THE MISSISSIPPIAN.

JACKSON, - - - : : February 10, 1860.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY OF STATE.
CHARLES A. BROUGHER, of Tippah.
Election Monday, 2d April, 1860.

VIRGINIA.—The Legislature of Virginia has passed an act appropriating $500,000 for the purpose of establishing an armory and of providing means for defending the State.

THEATRE.—Last night the comedy of the "Honey Moon" was performed in an excellent manner by the talented company now in our city—the Nelson sisters taking the leading parts. The farce of "Nature and Philosophy" was greeted with enthusiastic applause by the large and intelligent audience. On the whole, the performance last night was a decided success.

To-night, for the benefit of Miss Carry Nelson, will be presented the Musical Drama of the "Daughter of the Regiment," to conclude with "The Rivals." This being the last night but one of the Nelson sisters, we predict for them, as they well deserve, a crowded house. See advertisement.

HON. C. L. BUCK.—We are informed by Mr. Buck that it was an error to say, as we did, in the report of Gen. Starke's speech, that he (Mr. B.) "charged upon the South the responsibility for the unhappy condition of the country." On the contrary, he concurs with those who advocated the Southern resolutions in the opinion that the responsibility rests upon the anti-slavery agitators of the North. The disagreement between them is, as to the proper course of the South in the existing emergency; and about this it is hardly necessary for us to say, that according to our belief, he is wrong—all wrong—lamentably wrong.

Delegates to the Convention of Southern States.

The two Houses of the Legislature met in joint convention last night and selected the following gentlemen to represent the State of Mississippi in the Atlanta Convention:

SAM'L. S. BOYD, of Adams;
WILEY P. HARRIS, of Hinds;
A. M. CLAYTON, of Marshall;
SAM'L. J. GHOLSON, of Monroe;
W. R. HILL, of Yazoo;
HENRY DICKINSON, of Lowndes;
HIRAM CASSEDY, of Franklin.

☞ Mr. Fitch, U. S. Senator from Indiana, in the course of a recent speech in the Senate, stated "that the Northern Democracy, might not agree with their Southern brethren in holding that the election of a Republican President would be a sufficient cause for a dissolution of the Union, but if in consequence of that event the South should in fact withdraw, he felt safe in saying that the people of the West would not remain in confederation with New England.

ALABAMA ON FOREIGN BANK NOTES.—The Committee on Banks and Banking in the Alabama Legislature have reported a bill requiring all banks, corporations, co-partnerships and commission houses that put in circulation in that State the notes of foreign banks, to *stamp them, and redeem such notes in specie* when presented at their counter. It also imposes a State tax of one dollar on each one hundred dollars of such notes thus put in circulation.

☞ The Maryland Legislature have passed a resolution requesting the Maryland Representatives in Congress to use their influence with the national Government for the negotiation of a treaty with Great Britian for the restoration of fugitive slaves from the United States, who may be found in Canada.

The Speakership.

The general impression is that Mr. Smith, of N. C., was the principal contestant with Mr. Pennington, on the ballot when the latter was elected Speaker. Such is not the case.—The Democracy deserted Mr. Smith and voted for Mr. McClernand, a Douglas Democrat of Illinois, who, according to the Democracy of Mississippi, *is worse than a Black Republican.—Vicksburg Whig.*

In a subsequent issue of the Whig, each member of the Mississippi delegation is mentioned and charged by name with having voted for Mr. McClernand, whom it styles "a Douglas Democrat."

It never entered into the minds of the Southern Democratic members, who for eight long weeks exhausted every expedient known to parliamentary law to defeat the election of a Black Republican, that they would find their reward in the approbation of such prejudiced partisan journals as the Vicksburg Whig.

The paragraph quoted above charges them with having "deserted" Mr. Smith, the Southern Oppositionist, for Mr. McClernand. What are the facts under which they magnanimously went over to his support? They will be found briefly presented in the following speech of Mr. Mallory, a Kentucky Knownothing, pending the ballot, and the explanation of Gov. McRae setting forth the reasons which prompted him and his Democratic brethren to support Mr. Smith:

Mr. Mallory said: I feel myself called upon at this stage of the proceeding, to announce the fact that we have now received enough votes for our nominee for the Speaker's chair to insure his election by the aid of the vote of the Democratic party of this House. I now announce to gentlemen upon the Democratic side, to the House, and to the country, the fact that, in view of this state of the case, we will present Mr. Smith, of North Carolina, again as our candidate for the Speakership upon the next ballot. Every member of our party has voted for him. That was the condition precedent, I understand, prescribed by gentlemen upon the other side of the House to obtaining their votes. Even now, if they will rise in their places before the result is announced, and change their votes, they may make Mr. Smith, of North Carolina, Speaker of this House, and the Republican party will thereby be defeated. Let the country know the fact. [Applause.]

Accepting this assurance as true, and resolved to defeat the candidate of the Black Republicans at any cost short of the sacrifice of the interests of the South, the Democracy (among them the bulk of the Northern Democrats) changed their votes to Mr. Smith, each assigning the grounds upon which his action was based. Gov. McRae, among the rest, briefly reviewed the history of the contest—the course of the Democracy and of the Southern Oppositionists, respectively—saying:

Mr. Clerk, I desire to say, before changing the vote I have cast, that my own sense of propriety suggests, and the just judgment of the country will determine, that the Democratic party, being the largest of the organizations in the House opposed to the Republican party, is entitled to the Speaker. I wish that fact to go out to the country. Let it be known, that my own sense of propriety, and the just judgment of the country will so decide. But, sir, we have been waiting here nearly two months, and it has been seen that, while we presented the best and truest men we had, as our candidates, men unexceptionable in their personal character, pure in their political record, we could not bring to their support those who were opposed to the Republican element, and also opposed to the Democratic party; and I wish this further fact to go out, that, while we have presented such candidates for Speaker, we have never yet been able to get one half of the American vote for a Democrat as Speaker of the House. I want it to go out for the further reason that the gentleman who put Mr. Smith in nomination said he desired the fact to go out to the country, that they had placed their man in a position where the Democratic vote, added to their own, would elect him. I want also the fact to go out, that not one-half of them have voted for a Democrat upon this floor. But now, I take no exception to that. I say the Democratic party, in the greatness of its heart, the greatness of its principles, in the greatness of its magnanimity, can afford to be generous, and will be just, if not to themselves, to the country. I therefore change the vote I gave for Mr. Bocock, to Mr. Smith, of North Carolina. [Applause in the galleries.]

The Democracy *were* just and magnanimous—*did* rise above the petty prejudices which had controlled the Southern Oppositionists and kept them from voting for Mr. Bocock—but with all their honest efforts they failed to accomplish the desired result.

When they had thus given Mr. Smith their united strength, and failed to elect him, would it not have been folly to have persevered in his support? But we would state another fact which will turn into ridicule all the mock indignation of the Whig. *Mr. Smith seeing that the strongest effort of the conservative elements failed to elect him, had unconditionally withdrawn in a speech before the House, when Mr. McClernand was voted for.* In this speech he said: "I am satisfied that the presentation of my name longer before this body, would not contribute towards the success or wishes of those gentlemen who have so cordially and steadily sustained me."

What now becomes of the silly charge of "desertion" preferred by the Whig against the Democratic members?

