

STAR OF THE NORTH.

R. W. WEAVER & B. S. GILMORE, EDITORS.

Bloomington, Thursday, June 6, 1850.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER, W. T. MORRISON. FOR AUDITOR GENERAL, EPH. BANKS. FOR SURVEYOR GENERAL, J. P. BRAWLEY.

The Candidates of the Democracy.

We to-day raise the Democratic flag for the contest this fall, and we do so with a hearty good will. Wm. T. Morrison of Montgomery county is a leader worthy of our cause, and of whom every honest Democrat may be proud.

J. PORTER BRAWLEY of Crawford county was at an early age elected to the legislature, and subsequently to the State Senate, where his term has just expired.

Let the people see to this!

The exposure of Ranken & Ovenshine at Williamsport, will open the eyes of the people to frauds that have been practised under the garb of Democratic professions.

The Convention meets, and they swarm around the delegates like the frogs and lice of old Egypt. Their pestiferous breath assails you every where. They are clever, and spend money freely.

Columbia County in the State Convention.

The votes of the delegates from this county in the State Convention will give satisfaction to those whom they represented.

A motion was made to admit both delegates from Blair, giving them only one vote when they voted alike.

Mr. MORRISON proceeded to show that both delegates had been irregularly chosen, though he believed that if there was any difference in their claim for a seat, that of Mr. Moses was to be preferred.

For Auditor General both delegates voted for Mr. Beaumont, and for Surveyor General on the first ballot for Mr. Montgomery of Northumberland, and then for Mr. Carpenter.

Several editorial articles and also new advertisements are crowded out this week to make room for the proceedings of the State Convention.

The Nashville convention commenced its session last Monday.

Reported for the Star of the North. Democratic State Convention.

FIRST DAY.

WILLIAMSPORT, May 29th 1850.

The delegates elected to the Democratic State Convention assembled at the Court House to-day, at 11 o'clock. General A. P. WILSON, of Huntington, was unanimously chosen President pro tem, and Wm. JACK, of Westmoreland, Wm. H. GAGAN, of Philadelphia county, and F. W. GRASON, of Washington, were appointed Secretaries.

SENATORIAL DELEGATES & DISTRICTS.

- 1st. Philadelphia City—Michael McNiney Daniel Haviland. 2d. Philadelphia county—William Henwood, W. H. Fagan, James W. T. McAllister. 3d. Montgomery—George W. Jacoby. 4th. Chester and Delaware—J. T. Worthington. 5th. Berks—Joel Ritter. 6th. Bucks—Paul Applebaugh. 7th. Lancaster and Lebanon—Cyrus Zimmerman, Reah Frazer. 8th. Schuylkill Carbon and Monroe—B. S. Schooner. 9th. Northampton and Lehigh—Thos. Sletor. 10th. Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming—W. C. Ward. 11th. Bradford and Tioga—Samuel Dickenson. 12th. Luzerne, Clinton, Sullivan and Centre—J. R. D. Cantfield. 13th. Luzerne and Columbia—Wesley Root. 14th. Northumberland and Dauphin—Wm. L. Dewart. 15th. Mifflin, Juniata and Union—W. P. Cooper. 16th. Perry and Cumberland—George Blattenberger. 17th. York—James M. Anderson. 18th. Franklin and Adams—Joel B. Danner. 19th. Huntingdon, Bedford and Blair—A. P. Wilson. 20th. Clearfield, Indiana, Cambria and Armstrong—R. F. Linton. 21st. Westmoreland and Somerset—Wm. Jack. 22d. Fayette and Greene—Wesley Frost. 23d. Washington—John Graham. 24th. Allegheny and Butler—H. S. Magraw. 25th. Beaver, Mercer and Lawrence—John N. McGuffin. 26th. Crawford and Venango—Vincent Phelps. 27th. Erie—John Galbraith. 28th. Warren, Jefferson, Clarion, Potter and McKean—John Hastings.

REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATES AND DISTRICTS.

