FELICIANA DEMOCRAT.

EDITED BY A SPECIAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE.

CLINTON, LA.

Saturday Morning, December 22, 1855

☞See notice of 'A Grand Ball' to be given by Clinton Protection Fire Company, on Jan. 8, 1856.

☞The Thespians perform on Thursday Evening.

☞Ere another issue, Christmas will have come and gone. May all enjoy it merrily, cheerily, and temperately. This is the season of gifts, both for the old and young. Our advertising columns will show where articles can be procured that will suit every age and temperament.

MEETING OF CONGRESS.

Congress had been in session, nearly three week,s and the house had not yet organized by electing a speaker. The know nothings and abolitionists having a majority in that body, cannot unite on any one man. The democrats have their candidate, and uniformly throw their vote for him, whilst the opposition divide their votes amongst several, the most prominent of whom seems to be Mr. Banks of Massachusetts. He, it would appear is too much of a free-soiler or abolitionist to receive all the southern votes belonging to the know nothing party. To organize the House of Representatives so as to appoint all the committees to suit themselves seem to be a favorite policy of the northern portion of the opposition They desire as much as possible to govern the legislation of congress on the vital issues that will be agitated during this session, which will no doubt have a very decided effect upon the public mind, either to strengthen or weaken the Union of the states. Whether southern know nothings will aid in putting such men into power, remains to be seen But for this delay in organizing the house, we should have had the President's message, nearly ten days past.

The democrats held a caucus, proclaimed their principles in a most admirable resolution, and nominated as their candidate, the Hon. Wm. A. Richardson, of Illinois, who has heretofore nobly represented those principles in his public career, and in his private life. Thus do we see democracy, acting, open, and above board every where. No mystsry, no secrecy, no concealment, no under handed management, all is conducted fairly, openly and fearlessly.

AFFAIRS IN KANSAS.

What can be more manifest, than that the abolitionists are determined to rule or ruin, this nation. Look at their bold avowal, that they would prevent the admission of Kansas as a slaveholding state, and at their associations at the north,, organized for the express purpose of sending emigrants to Kansas, for no other purpose. Look at the state of things now in that territory. An armed mob resisting the laws, and a large number of persons organized under oath, in secret, to never cease their efforts or disband until Kansas is admitted as a free state. Look at the course of these same persons in attempting to control the government of that territory, by refusing to acknowledge the proper authorities, and calling a convention of themselves to form a constitution prohibiting slavery and holding a pretended election, and sending Governor Reeder to Congress, when the people had already, in obedience to the law, elected Genl. Whitfield. All these things show but too plainly what the abolitionists are bent upon. Governor Shannon had to call upon the general government for aid to enforce the laws.—The probability is that much blood will yet be spilt, in that territory before peace and order are established. The abolitionists know full well that it will never do to refuse Kansas because she may knock for admission as a slave state, and hence their great efforts to prevent her ever applying as such. They know that a dissolution of the Union would most inevitably follow her rejection on that ground. They wish to avoid such a risk. Kansas must come in as as a slave state if she ask to do so, or the Union is gone. The south will never submit to her rejection, because her people may choose slavery. Upon this issue depends the fate of this nation as a united confederacy.

BELL VS. HUFTY.—This, the contested election case for the sheriffality of New Orleans, was decided on Saturday last, in that city, in favor of the know nothing candidate, Hufty. The jury stood seven to four. A majority of them, under the election law, is sufficient for the renditioa of a verdict, and from their decision there is no appeal. It was proven by a witness on the part of Hufty, that fraudulent tickets had been printed and circulated, containing thereon the names of all the democratic candidates, with the exception of that of Bell for sheriff, Hufty's being substituted in its stead—another specimen of the manner in which know nothingism purifies the ballot box.

"The present administration, as imbecile as it is, has taken measures to prevent the importation of paupers and criminals into our country."—*American Patriot.*

When was it that the principal editor of the Patriot discovered that Mr. Pierce was imbecile? Was it when he professed to belong to the democratic party, and voted for him for President? or was it when he forsook his former political friends and enlisted under the know nothing flag? Mr. Pierce has not only taken proper steps to prevent paupers and criminals from being sent to this country, but he has done many other things, which not only attest his own wisdom, but redound to the glory and prosperity of his country. From the day he enunciated the principles that was to govern his administration, in his inaugural address, he had showed to this country, and the civilized world, that he was eminently fitted to preside over the destinies, of this great and mighty nation.