But the Whig rings the changes on the charge that the Democrats voted for Mr. McClernand, "a Douglas Democrat!" Even admitting that this is his proper classification, it ought to be borne in mind that they supported him after they had failed in all their earnest endeavors to elect first, Mr. Bocock, a true man of their own party, and second, Mr. Smith, a Southern Oppositionist. Mr. McClernand was not a member of the last Congress, and hence was not engaged in the Lecompton struggle. The Democrats, however, supported him with such disclaimers as these. We quote from a report of the proceedings now before us:

Mr. Barksdale said he voted for Mr. McClernand with the assurance that if the whole Democratic vote was given for him, he might be elected, but he desired to say, in so voting, that *he had no intention to endorse his alleged squatter sovereignty views.*

Mr. McClernand had attested his opposition to Black Republicanism in a manner so signal as to entitle him to the confidence of the South. He had voted invariably for Mr. Bocock, and went even further. To defeat a Black Republican, he was generous and magnanimous enough—and true enough to the rights of the South—to record his name *in favor of Mr. Smith, the Southern Oppositionist.* And Mr. Smith himself bore testimony to his manliness and patriotism. The following occurred on the day preceding the last ballot:

On the calling of his name, *Mr. Smith, of North Carolina,* said that Mr. McClernand gave him a *ready and prompt support*; and though not approving his territorial policy, he would not be outdone by him in generosity. HE VOTED CHEERFULLY FOR MR. McCLERNARD.

Now what has the Whig to say for Mr. Smith, the candidate of its own party? What has it to say in contradiction of his testimony in favor of Mr. McClernand? What has it to say in disapproval of his vote for him? What amends has it to make for the gross and wanton assault which it has made upon the conduct of the members from its own State?

From the Washington Constitution.

SPEECH OF SENATOR DAVIS.

We publish in full the powerful speech of Senator Davis, of Mississippi, delivered on Wednesday last in reply to Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, and referred to in our columns yesterday:

Mr. Davis. Mr. President, the Senator from Massachusetts, in the course of his remarks, took occasion, in his general examination of what each Senator had said, to make allusion to me. I have something to say in that regard. I do not know whether he quoted the language I used or not. As I heard him, though I cannot recollect the language the sentiments was so much like my own that I am willing to accept it. It is what I think now, it is what I thought when I spoke on the occasion to which he alluded, and, therefore, what I may have said. But the Senator greatly misrepresents me. That is not a declaration that if a man of any particular class shall be elected, not a declaration that if a majority who do not coincide with us elect a President, we will, therefore, break up the Union. It is a declaration that if a man be elected upon a particular platform, as there stated—and the name of an individual was only introduced in order to point to what distinct opinion was embraced within the denunciation—if, in other words, *a man were to seize the reins of Government, not to administer it according to the Constitution, but to pervert it to our destruction, to make this Government one of hostility to us, we would with the right hand redress our wrongs.* That is my opinion now. If a man is willing to perjure himself by taking the oath to maintain the Constitution and get possession of the powers of this Government to subvert it to the ends of that party, *I tell him, sir, that I have too much pride and confidence in the South to believe they ever will submit.* For one single individual I can speak—*I will never.* If driven to exile, I prefer it to tame submission to a traitor and perjurer who sought the possession of the Government in order that he might overthrow its Constitution.

That is my view. Therefore, I suppose the Senator may probably have quoted me correctly; his report may be correct, but how comes it that the Senator from Massachusetts is he who lectures us on the crime of disunion? How comes it that we are to be shuffled into the attitude of those who are seeking to break up the Government, because we have avowed that we would not allow others to do it? He, representing the very opinion which is a dissolution of the Union by the destruction of its Constitution, claims to hold us responsible because we resist the nefarious aggression. We are represented as the secessionists, whilst they seceded in the last Presidential election; went off as a section, organized for themselves, and attempted to force upon this government a sectional candidate, supported exclusively by a sectional vote. This was secession—practical secession. We of the South have clung to the Constitution. We have respected the Government, and abided by its compromises; and never was there a more audacious falsehood uttered than the arraignment which has constantly been made against the South as despising the Constitution and the compromises of which it was the result.

It was not my purpose on this occasion to go into any extended discussion; but it occurs to me now that here and elsewhere we have heard it often said that the South had violated the Missouri compromise, when they who sit on the other side of the chamber know—they must—that the South, as a body, proposed to extend it to the Pacific ocean, after they had already accepted it to a damaging effect over the Territory of Texas. They know it; they must know it. From them came the release from the obligation of the compact; and when different principles were declared and conduct adapted to them proceeded from the legislation of 1850, then I held that no honorable man who claimed to uphold those acts could but admit, as a result, that the repeal of the Missouri compromise was a necessity. Thus I have always sustained the conduct of the Senator from Illinois, [Mr. Douglas,[who, pledged to that action, came forward to redeem the pledge which was incumbent on every honorable man. We never admitted the constitutionality of the act of 1820. We said, however, "the people and the States have acquiesced in it." We said it was a mode of disposing of a controversy which seemed to be endless. We desired peace. We wished union and fraternity. We were therefore ready to go on and divide the balance of the territory by the law which you imposed on us. You refused it; and then, with hypocritical cant, cry about the sacred Missouri compromise and its violation!

But the Senator from Massachusetts who arraigns the men of the South (standing in the attitude which I have thus described) with disregard of the Constitution, and a purpose of disunion, comes not with clean hands into court. What is his own position? A pamphlet has been recently laid upon my table in which a speech of the Senator is published as an appendix—a speech delivered "at an anti-slavery festival held in Cochituate Hall, Boston, on the evening of January 24, 1851, to celebrate completion of the twentieth year of the existence of The Liberator." What did the senator say? We recollect that senators on that side have recently been in the habit of drawing distinctions between the Garrison abolitionists and the Republicans. What did that Senator say?

"For twelve years I have read the Liberator; and, sir, if I love liberty and loathe slavery and oppression, if I entertain a profound regard for the rights of man all over the globe, I owe it, in a great degree, to the labors of William Lloyd Garrison. [Prolonged applause.]"

Garrison, then, is the teacher of the Senator, and he exults in the character of his pupil.—I have read the Liberator for some years, too, though for a very different purpose, and standing firmly fixed, prominent as the caption of the last column of the first page of the Liberator, are these words:

"No union with slaveholders.

"The United States Constitutson is a covenant with death, and an agreement with hell."

Thus the Senator manifests his respect for the Constitution and his adherence to the Union. This is the paper from which he claims to draw his opinions, and this the caption which it heads with a remark that I will read, quoting from Mr. Channing:

"There is some excuse for communities when, under a generous impulse, they espouse the cause of the oppressed in other States, and by force restore their rights; but there is no excuse in aiding other States in binding on men an unrighteous yoke. On this subject, our fathers, in framing the Constitution, swerved from the right. We, their children, at the end of half a century, see the path of duty more clearly than they, and must walk in it. To this point the public mind has been long tending, and the time has come for looking at it fully, dispassionately, and with manly and Christian resolution."

There is an advantage in reading this which would not belong to any particular article in any particular number of the paper, if he has been a constant reader, as he says, for so many years; and that is, he finds it in every paper, and yet he praises his teacher who thus teaches him in every number, these doctrines of the violation of his faith in the Constitution, his purpose to destroy the Union, to wage war upon the institutions which that Constitution was formed in part to secure. Whilst the Senator tells us that he draws his opinions from the venerated source of the fathers of the Republic, it is to be remarked the announcement is made that we have walked in the shadows of the dark ages which covered the formation of our Constitution, and stepped out into a broad light, which the Senator, I suppose, proposed to-day to throw over the Senate. Then, again, in this same speech which I have quoted, the Senator said:

"Yes, sir, I undertake to say here to-night, that in no part of the world, and by no race in the world, have greater efforts been made for human progress and human liberty than have been made during the last thirty years in Old England. [Applause.] Her reformers have achieved the most brilliant victories.—Among all her brilliant intellects, who have linked their names with the great ideas of progress, no name shines more brightly than the name of George Thompson. [Applause.]"

This is the language applied to that very country against whose oppressions he has depicted his fathers as struggling; and this is to be taken in connection with his address to the monument at Bunker hill! And to whom is the compliment paid? To an itinerant abolitionist, who came here with a fell purpose to sever the connection of these States; who, even in the Senator's own State, a few years ago, when there was a sounder public opinion, was not allowed to lecture—who even now is not allowed to go into Faneuil Hall; and the Senator, on this occasion, expressed his regret that Faneuil Hall was not thrown open to one who performed such service! Nor is that all the Senator's speech:

"And, sir, as an American, loving my country, cherishing the great fundamental principles on which its institutions are founded, I come here to-night and give him the same cordial welcome to America that I would extend to the men who have nobly struggled on the lost fields where liberty has been cloven down. [Sensation.] And as he may be called upon in a few months to leave us, I trust that, when he goes, there will be none, at least in Massachusetts, who will censure him for laboring to blot from our country the sin and shame of slavery. [Much enthusiasm.]"

