[illegible] rag[illegible] being made [illegible] involuntary instrument of su[illegible] ruse. But the unkindest cut remain[illegible] behind. Seeing her master quite out of [illegible] after dinner, she philosophically urg[illegible] the best of a bad bargain, and t[illegible] "potheen," opening the bottle [illegible] who can express her indignant amazement at [illegible]ing that the contents were *aqua pura?*

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 12, 1850.

IRREGULARITIES OF THE MAILS.

We have occasional complaints from subscribers of irregularities in the times of receiving their papers. Once more we assure them, that the whole of our edition is mailed by Wednesday evening, so as to be in time for the Eastern mail, that leaves at five o'clock in the afternoon, and the Western, that is closed at nine o'clock in the evening. We know this is so, because we *see* it done. The cross mails, however, are so arranged sometimes, that a delay of an hour on one line may occasion the delay of several days on depending lines.

Still, we hope those of our subscribers who suffer inconvenience, will lose no time in informing us of the fact, so that we may call the attention of the Department to the matter.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

We take occasion again to thank our friends for their kind offices. Our subscribers generally seem disposed to act as voluntary agents for the *Era*. We shall venture in our next to make extracts from a few business letters, as affording illustrations of the spirit that animates them.

We are aware that a few other newspapers of value are put at a somewhat lower price; but we have already explained why we cannot depart from the following terms:

An old subscriber and two new ones, or three new subscribers, $5; clubs of five, $8; clubs of ten, $15. Single copies, $2. Agents allowed 50 cents for every *new*, 25 cents for every *renewed*, subscriber, which they may retain themselves, or allow to subscribers, just as they please. Every friend of the paper authorized and requested to do all he can for its interests.

THE FRIEND OF YOUTH—Vol. II.

The second number of *The Friend of Youth* is just out, and is rich in contributions. Thanks-[illegible] poem, by Mary Irving; Martha Russell furnishes a capital story, entitled, "Clearing Up; or, How the Whites Learned the Secret." Grace Greenwood has permitted the publication of a beautiful chapter from her forthcoming work, for young folk. The editor finishes her story of "Charles Allison's Falsehood." Mrs. H. A. Burleigh contributes a spirited sketch, under the title of "The Golden Robin." Beside these, there are other articles highly entertaining. The publisher hopes the patrons of the paper will hasten in the work of renewing subscriptions.

TERMS.

Single subscribers	$0.50
Five copies	2.00
Ten copies	3.50
Fifteen copies	5.00

Proceedings of Public Meetings.—We have on hand reports of several public meetings at the North on the Fugitive law. We shall attend to them next week.

New Publications, many of which are waiting for notice, will receive attention next week.

Several Communications, (prose and poetry,) lately received, will soon appear.

Something in Store.—We shall finish Mrs. Southworth's interesting story next week, after which, we shall enrich our columns with some delightful sketches by Grace Greenwood, Martha Russell, and Mary Irving.

The Adams House, Boston.—We ask attention to the advertisement of this excellent House in Boston. Any of our friends visiting that city can be accommodated nowhere more agreeably. Its arrangements are all home-like, and the proprietors are men attentive and obliging.

THE HON. AMOS WOOD.

We regret the loss of the Hon. Amos E. Wood, a Representative in Congress from Ohio. He died at his home, recently, of erysipelas. A correspondent does him no more than justice in the following notice:

"He was emphatically a true man. Plain and simple in his manners, and but little acquainted with the fashions of the world, he possessed a strong mind, an energetic will, and great integrity of purpose. He was frank, sincere, and direct in speech and action. He was a Democrat from conviction, and not for the sake of a connection with the strongest party; and, being such, he was desirous to see Democratic principles applied to all subjects of political action. Hence, he was an anti-slavery man, and among those who confronted the late combination which pressed the incendiary measures which now convulse the country through Congress, none displayed a calmer or cooler courage or greater steadiness than he. His place in the ranks of the Ohio delegation in Congress will not easily be filled.

OUR CITY COUNCIL.

We understand that some scheme of legislation, in regard to free people of color in this District, is now under consideration in our City Councils. The provisions are said to be exceedingly severe; but what they are, we know not, nor do our citizens generally.

If our corporate authorities wish to make enemies in Congress, to injure the interests of the city, to prevent any liberal appropriation by that body for its substantial welfare, to add to the irritation of the North, and prevent emigration from that section, without securing any corresponding benefit from the South, to provoke another cry in favor of the removal of the seat of Government, and thus depress the price of real estate and discourage the investment of capital here, they are pursuing the right course. If they would avoid all these evils, let them lay aside, or under the table, all projects of proscriptive legislation.

We would call the attention of the People of the District, of the property-holders, to the doings of the Councils. Are they willing to suffer their agents to get up an agitation that will infallibly arouse against the city the indignation of a large number of the members of Congress? Do they want to see every Western paper clamoring for the removal of the seat of Government? There is and there always will be a strong body in Congress, opposed on general principles or from a niggardly economy to appropriations for the benefit of this city. All that is necessary, therefore, to prevent appropriations, is to provoke by unwise or proscriptive legislation the hostility of a few other members, and you have a dead vote against the city.

We speak to people who understand, or ought to understand, their own interests. We would appeal, too, to their Humanity and sense of Justice. Legislation, like that contemplated by our City Councils, is simply wicked and inhuman. We have no right to oppress our fellow-men, no matter what our prejudices. The resident free colored population here is as well behaved and well conditioned as any similar class anywhere in the United States. It deserves sympathy and encouragement, not proscription and insult. We have no right to exclude them from the pale of human sympathies; to do so, is an offence against Humanity, a disgrace to our civilization, a sin against God, who is the Father of all men.

But, to all those who are dead to such appeals, we say, every proscriptive, oppressive regulation against the colored people will inevitably and speedily react against themselves. Not a liberal member of Congress will vote one cent for the benefit of our city, if it engage in an illiberal system of caste legislation.

