

The Oxford Signal,

M. A. MCKINNON, Editor.

OXFORD, MISS.

THURSDAY, Oct. 1, 1856.

FOR PRESIDENT,
James Buchanan,
Of Pennsylvania.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
John C. Breckenridge,
Of Kentucky.

Democratic Electoral Ticket.

FOR THE STATE AT LARGE,
JOS. MATTHEWS, of Marshall,
C. S. TAPLEY, of Hinds.

DISTRICT ELECTORS.
DIST. 1—J. F. CUSHMAN, of Lafayette
DIST. 2—J. A. ORR, of Chickasaw
DIST. 3—B. MATHEWS, of Leflore
DIST. 4—W. M. ESTELLE, of Hinds
DIST. 5—H. T. ELLETT, of Claiborne.

Our County Politics.

Our faithful and able Democratic Speakers, Col. E. R. Belcher, and D. W. Rogers, Esq., have been promptly filling their appointments in this county. There seems still, however, to be great difficulty in making the Know-nothings stand the fire. The fewest possible number of these men attend the appointments for speaking. This is, as we have on other occasions surmised, in obedience to the instructions of the leaders of that servile party, that they may thus most effectually and permanently poison the minds of the people with the "ten cents a day," and other slanders on our gallant Democratic nominee, without affording them an opportunity of having their minds disabused.

Know-nothing documents alone, and Know-nothing 10 o'clock and midnight speeches are all that are permitted to reach the minds of the members of their Fillmore Clubs.

We have before us, at this moment a campaign Pamphlet, issued from a Know-nothing office at New Orleans, embracing a list of slanders on James Buchanan, which are so barefaced and notoriouly false, that no politician respectable for intelligence, would risk under his own name to endorse them to the public. Yet without name or parentage, these flagitious publications flood the country; and deluded Know-nothings allowed no opportunity of hearing them contradicted, swallow them as the truth of history.

The pool of politics is not necessarily, but by the unscrupulousness of certain men who swim therein, rather a muddy one; and we venture the opinion, more so, since the rise of Know-nothingism, than at any former period in the history of parties in our government. But how could it be otherwise, when men in a country such as ours adopt secrecy for straightforward independence, stifle enlightened discussion rather than enlighten it?

We have often and again wondered that people—reflecting ones at least, do not feel an apprehension of something dark and dangerous to their interests from these very circumstances. Let them beware. Let them gather all the light they can, be it from friend or foe; from Whig, Democrat, or Know-Nothing, and "Seize upon truth where'er tis found, in heaven or in holy ground."

There is something wrong in those politicians who shun discussion, and permit their followers to hear only one side of any political question. Of this you may rest assured.

We invite the people of this county to the appointments of Messrs. Belcher and Rogers; and if there be among the Know-Nothings, any man who can advocate publicly his candidate and Platform, let him come forward. Our speakers invite it in the most courteous terms. Be not afraid of anything, gentlemen, if you are not afraid of your own principles.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.—Some misunderstanding, we learn, exists in many places as to the precise day upon which the Presidential Election is required to be held. For the benefit of all concerned, we state the day, to-wit, TUESDAY, the 4th day of November. Those charged with the duty of ordering and arranging for the Election should be particular

Charlie Fontaine.

If the notice which we at present take of this gentleman should be considered as wanting in terms of respect and courtesy, we have only to state, that the subject has clearly forfeited all claims to respectful consideration; and we therefore treat him in just such terms as in our opinion his late conduct deserves.

Charity would perhaps demand, that we should cast a veil over his failings; for there is indeed in his case, some remarkable evidences of an aberration of mind—a want of a sense of one's own moral depravity, which Know-Nothingism persisted in for a time, universally begging in its votaries, in that he denounces another as "perjured," and therefore under-serving of his notice, whose offence, even in the aspect in which the most generous of his former accusers view it, consists in that in which his present accuser is according to his own arguments during the canvass of last year, doubly guilty.