None in Massachusetts who would censure a British abolitionist for coming here to interfere with the institutions of the country! He may hope there would be none. I trust there would be many. I trust those few who have spoken in such heroic tones that their words have spread over the vast area of the Republic, have many who concur with them; and I trust that there is a power in Massachusetts which, whenever this fell spirit shall manifest itself by attempting to encroach on Southern institutions, will, in the language of Cushing, "throttle them where they stand." Yes, I believe the Old Bay State, to-day, has enough of Democrats true to the Constitution and loyal to its obligations, if it comes to a test of hand to hand and man to man, to drive back those who thus wring her from her duties to the Constitution and the Union. The Speaker goes on:

"We shall arrest the extension of slavery, and rescue the Government from the grasp of the slave power. We shall blot out slavery in the national capital. We shall surround the slave States with a cordon of free States. We shall then appeal to the hearts and consciences of men, and in a few years, notwithstanding the immense interest combined in the cause of oppression, we shall give liberty to the millions in bondage. [Hear! Hear!]"

Was it possible for any one to have thrown out an invitation to John Brown and his followers broader than this? Had he a right to expect, when he met a felon's doom, that, after such invitations, those who gave them would not rise and rescue his name from the infamy which hangs upon it? What does it mean? Does this mean respect for the institutions of the States? Does this mean conformity to the obligations of the Constitution? It cannot mean that. It is not the language even of the citizen of a friendly State, not bound by any treaty or league of confederacy as you are here. It is the language of one who instigates insurrection, who seeks to carry war into the neighboring, and, it might be, friendly States, and not the language of a citizen of the United States, bound by the compact of his fathers, and, as in the case of the Senator, by his own oath, to respect every obligation which the citizens of each State owe to the citizens of every other.

In this last quotation which I read is that suggestive expression, "the slave power." I have some respect for a mere fanatic. If he is a mere fanatic, if his mind is absorbed with the idea of negrophilism, if he is sincere in struggling to overthrow the institutions of the South because he believes them to be a great wrong, and steps outside of all the power and patronage of the Government, refuses to connect himself with it, refuses to be benefitted by the appeal which he makes to popular prejudice, I have some respect for him; but this phrase "slave power" suggests that the purpose is to seize the spoils of the Government, not to walk with the single, even if it be senseless, purpose of a fanatic to that destination to which his one idea may carry him. Here is the art, the dodging, the double-faced view which belongs to making political capital out of the excited sentiments of men; and in the Senator's speech to-day we hear constantly of the domination of the slave power, and the aggression of the slave power. In what? I waited to hear, but the Senator did not tell us. In what have the slaveholders, if he pleases so to consider them, ever aggressed upon the rights or interests of the North? Differing in our construction of the Constitution, we have struggled here to hold the Government to its delegated powers; they have claimed to exercise powers by construction, and that has been the controversy between the North and the South so far as the South was concerned. As for the rest, where, when, in what has that aggression occurred, of which the Senator speaks as the aggression of the slave power? In no personal, unkind feeling to the Senator, I ask the question because I should like to know, that I may direct my answer. I have asked the question before, and I have pondered it when I have not been answered, and I have yet been utterly unable to comprehend what is meant by the aggression of the slave power. When a large majority of the States were slaveholding did they aggress on the non-slaveholding? If they had not the temper and the purpose when they had the power how idle is it to speak of that agression as a danger now, when, if they had the purpose, they have not the ability to perform it. The slaveholding States, as such, are in a minority in the Government; they cannot pass laws; and it struck me as strange indeed that the Senator, in his argument, should have pointed out as an injury that this minority had held the control of the Government and dictated its policy. Why, sir, that might be a boast for a Southern man. If any one of my associates here were vain enough to make it, he might boast that though in a minority still was ascribed to them the control of the Government, and the long list of illustrious names which grace the annals of American history, born on and representing slaveholding territory, might even justify that vanity which I hope never yet has been exhibited.

Thus the Senator goes on to represent the whole Government as subservient to the slave power. For what purpose? To direct us in future legislation; to enable us to confer together, to determine what is true and what is proper; or is it to inflame the very prejudices which constitute the great danger to the Government? I, sir, am not disposed to be put in a false position in regard to this question of future position. I am not disposed because I have said, and am willing to repeat, that I will not consent to have the Constitution perverted from the purpose for which it was established, and placed in the hands of those who avow that they will use it for our destruction, that any man shall therefore say I desire to destroy the Government which our fathers established. As I look around on things which are passing, my senses bring back to me increased despondency instead of hope. With all we have suffered, with all the dark pall which hangs over our future, I still have as my earnest and first desire the preservation of our Government as our fathers formed it. If, with the evidence before us, the little hope which we may have to preserve it in its original spirit and in the great purposes for which it was established, has grown less; if I see almost all the Northern States separating themselves in a presidential election as though they were providing to single out the stars which should grace the flag of the Union, it bring to me increased apprehensions. They have not diminished; but the love which I bear to the flag I have followed for so many years is not decreased. They have rendered me in no wise unwilling to make further and as far as honor and consistency permit, greater sacrifices for the maintenance of that Government which we inherited and which has blessed us so much in the past.

The disunionists are those who undertake to sap the foundations upon which the Government stands; not those who seek to uphold them. The disunionists are those who undertake to destroy the Constitution, and diminish respect for the Constitution in the breasts of Americans wherever they may be. Can that be ascribed to the South? Have we not stood behind the Constitution as a barrier Have not our guns bristled through and over the ramparts of the Constitution? Have we ever sought to demolish it? And can any man of common sense believe that now, when power has been transferred to the North, the South would seek to break down the barriers behind which she has stood? Reason refutes it; the history of the Government denies it; common sense in the mind of any man should prevent him supposing such a thing. How, then, can a Senator be justified in seeking to impress upon those not so well informed as himself the idea that we who sit here daily legislating under the Constitution and bound by our oaths to uphold it, are meditating how and when we will destroy the Government of which we are a constituent part?

The Senator has referred to the language of Gen. Jackson, though he did not quote it correctly, when, on account of the nullifying ordinance of South Carolina, he said "the Federal Union must be preserved;" and it has been so common in these denunciations of Southern men and Southern acts to pervert everything, that at the word "nullification" the idea of South Carolina comes; and yet that gallant State is one of the very few of the Old Thirteen which has never nullified a law of the United States. Comes it well from Massachusetts that her Senator should here arraign South Carolina, and point to the proclamation as indicating South Carolina's malfeasance, because she issued an ordinance for nullification, under circumstances which never arose, of a law which was fraudulently passed through Congress, whilst Massachusetts stands forth boldly nullifying laws, the constitutionality of which cannot be questioned, and the direct manner of the passage of which leaves no loop-hole for an excuse?

I have been drawn, Mr. President, by the course of the Senator's remarks into that sort of consideration of the relation of individuals and sections and States which I always prefer to avoid. I am not to be considered as arraigning Massachusetts, except in so far that I present her conduct to show how unjust the arraignment of South Carolina is; no further. Massachusetts is a sovereign member of the Union; her own policy is within her own hands, and, as long as she complies with her obligation to the Constitution, no one has a right to gainsay her decisions. Whenever she does not, she owes it to herself to withdraw from a Union, the bond of which she has already broken. When that case arises she will decide for herself. I have nothing to say as to it.