"NORTHERN MAJORITIES."

Mr. Cobb, at the reception meeting given to him a few days since in New York, had much to say about the numerical strength of the North, which was now preponderant in the Federal Councils. Georgia and the States further South had little pecuniary interest in the Fugitive bill; still they regarded it as of vital importance, as it would furnish a test of the fidelity of this "Northern majority" to the Compromises of the Constitution.

It is no new thing for the South to impose tests upon the "Northern majority." It has always been distrusting its fidelity, always exacting new pledges of its faith. For fear Northern men should not rule well, it has so contrived as to subject them to its own rule. The will of a minority, united by, and acting for, a single Interest, has made the majority subservient.

One would have thought that, with a Southerner for President, a Southern Chief Justice, a Southern majority on the Supreme Bench, a Southern Speaker, and Southern Chairmen and Majorities on all the important Committees of both Houses, the South, the "minority," as slaveholders always style themselves when they are putting forth their most extravagant pretensions, might have been satisfied. But, by adroit management—appeals to the vanity, magnanimity, good feeling, pecuniary and political interest, and the fears of members of the "Northern majority"—the South secured the rejection of the Wilmot Proviso, the favorite principle of that majority, and forced the passage of a scandalously iniquitous law to enable it to catch runaway slaves. "The Northern majority" now revolts at this measure, but is coolly told that adherence to it is required as a proof of its fidelity to the Compromises of the Constitution: repeal it, and the South will repeal the Union, for the proof would then be complete that the majority was bent on subverting the Compromises of the Constitution!

There may be a few Southern men deluded with this idea, but the majority of them harp upon it for a purpose. They charge the North with a disposition to abuse its power, simply to cloak their own ambition, and excuse or justify their own abuses of power.

Nothing in the history of the country for the last sixty years can authorize this miserable distrust of the North. What has it done? What compromises of the Constitution have its State Governments violated? Has any attempt ever been made to strip the slaveholders of the representation allowed for slaves? Did Congress interfere with the foreign slave trade before it was expressly authorized to do it? Has it ever pretended to authority to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States? Have the representatives of the North set up such pretension, or manifested any such disposition? Did not Congress legislate in 1793 to give effect to the provision of the Constitution relating to fugitive slaves, and punish any one who may harbor or conceal them, and did not the law continue to be in operation down to the time when the atrocious bill of the last session was passed? When did Congress, in which there was a Northern majority, prove delinquent in its adherence to this so-called Compromise? What State Government of the North has passed any laws in contravention of it? It is easy to declaim and indulge in violent generalities, but what law or regulation of any State at the North can be pointed out, releasing from service or labor the fugitive from any other State?

In all points, the "Northern majority," so far as its representatives in Congress, or its constituted State authorities are concerned, has observed good faith towards the South, never violating a single guaranty of the Constitution, or betraying the slightest disposition to do so.

But it is said, the North has attempted to prevent the extension of slavery into free territory. Well; nothing is said or intimated against this in "the compact." No guaranty was ever demanded or yielded of the extension of Slavery; but the spirit of the compact was against it. The Wilmot Proviso is not therefore an attack upon the letter or spirit of any compromise, nor does the support of it furnish ground for the wretched imputation of a design to abolish Slavery in the States.

It is said that the North has aimed at the Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia! Some of its State Legislatures have passed resolutions in favor of it; some of its Representatives in Congress have voted for it. Well—is there anything in "the bond" against this? Did the North ever make any bargain about it? In doing what it has done, it has violated no guaranty; and no matter how offensive the slaveholders may regard its wishes or acts in the premises, they have no right to argue that, because it has aimed or may aim at what is strictly constitutional, it has aimed or will aim at what is unconstitutional. The North has just as good a right to seek the abolition of slavery at the seat of the Federal Government, as the South has to seek its perpetuation; and no more violates good faith, than does the latter.

It is again said that "the North" will discuss the merits and demerits of the system of Slavery. Whose business is it? At this age of the world, People discuss what they please. All things in Heaven and in earth are subjected to rigid investigation: what special holiness exempts the "institution of slavery?" What is there in Human Bondage so sacred that it must not be talked about? The question belongs to Humanity—it has been undergoing discussion all over the civilized world for the last century. England and France have abolished the system, but the slave trade, which is incidental to it, continues to be, with them and our country, a grave subject of deliberation and action

So far as the question is a moral one, human nature must be changed and God's laws reversed, before thought, and tongue, and pen, shall cease inquiry and argument upon it. Whatever concerns human rights and welfare will enlist human thoughts and sympathies, which will find expression in speech and through the press. God says, there be Light: Slavery says, let there be Darkness. The result of such a conflict cannot be doubtful. Light will break forth, and the system or law that cannot stand the light must disappear.

And so far as the question is a political one, it will continue to be agitated until it shall cease to be political. It is not the fault of the North that slavery is made a political question. Its supporters insist that Congressional laws shall uphold it in the District of Columbia, provide for it in the Territories, impose severe pains and penalties for its support in certain contingencies in the free States. If they will nationalize slavery, they must take the consequences. If Congress may uphold, it may subvert; if it may promote, it may discountenance; if it may protect, it may withhold protection. The Slaveholders seek to nationalize Slavery—the anti-Slavery men, to denationalize it, so as to leave its sole disposition to the States in which it exists. They constitute two parties, with antagonistic creeds and objects; each seeking to accomplish its objects by inducing or preventing action by Congress. The existence of such antagonism necessarily involves discussion and agitation; but for this, *they* are responsible who seek the nationalization of Slavery. Let them abandon this unhallowed work, let them join with the North in denationalizing Slavery, in insisting that there shall be no action by Congress that shall implicate in any way, directly or indirectly, the People of the North in the extension or support of it, and all agitation in the free States of the subject, as a political question, will forthwith cease. The North stands on the defensive—demands non-action by Congress. When urged to allow action in behalf of Slavery, it resists, protests, and claims the right to assign reasons for its position and policy. Discussion and agitation of the question of Slavery is a necessity forced upon it by the South, a measure of self-defence, and no insult to the Southern People, or aggression upon their rights.

