

Gen. Cass—the Presidency.

In several states strong expressions have been made in favor of the nomination of General Cass for the Presidency. The democratic state convention of Ohio, has recommended him as the choice of the democracy of that State to the national convention, which is to assemble at Baltimore in May next.

The nomination of Gen. Cass, would be hailed with satisfaction by the west.—The Administration has had no truer champion than this distinguished statesman. He has served his country in the tented field, and in her halls of Legislation. His transcendent abilities have done much to sustain the honor of our country in this war. The powers of argument and eloquence which have been used by him in the Senate of the United States, to show the justness of our cause, are engraved upon the hearts of his countrymen; and will be remembered by all true Americans. Notwithstanding the democracy of Illinois are bound to give their undivided support to the nominee of the national convention; still, judging from the expressions that we have heard, we believe that Gen. Cass is the first choice of a large majority of the democratic party of the State—however the present distinguished incumbent of the Executive Chair, would not be objectionable.

Gen. Cass' untiring support of the present Administration, has strengthened his claims upon the confidence of his political friends. The success of the great national measures established and carried out by the administration of James K. Polk, will not fail to have a powerful effect upon the coming election. The measures of the democratic party, as carried out by the Administration, are rapidly growing in the confidence of the public. The whig party will be compelled to raise some new issue in order to blind the people in regard to their real principles, which are so disastrous to the prosperity of the Union, in order to be successful. The principles of whiggery have been so often repudiated by the people of this republic, that they are convinced that they cannot succeed by advocating them openly. The whig party never have been, nor never will be, successful in a contest for principles.

Whatever preferences there may be among the democratic party of different portions of the Union, for the several distinguished statesmen whose names have been mentioned in connection with the Presidency, the decision of the National Convention will settle the matter. The entire party will stand manfully and unitedly in support of the nominee of the national convention, whoever he may be, if he is the embodiment of democratic principles. Notwithstanding the anti-war panic endeavored to be created by the whigs, the democratic candidate for the Presidency will be triumphantly elected, if the party acts unitedly. The deceptions and delusions which the whig party have endeavored to palm off upon the people, are too visible to be hidden; and the results of the coming election will furnish substantial proof of the fact.

A Mistake!

The "Western Citizen," and "Gem," at Chicago, have an article in their last week's papers, credited to us, which never appeared in this paper. We presume, however, that the mistake was made unintentionally, as the publishers of either of those papers, we believe, would not so grossly misrepresent us.

The article referred to is from the "True Democrat" of this place, in relation to the progress of the work upon the canal. It contains statements in regard to the Engineers, to which we cannot consent. It states that "the Engineers and Superintendents merit great credit for the energy and perseverance they have manifested in pushing ahead the work." This statement is without foundation, as every one conversant with our canal matters must know, and was only made by our neighbor in order to gain favor in the sight of his *salaried* masters. We trust that the papers which would make us convey impressions so far from the truth by their mistakes, will do us the justice to make the necessary corrections, so that we will not be compelled to bear the sins of others.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—A new Division of this Order has been instituted in this place, by the name of *Wagonites*. It is not two years since the first division was instituted here, yet there are over a hundred members belonging to the two divisions. There are sixty-nine divisions in the State.

We have received a communication upon the New Constitution, which we are compelled to omit until our next.

Report of the State Trustee.

We have received the report of the State Trustee in relation to certain charges preferred by him against the Chief Engineer, at a meeting of the subscribers of the canal loan, held in New York in October last. It is a clear document, and is a plain statement of facts, with substantial evidence in support of the same. Our columns will not permit us to give the entire report an insertion in our paper, but we will endeavor to give some extracts from it next week.

The circumstances that called forth this report, are, doubtless, known to a majority of the people of this section of the State. The bondholders' Trustees, after their meeting at Chicago to plaster over the misdeeds of Mr. Gooding, their pet, made a report to the chairman of the meeting, at which Col. Oakley preferred his charges, setting forth their views of the matter, which might have been premeditated, when their management of our canal is taken into consideration. The mis-statements in their report, and the effort to veil the truth, made it indispensably necessary that a correct statement of the whole matter be made, which has been done by the State Trustee.

