

# The Rutland Weekly Globe.

RUTLAND, VT., FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 15, 1873.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

VOL. L., NO. 15.

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TERMS IN ADVANCE.

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The Pennsylvania republican state convention assembled at Harrisburg, Wednesday, and nominated a state ticket. The resolutions were after the usual order, the last declaring "that they sympathized with every movement for agriculture, interests and rights, and the republican party will be their ally in every just effort to attain their ends."

The "farmers of Iowa," more or less of them, have finally broken loose from all political parties, not in convention, nominated and resolved. The nominees are mostly unknown to fame, but the resolutions are such as might have been expected. The only significant thing about the convention was the presence of prominent democrats, who took particular pains to impress upon all the fact that the democratic party had gone up.

It would appear from the proceedings of the Maine democratic state convention, as well as from the nominations, that the party give up the contest in advance. The nomination for governor—Joseph Titcomb—is a respectable one, and that is all that can be said about it. He is a man of some wealth, almost entirely unknown, without any particular influence or strength anywhere, and is one of that class of men usually nominated when a party expects to "do nothing," and make a splendid success in that kind of doing.

The special committee of the Senate on transportation will assemble in New York city early in September. Senator Winslow, the chairman, as well as other members of the committee, have devoted considerable attention to the subject matter, and will submit the results of their investigations at the meeting. The officers and leaders of the "granges" and other organizations of the farmers have, also, been invited to attend, and state their grievances, views as to the remedy, etc. If no practical result is immediately secured, a final valuable information will be gathered, which may throw light on the course to be pursued in the future.

It is "S. C." check again brought up. The said General Clinton B. Fisk, of the *Excelsior*, committed suicide, October 10th, 1868. Two months previous to his death, that he was mistaken and Colfax was right; that Dillon undoubtedly paid the check to him, Ames, *Perceps*, a gentleman of unquestionable reliability states that Mr. Ames told him, within three days of his death, that the check was paid to Colfax, showing him, at the same time corroborative documents, which are now in the possession of Mr. A.'s family. This is an unbecomingly, but it is due to Mr. Colfax, as well as to the memory of Oakes Ames, that his sons, if such a document or documents exist, to publish them, especially after the publicity given to Drew's letter, and the alleged statement of General Fisk.

A meeting was held in Saratoga Tuesday evening, to listen to an explanation from two members, both colored, of a committee, appointed by the republicans of Louisiana, to present their side of the case to the north. From a report of the speeches, published in the *Saratogian*, it would appear that they succeeded in showing that which no one ever doubted, namely: that the election in that state was fraudulently conducted, and that white registers refused to enroll colored republicans as voters. The conclusion at which they arrive we believe to be true—had it not followed from their argument—that the colored men are entitled to the offices. A different class of arguments or an addition to their present number, as well, perhaps, as a change in the manner of presenting them, would benefit their cause more and produce a better impression. If this is all these men can say for their cause, our advice would be: "silence."

### WHEREFORE?

During the presidential campaign of 1848, after all the nominations had been made, among the many rumors set afloat was one, to the effect, that a large body of South Carolinians, who had always been democrats, proposed to bolt their party nominations and vote for General Taylor, preferring his election—moderate and conservative as he was known to be—to that of either Cass or Van Buren. In alluding to this alleged fact, a local politician, who therefore had not been noted for his opposition to slavery, said to a prominent anti-slavery man for years—that if this was so, General Taylor would not receive his vote. The reply was apt and, in substance, that if General Taylor was a Whig prepared to carry out the principles of the party and was, as they all believed him to be, a conservative man of moderate views to be desired, and that his election was to be desired, and that they should vote for him, and welcome all other support from whatever source it came. He closed the conversation by saying that they had not the right or power, and if they had it would be the most idiotic kind of policy, to declare that no man should vote for their candidate, unless he had at all times and under all circumstances agreed with his or any other individuals views. A great deal of truth and political wisdom is contained in this answer, and it seems to be particularly applicable just now. A year ago certain Republicans said, in the exercise of their undoubted right, to separate themselves, temporarily, from their regular party, and to support others than the regular republican candidates. This they had the undoubted vote to do, as an individual has the right, at any time,

to "scratch his ticket" or bolt a particular nomination. It is doubtless true that some of these men intended, thereby, to sever their connection with the republican party forever. But it is not reasonable or probable that all, or even the greater number did so intend. Did Charles Sumner, and many others who might be mentioned, become any less republican, because they declined to vote for General Grant? We think not, and believe them to be, today, as good republicans as any that can be found in the country.