We repeat, the clamor raised about the aggressions of the North, and the necessity of exacting new pledges of its good faith, is groundless and sinister, raised by demagogical Slaveholders, to cloak their own ambitious purposes, and deluding many honest minds in the South, studiously kept in ignorance of the character, sentiments, and purposes of Northern People.

For the National Era.

STANZAS FOR THE TIMES—1850.

The evil days have come: the poor
Are made a prey;
Bar up the hospitable door,
Put out the fire-lights, point no more
The wanderer's way.

For Pity now is crime: the chain
Which binds our States
Is melted at the hearth in twain,
Is rusted by her tears' soft rain:
Close up her gates.

Our Union, like a glacier stirred
By voice below,
Or bell of kine, or wing of bird,
A beggar's crust, or kindly word,
May overthrow.

Poor whispering tremblers!—yet we boast
Our blood and name:
Bursting its century-bolted frost,
Each gray cairn on the Northman's coast
Cries out for shame!

Oh, for the open firmament—
The prairie free,
The desert hillside, cavern-rent,
The Pawnee's lodge, the Arab's tent,
The Bushman's tree!

Than web of Persian loom most rare,
Or soft divan,
Better the rough rock, bleak and bare,
Or hollow tree, which man may share
With suffering man.

I hear a voice: "Thus saith the Law,
Let Love be dumb;
Clasping her liberal hands, in awe,
Let sweet-lipped Charity withdraw
From hearth and home."

I hear another voice: "The poor
Are thine to feed;
Turn not the outcast from thy door,
Nor give to bonds and wrong once more
Whom God hath freed."

Dear Lord! between that law and Thee
No choice remains;
Yet not untrue to man's decree,
Though spurning its rewards, is he
Who bears its pains.

Not mine Sedition's trumpet blast
And threatening word;
I read the lesson of the Past,
That firm endurance wins at last
More than the sword.

Oh, clear-eyed Faith, and Patience, thou
So calm and strong,
Angels of God! be near to show
His glorious future shining through
Our night of wrong!

J. G. W.

MISSISSIPPI.

The Legislature of Mississippi has passed resolutions censuring the course of Gen. Foote, in sustaining the Compromise measures; and also calling a Convention of the People of the State, to meet next November. The General seems to be sustained by a large portion, if not a majority of the People, and we doubt not, will yet carry the day. Had the Legislature seriously determined on a Dissolution of the Union, it would never have fixed the time for the meeting of the Convention one year ahead. The secret object of this was, to give time for the organization of a Union Party, so that while a rod might be held up *in terrorem* over Congress, the State might not be committed irretrievably to Disunion. The demagogues of the Legislature had gone too far to retreat without making themselves laughing-stocks; but by the device of an appeal to the People, giving one year's time for deliberation, they expect the State to be extricated from the foolish predicament in which they have placed it.

CONGRESS—CHEAP POSTAGE—THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

It is not customary for Congress to transact much business before the holydays. The two or three weeks intervening between them and the beginning of the session are generally used up in the preparation of business by Committees, in the announcement of deaths that have occurred during the recess, and in adjournments over from Thursdays or Fridays till Mondays.

Thus far the members do not seem disposed to depart from the beaten track. They might do so without detriment to the country or their own reputation.

The subject of cheap postage has been discussed for the last half dozen years. It has been repeatedly under consideration in Congress. Public Sentiment is decided in favor of reduction and a uniform rate. The whole question is clearly understood, and members of Congress have, with few exceptions, made up their minds in regard to it. The Postmaster General's report is before them, and has been or may be read by them all. It contains the data and recommendations necessary to guide them. What further is necessary? What delay is needed? Why cannot the whole subject be taken up and disposed of forthwith? Give us at least a reduction of Letter postage, if nothing else. All agree that the rates should be reduced, and should be uniform. Suppose they try a bill for the reduction to two cents at once. Those who favor three cents can move an amendment, and, without debate, the sense of Congress can be taken. If the amendment prevail, the object is nearly gained, and the friends of the lowest rate can afford to wait till time shall have demonstrated that one step more may be taken with safety. If the amendment fail, then pass the bill, and by one leap reach final reform.

As to questions about the Franking Privilege, Postage on Newspapers, &c, they can be taken up separately, and decided each upon its own merits. Let us have one thing at a time, and progress will be easier and more certain. Give us a uniform low rate of postage on Letters, and everything else essential will follow in goodtime?

Why not, we repeat, act upon the subject and dispose of it, before the holydays? It would be a great popular triumph: everybody would spend a happier Christmas on account of it.

In relation to the Slavery Question, Congress has plenty of advisers. The *Union* threatens—the *Tribune* goes for postponement of agitation—the newspapers cry, peace! peace!—and Washington letter-writers stand prepared to brand with odium any member from the North that shall open his mouth on the subject.