The Rutherford Case.

The examination of Salmon Rutherford, to which we referred week before last, terminated on the 15th inst. During the progress of the examination, a high degree of legal tact and ability was evinced both by the counsel for the prosecution and the defence. After the close of the pleadings in the case, which we have heard spoken of in the highest terms for their eloquence and argumentativeness, Rutherford was committed to jail to await his trial for murder at the next term of our Circuit Court.

In connexion with this matter, we regret that we are compelled to notice some remarks in the last "True Democrat" in regard to the examination, and to what it believed to be the duty of a public journalist. Notwithstanding we are as anxious that justice should be meted out to the guilty as the "True Democrat"; still we cannot admit that it is the duty of public journalists to inflame the public mind in regard to matters of this kind, until after the final trial. If we could see any good that could result from such a course, we would not object, but evidence cannot be changed nor the guilty be brought to punishment quicker thereby.

As to the fenshish personal assault made by the "True Democrat" upon E. C. Fellows, one of the counsel for the defence, it is hardly necessary to speak. The high reputation of Mr. Fellows will not suffer by such malignant ebullitions of vulgar defamation. The individual who makes them degrades himself ten fold more than any one else. We are truly mortified at this assault of the "True Democrat," which manifests the character of its conductor, who is too exalted to be taught; and who is blind to the respect due from him to others.

A new Post Office, called "Long John," has been established in this county, and George R. Dyer, Esq., appointed postmaster.

We are under obligations to the Hon. Messrs. BREESE, DOUGLASS, WESTWORTH, and McCLELAND, for public documents.

LOUISIANA.—The Legislature of Louisiana have elected Pierre Soule, the talented statesman and democrat, to the United States Senate, in place of Johnson, whig.

MARYLAND.—Hon. J. A. Pearce has been re-elected to the United States Senate, for six years from the 4th of March, 1849, by the Legislature of this State.

State Convention.

There is a more querulous disposition evinced by a portion of the democratic press of the state, about the proper manner of choosing our delegates to the Democratic National Convention, than is justifiable by consistency or a due regard for principle. Attempts to create sectional feelings between the democracy of the northern and southern portions of the State should be discontinued. The great mass of the democracy of Illinois are laboring for the same doctrines and principles, and, therefore, we believe, cannot be divided by matters of such small consequence. We earnestly hope that the unkind feelings between the democratic press of this state, will cease, and that in the coming contests with our common enemies, the whigs, our party will present an unbroken front.

Below may be seen some statistics, in an extract which we copy from an article which appeared in the State Register, which present strong reasons in favor of a state convention to nominate our delegates. We would call the attention of democrats to these statistics, and also to

the ground assumed by the State Register on the subject. The following is the extract referred to:

"It cannot but be known to the conductors of those papers that the judicial districts were not laid off with regard to population as was the case with the congressional districts. Conformity of territory, the preferences of the people for particular judges, the amount of litigation incident to particular localities, and the distances between county seats which the judges would be compelled to travel, entered mainly into the formation of the former, whilst population was the chief consideration in erecting the latter.

The following table will show the population in the several districts under the last census:

First district,	66,000
Second "	88,142
Third "	68,614
Fourth "	65,822
Fifth "	114,503
Sixth "	40,198
Seventh "	73,284
Eighth "	81,864
Ninth "	64,065

"By the above it will be seen that a representation based upon such an apportionment would be unequal and of course unjust. The second, fifth, and eighth districts have nearly enough population to entitle them to four delegates, whilst the sixth district has but little more than half enough to entitle it to one delegate. The district for which the Free Trader assumes to speak, lacks one seventh of a just ratio. Justice and fairness would be but poorly subserved if the whole "military tract," with a population of over 114,000, were represented by one delegate, while the sixth and ninth districts, with a population of 10,000 less, are allowed two delegates.