- Adams—Wm. R. Stewart. Allegheny—C. Barnett, David Lyuch, A. Black, John Coyle. Armstrong—Joseph Bullman. Bedford—B. Laporte, E. O. Goodrich. Bedford—Joseph Filler, Hiram Lentz. Berks—D. Bois, Thos. J. Power. Berks—B. Tyson, Lewis Frank, George Smith, A. M. Sallade. Blair—(Contested). Butler—Amos Myler. Bucks—Noah Shull, David Evans, Caleb E. Wright. Crawford—Wm. Porter, W. M. Laughlin. Centre and Clearfield—Wm. H. Blair, Wm. W. Moore. Chester—Major M'Veigh, John Hickman, G. W. Fierce. Columbia—John S. Fullmer. Cumberland—Samuel Woodburn, J. C. Duzlap. Cambria—Augustin Durbin. Delaware—Philip Morris. Dauphin—Thomas B. McCord, Jeremiah Harner. Erie—James Thompson, George H. Cutler. Fayette—Wm. Hatfield, Daniel Kaine. Franklin—George W. Brewer. Greene—Maxwell McCaslin. Huntingdon—Thos. P. Campbell. Indiana—Edward Carlton. Jefferson, Clarion and Venango—Arnold Plumer, Wm. T. Alexander. Lebanon—Cyrus Cornony. Lehigh and Carbon—Wm. H. Butler, Solomon Fogle. Lawrence—D. F. Seybert, Wm. Keans. Lancaster—Jac. B. Amwack, John M. Dulap, Charles M. Johnson, John Houston, James Boon. Lycoming, Clinton and Porter—Oliver Watson, Charles Lyman. Mifflin—Joseph Alexander. Montgomery—John C. Smith, A. H. Tiffin, S. Shoemaker. Mercer—John Hoge, Wm. S. Garvin. Northampton and Monroe—R. E. James, W. H. Hutter. Northumberland—Wm. Fullmer. Perry—Joseph Bailey. Philadelphia City—Peter Cullan, Chas. J. Burns, John Scott, Dr. T. J. P. Stokes, Dr. W. P. Lambert. Philadelphia county—John Abram, Wm. Green, John Ueber, John G. Brenner, Dennis Lamont, C. L. Carpenter, J. S. Donahoe, Jesse H. Filer. Schuylkill—Michael Weaver, Chas. Frailey. Somerset—(Vacancy). Susquehanna and Wyoming—C. M. Gere. Tioga—Edward Maynard. Washington—John Moore, Richard Donaldson. Westmoreland—John Fausold, James Keenan, Jr. John Snodgrass. Warren Elk and McKean—Jas. L. Gillis. Wayne and Pike—Charles F. Speding. Union and Juniata—J. K. Davis, E. D. Crawford. York—James E. Buchanan, R. Ganmill, John Hursh.

From Blair county there were two delegates—Messrs. Moses and Patterson. Each of them was allowed to make a statement to the convention, and a motion was then made to exclude both, which was voted down.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A motion was made to admit both delegates from Blair, giving them only one vote when they voted alike.

Mr. MORRISON proceeded to show that both delegates had been irregularly chosen, though he believed that if there was any difference in their claim for a seat, that of Mr. Moses was to be preferred.

For Auditor General both delegates voted for Mr. Beaumont, and for Surveyor General on the first ballot for Mr. Montgomery of Northumberland, and then for Mr. Carpenter.

SECOND DAY.

The Convention met and consumed the entire forenoon in balloting, without effecting a choice, as follows:

Table with columns for districts and candidates, showing vote counts for various positions like Auditor General and Surveyor General.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

There being yet no choice, the convention adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock this evening.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. HICKMAN, of Chester, arose and desired to say a word in thanking the friends of Judge Strickland for their support of him.

gress? How would my friend from Erie wish such a partnership? After some further debate, a motion was made to postpone the subject indefinitely, and this was agreed to.

A resolution was then adopted, requiring the delegates from the several Senatorial Districts to choose a committee equal to the number of Senators allowed, for the purpose of selecting officers for the permanent organization of the Convention; for which purpose the Convention took a recess of half an hour.

The committee to nominate officers, upon the re-assembling of the Convention, was announced as follows:

Messrs. W. Alexander, Black, Buchanan, Burns, Canfield, Carlton, Carmony, Carpenter, Cutler, Danner, Davis, Donaldson, J. C. Dunlap, Garvin, Green, Haviland, Hickman, Houston, James, Koons, Laporte, Lentz, McAllister, McCord, McCaslin, Meylet, Phelps, Schooner, G. Smith, Snodgrass, Tiffin, Ward, Wright.