For one, we do not wish to see the whole time of Congress occupied by any one question. It has much important business to do, and we hope it will waste as little breath as possible in doing it. But, he must have strangely mistaken Public Sentiment, and misunderstood Human Nature, and overlooked the real elements involved in the Slavery Question, who imagines that it is to be excluded entirely from the deliberations of this session. Members may feel inclined to remain quiet, but the People will not let them. Their petitions will soon be sent in; they must be presented, read, respectfully treated, and referred. Treat them with contempt, and you will have about as much quiet as prevailed during the era when the rights of petition and debate were sought to be destroyed by Patton and Atherton gags. There are many hundred thousand voters who believe the Fugitive Law an atrocity, and that it ought to be repealed. Some hundreds of thousands hold that it ought to be essentially modified. Are these People to be trampled upon with impunity? When they speak, shall they not be heard? All these admonitions against agitation might be spared. The Anti-Slvaery members of Congress have not generally been obtrusive or precipitate in their demonstrations, but they are not to be coaxed or frightened into silence or passivity. They know that there is a time for everything—a time to speak, and a time to be silent—and when they are silent it will be, not from fear of odium or denunciation, not from any relaxation or change of purpose in relation to Slavery, but simply because they shall deem it their wisest course; and when they speak, it will be, not in terror, or with deprecating words, not by sufferance or courtesy, but in the exercise of their rights, and in fulfilment of their obligations, as independent representatives of freemen. Look to the records of the last Congress—it was not the anti-slavery, but the pro-slavery members that wasted time, were the men of one idea, blocked the wheels of legislation. We do not expect that they will waste time this session, but they intend to be heard at the proper hour, and to speak just as freely and calmly and firmly concerning Slavery Questions legitimately before Congress, as if South Carolina raised no Quattlebums, and Mississippi had not called a Convention to meet next November. We admire neither the taste, the sense, nor the courage of those who would invest any Class Interest with an awful sanctity, defying investigation, and making it a crime to challenge its pretensions.

THE SLAVEHOLDING SCHEME—MUTILATION OF CALIFORNIA.

The attentive observer of the proceedings of Congress at its last session must soon have learned that the object that lay nearest the heart of the Slavery-Extensionists was, the division of California between the North and South by the line of 36° 30'. That accomplished, would have consummated their scheme, which contemplated, first, a perpetual division of the continent between Slavery and Freedom, whereby the former was to be let loose indefinitely below that parallel of latitude, involving us, whenever it might become necessary, in wars for the aggrandizement of the Slave Power; and, secondly, the conversion of Southern California into slave Territory, with a view to its speedy admission into the Union as a slaveholding State. Had the line been drawn, an avalanche of slaveholders would have instantly precipitated itself upon that Territory, which abounds in all tropical productions, and affords an inviting field for Slave Labor. No one who has read the descriptions of the keenly observant Fremont can doubt this.

It was a gigantic scheme, and he who understands the rapacity and tenacity of the Slave Power, will not be surprised at the obstinacy with which it was urged, the refusal of its supporters to regard its rejection for the first, second, third, sixth, or seventh time, as final, or the violent indignation which their ultimate failure in Congress has awakened among the ultra pro-slavery *men of* the South.

At one time, we feared they were about to carry their point. Never was the Cause of Freedom in more [illegible] Northern Senators, supporters of the Compromise, whose names have been studiously concealed, and Mr. Clay, who at the beginning of the session called God to witness that he never would consent to do anything to extend slavery, when their Omnibus stuck fast, and could be got no further without the help of a few more Southern members, did consent to this gigantic scheme of slavery-propagandism, for the purpose of buying help. Mr. Benton, in his speech at St. Louis, exposed this profligacy with burning severity, and showed that, but for the honorable determination of a very few extreme Southern members, not to barter their votes in disregard of principle, the mutilation of California would have been effected, and the line of 36° 30' carried to the Pacific ocean.

August 1st, the day after the overthrow of the Omnibus, revelations were made in the Senate which should seal the political doom of the pretended friends of California from the North, with Mr. Clay at their head. We present the following extracts from the remarks of several Senators at that time. Mr. Foote leads off with his characteristic boldness:

Senate, August 1, 1850.

Mr. Foote. I now offer, as an amendment to the amendment, the same amendment which I offered the other day and withdrew, the object of which is to reduce the boundary of California to the line of 35° 30', and to establish a Territorial Government south of that line. I propose to add it to the end of the section:

"And that the said State of California shall never hereafter claim as within her boundaries, nor attempt to exercise jurisdiction over any portion of the territory at present claimed by her, except that which is embraced within the following boundaries, to wit: commencing in the Pacific ocean, three English miles from the shore, at the forty-second degree of north latitude; thence with the southern boundary line of the Territory of Oregon, to the summit of the Sierra Nevada; thence along the crest of that mountain to the point where it intersects the parallel of latitude thirty-five degrees thirty minutes; thence with said parallel of latitude to a point in the Pacific ocean three English miles from the shore; and thence to the beginning—including all islands, bays, and harbors, adjacent to or included within the limits hereby assigned to said State. And a new Territory is hereby established, to be called Colorado, to consist of the residue of the territory embraced within the limits of the said State of California as specified in the Constitution heretofore adopted by the people of California; for the Government of which Territory, so established, all the provisions of the act relating to the Territory of Utah, except the name and boundaries therein specified, are hereby declared to be in force in said Territory of Colorado, from and after the day when the consent of the State of California shall have been expressed in some manner to the modification of her boundaries above described."

Mr. Foote. I have a few remarks in explanation of that amendment, and I wish to state a few historical truths which ought to be understood by the present generation, and by posterity. It so happened, Mr. President, that I prepared that amendment after a very extensive consultation with the friends of this bill, from the North and from the South. My own mind had become previously satisfied, almost entirely so, that it would be impossible to pass what we called the adjustment bill, and what facetious gentlemen have thought proper to denominate the omnibus bill, without some additional votes from the South, which votes I took it upon myself to endeavor to secure to the bill, by such an explanation as I was authorized by the existing friends of the bill to make to certain Southern friends of mine.