"We present these items to show that, independent of the principle involved in the controversy, the "judicial district" basis is, to say the least of it, any thing but equitable. As to the principle, we have in former numbers expressed our views somewhat at length, and do not deem it necessary to repeat them at this time. We desire to see Illinois speak as a unit in the democratic national convention, and the most certain way of securing this result is to appoint the delegates by a state convention.

"In conclusion, we have to say that we shall be governed by no such programme as the Ottawa Free Trader lays down for its own action. The "determination" of the party in other portions of the state than our own judicial district will make a "difference" with us. If it should be finally "determined" that the district system, as contended for by the Free Trader, is best calculated to maintain that harmony which at the present time happily pervades our ranks, giving assurance of the most triumphant success of the great principles of democracy in our future conflicts with their inexorable enemy—the whig party—we shall most cheerfully acquiesce."

For the Signal.

In my last piece, I left the Canal at Brawdy's dam; but I am going to take it up where I left it. That west wall from the land to that dam leaks, because it is made on purpose to leak and when a thing does just what it was made to do it is called good engineering. When the Basin is full of water, the water goes to the natural embankment; now it kinder seems that there will be a large body of water between the tow path and Bluff, which will lay thro' the year quite still; filth &c, will there collect, the water not being moved will become bad for the health of the people at Juliet. The same trouble will happen clear up to Lockport, and so on to the Sag. Had the wall and embankment not been put there the water would have went to the Bluff, and as boats passed the water would have been moved, and wider the canal the easier boats run as the waves pas off more freely—anyhow people say so, I can't exactly explain it.

What on earth was the use of making such dams as are made in Juliet; rufston on the face would have dun just as well. That Lock of Brawdy's, only see the useless quantity of cut stone. I am told by proper good persons that there is \$5,000 worth of cut stone covered up with earth or otherwise useless. It so, is that good engineering? I won't say any more now about useless expenses at either Juliet or Lockport, as it makes their fellers mad to say any thing about such matters in their Towns.

Let me go along. Why was the Contractor permitted to dig into "Mt. Juliet" and make embankment of it? Is it not canal land; such embankment as it makes the oldest inhabitants never saw; why, it is just the meanest ever made. I allow it will cost a hepe more to line the canal here than the bank first cost. It won't hold itself up. The cows and them other critters that go bolin over the prairies, go there to sharpen their horns and buff on the gravel bank, and so tare the bank all to pieces. In this vicinity, us usual, the natural embankment is dispeised. I am going to Chicago in a few days to take a "Phrenological examination" of the head of this are canal. I rather mistrust that its organ of allimentiveness is not well developed. THO. TARBOX. Morris, Feb. 8, 1848.

Fremont Court Martial.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. The finding of the Court together with the evidence in the case have been submitted to the President. The impression here is that the finding of the Court is unfavorable to Col. Fremont, but that the Court was not unanimous in its opinion. It is thought that in view of his gallant public services in California, and the almost universal sympathy of the public, that the President would pardon him.

For the Signal.

"The Negro Clause."

There are reasons why this state should take bold and energetic measures, in regard to negroes. The State of Illinois is a new state; she has not, like the old states, participated in negro slavery.—Missouri, a slave state, is on our western boundary; Kentucky on the south; each pass laws in regard to negroes. Free negroes are a nuisance and a pest to a slave state; that being so, severe laws in regard to them are put in force—the consequence is, that all the free blacks of those states, will pour in to our state. A master in those states, is not permitted to set his negroes free in the state, without making himself liable, in some measure, for their support and conduct; and when a slave becomes old, feeble or decrepid, they are sent into Illinois and set free; and so become a pest to the people of this state. Their slaves are daily running away, and flee into this state; pursuit takes place, and there are in our own state, evil minded persons enough, who will do their utmost to prevent an arrest of the fugitives. The consequence is, that riots, assaults and affrays, take place. The cost that the people of this State have been to in this matter in the last few years, is immense.