But the Senator assumes something, it seems to me, which it must be impossible for him to know. He says the laws of New Mexico were passed at the dictation of the delegate from that Territory. How is it possible for any man to know that? Then, again, he says the delegate acted under the direction of Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, of the House of Representatives. Now, my friend and namesake, the Representative from Mississippi, no doubt rejoiced very much in those laws, and so do I; but I hardly think he would have assumed to direct the legislation of the Territory. If he conversed with the delegate, I have no doubt he gave him his opinion in favor of such legislation—just such legislation as we have a right to in every Territory for the protection of a particular property, which is more liable than any other to be stolen away; just what honest men would give to their neighbors anywhere. Suppose there were no laws, and a man comes into your neighborhood and says, "here I have a particular species of property, for which I require your aid to enable me to keep it;" would not honest men give it to him? Would a man deserve the name of neighbor, in its good sense, who would not give him whatever aid was within his power to enable him to keep whatever kind of property he had? That is my view of the obligation of good neighborhood. The Senator may differ from me about that. He does not answer.

Then, Mr. President, I answered to the Senator in substance, that until he is prepared to show something in which the South have aggressed upon the Constitution; until he is prepared to show that the South or any portion of it desires to break up the Government of the Constitution, he has no right to talk of Southern aggression, no right to talk of disunion as an offence of the South. So far as Southern men have asserted their determination to not allow the Government to be perverted to their destruction and humiliation; so far as they have proclaimed that they would maintain the rights they have inherited, and would die as they were born, equals in the Union, I sympathize and concur entirely with them; but to arraign Southern men for saying this much, as men who seek to destroy the Constitution and the Government, is as unfair as it is unfounded.

Thirty-Sixth Congress---First Session.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.

SENATE.—Mr. Gwin gave notice that on Monday he would move to go on with the calendar, the first bill upon which was for the construction of a Pacific Railroad, and he desired to take that up.

Mr. Sumner introduced a resolution requesting the Committe on Commerce to inquire into the expediency of repealing the hospital tax on seamen, and abolish the present system of marine hospitals. Adopted.

Mr. Davis introduced a series of resolutions relating to the obligations imposed on the States by the Constitution to protect the rights of the people in the Territories, etc. Ordered to be printed and made the special order for Wednesday next.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill appropriating 1,000,000 acres of the public lands for the benefit of the free schools of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Brown's resolutions were taken up.

Mr. Fitch discussed the Territorial question. He said that the new doctrines of popular sovereignty were a departure from the views of the founders of the Government. He defended the course of the Democratic Senators in displacing Mr. Douglas from the chairmanship of the Committee on Territories. His views as to the power of the people of the Territories, declared from Freeport to New Orleans, were at variance with the opinions of the great majority of his party. The action of the Senate was not from disrespect of the Senator from Illinois, but because he did not respect their principles. He defended the Northern Democracy from the charge of unsoundness preferred by Mr. Iverson, and denounced the Republicans as foes to the Constitution. He said that when they took an oath to support the Constitution, they must do so with a reservation. Northern Democrats sacrificed themselves in defense of Southern institutions. He referred to Dickenson, Cass, Dodge, Jones, and others, who were driven out defending the South against the prejudices of their own people. The Republicans now endeavored to raise a storm which would sweep Northern Democrats out of existence. He wished to be allowed to stand on congenial ground. He then referred to Mr. Brown's resolutions. Every citizen's right to carry property into the Territories he conceded, and was opposed to the nomination of Mr. Douglas at Charleston, on account of the injustice and unconstitutionality of his Territorial doctrine. If the South should nominate him, the North would regard it as an admission that his views were acceptable to it, thus forfeiting the respect of enemies and the sympathy of friends. The doctrine of Squatter Sovereignty makes every Territory non-slaveholding, whether situated North or South. He could not agree with the Senators from Mississippi and Louisiana that it was the duty of Congress, even if it had the power, to pass laws for the protection of one species of property in the Territories. This would cause Congress to degenerate into a mere Territorial Legislature. He held that slavery was protected in the Territories by the common law. The Territories could not exercise powers belonging to a State. The man who would not confirm his action to the Constitution, had in his hands the raw material of John Brown, and could only find affiliation on the other side of the chamber. He had yet to learn that the Democratic party belonged to one man, from whom it received its interpretation of what this or that law meant. He did not believe the party was yet prepared to go on its bended knees to this man, and ask him on what terms he would accept the nomination. When he put on his hat he did not cover the entire brains of the party, nor its entire heart when he buttoned up his waistcoat. Mr. Fitch then examined the Dred Scott decision, contending that it sustained the views he had advanced. He also claimed that they were supported by the Cincinnati platform. He thought there were points, however, on which Democrats differ without feeling. They were judicial, not legislative questions.

Mr. Douglas said it was not necessary at this time to go into any controversy with the gentleman from Indiana. He might have used these arguments with more propriety in his own State before the meeting of the late Democratic Convention.

Mr. Fitch replied that the action of that Convention might add to the Senator's vote at Charleston, but according to the rules governing former Conventions, it did not give him votes enough to secure his nomination. Did he then expect to shelter or transfer them to somebody else?

Mr. Douglas said that the action of the recent convention showed the Democrats of Indiana could not be bought.

Mr. Brown wished to press a vote on the resolutions, but yielded to a motion to postpone, and, after an executive session, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—The House was not in session.

THE "IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT."—The recent speech of Henry Wilson, one of the Senators from Massachusetts, shows that the spirit of the "irrepressible conflict" is as fierce as ever. Mr. Wilson's speech is quite as full of abolitionism and insult to the South as was Seward's Rochester speech. Massachusetts will take no step backwards in her march to the subjugation of the South, until driven back.

JACKSON, : : : : : February 11, 1860.

☞ Our thanks are due to Mr. Carlisle, of the News Depot, for New Orleans papers in advance of the mail.

LAND FOR SALE.—Persons wishing to purchase land are referred to the advertisement of P. Robinson, Esq., in another column.

☞ The Grand Fancy and Masked Ball at the Bowman House, on Thursday evening, was a decided success. The whole affair passed off with marked decorum and propriety; and the generous and popular landlord, Maj. Hillzhiem, outdid himself in the magnificence and splendor of the entertainment.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS.—The following gentlemen have been appointed Trustees of Deaf and Dumb Asylum: Messrs. F. S. Hunt, William H. Brown and A. B. Cabaniss. For the Institute for the Blind: Messrs. M. W. Boyd, John W. Robinson and John Duncan.

THEATRE.—Spengler's Hall was crowded last evening with a delightful audience on the occasion of Miss Carry Nelson's benefit. Her delineation of the "Daughter of the Regiment" was a decided success. A choice programme is offered for this evening's entertainment.

THE GEORGIA DEMOCRACY.—The following resolutions were adopted at a recent meeting of Democrats at Savannah, Georgia:

Resolved, That the [illegible] to the Presidency of W. H. Seward, [illegible] member of his party, or any endorser of the irrepressible conflict doctrine, or any endorser of the Helper book, or any [illegible] with John Brown's scheme, or [illegible] for his fate, should be immediately [illegible] by a dissolution of these States. [illegible] further

Resolved, That [illegible] of such a person to the Presidency [illegible] to bring about such dissolution, and to this we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

☞ The Kentucky Legislature has been discussing the morality of billiards. One party was in favor of taxing each table $500. Another contended that the game should not be taxed at all. The result of the whole matter was fixing the license at $150 for the first table, and $100 for each other.

☞ We had the pleasure yesterday of meeting in the city, our friend Col. McCullum, the able editor of the Vicksburg Sun.

New York Nullifying the Constitution.

Last year a bill passed the N. York House of Representatives, to nullify the fugitive slave clause of the Constitution of the United States, upon the failure of which the Union party of 1851 declared it would be the duty of Mississippi to dissolve the Union. The provisions of the New York bill imposed a severe penalty upon any citizen who assisted in the reclamation of a fugitive slave—no matter if he kept within the strict letter of the law of Congress on the subject. It provided for the appointment by the Governor, of an attorney in every county, whose duty it should be to appear and defend any negro claimed as a fugitive from labor, while at the same time it enacted that any attorney who appeared and acted as counsel for the claimant of any slave, should forever be debarred, from practicing in any of the Courts of that State. Various other provisions of equally infamous import were incorporated in the bill.