Mr. CALLEB E. WRIGHT, Chairman of the committee to select officers, reported as follows:

President—HENRY S. MAGRAW, of Allegheny.

Vice Presidents—John Fausold, James Keenan, Wm. C. Ward, Joseph Baily, Solomon Fogle, James M. Anderson, Wm. L. Dewart, David Boies, Geo. W. Jacoby, Dr. Wm. R. Stewart, John S. Donahoe, Wm. Hasselwood, Dennis Lamont, Robert P. Linton, Wesley Frost, Major M'Veigh, Wm. H. Blair, Joseph Filler, Dr. T. J. P. Stokes, Dr. Wm. Penn Lambert, Benjamin Tyson, Wm. H. Butler, John Coyle, J. S. Fullmer, W. P. Cooper, Arnold Plumer, J. Galbraith, James L. Gillis, Col. S. Dickerson, Noah Shull, John Moore, Cyrus Zimmerman, Samuel Woodburn.

Secretaries—Wm. Jack, A. N. Meylet, R. E. James, Geo. W. Pierce, Geo. W. Brewer, C. M. Johnson, Charles Barnett, Robert Gemmill, Wm. H. Fagan, Geo. S. Carter, Joel Ritter, Spencer Shoemaker, T. W. Grason, Thomas B. M'Conrd.

The Convention then proceeded to vote for candidates for Canal Commissioner, as follows:

First Ballot.

Messrs. Anderson, Boies, Brewer, Buchanan, Canfield, Davis, Dewart, J. C. Dunlap, Dublin, Filler, Frailey, Fogle, Frank, Frost, W. Fullmer, Gemill, Graham, Harner, Hatfield, Hursh, Linton, M'Conrd, Maynard, Power, Ritter, Geo. Smith, Sallade, Stewart, Tyson, Weaver, Watson, Woodburn—33 voted for EDWARD B. HURLEY.

Messrs. Bailey, Barnett, Black, Blattenberger, Bullman, Carmony, Coyle, Danner, Fausold, Gere, Goodrich, Hickman, Jack, Keenan, Kaine, Koons, Laporte, Lyuch, McLaughlin, M'Veigh, Magraw, Morris, Overfield, Pierce, Porter, Seybert, Snodgrass, Ward, Worthington, Zimmerman—30 voted for NICHOLAS STRICKLAND.

Messrs. Abram, Jos. Alexander, Burns, Butler, Carpenter, Cullan, Donaldson, Fagan, Filer, Galt, Grayson, Haviland, Heintz, Lambert, Lamont, M'Nenny, M'Allister, J. Moore, Scott, Shull, Stokes, Uber, Wright—23 voted for FRANKLIN VANZANT.

Messrs. W. T. Alexander, Blair, Carlton, C. Smith, Gilbrath, Gillis, Hastings, Hoge, Lyman, D. W. Moore, McGuffin, Plumer, Phelps, Thompson—15 voted for SETH COVENS.

Messrs. Applebaugh, Dickerson, Evans, J. S. Fullmer, Jacoby, Meylet, Root, Shoemaker, J. C. Smith, A. H. Tiffin—10 voted for W. T. MORRISON.

Messrs. Amwack, Boon, J. M. Dunlap, Frazer, Houston, Johnston—6 voted for PETER MARTIN.

Messrs. Brenner, Donahoe, Green—3 voted for Wm. S. HALLGREN.

Messrs. Coolbaugh, Hutter, James, Sletor, Schooner, Speding—6 voted for JOHN H. BROADHEAD.

Messrs. Campbell, Wilson—2 voted for JOHN CREWELL.

Messrs. Crawford and Cooper—2 voted for EVERARD OLES.

Table showing ballot results for various candidates, including names like Hubble, Strickland, Vansant, etc.

After the 4th ballot had been announced, Mr. REAH FRAZER, moved the appointment of a committee of nine, to draft resolutions for the consideration of the Convention, which motion was adopted, and Messrs. Frazer, Ritter, Hutter, Wilson, Lynch, Thompson, Plummer, Kaine, and Danner, appointed said committee.