Whether these gentlemen intended to abandon the republican party, actually did abandon it, or intended to do so, and succeeded in forming a new party, is a matter of no consequence whatever. We know of no power or authority that can prevent a man from acting with the party of his choice. There is no power to prevent a man bolting a particular nomination and "reading a new one out of the party" thereby, but to change his political *status* or principles. If a man professes to be a republican or democrat, it is his right and duty to attend the primary meetings of the party, and do his utmost to secure proper nominations. The fact that he has "scratched his ticket," one or more times, does not exclude him from these gatherings. "Votes count," and it makes no difference what an individual has done, his vote for certain nominees is as good as much, in deciding the result, as that of any other man. We have made these suggestions, because the *New York Times* and other republican newspapers, as well as a humble imitator of the *Times* in this state, think them have committed the unpardonable political sin and should be forever ostracized because they saw fit to vote for Mr. Greeley. It having been stated that Frank W. Bird, one of the leaders and leaders of the anti-slavery movement and republican party in Massachusetts "proposes to rejoin the republican"—as it is expressed—the *Times* intimates that he will not be "cordially welcomed," and the Boston *Transcript* "objects" to his "return" to the republican camp. Wherefore this kind of talk, and it is not confined to these papers alone. Are they afraid of the influence of men of the talents and integrity of Sumner, Bird and others? They are but fighting a windmill, because these men cannot be "read out of the party," and their influence for good is sure to be felt. We think they made a mistake when they made a mistake, and they are patriotic, honorable men, and we are proud to claim them as republicans. It is the right of every man to endeavor to repeal voters from the support of a ticket, and the time will come when the active support and influence of these men will be earnestly sought by those who now inform them that they have no business to vote the republican ticket.

### DIVORCES.

We publish in another column, a communication in reference to divorces, drawn up by some editorial remarks made by us some days ago. We agree, in every respect, with the sentiments of the writer, and firmly believe that whatever tends to weaken the bonds of matrimony, tends to weaken society itself, and the safety thereof. Indiana, for years, was a by-word of reproach, and held up to the scorn and derision of the world, because it was alleged that divorces could be there obtained with such extraordinary ease and facility. Vermont virtue itself in its garments of assumed virtue and joined in the hue and cry against poor Indiana and other western states, holding her own statute book in her hand, and pointing to it, exclaimed, here is the sacredness of the marriage tie as assured, here are provisions which will prevent, as they were designed to, all lusty, improper or fraudulent divorces. What was the fact all this time? Vermont granted divorces for the same, and only the same reasons that Indiana did. The only difference between the states was that it took one year longer to obtain a divorce here than there. Persons could come from Vermont from foreign states, gain a residence here, and then obtain a divorce for causes not recognized in the state from which they came. So they could in Indiana, but in one year less time, and we, therefore, assumed the garb of sanctity and clerical Indiana.