A similar bill, in all respects, to the foregoing is now pending in the New York Legislature, with every prospect of its immediate passage.

Virginia.

It is supposed that the following resolutions, which have been introduced into the Virginia Legislature, embody the views of the majority of the members:

Resolved, by the General Assembly, That we have received with deep sensibility the communication which South Carolina has made to the authorities of this Commonwealth, through her Commissioner, Hon. C. G. Memminger, and we hail with lively gratification this renewed manifestation of fraternal regard and affection which has heretofore characterized, and we trust will always continue to characterize the relations of South Carolina with Virginia.

Resolved, That we perform a pleasing duty in receiving and communicating to the authorities of South Carolina, our high appreciation of the ability, dignity and courtesy with which Mr. Memminger has discharged the important duties of his mission.

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Virginia recognize in the present condition of our relations with the Northern States an imperative necessity for *decisive* measures, and does not yet mistrust the capacity of the Southern States by a wise and firm exercise of their reserved powers to protect the rights and liberties of the people, and to restore and preserve the Federal Union. In such measures we earnestly desire the continued co-operation of all the Southern States; but believing that prompt and efficient co-operation will be more safely obtained by the direct and authentic action of the constituted authorities of the States, than through the agency of an assemblage which can have no legitimate power except to debate and advise.

The General Assembly will not at present undertake to invite any conference of commissioners appointed by the authorities of the Southern States.

Wholesale Proscription.

In the Oxford Mercury of last week we find the following:

"And we believe that if the excitement gets much higher, all Northern born people, of whatever grade, standing, or time they have been living here, will be forced to leave. They never can hope to be considered or treated in the social circle here, with the respect once shown to all people of respectability. An Englishman, or any foreign gentleman, is now more highly respected by the people of the South than a Yankee."

The sentiments uttered in the foregoing, we apprehend, do not meet the deliberate judgment of our respected cotemporary. We fear his zeal in the cause of Southern rights, interests and honor, must have caused him to go beyond the proper point, and give utterance to sentiments which must be offensive to the sensibilities of many of our citizens, who are as true to the rights of the South as the needle to the pole. And we believe the Editor would be far from using his columns for the purpose of inflicting wounds, unnecessarily, on a class of persons who have chosen a residence among us.

While it may be proper to be on the alert in regard to the visits of many Northern people, and especially itinerants of every description, yet a proper discrimination should be made; and toward those who have settled among us, and are identified with us in all the relations of life, we should be slow to say or do anything against them which would be calculated to alienate them from us, or to place us before the world as illiberal or unjust to many of our fellow citizens.

What would be the effect of the doctrine set forth in the extract above, were it to be carried out? Many of our prominent citizens were born at the North—many of them are in posts of honor and trust in the State—many of them are large slaveholders—many of them, in fact nearly all of them, are truly linked and identified with the South. They are intermarried with our people—they have cast their lots on Southern soil—they approve our institutions. How unjust would this course be in its operation! If Gen. Quitman were living, we suppose he would be placed under the ban, if this doctrine were carried out.

The true policy of the State is, to make no such discrimination against any portion of our fellow citizens. Judge them according to their acts.

It is well to guard against the introduction of strangers among us from the Northern States, at this particular time. For instance, our policy is not to encourage freshly imported teachers in our schools and colleges from the North, but those who have established themselves among us, and have attested by their course of conduct, their attachment to the South, and her institutions, it would be the consummation of injustice to drive off by such a system of wholesale proscription as is intimated by the Mercury.

☞ Judge Bed has been elected Circuit Court Clerk, in Holmes county, to succeed J. S. Rule, deceased.

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.
THURSDAY, Feb. 9, 1860.
7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Senate met.

A House bill to incorporate the Jackson Gas Light Company.

On motion of Mr. Starke, the Senate proceeded to the Hall of Representatives, to the end that the two Houses proceed to the election of seven delegates, to attend the Atlanta Convention. (See House Procedings.)

The object of the Joint Convention being accomplished, the Senators repaired to their chamber.

On motion of Mr. West, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

HOUSE.
THURSDAY, Feb. 9, 1860.
7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

House met.

On motion of Mr. Suratt, the Clerk was instructed to inform the Senate, that the Hall was in readiness for their reception to the end that the two Houses proceed to the election of seven delegates to the proposed Convention to be held at Atlanta, Georgia.

The Senate having been informed entered the Hall, and took seats assigned them.

Nominations being in order, the following gentlemen were nominated, and unanimously confirmed by the Joint Convention, to represent the State of Mississippi in Convention to be held at Atlanta.

S. S. Boyd, Wiley P. Harris, Samuel J. Gholson, Henry Dickinson, W. R. Hill, Hiram Cassidy, A. M. Clayton.

The object of the Joint Convention being accomplished the Senators repaired to their chamber.

On motion, the House adjourned until to-morrow-morning 9 o'clock.

SENATE.
FRIDAY, Feb. 10, 1860.

Senate met.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Bills Passed.

To amend the 3rd section of the 14th article of chap. 36 of the Revised Code, in relation to satisfying mortgages and deeds of trust.

To incorporate the Carroll county Manufacturing Company.

To more fully secure the School funds of Calhoun county, and to define the duty of the Treasurer.

To incorporate Wilson's Hall, in Marshall County.

Memorial to Congress, in relation to public lands within six miles of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, with House amendment.

To incorporate the town of McNutt, in the county of Sunflower.

For the relief of Mrs. H. A. Neetsche, of De Soto County.

To incorporate to twon of Rocky Ford, in Pontotoc county.

To authorize the Board of Police of Madison county, to purchase half section of land for the use of paupers.

To increase the salary of the Probate Judge of Sunflower County.

To incorporate the Amite County Female Academy.

On motion, the Senate adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Senate met.

Bills Passed.

For the benefit of Ann Mataw, a free woman of color.

For the relief of Jim Wall, a free man of color.

Mr. Rankin introduced a resolution granting leave of absence to the Hon. Hiram Cassidy for three months during the present year, which was adopted.

In relation to the Circuit Courts in the eighth Judicial District.

To authorize the Board of Police of Issaquena county to regulate and fix the per diem and mileage of its members.

To incorporate the Warren County Agricultural Society.

To incorporate Magnolia Lodge No. 16, at Warrenton, in Warren county.

Resolution allowing the Adjutant-General to occupy a room in the Capitol during his term of office.

On motion of Mr. Mason the Senate adjourned until 7 o'clock, P. M.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Senate met.

Bills Passed.

To transfer the county of Sunflower to the third district for the election of Judges of the High Court or Errors and Appeals.

To incorporate Deer Creek Railroad Company.

For the relief of the family of the Hon. B. R. Webb, with House amendment.

For the relief of William F. Smith.

On motion of Mr. Starke, the Senate adjourned until nine o'clock to-morrow.

HOUSE.
FRIDAY, Feb. 10, 1860.

The House met.

Reading of the Journal was dispened with.

Bills Passed.

To amend an act entitled an act, to incorporate the Deer Creek Railroad Company, approved February 11th, 1848.

A Senate bill amendatory of the law of descents and distributions.

To provide for the support of infants in certain cases

To amend the sixteith chapter of the Revised Code, entitled an act, concerning marriages, divorces and the separate property of married women.

To amend the act providing for the establishment of the Probate Courts, &c.

To transfer the county of Sunflower, to the third district for the election of Judge of the High Court of Errors and Appeals.

A Senate bill to better provide for the draining of swamp and overflowed lands in Harrison County.

To amend article 19, of chapter 17, of the Revised Code, in relation to injuries to gates, bars, fences and other property.

To appropriate the funds arising from the sale of swamp and overflowed lands, in Harrison county, to common school purposes.

To equalize and regulate the rate of charges of Railroads, and other purposes.

To amend the third section of the 14th article, of chapter 36, of the Revised Code, in relation to satisfying mortgages and deeds of trust with Senate amendment.

On motion, the House adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M.