The Convention then adjourned until half past 8 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

THIRD DAY.

Friday, May 31. The committee to investigate the charges of bribery and corruption was not ready to report.

A State Central Committee was then chosen to consist of twenty-four members, one selected by the delegates of each Congressional district, and seven additional members residing in or near Harrisburg, to be selected by the officers of the convention.

Mr. FRAZER rose to urge the importance of a full organization of the party. He knew that in Democratic counties it was easily to rally a full force to the polls, but in Whig counties, the insolvency of Federalism crossed the path of every Democrat to crush him and attempted to smear him out of his political faith.

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again to do yeoman service in battling for the pure principles of his political faith, no matter what men may be their exponents.

But his name is not withdrawn. Others of friends will each consult his own judgment as to where a vote can do most for the success of the party. But as for me, I shall still continue to vote for Judge Strickland as a man of the highest capacity and a Democrat without guile.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Lancaster, arose and desired to make some remarks to the convention, which affected the purity and welfare of the party. Some corrupt and reckless men had insidiously crept among the members of this body, and used the most foul and disgraceful means.

Mr. FRAILY—Mr. President, the gentleman from Lancaster is out of order. There is no question or motion before the convention which is debatable.

Mr. JOHNSON—Then, sir, I rise to make a motion that a committee be appointed to investigate whether any unfair and corrupt means have been used to influence votes in this convention.

Mr. FRAILY—We have already heard too much of these rumors here about corruption. They are a desperate crusade waged against a prominent candidate before this convention, and when we attempt to trace them up, amount to mere rumor. They are maliciously calculated to distract and injure the Democracy.

Mr. JOHNSON—The charges I have to make are not only rumor. They are the part of an infamous plot conceived by unscrupulous and villainous men, and to be carried out here by their base and reckless underlings. For one I insist that the Democratic party owes it as a duty to its character that it purge itself of all corruption, and not send its nominees out of this convention tainted with the slightest suspicion of unfairness clinging to its endorsement. I hold that to keep the Democratic party pure is not to distract and divide it.

Mr. FRAILY again insisted that there was no debatable question before the convention, and asked for specific charges.

Mr. JOHNSON—You shall have them, Judge Fraily, if you only give us a committee to ferret the rascals out.

Several members—"Give us the charges." Amid some confusion, Mr. JOHNSON finally obtained leave to proceed, and continued—"The party should never fear the exposure of villains who steal its livery to serve corruption. The rules of parliamentary order should never silence the exposure of bribery—"

Here there was again confusion, and several motions made; among others one that the convention proceed to ballot for Canal Commissioner.

Mr. JOHNSON—I will be heard, Mr. President before another ballot is taken. There is treason, aye, treason in our midst. The money-changers are skulking around us, and tainting the air we breathe with corruption. Bribes, sir, have been paid here, and now that we have marked the rascals, let them be held up to the indignation of the whole country. Let us not go to sleep in security while the sty serpent is insidiously coiling itself around us and preparing to inflict its poisonous fangs. Bribery is here; Treason stalks among us, and the money-changers are around us.

Several voices—"The charge, the charge." Mr. JOHNSON—"Well, sir, it is this: a delegate of this convention has been paid four \$20 bills for a vote here upon the next ballot."

Mr. JOHNSON—Oh, sir, we are not without proof in this matter. We have a mark upon the scoundrel's arm, and we have their plunder here.

Cries of "name the men," "name them." Mr. JOHNSON at first asked that a committee should be chosen, but being urged to name the men, he said "The money was taken as proof in exposing villainy, and the delegate's name is Donahoe."

Here Mr. Donahoe, who was one of the Vice Presidents, arose, held up the money, and throwing it on the President's stand said "Here the money is; I despise it." Mr. Green also arose and said he had one hundred dollars which had been paid him for his vote on the next ballot.

Amid intense excitement, Mr. Coyle appointed a committee of five to be charged to investigate the charges. The resolution was adopted, and the President appointed Messrs. Coyle, Plumer, Stokes, Frailey and Bailey. The convention then adjourned until 8 o'clock to-morrow.

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like a carion crow, after having betrayed the Democracy of the state, violated his pledges, to those who elected him, and voted with the Whigs.