There were members of this body, including yourself, who most warmly favored the general objects of the bill, and desired most ardently that the general measures of adjustment should be adopted, but who entertained, and had expressed in the most decided language, objections to the passage of the bill, unless certain modifications could be obtained thereto. Among these modifications was this one, and this was the most material. Another was the running of the boundary line between Texas and New Mexico, at the line of the 34th parallel of latitude, the objection to which was afterwards avoided by the proposition to appoint commissioners, whose duty it should be to agree upon that boundary line. Another amendment was one which I had the honor of laying upon the table a few days ago, and which is now printed, which proposed to preserve the Texas compact of annexation intact. Sir, after conferring with the friends of the bill, from the North and the South, and from the East and the West, the avowed and ascertained friends of the bill, I made it my duty to call upon you, sir, and other Senators, including my friend from Alabama, [Mr. Clemens,] and the Senator from Arkansas, [Mr. Sebastian,] to ascertain whether, if this amendment could be engrafted upon the bill, they would give it their support. With that sort of manly patriotism which belongs to those gentlemen, they assured me they could do it. Although this is not generally known to the country, I feel authorized to make this statement. After I had communicated with them, I made the state of things known to the whole Senate, in one way or another. Then, sir, it was ascertained to be a practicable thing to pass this bill in the form which it would have assumed after this amendment was adopted, if Southern gentlemen who had previously declared themselves hostile to the measure, upon certain specific grounds of objection stated by them, would manifest a willingness to coöperate with us. Yesterday it was competent for the South to have obtained the passage of the California bill, with the boundaries restricted as this amendment proposes to restrict them. Yesterday, as proposed by me, it was practicable to have obtained the boundary line for California of 35° 30'.

Mr. Dawson. I take great pleasure in saying that those Senators from the non-slaveholding States who concurred with the South in the proposed compromise for the purpose of meeting every difficulty and quieting every discontent, agreed to limit the boundary of California, and that the line of 35° 30', as proposed by my friend from Mississippi, should be the southern line. We have been deprived of that; and the question now is, whether we will pursue a course in Congress that will create still greater discontent and dissatisfaction to the South.

* * * * * * * * *

Sir, when the distinguished Senator from Kentucky presented his first resolutions, one of them was that California should be admitted with "suitable limits," meaning to convey the idea that the limits claimed by California in her Constitution were too large. But, whether that was his meaning or not, are not those limits too extensive? And will it do any harm to California, or to the Union, to restrict these limits? When they are restricted, Mr. President, we will have this advantage from her admission; it will put an end, in some measure, to the discontent which appears to exist in the various States of this Union.

* * * * * * * * *

Now, sir, I am like the Senator from Mississippi. I cannot hold the friends who acted with us from the non-slaveholding States to a strict understanding; and why? Because it would not be in accordance with the condition of things as existing now.

Mr. Clay. Sir, I have said from first to last, that I was in favor of the admission of California. I am so still, and if the proposition of my worthy friend from Mississippi had been received by Southern Senators in the spirit which it was conceived and intended, I would have voted for it with pleasure. But, sir, it is presented now, not as a part of a general project, or plan of compromise, but as a separate measure, detached from the compensating measures in the combined bill, and annexed only to California itself.

We ask again, who were the Northern Senators in favor of the mutilation of California? Among them, if we mistake not, were Messrs. Cass, Dickinson, and Bright.

THE TEST OF LOYALTY TO THE ADMINISTRATION.

In our brief comments on the Message of the President, we said that he had fully adopted and endorsed the measures of the late Congress in relation to Slavery. Cass Non-Intervention and the Fugitive Law are just as much measures of the Fillmore Administration as they will be of the Baltimore Democratic Convention that may meet in 1852. From the language of the Message we infer, that should any bill modifying essentially any one of those measures, pass both branches of the Legislature, it would be promptly vetoed by the Executive.

The *Boston Atlas*, on the defeat of the Whigs in Massachusetts, wrote an article, from which we make the following extract:

"Efforts have been made and are now making to show that Mr. Fillmore and his Administration are in favor *per se* of this Fugitive Slave law, and opposed to the principles of the Ordinance of 1787. *The Fugitive Slave law, as it now stands, is rankly offensive to our people, and yet papers which claim to be in the confidence of the Administration say that the Fugitive Slave law is an Administration measure, and those who oppose it, and speak [illegible] it, oppose and speak against the Administration. You cannot be an Administration man, or a Whig, even, unless you acquiesce in the late measures of a Locofoco Congress, including the Fugitive Slave bill.* It is this doctrine that has lost Massachusetts. And if it is presisted in, we sink our party still further in defeat. Suppose we should go into the next canvass with our banners inscribed with mottos like this:

"*WHIG DOCTRINES.*
The Fugitive Slave Law:
IT MUST BE MAINTAINED!
Down with the Wilmot Proviso!
No Trial by Jury for Negroes.
Conquer your Prejudices.
Texas and Ten Millions of Dollars.
Free Soil and Disunion are the Same:"

Where, we ask, would we come out at? Could we carry a school district in the State? And yet, we ask candid men if the above are not the issues which the writers in the *Daily Advertiser, Courier, and Journal,* (*Et tu Brute?*) now advocate, and call them Whig Administration measures. We deny that they ever were Whig measures; we deny *that they are Administration measures,* and we deny, in particular, that they can ever be forced upon the Whig party of the North as their measures."

The *Atlas* has learned ere this its mistake. The language of the President, endorsing these measures, as a final settlement of the Slavery question, is emphatic. He says:

"The series of measures to which I have alluded are regarded by me as a settlement, in principle and substance—a final settlement of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embraced. Most of these subjects, indeed, are beyond your reach, as the legislation which disposed of them was, in its character, final and irrevocable. It may be presumed, from the opposition which they all encountered, that none of those measures was free from imperfections, but in their mutual dependence and connection they formed a system of compromise, the most conciliatory, and best for the entire country, that could be obtained from conflicting sectional interests and opinions.

"For this reason I recommend your adherence to the adjustment established by those measures, until time and experience shall demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse.

"By that adjustment we have been rescued from the wide and boundless agitation that surrounded us, and have a firm, distinct, and legal ground to rest upon. And the occasion, I trust, will justify me in exhorting my countrymen to rally upon and maintain that ground as the best, if not the only, means of restoring peace and quiet to the country, and maintaining inviolate the integrity of the Union."