3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The House met.

A Senate bill making certain appropriations to the Lunatic Asylum was taken up and occupied the whole evening in discussion, and pending any further action,

On motion of Mr. Suratt, the House adjourned until 7 o'clock this evening.

7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The House met.

Bills Passed.

To incorporate the Brandon State Institute and for other purposes.

To amend the act providing for the establishment of Probate Courts.

To provide for the support of infants in certain cases, with senate amendment.

A Senate bill to provide for the sale of goods, wares and merchandise manufactured in the Mississippi Penitentiary.

To provide for an increase of the revenue of the State, with Senate amendment.

A Senate bill to amend an act to provide for the payment of interest on the Chickasaw school fund, and for other purposes.

A Senate bill to change the county of Bolivar to the third Judicial District for the election of Judges of the High Court of Errors and Appeals.

A Senate bill to authorize the Board of Police of Issaquena county to regulate and fix the per diem and mileage of its members.

Resolution of the Senate granting leave of absence to the Hon. Hiram Cassidy.

On motion of Mr. Pinson, the House adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

SENATE.
SATURDAY, Feb. 11, 1860.

Senate met.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Bills Passed.

To make appropriations to the Mississippi Lunatic Asylum, with House amendment.

Mr. Starke offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Hon. James Drane, President of the Senate, for his able, dignified and impartial bearing in presiding over the deliberations of the Senate during its present session.

Mr. Mims offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to Maj. F. T. Cooper, Secretary of the Senate, and B. W. Sanders, Esq., Assistant Secretary, for the faithful and efficient manner in which they have discharged their duties during the present session.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to Col. W. B. Kavanaugh, Door-keeper, and his assistant, and J. J. Denson, Sergeant-at-Arms, for their prompt, diligent and faithful attention to the duties of their respective offices during the present session.

On motion of Mr. McCord, the Senate adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Senate met.

A committee was appointed to meet a committee on the part of the House, to wait on his Excellency, the Governor, to know if he had any further communication to transmit to either House of the Legislature.

The committee appointed to wait on the Governor reported that they had discharged the duties assigned them, and reported that the Governor had no further communication to make.

The President addressed the Senate in the following able and appropriate manner, after which he announced the Senate adjourned *sine die.*

SENATORS: The resolution which I find on my table so complimentary to me as your presiding officer, is indeed gratifying to me; for it has always been my highest aim to deserve and receive your approbation, by a strict, faithful and impartial discharge of every duty devolving on me as your presiding officer; and I have only to regret that my ability has not equalled my ambition. In taking my leave of you on this occasion, I do so with feelings that may be better imagined than described; for I am admonished that in all probability it is the last time that I shall meet and mingle with you as a Senator on this floor.

How can I convey to you, Senators, in proper terms, my grateful feelings for the kindness and forbearance extended to the many errors I, no doubt have committed as your presiding officer.

You have been kind, very kind and indulgent to me, and I can only return to you my assurance that I shall ever remember that kindness and indulgence, and treasure them as long as memory lasts or emotions swell the human heart.

During the long period I have served as a Senator on this floor, I have always cultivated feelings of kindness and respect for Senators, and in retiring from the Senate it is not the least pleasant of my reflections that I have never intentionally wounded the feelings of any one; nor opposed the measures of any Senator, where a sense of duty did not demand it at my hands.

It is with pleasure, mingled with regret, that I have looked forward to the period when I could relieve myself of the cares and anxieties of official position and official duty—pleasure to retire to the peaceful pursuits of private life, and exchange the excitement of politics for the quiet of a planter's home; regret, however, in terminating, even temporarily, my relations with Senators with whom a twelve years' intercourse has ripened into friendship—aye, more—a respect and love for Senators which, I trust, may never be interrupted nor terminated only with my existence.

In conclusion, I beg to convey to you, Senators and gentlemen, my best wishes for your uninterrupted health and prosperity, and a safe and speedy return to your homes and your families, and to impose on each and all of you the obligation never to pass near me without calling and receiving such hospitality as a quiet home and an open heart can give.

Again tendering to you my acknowledgements for your kindness, and the very flattering manner in which you have born testimony to my impartiality as your presiding officer, it only remains for me to discharge the last duty devolving on me, and declare the Senate adjourned, and bid each and all of you a friendly farewell. The Senate stands adjourned *sine die.*

HOUSE.
FRIDAY, Feb. 7th, 1860.

House met.

Reading of the journal was dispensed with.

Bills Passed.

For the benefit of the Lunatic Asylum.

Mr. Lake offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this House are due and are hereby tendered to the Hon. J. A. P. Campbell, Speaker of the House, for the able, courteous, dignified and impartial manner in which he has presided over its deliberations.

A Senate bill to amend the tenth chapter of the Revised Code, in relation to the State Library.

Mr. Van Eaton offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this House are due and the same are hereby tendered to C. A. Brougher, Esq, the able and efficient Clerk of the House, for the very prompt, efficient, courteous and gentlemanly manner in which he has at all times discharged the duties of his office.

On motion of Mr. Love

Resolved, That the thanks of this House are hereby tendered to the President of the New Orleans, Jackson, and Great Northern Railroad for free tickets for twenty days sent the members and officers of the Legislature.

A Senate bill for the benefit and protection of Odd Fellows Rest, Aberdeen, Miss.

A Senate bill in relation to the swamp and overflowed lands in Rankin county.

A Senate bill to regulate the trial of slaves in capital cases.

A Senate bill to provide for the removal of old buildings and nuisances from the public grounds, and for other purposes.

On motion of Mr. Hamilton, the House adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The House met.

The joint Committee appointed to wait on his Excellency, the Governor, and ascertain if he had any further communication for either House of the Legislature, reported that they discharged the duty assigned them, and reported that he had no further communication to make.

The speaker then delivered his farewell address and declared the House adjourned *sine die.*

New York Anti-slavery Convention.

INSURRECTIONARY DOCTRINES STRONGLY ADVOCATED—GOV. MORGAN CENSURED FOR HIS INVITATION TO THE SOUTHERN LEGISLATURES.

ALBANY, Feb. 2.—The State Anti-slavery Convention held its closing session in this city this afternoon. There was a full attendance.

Addresses were delivered by Messrs. Pillsbury, Wendell Phillips, Poyell, Robinson and others, and insurrectionary doctrines were strongly advocated.

A resolution was adopted severely censuring Gov. Morgan and the State Legislature for inviting "the man-stealing Governors and Legislatures of Tennessee and Kentucky" to visit New York as guests of the State.

Slavery in New York.

We cut the following advertisement from the Ulster County Gazette of Jan. 4, 1800.

"FOR SALE.—A stout, healthy, active negro wench. Apply to John Schoomaker, Jr., Rochester, Ulster County, New York.—Nov. 23, 1799."

Our State has hardly cleansed its skirts from the "stain of slavery," and yet our Republican friends are very anxious to cleanse the skirts of all their sisters at the South.—Conversing with an aged gentleman of Ulster County a short time since, he assured us that the negroes in that county were not near as well cared for, nor as happy or comfortable now when free, as they were when slaves.—What will Master Greeley say to this?—*N. Y. News.*

Wages in the Slave and Free States.

One of the arguments of the Abolitionists against slavery is, that it degrades the whites of the South, and reduces the price and the demand for white labor. In a recent speech in the Senate of the United States, Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee, presented a table prepared with care, showing the rate of wages in the principal cities of the slave and free States, from which it appears that the average rate per day is more than twenty-five per cent. higher in the Southern than in Northern cities. We will copy, as a fair basis of comparison, the rates paid in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in Nashville, Tenn., two inland cities, not entirely dissimilar in pursuit, in latitude, or in the expense of living:

CINCINNATI.	PER DAY.
Painters	$1.50 to 1.75.
Bricklayers	2.00 to 2.50.
Stone Masons	1.25 to 1.50.
Carpenters	1.00 to 2.00.
Plasterers	1.50 to 1.75.
Laborers	75 to 1.00.