This is not all. Our correspondent alludes to the collusion often practiced in order to obtain a divorce, referring to one marked example. "That the old Indiana law, no party could obtain a divorce unless it was proved, by the oath of the party seeking a divorce, that he was a bona fide resident of the state, and that there was no collusion, understanding or agreement between husband and wife by which a divorce was sought. How stands the case in Vermont? Simple residence is only required to be proved, and it is unnecessary to inquire whether the residence is bona fide or only gained to give the party a locus in court so that he could petition for relief. This is not the worst side of Vermont's case, either. There is no provision made in our statutes to prevent collusive agreements between man and wife seeking divorce. A few years ago two petitions for divorce were pending in the Supreme court of this county, both of which the husband in the one case married the wife in the other, and the other parties did the same. Here was apparently and almost beyond doubt, actual collusion and an agreement made to obtain divorces in order to "swap wives." Judge Pratt, then representing Rutland in one branch of the legislature, took advantage of these circumstances, prepared a bill into the legislature, and endeavored to enforce its passage, providing that divorces should not be granted, unless the party applying therefor should make an affidavit, that it was sought without collusion or agreement with the other party. This would have been one step in the right direction, but the legislature, by a large majority, refused to pass the bill. What is the natural inference? Only this, that the legislature were disposed to make the dissolution of the marriage contract as easy as possible, even, if it was necessary to resort to collusive agreements. Three-quarters of the divorces granted in Vermont are founded upon such agreements, and will continue to be until the laws are changed and public sentiment reformed.

### IS IT SIMPLY "TECHNICAL"?

The case of "Lord Gordon Gordon," as he ostentatiously styles himself, has already occupied more space in the newspapers of the country, than the importance of the individual concerned would, perhaps, warrant. He may be, for all we know, and, probably, is—for the evidence tends so to show—an impostor, a swindler and scoundrel. He undoubtedly deserves imprisonment and the same punishment that ought to, and would be meted out to any other swindler and criminal of the same stamp, if he is guilty of the swindling charged against him, and we believe that he is, he is doubly deserving of the contempt and detestation of all decent persons, for he has added ingratitude—the basest of all sins—to his crimes. Confined in prison, or about to be consigned thereto, an acquaintance, who seems to have had confidence in him, has stepped forward, turned him by his appearance, and allowed him, once more, to go at will. Since that time, we learn of no more swindling operations or crimes on his part, but the next that we hear of him is his flight to Canada, in order that he might escape punishment for his misdeeds and elude his bail. We have made the statement upon the authority of his bitterest opponents, and are willing to admit that it is all true, and, even, to go further and say, for the sake of the argument, that he is the basest of villains, the most hardened of criminals, the fondest blot upon society, a shame and disgrace to the age and civilization, and, in addition to all this, has added thereto the base sin of ingratitude. Taking him under either of both descriptions, he made his way into Manitoba, whither he fled, probably, by the offer of large pecuniary rewards, he was followed by two or more detectives from Minnesota, arrested on foreign soil, the attempt made to forcibly abduct him, and bring him secretly, and against his will, into the United States, where he was imprisoned, and, ultimately, tried and punished.

### NEW PHASE OF SUNDAY LAWS.

The constitutional provision that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" is familiar to all. The former clause was designed solely to prevent a union of church and state, such as our fathers had seen established in Great Britain, to whom they had, *themselves*, owed allegiance. The free exercise of religion, according to the doctrine of our own conscience, was considered as an inherent right, and was based upon, and its enjoyment assumed in the same article, of liberty of the press and of speech, of the right of petition, etc. In further recognition of this right, it is, also, provided that no "religious test" shall ever be required as a qualification for office. Further than this no recognition is made of religion or religious worship in our organic law. Under these clauses—or, perhaps, some would say in spite thereof—legislatures have passed laws in reference to the observance of the Sabbath, or Sunday, have prohibited traveling and unnecessary labor on that day and established penalties for its non-observance. Without express legislative enactments on the subject, courts have declared it to be law—law, in fact, throughout a large portion of the United States. It is good law—that all notes, bonds, contracts, etc., made on that day are void and of no binding effect. In various other respects, legislatures, courts, and common councils have made distinctions between Sunday and the other days of the week. For instance, in many cities and in some states, it is unlawful to sell intoxicating liquor on that day, while it is authorized during the remainder of the week. Demonstrations, parades and other acts, which would be regarded as perfectly harmless on a week day, are absolutely prohibited on Sunday, and the participants or actors thereof punished by fine or imprisonment, to a greater or less extent. So places of religious worship, and all religious assemblies are placed under the protection of the law, and the disturbers thereof punished, to a greater extent than are those who disturb merely secular meetings.