[Mr. Frazer's remarks were a scathing rebuke to the perfidious Senator, who was present and complacently swallowed the whole dose. The remarks of Mr. Frazer we believe were stenographed, and we shall publish them in full if we can obtain them.]

The resolution was adopted unanimously. Charles Conner, C. F. Mann and Hon. Samuel Oaks are the Corresponding committee for Columbia county.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Committee appointed to investigate the charges of bribery and corruption made report in writing. They exonerate all the candidates. Messrs. Green and Donahoe swear that Wm. B. Ranken paid Donahoe \$80 on Thursday evening just before the meeting of the convention, for his vote on the next ballot for Edward B. Hubble. They also swear that Samuel Ovenshine paid Mr. Green \$100 on the same evening and for the same purpose. Green and Donahoe at first consulted whether they should take the money, or make an exposure with out doing so. They finally took the money, agreeing that when Donahoe voted next time in the convention he should hold up the money and declare it the price of his vote. They then on reflection sent for Mr. Johnson to make an exposure as soon as the convention met, which he did, as appears by last night's report. The money is that exhibited before the convention. Four \$20 notes are on the Middleton Bank, the others on the Harrisburg and Schuylkill Co. Bank. One of the deponents says that when the money was handed to him it was accompanied by the remark "General Cameron always remembers his friends."

Ranken and Ovenshine admit paying over the money, and in their depositions say that it was loaned to Green and Donahoe and not given as a bribe to vote for any candidate. They say that Green first made application to Ranken to borrow money, and that Ranken got it of Ovenshine and paid it over. They say that Green then asked for another loan for his friend Donahoe, "who, he said, was also in want of money. Ovenshine, at the request of Ranken, then paid \$80 to Donahoe. We shall publish the full report as soon as we can obtain a copy.

After the report was read a resolution was read adopting the report and severely censuring Messrs. Ranken and Ovenshine.

Mr. Green offered an amendment to expel Messrs. Ranken and Donahoe from the Convention.

Mr. JOHNSON offered an amendment to the amendment tendering to Messrs. Green and Donahoe the thanks of the convention for their prompt and honest exposure of this attempt at bribery. These men said Mr. J. took this money not as a base bribe, but to hold the gilded villains up to the scorn and honest indignation of every man who shall meet them. They promptly exposed the fraud. If they had been citizens of ancient Rome, it would have been decreed that they had served well the republic. The money had to be taken as proof. There must be some way to catch the Indians that shulk around us. If Green and Donahoe would have come into this convention, declaring that an attempt had been made to bribe them here would smearingly have called for their proof, and declared it was a crusade waged against a particular candidate.

Dr. Lambert thought there was a middle course of reason in this thing. Ranken and Ovenshine were to be severely censured, but they are beyond the reach of the convention. Donahoe and Green should never have suffered themselves to be approached by bribes, and are not without blame. They too should be censured.

Judge Thompson too thought that Green and Donahoe were not blameless in allowing themselves to be approached with bribes and was for censuring them.

Mr. HICKMAN said it was the wicked intent and the corrupt heart alone which made the taking of money a bribe. It was the perverse soul that contaminated the man who touched it.

Dr. Stokes said, he felt that the convention to the Democratic party rather to expose them than to conceal fraud. If these men Donahoe and Green are expelled I shall be compelled to leave the convention, and I know that I shall not be alone. They have but done their duty and could not have done less.

Mr. JOHNSON withdrew his amendment, and in doing so desired to protest against the convention making itself an accomplice in crime by screening villains, or censuring those who exposed base fraud and bribery; He sneered at the idea of Donahoe and Green wanting to borrow money to the amount of \$100 each. What delegate would need that sum here? And these men in pascy circumstances, who though they may not owe a line of omnibuses, are honest men, and not without means of their own.

Mr. GILLIS. But they had already borrowed \$80.

Mr. Green. I deny it.

Mr. GILLIS. I have been informed so by a gentleman here.

Mr. Green—Name him.

Mr. GILLIS—I am not authorized to do so, and will not without his permission.

Mr. JOHNSON—If the gentleman is here, as you say, we insist that you obtain his permission before we proceed to another ballot. This is a material fact in the case, and we desire to have it explained.