NASHVILLE.	PER DAY.
Painters	$2.25 to 2.50.
Bricklayers	2.50 to 3.00.
Stone Masons	2.00 to 2.50.
Carpenters	2.25 to 2.50
Plasterers	2.00 to 2.50.
Laborers	1.00 to 1.25.

At another time we will copy the whole table as a matter of interest to our readers, and particularly to the mechanics. It forever stops the mouths of those who croak about the injury inflicted on the white man by the institution of slavery, and shows that where slaves are most numerous—in Little Rock, Arkansas, or in Charleston, S. C., for instance—the price of white labor is highest.—*Augusta Dispatch.*

THE SOUTHERN CONGRESS.—The Richmond Enquirer says:

The Southern Conference will meet, with or without Virginia, on the 4th day of July, 1860, at the city of Atlanta. The Charleston nomination will have been made, and the conference will be able to consider the prospect of political parties, as well as discuss questions of political power. Virginia, by an act of fatal folly, may have no voice in that conference to persuade its members, no influence to control its deliberations, but the cotton States, acting for themselves, and by themselves, will most certainly meet. To what decision they will come, no earthly power can say.

Speech of Hon. James B. McRae in the Senate on the Bill to amend the Constitution so as to Provide Separate Sessions of the High Court in each of three Districts.

MR. PRESIDENT:

It was our intention to have remained silent during the discussion of this bill, but we feel it our duty, as the introducer of the bill, to reply to the remarks made by the Senator from Warren and the Senator from Claiborne, who appear to think that Jackson is the only accessible point in the State, and that there are no law-books outside the State Library. These are the only points they have urged against the passage of this bill.

The reasons, sir, which may be given in favor of the proposed change of the constitution are numerous and urgent. Since the adoption of the present constitution one principle of legislation has been acknowledged on various occasions. It is this, that as far as possible the administration of law should be brought home to every man's door. This has been arrived at as far as practical by breaking up the centralization of courts, and dividing them out into each District of the State, and when it can be done, into every county in the State. Every county has its Circuit and Probate court, and now every county has also its Chancery Court; and in Hinds county, in order to accommodate the local interest and convenience of Jackson, they have two places of holding the Circuit Court. All such laws are in obedience to the principle of consulting the interest and convenience of suitors, are asked for on that principle and are granted alone upon that principle.

The most striking evidence, however, of the pervading influence of this principle in our legislation is to be found in the history of the Courts of Chancery. The constitution provides for a separate Superior Court of Chancery, with jurisdiction over the whole State. At first it was held only in Jackson. Soon after two or more convenient points were named by the Legislature, and again one or two more were added, until it was found that more labor was imposed upon the Chancellor than any one man could perform.

A plan was then adopted of having an inferior Vice Chancery Court for North Mississippi, to be held at four different places—Oxford, Fulton, Columbus and Carrollton.—Soon afterwards an Inferior Vice Chancery Court was created for South Mississippi, to be held at four different places—Natchez, Monticello, Paulding and Mississippi City; and then an Inferior Vice Chancery Court was created for Central Mississippi, to be held at Yazoo City. And, finally, under the pressure of this principle of making all Courts convenient to suitors, a change of the constitution, as in this case, was proposed, submitted to the people, approved and embodied in it, abolishing all central Chancery Courts, giving the Circuit Courts jurisdiction in all matters of chancery, and carrying the administration of chancery law into every county in the State.

Considering the functions and character of the High Court, it is impossible to localize it so completely as has been done in the case of the Chancery Court. Yet in connexion with it the same rule should be followed as far as can be justified by convenience or propriety. The constitution itself furnishes a very good rule to guide in this matter. It provides for *three* High Court Judges—it also provides for three High Court Districts, and the qualified voters of each District vote for one of the three Judges, and only one of them. Being thus separated and distinguished by the constitution as to Districts, Judges and elections, it is not only natural but very right and reasonable to ask that the sessions of the Court should be held in each one of the three districts in a manner to be provided by law.

This requirement as to the sessions of appellate Courts is very generally enforced. Indeed, it prevails almost everywhere else. I will not mention Northern States. In Virginia, the Supreme Court is held at five different places to suit the convenience of the State; in North Carolina, in three; in South Carolina, in several places; in Georgia, in three or more; in Tennessee, in three; in Louisiana at four places, and in Texas in three. All this is done in obedience to the very plain, just and reasonable principle, that in arranging the sessions of Courts of justice, the convenience of suitors is to be consulted, and not that of the lawyers who practice in them, or of the judges who preside over them.

It has been urged in this case as was so often done in the case of the Chancery Courts, that there are no sufficient libraries elsewhere than in the city of Jackson. This plea was urged for twenty years in every instance in which an effort was made to branch the Chancery Court. But it is not true in point of fact nor is it sufficient in reason.

Oxford has the University, with a splendid library, which, added to that of Professor Stearns, embraces over six thousand volumes of the most approved law books in the profession—indeed, a far better selected collection than the one at Jackson.

At Mississippi city there are extensive private libraries, which would be open to the court, which would yield every authority they might need, and far more than they would ever read in any case which might come before them. At both places, if selected, there are fine court houses, good consultation rooms, good sheriffs, competent clerks, first-rate hotels and accommodations, and in either case a healthy climate, an invigorating atmosphere, and in all essential particulars connected with health, convenience or pleasure, far superior to the city of Jackson. I merely mention these two places to show that there are points in the State just as accessible, and where books abound as plentifully as in the city of Jackson.

But it is not clear that the Court, or counsel, or suitors are at all bettered by a multitude of books. In this book-making age, the flood of new law books poured forth seem only to confound courts, perplex counsel and injure suitors. In truth there is not one principle in a hundred which is really new. All the great vital principles of human action which go to make up the common law, are to be found in a few volumes. If these are consulted and followed, Courts are generally right—and the present uncertainty which is charged upon the law, arises from neglecting and forgetting these old standard books and the standard principles in them, and hunting after some case in point to be found in the thousand trashy volumes turned out annually in America and England, and which constitute what we hear so much fuss about in these days as "Law Libraries."

An eminent and experienced lawyer has said to me that it would be well to do as was done in Don Quixote, burn nine-tenths of the modern law books; and I must confess that he also said it would be well to burn nine-tenths of the Statute laws since Poindexter's Code, and in particular, the new code.

In but one thing is any change required in the laws as they now exist, and that is as to the officers to represent the State in these Courts. But this change is a simple one and easily made. Let the District Attorney of the county in which the proposed session takes place appear for the State, as parts of their several duties, leaving the Attorney General to represent the middle district at Jackson, and to remain still, as now, the official adviser of all the officers of State, by far the most useful and responsible part of his duties. This is the rule in Tennessee.

This shows that the adoption of this amendment will not cost the people any more than the present system, while it is called for by principles which have always been acknowledged and acted upon.

Another argument urged against this amendment, and which the gentlemen lay great stress upon, is this: That Railroads have now made Jackson as convenient as any other point to all parties. This is no sufficient answer to the reasons I have given. In the first place, if the proposition is right on principle, an answer as to convenience is no sufficient answer. And the people should be consulted as to this point of convenience, and allowed to speak for themselves. Give them a chance to vote and inform us what are their views. The opinions of the three judges are very good as to their own convenience, but are not conclusive as to the wishes of those whose servants they are. Nor will it do to take the opinions of a few lawyers who seek a seat in the Legislature in order to make the State pay their expenses while attending the High Court upon such a change. It does not follow because a few lawyers can come here to figure a brief time upon the public stage, and then attend to their cases and go home, that cases are more earnestly or ably argued, watched and guarded, or that the Court is more powerfully awakened to a sense of its duty.