The Republic, his special organ, follows up these declarations with the further announcement, that approbation and maintenance of these measures are to be regarded as a test of loyalty to the Administration: the Whig who will not support them, Mr. Fillmore will regard and treat as an enemy. In an editorial of December 9th, that paper attributes Mr. Scudder's defeat, in the 10th district of Massachusetts, to his repudiation of Non-Intervention and the Fugitive Law, and it then proceeds to lay down the new Whig platform, as follows:

"It was well understood by the Whigs of Mr. Scudder's district, that the Administration was pledged, by every implication, to the support in good faith of the adjustment to which Mr. Scudder had thus declared his opposition. It is well understood from the formation of Mr. Fillmore's Cabinet, from his selection of Mr. Webster as the Secretary of State, and from the well-known cordiality existing between himself and Mr. Clay, that no Whig could indicate a disposition to reopen the agitation controversy of the last session, and claim to be considered as a supporter of the Administration. To agitate the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, to seek the repeal of a law which was merely the reënactment of a constitutional provision, with the pledge of pursuing these objects at all times and under all circumstances, was in effect to assume a hostile attitude towards the Administration of which Mr. Scudder professed to be a supporter. How then could he expect to rally the friends of the Administration in his behalf? Was it not a mockery to claim to be a friend of the Administration, while he was opposed to the policy which it deemed essential to the peace and welfare of the country?

"The recent official exposition of President Fillmore's views, and the entire unanimity of the Whig press in its support, indicate, with sufficient distinctness, the line which separates the friends of the Administration from its enemies. For the future, at all events, we imagine that no one will venture to proclaim himself a supporter, in good faith, of that Administration, while he arrays himself in opposition to the policy upon which it has staked its fortunes.

"We see it stated in some of the papers that the custom-house officers in Mr. Scudder's district have been actively electioneering in his behalf. We do not know that there is any truth in this charge. It is the received Whig doctrine, that custom-house officers should be content with the exercise of the elective franchise, without busying themselves too much in political affairs. We have no reason to believe that the present Administration entertains any other than Whig doctrines upon this or any other subject. Without meddling with the exercise of private judgment, every Government is entitled to expect from its appointees a decorous regard to those measures and that policy by which it seeks to commend itself to the people. We have never doubted that it was alike the right and the duty of Government to sustain itself by its friends rather than its enemies, for it is obvious enough that no Government can command the respect of the people which cannot command the respect of its official incumbents.

"If Mr. Scudder should be elected to Congress, he will come to Washington a professed political agitator of the negro question. Such a man is neither a Whig, nor a friend of President Fillmore. He could do no good here for his constituents or the country—and we sincerely hope that he may be permitted to remain in the 10th district, and solace his disappointed ambition by such local honors as it may be in the power of his New Bedford correspondents to confer upon him."

This is carrying it with a high hand. James K. Polk never played the part of Dictator to his party more sublimely than Millard Fillmore. The *Union* never spoke with more authority than does this *Republic*. The Whig who continues steadfast in his devotion to the principles of the Ordinance of 1787, and insists upon the preservation of the Habeas Corpus and the Jury Trial, is no Whig, according to the *Republic*, but a malcontent, a disorganizer, an enemy to the Administration and Mr. Fillmore; and custom-house officers are virtually informed that if they attempt to use any influence at all in elections, they must use it against the Wilmot Proviso, in favor of Slavery in the District of Columbia, and of the Fugitive Bill, or——Mr. Fillmore will fill their places with more loyal supporters of his policy!

We now know clearly, beyond all doubt, where the Administration stands. Let us ask Mr. Corwin, who, in an evil hour was separated from the anti-slavery Whigs of his Party, and persuaded to bolster up an Administration which, under the guidance of Mr. Webster, undertakes to conquer "Northern prejudices"—is this your position? Do you regard as Whig doctrines the creed of the *Republic?*

"The Fugitive-Slave Law:
IT MUST BE MAINTAINED!
Down with the Wilmot Proviso!
No Trial by Jury for Negroes!
Conquer your Prejudices.
Texas and Ten Millions of Dollars.
Free Soil and Disunion are the Same:"

Have you conquered your prejudices? and do you now stand on the same platform with Messrs. Cass, Dickinson, and Webster? There was a time when, had such questions been asked, your answer would have been: "Is thy servant a dog, that he should do these things?" There were friends of Mr. Corwin, who said that they would rather have followed him to his grave than into that Cabinet. We do not say so—for while there is life there is hope. We cannot believe that Mr. Corwin, whose convictions and sympathies are all with the cause of Freedom and Progress, will much longer permit himself to bear the responsibility of one of the most astounding apostacies of modern times.

THE TYRANNY OF THE "NORTHERN MAJORITY."

Mr. Fillmore, having been called to fill the place of the late President, the Senate, in which there was a Northern majority, elected as its President *pro tem.* Mr. King of Alabama, one of the proscribed, oppressed minority; just as the House, in which there was a Northern majority of thirty-nine, elected for its Speaker a Southern man, Mr. Cobb of Georgia, who insists that the Fugitive law be perpetuated as a solemn pledge of the sacred faith of the "Northern majority."

Now, let us see how dreadfully the rights of the minority are impaired in the Senate.

There are fourteen slaveholding States, with half the white population of the seventeen non-slaveholding States. In the Senate there are twenty-seven Standing Committees. At the beginning of this session, having undergone a revision by the President *pro tem.*, we find that the Chairmen of sixteen of these are from the section of country that contains but one-third of our whole white population; eleven only are placed under the guidance of members of the aggressive "Northern majority." Of the Committees, those on Foreign Relations, Finance, Military Affairs, Naval Affairs, Indian Affairs, Public Lands, the Judiciary, Post Office and Post Roads, Territories, and the District of Columbia, are of the most importance; but the grasping "Northern majority" has furnished chairmen for only one of these—that on Public Lands. Mr. Douglas, Chairman of the Committee on Territories, is a slaveholder, and has as much interest in the South as at the North.