Some weeks ago, having heard of the return of Charlie Fontaine to the Democratic party, we took occasion which was our right as a political Journalist, to reflect somewhat freely on his course as a politician, holding himself out at all times, and in all respects responsible for language used by us towards gentlemen. At the same time that we extenuated nothing in the case, we are not conscious of having set down aught in malice. It appears, however, that this very sensitive gentleman conceived himself placed in a dilemma by our article, from which he could only extricate himself, either by calling us to account for the same, or to denounce us in the usual stale Know-Nothing slang, and complacently assume that it would be a derogation from his character as a gentleman to notice us under any circumstances. The dastard's choice, thus circumstanced, is always the latter horn of the dilemma, and of course was Charlie Fontaine's.

In a Card in the Pontotoc Examiner of the 19th ult. he proceeds to execute his choice, and closes by stating that "Of course I will take no notice of anything he (we) may hereafter write." There being some ambiguity as to whether the phrase "anything he may hereafter write" was intended as a bar to a private correspondence, and in order to set aside all doubts, we promptly, addressed him the following note;

OXFORD MISS. Sept 3rd 1856.

Col C. D. FONTAINE.
Sir:—You will please inform me whether in your Card in the Pontotoc Examiner of the 19th inst. you intend to be so construed as to preclude any private correspondence that I might think proper to institute with you.

Respectfully,
M. A. MCKINNON.

To this note we have received no reply up to the present hour. It is thus plain that the ass. on having the lash applied to his withers has stolen a kick, and fled from fear of "derogation to his character," as illustrated by the accompanying cut, prepared for this express occasion.



Being thus precluded the chance of seeking satisfaction on terms usually recognised among gentlemen, we might next have recourse to law, were we disposed to hazard the experiment of "suing a beggar to catch a louse," which, from his pecuniary irresponsibility, would most likely be the result. Or we might go to Pontotoc, his place of residence, and horse-whip him in the street, were it not that the uncertainty of securing the game, would not justify the journey. Such apprehension is warranted from the following report of an "affair," in which Charlie Fontaine was one of the principals.

On an occasion, in a Grocery (Charlie would always frequent such places, and even "take a little something himself," in his town, an altercation occurred between him and another gentleman, which verging on hostilities, Charlie, on that as on this occasion, considered that he could not without "derogation from his character as a gentleman" take any further notice of his antagonist, and left in such perturbation and haste that a goodly portion of his coat, to the infinite merriment of the assembly, remained in the hands of his pursuer, who thus attempted to retain him. The accompanying cut illustrates this chivalric event.



We will not be considered as attempting in these illustrations, to detract from Charlie's character for chivalry. On the contrary, we have evidence at hand, if anything were needed, which proves him possessed of this quality in an eminent degree, and which we take pleasure in presenting to the public, just in this connection. We have heard it said, that during his canvass for Judge in this District, on a certain occasion, he had made some remark, (in a speech, perhaps) which was offensive to an Irishman present, (Charlie always detested infernal foreigners) who, afterward, met with Charlie on the highway, and having his stock of courage somewhat buoyed and strengthened by excessive potations of his favorite beverage, confronted Charlie, and provoked his would-be-Judgeship to that degree, that he alighted from his horse, and actually staved his fist in the staggering man's face, felling him to the earth! This interesting scene is illustrated by the accompanying cut.



Here, in taking vengeance on a drunken vagabond, was exhibited true chivalry, "without derogation from the character of a gentleman."

Charlie Fontaine's conclusion at this particular juncture, that he cannot without "derogation from his character" notice anything that he (we) may write, will be hardly available before the country in which it is known to some extent at least, that had it not been for his gratuitous notices of us heretofore, he would most likely have been spared this, and other notices from us in return. But after all, this declaration of his may be intended as a facetious bit of irony. If he is attempting to be witty at his own expense, he is succeeding admirably for one of his contracted genius, and we feel every disposition to encourage him to persevere. But if he is serious, we would inquire "upon what meats does this our Caesar feed that he has grown so great?"