No invitation, no inducement, should be held out to the negroes to come here. Silence in our laws on this subject, is tantamount to an invitation. Without severe regulations, our state will, in ten years, be overrun by negroes. But it is said by abolitionists that the proposed Negro Section of the New Constitution, is contrary to that part of Article 2d of the Constitution of the United States which is as follows: "The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States."

In 1776 at the time and long before, the States assumed their nationality, slavery existed in the States: every negro in the states, was held in bondage. All of the Southern States, New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and other states tolerated slavery. The negroes were brought here, it is true, against their will, and detained against their consent; they were treated as property and degraded, without hope. No white person in those days, pretended to consider the Black his equal; hence the reason why so little is said in the Constitution of the United States and in other national documents concerning the African race. True there was no necessity to speak of them, any more than it was necessary to speak of any other property. Such was their condition when the Revolution took place; but the Revolution did not benefit the African. They had nothing to say in that matter—they were not permitted; and when that war closed they were still left in bondage—still degraded.

Writers, on the law of nations, say "no person can be made a subject of a government against their consent." In the case of Chapman, 1st of Dallas, 280 ch., Justice M'Keen said that "in civil wars every man chooses his party. None are subjects of the adopted government; but those who have freely assented to it."—The Revolution resulted in a total dissolution from British government, and a new one formed. In the case of Jackson vs. White, the same doctrine is recognized, and the court said "every member of the old government must have the right to decide for himself, whether he will continue with a society which has so fundamentally changed its condition as the Revolution has ours; that no one will become citizens of the new government unless he chooses voluntarily to submit to it."

Therefore, the Africans having been brought and detained here against their consent and will, cannot become citizens of the United States. Blacks whether born free from slavery or not, are not and cannot become citizens; unless by revolution or other force. In the case of Prudence Crandall, decided in Connecticut so late as 1833, the Court said "that Free Blacks are not citizens within the meaning of the term as used in the Constitution of the United States."

The above section of the United States Constitution applies, says Chan. Kent, "only to natural born or duly naturalized citizens, and if they remove from one state to another they are entitled to the privileges that persons of the same description are entitled to in the state to which they removed, and to none other. The laws and usages of our state, cannot be pretended to prescribe qualifications for citizens to be claimed and exercised in other states, in contravention to their local policy, see 2d Kent com. 70. I have shown that negroes are not and cannot become citizens, but it may be said that the negro may be naturalized according to the acts of Congress. That act confines that matter to "free white persons;" of course the African race is there excluded.

Because the state of Massachusetts permits a certain class of negroes to vote, that does not make them voters in other states, neither does it make them citizens there or elsewhere. Voting is no test, for we know that white females and children are citizens, yet they are not voters.

The word "Citizen" is particularly adopted to a free government; a citizen of the United States means a "sovereign;" a citizen of the United States acknowledges no master, no lord, no superior, no degradation. He holds his political rights and liberties as he does his land, in "allodium." When the word "citizen" is used it means he who has a right to participate in the electing and holding office. Is a negro a sovereign? if so, in what? Has a negro a right to become a United States Senator, a member of the House of Representatives? If a state should so far forget their duty as to elect a negro a U. S. Senator, would he be permitted to take his seat? In none of the States of this Union, is the African by law placed on an equality with the citizen, neither are the Blacks in any of the states permitted

by common consent to participate at the first table in the most ordinary feasts of human affairs. J. H. Middleport, Iroquois Co., Feb. 1848.

Thirtieth Congress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.

Mr. Benton's resolution instructing the President to inform the Senate why the article relative to the promotion of cadets was inserted in the army register, was adopted.

Mr. Douglass, from the committee on territories, reported a bill to establish a territorial government in Oregon.

The bill extending the provision of the act granting half pay to the widows of volunteer militia dying of wounds received in battle, to widows of soldiers of the regular army was passed.