Nine of the ten most important committees are then under the guidance of the deplorably degraded minority! Only two chairmen are Whigs, and they are slaveholders. All the rest of the Chairmen are Democrats, either slaveholders or Hunkers, with the exception of Hamlin, Walker, and perhaps Felch.

Again: while the men who represent the decided phase of Northern Sentiment are excluded with two or three exceptions, from the post of honor and influence on Committees, the most ultra men of the oppressed minority are specially favored. For example: Hunter of Virginia is Chairman of two Committees, one of the highest importance; Mason, of the same State, is Chairman of that on the District of Columbia; Davis, of Mississippi, of that on Military Affairs; Yulee, of Florida, of that on Naval Affairs; Butler, of South Carolina, of that on the Judiciary—all of them, members who have distinguished themselves by their violent opposition to all compromise, and fiercely threatened extreme measures.

As it is important to preserve the Library of Congress free from all influences hurtful to Slavery, and as the "Northern Majority" has little to do with Literature, the Committee on the Library is composed exclusively of Senators representing the specially literary and greatly endangered minority—Pearce of Maryland, Mason of Virginia, and Davis of Mississippi.

On all the most important Committees, it will be found, also, that not only the chairmen, but the majorities of members, are from the degraded minority. In a word, the "Northern Majority" is excluded, so far as the rules of the Senate will allow, from taking the initiative or the control of the most important parts of legislation. Such, too, is the state of things in the House, and yet our common sense is constantly affronted with the clamor about the aggressions of "the Northern Majority," its bad faith, its selfish ambition, and the wrongs and privations of the poor, persecuted South, so far in the minority that it can find safety alone in a Dissolution of the Union!

We append a list of the Committees of the Senate:

On Foreign Relations—Messrs. Foote, (Chairman,) Cass, Mangum, Phelps, and Douglas.

On Finance—Messrs. Hunter, (Chairman,) Bright, Pearce, Benton, and Ewing.

On Commerce—Messrs. Hamlin, (Chairman,) Soule, Davis of Massachusetts, Dodge of Wisconsin, and Bell.

On Manufactures—Messrs. Sebastian, (Chairman,) Clemens, Clarke, Jones, and Upham.

On Agriculture—Messrs. Sturgeon, (Chairman,) Turney, Spruance, Walker, and Chase.

On Military Affairs—Messrs. Davis of Mississippi, (Chairman,) Borland, Greene, Shields, and Dawson.

On the Militia—Messrs. Houston, (Chairman,) Dodge of Wisconsin, Morton, Clemens, and Spruance.

On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Yulee, (Chairman,) Mason, Badger, Miller, and Gwin.

On Public Lands—Messrs. Felch, (Chairman,) Shields, Winthrop, Fremont, and Smith.

On Private Land Claims—Messrs. Downs, (Chairman,) Whitcomb, Davis of Massachusetts, Baldwin, and Chase.

On Indian Affairs—Messrs. Atchison, (Chairman,) Sebastian, Bell, Rusk, and Wales.

On Claims—Messrs. Norris, (Chairman,) Whitcomb, Underwood, Baldwin, and Pratt.

On the Judiciary—Messrs. Butler, (Chairman,) Downs, Berrien, Bradbury, and Dayton.

On Revolutionary Claims—Messrs. Walker, (Chairman,) Upham, Dodge of Iowa, Cooper, and Chase.

On the Post Office and Post Roads—Messrs. Rusk, (Chairman,) Bright, Upham, Soule, and Morton.

On Roads and Canals—Messrs. Bright, (Chairman,) Atchison, Greene, Pratt, and Spruance.

On Pensions—Messrs. Jones, (Chairman,) Phelps, Dayton, Hale, and Borland.

On the District of Columbia—Messrs. Mason, (Chairman,) Yulee, Miller, Shields, and Berrien.

On Patents and the Patent Office—Messrs. Turney, (Chairman,) Norris, Wales, Whitcomb, and Dawson.

On Retrenchment—Messrs. Bradbury, (Chairman,) Houston, Mangum, Felch, and Clarke.

On Territories—Messrs. Douglas, (Chairman,) Underwood, Houston, Cooper, and Seward.

To audit and control the contingent expenses of the Senate—Messrs. Dodge of Iowa, (Chairman,) Walker, and Badger.

On Public Buildings—Messrs. Hunter, (Chairman,) Davis of Mississippi, and Clarke.

On Printing—Messrs. Borland, (Chairman,) Hamlin, and Smith.

On Engrossed Bills—Messrs. Jones, (Chairman,) Sebastian, and Hale.

On the Library—Messrs. Pearce, (Chairman,) Mason, and Davis of Mississippi.

On Enrolled Bills—Messrs. Badger, (Chairman,) and Winthrop.

Mr. Cass, on his motion, was excused from service on the Committee on Foreign Relations.

On motion of Mr. Cass,

Ordered, That the vacancy be filled by the President *pro tempore*.

The President appointed Mr. Mason to fill the vacancy.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ERA.

LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.

San Francisco, *October 31, 1850.*

To the Editor of the National Era:

Dear Sir: Since I last wrote you from the quiet little spot on the Calaveras river where I was luxuriating upon wild grapes, I have travelled through some three hundred miles of mining region, and have returned to San Francisco for a rest.

