost are imposed or levied in the ports of Chili upon vessels wholly belonging to citizens of the United States, and upon the produce, manufactures, or merchandise imported in the same from the United States, and from any foreign country whatever, than are levied on Chilian ships and their cargoes in the same ports, and under like circumstances:

Now, therefore, I, MILLARD FILLMORE, President of the United States of America, do hereby declare and proclaim that so much of the several acts imposing discriminating duties of tonnage and impost within the United States and shall be suspended and discontinued, so far as respects the vessels of Chili, and the produce, manufactures, and merchandise imported into the United States in the same, from Chili and from any other foreign country whatever; the said suspension to take effect from the day above mentioned, and to continue thenceforward so long as the reciprocal exemption of the vessels of the United States and the produce, manufactures, and merchandise imported into Chili in the same, as aforesaid, shall be continued on the part of the Government of Chili.

Given under my hand, at the city of Washington, the 1st day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty, and the seventy-fifth of the independence of the United States.

By the President: MILLARD FILLMORE.
W. S. DERRICK, Acting Secretary of State.

THE WOMAN'S CONVENTION.

The Editor of the Springfield Republican amuses himself and his readers with the subjoined playful ridicule of the Woman's Convention, lately held at Worcester—a more appropriate mode of treating such vagaries than grave argument:

THE WOMAN'S CONVENTION.—We have waited in suspense for the breaking up of the Woman's Convention, at Worcester, which commenced and closed its sessions last week. Our fears for the result of this movement may have made us suspicious of appearances. The ladies on the street have carried an arch and saucy look, which indicated the possession of concealed weapons, or the existence of some plot by which the wrongs of womanhood were to be redressed. Every petticoat has looked like a barricade, bonnets have been transformed to helmets, parasols have been suspiciously pointed at the end, and the soles on the shoes of the dear creatures have appeared to possess an uncomfortable thickness. All these indications have had a tendency to alarm us, and lead us to imagine that a violent social revolution was imminent. The danger is now apparently past, and herewith we issue from the bushes, and reconnoitre the field from which our fears had driven us.

The ground taken by the Convention was, we suppose, stated in the resolutions, though there was any quantity of speaking, wildly outside of them. Female ultraism is much like that which rejoices under another gender. An idea, very good in itself, is seized upon, a ring is formed around it, just as school girls form a ring when they play "pizen," and then they whirl around and around it, until their brains get dizzy, and then, in their crazy head-swimming, they think the whole world is "topsy-turvy." The rights enumerated in the resolutions were: 1st. A right to an equal education with man, in our high schools, universities, and theological seminaries. 2d. An equal copartnership in the labors and gains of men, with free access to the purse-strings, without the husband's permission. 3d. A co-equal share with man in the formation and administration of the laws. Other resolutions went further into metaphysics than the brain of an inferior sex can follow, and we omit their mention.

No man doubts the right of woman to the full development of her moral, intellectual, and social nature. No being more than man has reason to regret that this right is held in light esteem by womankind generally, or more laments the sparing manner in which it is exercised. This is a right which man grants, and for the improvement of which he is willing to sacrifice his time and his money. Man is willing that woman should have the social position for which her nature fits her; nay, he has already awarded it to her. Woman is the recipient of his tenderest devotion, the products of his toil, and the holiest sympathies of his nature. She is the secret spring of his best energies; the one active and all-pervading influence of his whole life.

"Women of the nineteenth century" and of the Worcester Convention, however, wish to be preachers, politicians, merchants, and administrators of law. That they are not all these they declare is a foul wrong. It were useless to reason against fanaticism like this, and fruitless also. Views like these can never prevail among the sex. The soil is already too well cultivated for such unnatural growths.

We are told that some of the speeches made at the Convention were very talented, and doubtless they were so. Mrs. Davis presided with great dignity. Miss Brown, a beautiful young lady of Oberlin, in a fluent speech, is understood to have floored St. Paul on a Bible argument. Mrs. Tyndale, of Pennsylvania, was proved to have been a successful merchant, and *Sojourner Truth*, a fugitive slave, made a smart speech, in which man, the tyrant, caught it *some*. She closed with a prayer that "God would make her a double woman, that she might hold out to the end." Mrs. Rose, of New York, thought that if one sex must have the advantage over the other, it must be the female, &c. &c. We are aware that few of our fair readers entertain opinions coinciding with these, and have no doubt that they will agree with us in saying that all these women would have done much more for the proper advancement of their sex by staying at home, tending their babies, instructing their children, and assisting their husbands; or in fitting themselves to assume those high duties for which no woman yet ever found herself too well qualified.

THE PRESS OF MISSISSIPPI.—We can count up about forty-six political journals in the State. Of these we exchange with all but two or three. There are besides four neutral papers, not one of which, we believe, has the slightest affinity to disunionism. The political press we classify as follows:

Whig, and for the Union	22
Democratic, and for the Union	7
" and avowedly disunion	5
" and strongly agitationist	9