The consideration of the ten regiment bill was resumed. Mr. Hunter addressed the Senate in opposition to the policy of the administration. He advocated Calhoun's project of a defensive line.

House.—The joint resolution of the Legislature of New York, voting thanks to Gen. Scott and the army in Mexico, and urging the presentation of a gold medal to the former, were presented.

Mr. Houston of Alabama, moved to amend so as to include all the generals in actual service from the commencement of the war.

Joint resolutions were presented by Mr. Stephens of Georgia, complimenting Gen. Taylor and the army under him for the victory of Buena Vista, and directing the presentation of a gold medal to Gen. Taylor, which were read three times and passed. The vote on their passing was yeas 181, nays 1.

Mr. Wilmot made a personal explanation in relation to an article which had appeared in the Union newspapers, accusing him of having thrown another firebrand into Congress, because he had recommended direct taxation. He denied the accusation indignantly. He spoke against the nomination of Buchanan for the Presidency, and charged that the Pennsylvania, which opposed the proviso, did so to obtain government patronage.

Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania replied and defended Mr. Buchanan for the charge made by Mr. Wilmot.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.

Senate.—The House resolutions, returning thanks to Gen. Scott and Taylor were referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. Baldwin's resolution calling on the President to furnish Mr. Trist's proposition of peace to the Mexican Commissioners, and the counter project was adopted.

The debate on the Ten Regiment Bill was again resumed.

Mr. Miller addressed the Speaker at length in opposition to the bill. He contended that the present force in Mexico were sufficient to attain the legitimate purposes of the war.

Mr. Niles has the floor on this question to-morrow.

On motion, the Senate adjourned.

House.—Brothead's resolution to allow the widow of the late Mr. Hornbeck the funeral expenses, the same as if he had been buried in Washington, was referred to the Committee on Accounts after an address by Mr. Atkinson.

Several bills of minor importance were reported, read twice and referred.

The bill authorizing a loan of eighteen and a half millions of dollars was taken up. Mr. Vinton moved to substitute six up for eighteen and a half. He argued the whole question at length and predicted that more would be wanted than is now asked for.

The House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9th.

Mr. Dallas resumed the Chair.

Mr. Dix, of New York, presented the instruction resolutions of the Legislature of his State, in favor of the Wilmot Proviso.

The House bill, confirmatory of the boundary between Missouri and Arkansas, was passed.

The consideration of the Ten Regiment Bill was resumed.

Mr. Niles addressed the Senate in favor of the bill. He was in favor of holding both California and New Mexico, and would vote for supplies of troops necessary for accomplishing this purpose.

Mr. Underwood has the floor on this question to-morrow.

The Senate adjourned.

House.—The Speaker announced that the first thing in order was Mr. Botts' report from the Committee on Military Affairs, providing for the filling up of the regiments by giving bounty lands, and likewise providing for the transportation of sick soldiers, which was read twice and referred.

Many other bills were likewise reported and referred.

Mr. Fisher addressed the House at length in opposition to the "Loan Bill," deprecating the errors of the course pursued by the Administration, as being calculated to render the difficulties with Mexico interminable.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.

Mr. Hannegan introduced in the Senate a joint resolution which was read twice and referred, returning thanks to Col. Doniphan.

Mr. Cass introduced a joint resolution authorizing medals to be given to those who had distinguished themselves in the recent battles, which was read twice and referred.

The bill providing for the increase of the medical staff of the army was passed.

Mr. Underwood addressed the Senate in strong terms in opposition to the Ten Regiment Bill. He opposed the acquisition of territory, even if it were to be accepted as indemnity.

Mr. Turney has the floor on the question to-morrow.

House.—Mr. King, of Massachusetts, presented a petition signed by nine thousand Quakers, praying for the speedy termination of the existing war, which he moved to refer to the committee on Foreign relations.

Mr. Cobb moved to lay the petition on the table.

Mr. King called for the yeas and noes. Upon this motion an animated but short debate arose, in which Messrs. King, Cobb, Henley, and Palfrey participated.