He proclaimed a high "national policy," which has been most signally upheld, and demonstrated in the liberation of Martin Kotzta from Austrian oppression, in a far distant sea, in the harbor of a foreign city. He has proclaimed the American doctrine that "free ships make free goods," and has been able to obtain the sanction of Russia, France, and other powerful European nations to it, and even the acquiescence of Great Britain also for the present. He has adopted a firm but concilatory course, in adjusting difficulties with other nations, that has resulted in settling our difficulties with Mexico growing out of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by which we were subjected to the onerous duty of protecting the citizens of that republic from the depredations of the Indians. He not only got rid of this vexatious and very offensive stipulation in that treaty, but negotiated a new one by which we have acquired more territory and become the owner of the only practicable route for the Pacific Railroad. The reciprocity treaty between Great Britain and the United States with regard to the fisheries, is another trophy of this policy. The indemnity from Spain for the outrage upon the Black Warrior at Havana, is another. The straight forward manner in which he proclaimed his policy, and the prudence with which he has carried it out, has won the respect of the wise and good of all parties, and even extorted praise in some instances from his most bitter political opponents. This course will be found to be strictly in accordance with American feeling and American honor, and its results upon the happiness and prosperity of the nation, fully attests its wisdom. Its imbecility can be seen by none but those who, like the editor of the Patriot, do so wilfully and from excited party feeling.

Did he evince imbecility, when he wrote his excellent inaugural address? When he wrote his vetoes to the river and harbor bill, the Insane bill, the French spoliation bill, or the bill for the appropriation of $800,000, to the Collin's line of steamers, by which he defended the constitution from violation, and saved the national treasury, millions of money attempted to be squandered away, under those bills?—Does the editor of the Patriot, discover any evidence of imbecility in his elegantly written message to Congress, his letters and published speeches, which compare so favorably with those of all the great men, who have filled that exalted station, to which the people have elevated him, by an almost unprecedented majority? Perhaps his imbecility is seen in the steadfast and unyielding devotion he has shown to democratic principles, from the beginning of his political career, down to the present moment. Perhaps it is shown in his stern political integrity, which has secured the fulfillment of every pledge given in his inaugural address and has borne his administration safely through the storms of Abolitionism, free-soilism and know nothingism, without stain or reproach.—Perhaps it is seen in those excellent reforms in the army and navy, and other departments which have been made since Mr. Pierce took his seat. But more especially perhaps is it to be seen in his unwavering opposition to know nothingism, in all its forms, and under all its phases. This last is the sin for which he never can be forgiven. For him to dare to oppose it, was enough for that party to wage perpetual war against him. They declare it in their platform, they act upon it everywhere. "They war against every one who war against them." The editor of the American Patriot is well aware, that Franklin Pierce is a statesman of a high order, and a man without spot or blemish upon either his moral or political escutcheon, but his party tactics will not allow him to admit it. Such is our conviction.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—No prospect of organization yet. After much exciting discussion among the northern and southern whigs, the last ballot stood—Banks, 106; Richardson, 75; Fuller 84.

SOUTHERN AGRIOULTURE AND ECONOMY.

The policy heretofore pursued by the planters of the south, has proven deterious, both to them, and the value of their lands. To clear up their land, plant it in cotton and corn, wear it out, then clear more new fields has been the system most generally adopted. In many places, such lands have become entirely worthless, and the planters have had to seek a new country in order to employ their negroes to advantage. This is all wrong as the people of the south begin to see and feel. Deep ploughing, rotation in crops, and a regular system of fertilizing, and reclaiming our worn-out lands is imperiously demanded, to arrest the ruinous policy heretofore pursued, and restore the agricultural power of the southern states. If our planters will do this, and adopt the policy of raising all their own stock, meat, and plantation supplies at home, manufacturing their own shoes, clothing, and other necessaries, as it is in their power to do, a better day will begin to dawn upon us. To think of better times, until our present system is changed, and a more rational one adopted in its place, is to expect what will probably never occur. We have been acting upon erroneous ideas, and the sooner we exchange them for correct ones, the sooner we shall bring about a change in the way we most need. We shall look in vain for better prices for cotton, and lower prices for provisions, stock, and the various western products which necessity compells us to buy, until we act more like reasoning people, and set about to live within ourselves. It is vain to expect we can prosper as it is our privilege, and might be our good fortune, while we pay such enormous prices for everything we consume, or use on our plantations, and get so little for our cotton. If we will raise less cotton, more stock of every kind, and plenty of grain to feed them upon, we shall soon see, that we have heretofore beenacting unwisely in pursuing the system, which is generally followed by southern planters.