We remember when the rumor reached us last year, that the New Orleans Convention had tendered the nomination of Governor of the State of Mississippi to Charlie Fontaine, it was regarded on all hands as an unmitigated hoax. Charlie Fontaine, the indifferent Attorney, whose aspirations for the Judgeship of this District two years ago, was regarded by his own party as ridiculous presumption, and that allowed only in charity to his own feelings and "necessities," now tendered the nomination for Governor, and too, by the Know-nothing party—a party whom he had hitherto denounced in his usual language of coarse profanity! The idea was too absurd for credulity. But a purchase had to be made—some Democrat had to be

placed at the head of the ticket, to divert it of the appearance of "Whig trick." None could be found who would likely accept, and some one who had been reelected and diminished in his own party, and who was known to be a man who would serve any cause for a consideration." Charlie Fontaine was the man selected for the occasion. The nomination was promptly tendered to him, and as promptly accepted.

Judas Iscariot betrayed his Lord and Master for thirty pieces of silver, and compared with Charlie Fontaine, was a traitor of magnificent proportions, having had the prudence to exact and receive the money; but Charlie Fontaine committed a similar act, for a title of this consideration, not one infernal white flat dime of which has he ever received, nor had any reasonable assurance of receiving, save on the condition, that he would carry the State of Mississippi against the Democratic nominee, when he had failed, as a Democrat, on a former occasion, to carry a Democratic District against two Whig competitors. All will remember the humiliation to which he was compelled by our gallant Mc Rae to submit, on account of his ignorance, and incapacity to manage a canvass, and argue the issues of the day with a competent competitor. His party acknowledged a blunder in their choice of a candidate; and he is now an outcast, whom neither party seems willing even to fellowship in its ranks. But enough.

We leave Charlie Fontaine in the enjoyment of his "character"—the character, according to his present position, and past arguments, of a self convicted perjurer,—and by his late conduct, a calumniator without responsibility, a poltroon and a coward.

ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER.—A State election took place in the State of Florida on the 6th inst. Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and South Carolina hold elections on the 14th inst.

These States are all that vote until after the Presidential election, except Illinois. The State election takes place simultaneously with the Presidential election in the latter State.

The Presidents visit to New Hampshire—Disgraceful Proceedings of the Disunionists at Concord.

It has been known in New Hampshire for some time that the condition of President Pierce's private business rendered it necessary for him to visit his home during the present autumn. Upon learning that he had determined to make his contemplated visit about the 1st of October, it was deemed appropriate and respectful to make arrangements for such a reception upon his arrival at Concord, the place of his residence as was due to his distinguished position and to the kindly relations which have always subsisted between him and his neighbors. For this purpose a committee, composed of equal number of democrats and opposition men, called a public meeting, that all might participate in making the necessary arrangements. The meeting was called for the evening of the 22d instant. The proceedings which took place appear, by special despatch, in the New York Tribune, accompanied by editorial comments. The despatch is as follows:

President Pierce at Home.

Concord, (N. H.) Monday, Sept. 22, 1856.—A large meeting of the citizens of this city was held at Depot Hall this evening, for the purpose of making arrangements for giving a reception to President Pierce. An attempt was made by the temporary chairman to force upon the meeting John H. George as permanent chairman, against an overwhelming vote in opposition to him; but George was repudiated, and S. B. Chandler was made chairman of the meeting.

General Law obtained the floor and said he and the audience might live to see the day when they would respect Gen Pierce as highly as they now do Gen Jackson. The remark was received with a storm of hisses.

Mr. L. F. Flint offered the following resolution, and supported it in an able speech: "Resolved: That it is inexpedient, as citizens of Concord, to make arrangements for giving a public reception to President Pierce at the present time."

Mr. Fogg boldly arraigned President Pierce as responsible for nearly all the murders and outrages that have been committed by the border ruffians in Kansas.