The question was taken by yeas and noes, and decided in the affirmative.

The consideration of the Loan Bill was resumed.

Mr. Abbott opposed the war and the course of the Administration; to which Mr. Browns, of Miss., replied.

On motion, the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

The Last Action of the American Army.

The Union publishes the official despatch from Brig. Gen. Lane, giving the particulars of the attack on Matamoros, a Mexican military post some fifty odd miles from Puebla. It took place on the 22d December, routing the enemy on that day, composed of from four to six hundred, with a force of one hundred and sixty. From sixty to eighty of the enemy were killed and wounded, without the loss on our side of a single man. Twenty-one American soldiers were set free from the Mexicans, and mounted on horses taken from the enemy. After having accomplished their work at Matamoros, they returned towards Puebla, and were in turn attacked, when about five miles on their way, by a large body of Mexicans, at the pass of Galaxa. Here, as before, the Americans were victorious, but the victory was saddened by the death of the gallant Henderson Ridgely, who was mortally wounded while charging by the side of Col. Hays. The American force returned to Puebla on the 25th ult., having been about 60 hours on the expedition.

From the Cor. of the Chicago Democrat.

Treaty of Peace.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5th, 1848.

The President's Message has at last been distributed to the various committees, and they have gone to work.

Henry Clay is about the House and Senate, every day, and is working a wonderful change in his favor. No one would suppose he is so old a man as he is, since he is so active and sprightly. Col. Johnson is here, "the hero of the Thames." He, too, holds his age remarkably well; and is not without his friends for the Presidency.

That there is a draft of a treaty between here and Mexico I have no doubt, however stoutly it may be denied. Your readers will not forget the "Oregon treaty," how every thing was tied to be kept secret in relation to it. Just so in this case. Your paper published, lest fall, the original proposition of Mr. Trist, which was rejected by the Mexicans. So far as that proposition related to California and New Mexico, it is understood that the present offer of Mexico is the same. But so far as relates to the Rio Grande, there is some difference, which is not yet known here. Gen. Scott is said to advise the ratification. From all I can learn, if the President does by this treaty as he did by the Oregon treaty, viz: submit it to the Senate for their advice before he enters the consideration of it, it will be ratified, and this country be at peace once more. As to how much of California we get, it is sufficient to say that we get the material point, viz: the Bay of San Francisco.

ARRIVAL OF THE SARAH SANDS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.

The Sarah Sands arrived this morning at New York, and we have the following items of news by her:

A treaty offensive, and defensive, has been formed between the Duke of Parma and Modena and the Emperor of Austria, for the purpose of resisting the reform spirit. Meanwhile there is fighting at Pavia, at Syracuse it is said the people have got possession of the citadel and the soldiers have joined with them.

The treaty between the Pope and the Emperor of Russia has been ratified. The Roman Church is to be tolerated in Russia.

Fresh outbreaks had taken place at Genoa.

Portugal is quiet.

Accounts from Ireland are better, though great distress still prevails. There was some insubordination in Wicklow.

The Earl of Morrao is dead—also Isaac D. Israeli.

From the Rio Grande.

Rumor—Important if True.—The Maria Burnt, arrived, from the Brazos, at New Orleans, on the 30th ult. Lieut. Franklin, of the Topographical Engineers from Gen. Wool's camp, on the 13th, reports that just before she left, an express was received from Saltillo, from Col. Hamtramck, in command of the forces there, stating that a report had reached him from a source entitled to credit, that a force of Mexicans, 10,000 strong, under command of General Bustamante, were marching down from San Luis upon Saltillo. The report even particularizes the points from whence the troops had been raised, but so frequent are the stampedes upon that line, very little credit was attached to the report. Our forces there were in good condition, and perfectly willing to be attacked whenever the enemy thought best to make the experiment. We know not what degree of credit to attach to this report.

The white population of Virginia has increased 80,017 since 1840.