After some further debate, Mr. GILLIS withdrew his amendment. The report was then unanimously adopted, and also a resolution severely censuring Messrs. Ranken and Ovenshine.

The convention then proceeded to vote for a candidate for Canal Commissioner, as follows:

Table with columns for districts and candidates, showing vote counts for various positions like Auditor General and Surveyor General.

The President announced that W. T. MORRISON, of Montgomery county, was duly nominated the Democratic candidate for Canal Commissioner, and on motion his nomination was unanimously confirmed. After

making nominations for Surveyor General, the convention took a recess of one hour, before proceeding to ballot for a candidate for that office.

EVENING SESSION.

When the convention again met six ballots were taken for Surveyor General, with the following result:

Table showing ballot results for Surveyor General, listing candidates like Brawley, Carpenter, Dieffenbach, etc.

The President announced that JAS. PORTER BRAWLEY, of Crawford county, was duly nominated the Democratic candidate for Surveyor General, and on motion, his nomination was unanimously confirmed.

The convention then proceeded to nominate candidates for Auditor General, during which the following interesting episode came into the proceedings:

Mr. Hutter, of Northampton, said he nominated Valentine Best.

Several members—"Who?" Mr. Hutter—"Valentine Best." A member—"Where from?" Mr. Hutter—"Folly Bes, o' No-county."

President—Mr. Hutter, of Northampton, nominates Valentine Best, of No-county.

One member offered a resolution that the nominations made here be confined to Democrats.

Another member offered a resolution that the convention refuse to receive the nomination of Valentine Best.

Mr. Fraily said that such procedure seemed out of propriety. If this convention wished to reach Mr. Best it could do so through a resolution of censure; but it was to be remembered that we would this fall need the entire Democratic vote of the State for our candidates, and not drive away Mr. Best's friends if they desired to vote our ticket.

A voice—"Has he got any friends?" Mr. Fraily replied that the nomination would be withdrawn.

Mr. Fullmer said that as he came from that part of the country where Mr. Best lived, he thought it right to say that he hoped the nomination would be withdrawn.

Mr. Hutter said he only offered the nomination in jest, and now withdrew it, remarking to the Recording Secretary "I don't want my name to appear in connection with it."

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for Auditor General with the following result:

Table showing ballot results for Auditor General, listing candidates like Ephraim Banks, J. B. Guthrie, etc.

So the President announced that that EPHRAIM BANKS, of Mifflin county, was duly nominated for Auditor General, and on motion, his nomination was unanimously confirmed.

Mr. Frazer, chairman of the committee on resolutions, then made the following report:

1. That the federal government is one limited power, derived solely from the constitution, and the grants of power shown therein ought to be strictly construed by all the departments and agents of the government; and that it is inexpedient and dangerous to exercise doubtful constitutional powers.

2. That the constitution does not confer upon the general government the power to commerce and carry on a general system of internal improvements.

3. That the constitution does not confer authority upon the federal government directly, or indirectly, to assume the debts of the several States, contracted for local internal improvements or other State purposes; nor would such assumption be just and expedient.

4. That justice and sound policy forbid the Federal government to foster one branch of industry to the detriment of another, or to cherish the interest of one portion to the injury of another portion of our common country; that every citizen, and every section of the country, has a right to demand, and insist upon an equality of rights and privileges; and to complete an ample protection of persons and property from domestic violence or foreign aggression.

5. That it is the duty of every branch of the government to enforce and practice the most rigid economy in conducting our public affairs, and that no more revenue ought to be raised than is required to defray the necessary expenses of the government, and for the gradual but certain extinction of the debt created by the prosecution of a just and necessary war, after peaceful relations shall have been restored.

6. That Congress has no power to charter a national bank; that we believe such an institution one of deadly hostility to the best interests of the country; dangerous to our republican institutions; and the liberties of the people, and calculated to place the business of the country within the control of a concentrated money power, and above the laws and the will of the people; and that the results of Democratic legislation, in this and all other financial measures upon which issues have been made between the two political parties of the country, have demonstrated to candid and practical men of all parties their soundness, safety and utility in all business pursuits.

7. That Congress has no power under the constitution to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several States, and that such States are the sole and proper judges of everything appertaining to their own affairs, not prohibited by the constitution; that all efforts of the abolitionists or others made to induce Congress to interfere with questions