An attempt was made by the border-ruffian democracy to gag him down; but he was heard, and his resolution was adopted by a vote of four to one

the meeting adjourned. There were about 1,000 persons present.

Although this despatch is published by the Tribune and Post with evident satisfaction, we hope for the credit of New Hampshire, that so deep a disgrace has not been fixed upon her character as the proceedings would indicate. No friends of President Pierce will suppose, for a moment, that so mean an effort to insult and wound his feelings would either affect his reputation or disturb his equanimity. It is not on his account that we shall regret to hear the truth of the despatch confirmed—we regret that any portion of any locality in the Union has allowed its partisan prejudices to descend so low as to fix a stigma upon a State for the purpose of gratifying a low and malignant feeling of political revenge. There is not one decent man in all the country who will fail to read with disgust so futile and yet so malignant an exhibition of party hate. We have no idea that the disgraced proceedings were participated in by any but the rabid, fanatical black republicans, who are lost to all sense of decency, and who are so degraded in their feelings as to be incapable of appreciating the courtesies and decencies of social life. It is in this way that the country will finally learn to estimate the demoralizing tendency of the principles of black republicans. The men who thus vainly seek to reach the elevated position on which President Pierce stands with their impotent malice are the men who are made the instruments of disunionists in the work of sectional agitation. The result will be that the men in New Hampshire and in all New England who know how to appreciate the respect due to the Chief Magistrate of the country, will give to President Pierce a reception which will overwhelm the Fogs and Flints with public execration.

We understand that President Pierce is making his arrangements to leave Washington early next week, and that he expects to reach Concord by the 2d of October, where he will spend ten days or two weeks in giving the attention to his private affairs which an absence of three years has rendered necessary.—Washington Union.

A. J. DONELSON.

The following is an extract from an able speech of James Williams, delivered at Nashville, Tenn., on the 13th August, 1856, on the charge of "Bargain and Corruption" against Henry Clay. Mr. Williams is an old line Whig, and very triumphantly acquits Mr. Buchanan of participation in the charge—not only so, but Mr. Williams makes him the vindicator, as he is, of the innocence of Mr. Clay. He fastens down upon Major Donelson, in his connection with the slander in this wise:

"Nurtured in the school of the 'Kitchen Cabinet,' Mr. Donelson's whole life has been spent in an atmosphere of hostility to Mr. Clay. The bargain and intrigue controversy was inaugurated when he was but just entering upon the threshold of political life. He engaged in it with all the energy of youth, and with the eagerness of one whose future promotion depended upon its success. As a familiar of the 'Kitchen Cabinet,' famous for the virulence of its assaults upon Mr. Clay, he became at once a participant in all its schemes for the prostration of this great man, and for the propagation of that most cruel and most potent of all the instruments wielded by them for his destruction—the charge of 'bargain, intrigue, and corruption.' It was, for him, the meat upon which he fed, the nectar which quenched his thirst, the raiment which covered him, the very breath of his life, and the beacon of hope for the future which has illumined his path to his present elevation. Had the occasion for this conflict never arose, who can say that the name of Donelson would ever have been heard beyond the limits of his native county? A great struggle was in progress; the nation was convulsed from centre to circumference: Two giants were fighting for the mastery, and right gallantly did they bear themselves throughout the arduous conflict! Without a crime—without a fault—without stain upon his untarnished honor, but one fatal error, and the battle was ended. The Hero of the Hermitage entered the White House in triumph. Mr. Donelson, borrowing his light from the great luminary in the vicinity of which he moved, began to twinkle as one of the little stars in the political firmament. It was his first step upon the ladder of fame, which he has ascended until he has reached the position of a candidate for the Vice-Presidency, and that first step was taken over the prostrate body of HENRY CLAY! But this is not all. Years passed away, many of them years of bitterness for Henry Clay and the faithful friends who still adhered to his fortunes. The public seemed to have undergone a change. Mr. Clay's step was becoming feeble, and his hair had whitened