It is believed that separate sessions of this Court in three different places, would have a beneficial influence on the Court, on counsel, and on suitors. A long and unbroken session at one place, with the same routine every day for months, is well calculated to cause the most active energies and attention to flag. It is a rule of the human mind to become dull under perfect uniformity. The same faces, the same counsel, the same arguments, the same contact of mind, will enervate any body of men. Let them change the scene of labor change locality, meet new faces, new ideas, fresh minds, and you will secure the same renewed activity of mind that is secured to the body by a change of climate. This is true upon obvious and very simple principles, and has been evidenced for years past by the fact that the decisions of the Court in its earlier sessions are always marked with a greater amount of care, labor and interest, than the later ones. Change the scene and you will secure the same activity at each session of the Court.

Counsel will be made better lawyers by a more general attendance on the Supreme Court. As a general rule they will follow up their own cases and always understand them better than those retained after the case has once been tried in the inferior courts. The suitors will thus be benefitted as their cases will always be better managed by those who have been connected with them *ab initio*, than by others. Our local lawyers will become better lawyers everywhere. No man can be a good lawyer unless he practices in the High Court; but no one ever will be a first rate lawyer unless he practices in both courts.

The continued centralization and monopoly of legal influences, information, practice and precedents at Jackson has and always will be and must be undue and injurious, and there is no doubt of the fact, that there are some important decisions which have been procured, innocently it is true, because naturally, yet undoubtedly procured by the social, political and legislative influences which center at Jackson. Removed from all such influences, in a new place and with local counsel, such decisions might never have been made.

Merely as a matter of State policy, this movement should be favored as building up and giving tone to each of the great divisions of the State. In the North the University is its great stay as well as the glory of the whole State. A session of this august tribunal, with its grave and learned judges, its eminent counsel, their masterly arguments upon high questions of political and local law, and those still more masterly expositions of the same by the court, would do more for the University than the annual appropriations of the Legislature. And in point of interest it may be fairly claimed that South Mississippi surpasses any other section. Southern intelligence and Southern wealth are pouring into it every day, and in a few yaars it will rival the shores of the Mediterranean, fronting a street of waters surpassing in beauty that tideless sea upon which Byron sang and sighed his life away. Present events indicate the Gulf as the great point of interest for the South. We have a fine harbor, and hundreds of thousands are being spent on its fort. A navy and dock yard will be built on its shores. The legislation of the present session shows that at no distant day a railroad will bring it into instant communication with every county in the State.

It is the duty of all our public men to lend all the aid to build up, strengthen and elevate this section by all the means within their power. No one can doubt the aid, the character and the weight which will be lent by this very simple, cheap and natural change. No one [illegible] injured by it—no rights are impaired, and nothing unfair is done. Then, Mr. President, it seems, that since this change is so proper and just, and so urgently demanded by public policy, public necessity, and public convenience, that the Legislature should pass this bill, and submit the amendment to the people.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—The House met today at the usual hour, Hon. Wm. Pennington, Speaker, in the chair.

The Hon. Wm. Pennington, Speaker of the House, reported the following gentlemen chairmen on the most important committees:

Mr. John A. Gilmer, of North Carolina, chairman of the Committee on Elections.

Mr. John Sherman, of Ohio, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. John Hickman, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Galusha A. Grow, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Committee on Territories.

Mr. Benj. Staunton, of Ohio, chairman of the Committee on Military.

Mr. Freeman H. Morse, of Maine, chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. John D. Ashmore, of South Carolina, chairman of the Committee on Mileage.

The election of a printer has been postponed until next Monday.

A message received from the Senate which was read, announcing the adoption by the Senate of the amendment relative to the total abolition of the franking privilege.

The bill relative to the deficiency in the Post-office Department was passed.

The House then adjourned till Monday.

The Disunion Resort of the South Self-Protective, not Aggressive.

This fact is so clearly stated in the following extract from a late article in the Baltimore Sun, one of the most temperate and conservative journals in the Union, that the argument needs neither explanation nor elaboration. Is it not a pity that some of our journals further South will not so divest themselves of partizan prejudice to perceive and frankly admit what is plainly shown by the Sun:

"Any good and true citizen of the North, who will look this matter squarely in front, cannot fail to see that the aggressive movement is northern, while that of the South is defensive. Even the extreme resort—disunion—of which the South speaks, is not a menace—it is not aggressive. On the contrary it is self-protective. It is that of a peaceable man, driven to extremity and unwilling to provoke or enter upon a quarrel, withdrawing from the ground. While the menace of disunion as it comes from a faction of the North is aggressive. The attitude assumed is characterised by a disposition to thrust the South out of the Union, not to take the initiative and retire by its own act. Republicanism might declare disunion and avow its purpose to establish a free, Northern republic. But it dare not do this. Such a motion now would be fatal to its pretensions. Therefore it pursues the aggressive policy, and is animated by the spirit of disunion, would bring about such a calamity by an aggressive policy that shall leave the South no alternative."

Cotton Prospects for 1860.

Samuel Smith, Cotton Broker, of Liverpool, in an elaborate review of the cotton trade during last year and a careful examination into the probable requirements of the trade for the present year, comes to the conclusion that the supply for 1860 promises to be "fully equal, probably a little in excess, of the consumption; but if trade continues in a healthy and prosperous state, which there is every appearance of its doing, and politics remain settled, there is no warrant for any important departure from the basis of price that was maintained last year. He says:

"During the next few months, when an unusually large proportion of the supply will reach this port, a rather lower scale of prices may seem justified; but in the latter half of the year, the prospects of the next crop will be watched with much anxiety, for after the occurrence of two uncommonly large crops, the chances are certainly against a third, and a short crop next year would soon sweep away all the surplus stock accumulated during the two seasons of plenty.

ARRIVAL OF A SLAVER.—A full rigged Spanish looking brig arrived in our quarrantine ground yesterday morning, in charge of Lieut. Robert M. McArann, Midshipman, Norman H. Farqhar, ten seamen and marines of the U. S. ship Constellation. The prise was taken on the 21st of December last, about sixty miles northwest of Kabenda, Lower Guinea, by the ship Constellation, after a twelve hours' chase, during which time she displayed no colors, and on boarding her no papers were found. From what can be learned from the sailing-master, she is the Spanish brig Delicia, built in Barcelona, some twenty-five years ago. She sailed from Sagua la Grande, in the Island of Cuba, in September last, and kept well north in going to the coast. She had been hovering near the land for some time when taken, and it is supposed that she was about taking a cargo of six hundred negroes on board, as her captain or supercargo was ashore, and her slave-deck, boiler for cooking, &c., were in place ready for immediate use. She had, when taken, a crew of thirteen men and two officers, all of whom appear to be Spaniards. The men were placed on board the Constellation, but the two officers have arrived here in the brig.—*Charleston Mercury.*

Senators Davis and Douglas in Debate.

A Washington correspondent of the Charleston Mercury gives the following graphic description of the recent debate on State Rights and Federal consolidation, between Senators Davis and Douglas:

The Senate has been enlivened this morning by an animated debate between Senator Davis, of Mississippi, and Douglas, of Illinois, in which the "Little Giant" was closely questioned about the resolution offered by him, to prevent conspiracies in the States against the peace or property of other States. The States, in the opinion of Senator Davis, never intended to give the President power to invade their respective sovereignties with the military and naval forces of the confederation, to put down conspiracies, and he demonstrated with his usual ability, that such an exercise of a central armed authority might lead to an usurpation of State rights. This Senator Douglas disclaimed, and he also disavowed any intention of casting reproach on the President for not more fully seconding Gov. Wise, at the recent execution, when it was feared that armed bodies of rescuers were being collected in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

There was a marked contrast between the Senator from Illinois, who is short, stout and massive in appearance, with a Websterian look of defiance as he piles argument upon argument, and the tall, lithe figure of the gallant Mississippian, his hair frosted by age, but his keen eye, brilliant with youthful fire, as his ardent and eloquent temperament displayed itself in rapid yet logical conclusions. The debate will merit a careful perusal.

☞ Our letters from Brownsville, in to-day's Delta, give a full history of events on the Rio Grande. They show conclusively that Cortina and his band have the sympathies of all the Mexicans, and that a state of open war exists along the Texas frontier.—*Delta.*