My first sojourn in the mines, after I left the Calaveras, was at Moquelumne Hill, a hill which overlooks the river whose name it bears. This has been one of the richest places in the whole placer. From the summit of the hill, ravines run in every direction, and all of them have contained a great deal of gold. In one of them, a ravine about fifty yards in length, more than one hundred thousand dollars have been taken out during the past season, and that after the richest portion of it had been wrought. Most of the ravines here are dug to their very bottoms, and the labors of giants appear to have been expended upon them. The miners on the hill were doing but very little in the way of extracting gold, owing to the entire absence of water, but were throwing up earth for the purpose of washing in the winter when the rains come. There is now located there a population of some seven or eight hundred inhabitants, daily increasing; and the hill, which, when I first saw it, two years ago, was a mere camping place, with some half dozen tents scattered over it, now wears a flourishing and city-like appearance.

On the Moquelumne river, the principal operations during the past summer have been damming the river at various points. Many of these have been successful, while others have proved entire failures. The most successful one has been the dam of Col. George F. James, at the Lower bar, who, in company with twenty men, have taken out, for nearly a month after the completion of the dam, from five to ten pounds of gold per day. Others, who have labored severely all summer, have found nothing, and have lost their whole season's work.

After remaining on the Moquelumne about a fortnight, I packed up my blankets and started for the north. It struck me that there, where I was better acquainted with the gold region, a better field of labor would be presented. In the southern mines, all the rich regions of territory have been upturned, and are now crowded with a hard-working population, who are fast extracting from the soil its golden treasures.

Passing through Jackson's creek, Dry creek, and the diggings for the Cosumnes river, I reached Weaver's creek, where I made my first camp in the mines two years ago, after five days hard travel. What a change had taken place! When I first camped on the banks of the creek, its ravines and hill sides were blooming in their virgin, golden purity. The river banks were unturned and were green with grass; three log huts and as many tents then composed the settlement. As I descended the hill footsore and weary, what a sight broke upon me! The little hamlet had grown into a town of some two thousand inhabitants, with permanently built log houses laid out in streets. The ravines and river banks had been torn and riddled, and a thousand seekers were at work upon them, running through the yellow dust. This place is on the direct emigrant trail, and a large portion of the emigration have either settled here permanently or have remained here long enough to get a sufficient amount of money together to travel farther. The miners were working very hard, with little success. I hesitate not to say that in the mining region on and around Weaver's creek, which has been one of the richest places in the whole *placer*, gold diggers are not averaging two dollars per day.

The immense emigration of more than fifty thousand hard-working men from the Western States has already entirely changed the character of this mining country. Every little ravine where gold is found has become a settlement, and any new place that may be discovered is immediately crowded with anxious gold seekers. Let no one suppose that the gold mines of California are exhausted. Far from it. Years after the hand which writes this is cold in the grave, and when the present mining population has been scattered from the face of the earth, gold will be extracted in large quantities in the gold region of California. But the case is this: the *placers* of California were a phenomena unparalleled in the history of discoveries. The dreams of the searchers for El Dorado were found to be realities. The wonderful cave of Aladdin had been opened, and treasures of which the maddest enthusiast had never dreamed were exposed to the gaze of a wondering world. The nations for a while stood amazed; and soon one general rushing, like the rushing of a torrent, made its way to the golden land.

Nearly three years have passed, and a population, which has now reached nearly two hundred thousand, have labored manfully in the pursuit of wealth. Millions of this golden treasure have been extracted. Every hill, valley, plain, and river, over a territory of a thousand miles, has been searched by eager gold hunters. An invaluable amount of labor has been performed, and who does not see what must have been the inevitable result? The richness of the gold mines is gone. The time for making fortunes by individual labor is past. The romance of the El Dorado has settled down into a sober reality. California is becoming like other countries, and the labor in the mines of California must ere long be done in the same manner that labor in every other mining country in the world is done—by large and wealthy companies, who with huge machines will tear up the very hills to their solid foundations, and turn the courses of whole rivers. Still hard-working men—men who have been brought up to labor—can for years live more easily and make more money in California by individual labor than in any other country in the world.

The news of the admission of California into the sisterhood of States, which reached here in the Oregon, was the cause of general joy and acclamation. I first heard it when travelling from Weaver's creek to Sacramento city. When near the city, a man who looked like a miner came puffing along toward me on a mule, which he was urging to his utmost speed. His face was radiant with joy, and, to spread the news with rapidity and ease, he had a placard fastened to his saddle leathers which told the tale, "California is admitted." Thank God, that justice has at last been done us; that after our arduous and severe struggles, our long and patient endurance, we have become equal with our older sisters, and have entered into the great family of States with our soil unpolluted by a slave track, and that the dashing surges of the Pacific beat upon a coast whose people are as free as themselves.

California will now no longer be regarded as a great goose, out of whose ample tail it was the sole duty of each to pluck a few feathers, but as a home for the children of Freedom. Our inexhaustible mineral wealth will now be developed. Our broad and fertile plains and smiling valleys will be now made to bloom with golden grain. The sheltering laws of our Government are now stretched over us, and we shall now feel safe to live in California.

The admission of the State has given a sudden start and new life to everything. State scrips rose immediately upon the arrival of the news from fifty to ninety per cent.; merchants looked more smiling; farmers were more contented; and every one seemed happy. The admission was celebrated in San Francisco on Tuesday last, by a procession composed of the various societies, city corporation, citizens, &c., who listened to an oration from Hon. F. C. Bennett. It was a magnificent affair; and the day, which had been dedicated to mirth and hilarity, closed with a grand ball in the evening.

A sad accident happened on Tuesday, which spread a gloom over the happy faces of our citizens. The boiler of the steamer "Sagamore" burst just as she was leaving the dock on her way to Stockton, killing some forty or fifty persons. The scene, as described by an eye-witness, was a most horrible one. The boat had just left the dock, and had not proceeded over a dozen yards, when the explosion took place. The boat itself was made a perfect wreck. Bodies were blown into the air to the distance of forty or fifty feet, and alighted, some on the wharf, mangled and dead, others on the water to drown, and others on the wreck. From the best information that can be gathered, there were on board about one hundred persons. About twenty dead bodies have been recovered; others, who were severely wounded