with age, but his noble nature was unchanged; his transcendent genius was as bright, and his manly spirit as unbroken as when he first engaged in his life-time struggle with his great adversary. A voice went up from the multitude of his devoted friends, 'Justice to Henry Clay!' 'Let us make one last struggle, even in his old days, to place him in that high position which will obliterate the wrongs which have been heaped upon him.' It was his last struggle, and during its pendency a great concourse of people assembled within the limits of the city where I am now speaking, and almost within stone's throw of the spot where I now stand. A solitary voice, deep and loud, went forth from the midst of that great multitude. I can almost imagine that even yet I hear its tones echoed back from the walls of the Capitol—NINE CAREERS IN HONOR OF THE MAN WHO CHARGED AND PROVED HENRY CLAY GUILTY OF BARGAIN, INTRIGUE, AND CORRUPTION! That voice was the voice of Andrew J. Donelson! And this is the man whom I and the rest of the old friends of Henry Clay are called upon to support for the Vice-Presidency of this great republic! This is the man, for the sake of whose elevation we are called upon as old Clay Whigs to set aside James Buchanan, whose noble conduct relieved our old leader from the imputation of a great crime. For one, I will not do it. The feast to which I am invited has no relish of the odor of the Kitchen Cabinet to suit the palate of an old Clay Whig. I cannot

—on a fair mountain leave to feed
And batten on this moor."

Let us now briefly refer to the position of these candidates for the highest offices within the gift of the people, in their relation to the parties of the past and present. The great Democratic party have nominated for the Presidency James Buchanan, and I cannot but regard his nomination, although certainly not so intended, as a vindication of Henry Clay against the charge of bargain. He needed no such vindication, for the almost universal voice of his countrymen had already long since acquitted him. But I regard it as a recognition and an acquiescence in the verdict thus rendered by the people. More than thirty years ago this charge was first made. From that period to the present moment, through all the vicissitudes of a long life, James Buchanan has upon all suitable occasions declared his belief in Mr. Clay's innocence. His testimony to that effect is spread upon every record of Mr. Clay's life. As one who cherishes in his heart the memory of this patriot, I feel profoundly grateful to the Democratic party for the indirect compliment to Mr. Clay conveyed by the nomination for the Presidency of that man who, though always his political adversary, never failed to do him justice when called to testify upon that question, which was the point upon which turned the fortunes of his whole political life.

The new party known as the Know-nothing or American, and which arose upon the ruins of the organization of which Henry Clay was through life the recognized chief, has likewise placed their candidates in nomination, and strange and incomprehensible as it may seem, their candidate for the vice presidency is the same Andrew J. Donelson, of whose political history I have just furnished a brief outline. Who would have supposed five years ago that the party claiming to be the legitimate successors and heirs-at-law of the old Whig party—men who even still profess to be the disciples of their old leader, and to teach the doctrines taught by him—men who claim to have been bred up from infancy at the feet of Gamaliel, and to have imbibed even his prejudices—I say who could have supposed that these men would have accepted and adopted as their new leader, and as the man most worthy to be the recipient of their party favors, his oldest, most inveterate, and most persistent personal and political foe!"

An Ounce of Preventive is worth a Pound of Cure.—How many thousand individuals having hereditary predisposition to organic disease of a destructive character, might be saved by the timely use of that wonderful restorative, known as Hurley's sarsaparilla. It acts more efficiently in complicated and obscure diseases than in any other class of affections, and is therefore had recourse to when all other known remedies fail to afford relief.—Ind. Journal.

Mc Guire will have a supply at an early day.

IMPUDENT.—For a Know-Nothing paper to prate about Mr. Breckenridge's making speeches, when it is remembered that the first thing Mr. Fillmore did, after he reached this country from Europe and after he had accepted the nomination for the Presidency, was to stamp the State of New York, making speeches, in which he modestly set forth his own claims to the popular support.