There never has been, heretofore, any particular occasion for ascertaining the precise meaning of these constitutional prohibitions and guarantees. The people everywhere have always been, substantially, of one accord, and have united in the belief that the first day of the week was the Sabbath, the progress of civilization, during the past few years, has brought to this country a vast number of Jews, who have settled in certain localities, and the exact limitation or extent of these guarantees and prohibitions are accordingly assuming an importance they never had before. So long as there was a unanimity of sentiment upon the proper day to be observed, no practical question could be raised, for the meaning of the constitution was and would be plain, if Sunday was the only day to be considered. With the increase of the number of Jews, and their consequent power, a trouble at once came up about "Sunday laws," as we call them. The Jews, as every one knows, regard Saturday as the Sabbath, and they now claim the same rights, privileges, etc., in the observance thereof that Christians do for Sunday. The Jewish citizens of Chicago have addressed a letter, or petition, to the Mayor of that city, asking "protection" from the disturbance of their Sabbath, "beginning on Friday and ending on Saturday evening, by prohibiting the carrying on of trade in the vicinity of their 'places of worship.' There is more in this matter than can be seen at the first glance, and its contemplation will throw open the door for a vast amount of speculation. The Jews are honest and sincere in their belief, and have the same rights to protection, etc., as persons of other beliefs have. Other beliefs may spring up observing some other day as a Sabbath, and

they, too, will be entitled to protection. Where will it end? We do not propose to consider the matter further at present, and blow out these hints only to ask the careful consideration of our citizens to the possible tendency of this movement. We must concede the same rights and protection to Jew and Christian alike, because our constitution renders such a course obligatory, and also, because it is consistent with the principles of a free government, and in harmony with the spirit of the age. It is not, however, the entering wedge which is to bring about the repeal of all "Sunday laws."

### "Divorce."

Editor Rutland Globe:—Under the above heading, *The Globe*, in a recent issue, defines its position on a very important question in social economy. While not in the least in every point, I can most heartily concur in the intimation that the way to free love lies through easy divorces. We are generally recognized that a large share of divorces result from essentially the same motives that actuate free lovers, a great point would be gained for the stability of the marriage relation. Most divorces are the offspring of supreme selfishness. One of the parties, or both, are tired of the restraints which the marriage contract rightfully imposes and seek relief therefrom in divorce. Instead of endeavoring to ascertain the cause of this tiresomeness, which doubtless at times afflicts all but the most favored of married couples, and removing it if possible, they seek entire release from the marriage bond, in the vague hope that a new partnership will prove more felicitous. What is this but the location of the free lover similarly situated. He or she tires of the present relation and proposes a dissolution of it, for the sake of forming a new one. This is selfishness, unmitigated selfishness, unless it be, in which case it is nothing better than the pairing of beasts.

The true idea of marriage is that it is indissoluble save for the gravest offenses, and even where the grave offense of adultery has been committed it is better than for the public mind, in this all important respect, the guilty party, if there be a reasonable prospect of success, than to punish by divorce. So at least taught the late Mr. Greeley, from whom on the whole subject of marriage and divorce, moralists generally do not dissent. The Roman Catholic consider it) is of all the institutions of civilization, the greatest conservator of public morality. It goes farther in this direction than the church, by reason of the great numbers that come directly under its influence. Anything, therefore, that tends to weaken the bonds of matrimony tends to weaken society itself. That our country is a "divorce" country, is a fact which is painfully evident to every thoughtful person. Happily, however, the very looseness of the laws and the still looser practice of the courts in many cases, have caused a reaction, and legislatures are beginning to modify and amend their divorce systems. The State of Indiana, for instance, to which you allude, has started off in the right direction, in which he was obliged to furnish a divorce to her, which he is now doing. He then fell a prisoner into the hands of the rebels, and after suffering the horrors of a Southern prison-pen for a season, he was exchanged. As soon as he was able to get on his feet again he enlisted for six months, served his time and again enlisted, receiving a second commission from Gov. Morton. All this time the wound remained unhealed with a hole open in his leg which remained in that condition until within a few weeks. Among the engagements in which he participated was the battle of Clinch Mountain, in which he was obliged to furnish a divorce to her, which he is now doing. 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