A change of our present habits will be attended with some inconvenience at first, but in a short time, it will relieve us of all our present difficulties, and make us free, happy, and independent. People of the south, why will you keep up your old habit of making cotton to sell, and having every thing else to buy. You must know that it is to your interest to abandon it Then begin, and success will reown your efforts.

THE NOMINATION OF MR. RICHARDSON.

Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, was selected as the democratic candidate for the speakership with reference generally to his sterling democracy and long service in Congress, and particularly as a compliment for the able, steady, persevering manner in which, as chairman of the committee on Territories, he sustained the Kansas-Nebraska bill in the last house. The compliment is deserved. The great measure of 1854 could not have had a more gallant champion. Unlike too many democrats in Congress, he did not hesitate a moment, as to the path in which his course of duty lay, and he pursued it without once looking back—without once looking to the right or to the left. In the contest which ensued in his district, at which he was a democratic candidate for re-election, he perhaps encountered a more serried, systematic, and violent opposition than was encountered by any other northern democratic congressional canditate who had voted for the territorial bill. This opposition came from without the district as well as from within—from without the state of Illinois as well as from within. Foreign material aid and comfort were sent to his competitor without stint. But he overrode all obstacles and broke down all opposition. He was re-elected by a handsome majority upon the naked issue of his support of the Kansas-Nebraska bill. And now, is not the compliment, unanimously tendered him, richly merited? And is not the compliment all the more rich, that the other eminent democrats in the house declined support in his favor?

But the nomination of Mr. Richardson has a deep significance beyond the honor paid to the man. It signifies that the democratic members of Congress regard the great principle of the Kansas Nebraska act, as the grand issue dividing political parties at the present time, and as the grand issue upon which the presidential contest must be fought. They have ranged themselves upon that issue promptly, firmly, emphatically. In thus doing, they represent the democratic party of the nation, and represent it truly. They reflect the sentiment of that party, as it will be reflected at Cincinnati next spring.

This issue was made up before. It was made up prior to the passage of the Kansas Nebraska measure. It has been before the country more than a year. The people are familliar with it. It is, shall the people of every state and territory manage their own domestic concerns? That is all there is of it. In the nomination of Mr. Richardson, the democratic members of Congress declare that the people of every state and Territory shall manage their own domestic affairs.

KANSAS & NEBRASKA MEETING IN MISSISSIPPI.

Below, we publish the proceedings of a meeting, held in Hancock County, Miss., on the 10th inst. Organizations of a similar character are contemplated in every county in that state, and we hope the excellent example will speedily be followed in Louisiana. It is full time that our citizens were awake to the great and growing importance of doing all that lies in their power to thwart the dangerous incendiary and revolntionary schemes now in progress in Kansas—urged on as they are by the money and influence of a powerful and unscrupulous faction of abolitionists, and abetted by organized bands of armed conspirators.

AT a meeting of the citizens of Hancock county, Miss., held at Gainesville, on the 10th inst., a society was formed, called the "Kansas Emigration Society," and the following officers chosen: J. B. TOULME, President. Dr. R. EAGER, Secretary and Treasurer.

B. S. Leonard, John Martin, Col. J. F. H. Claiborne, R. Bird, J. Varnardo, U. Shaw, Executive committee.

The proceedings of the meeting were as follows:

WHEREAS, the abolitionists of the north, not content with their attempts, indirectly made to disturb the peaceful relations of the Union by encroaching upon the rights of the south, have at length established societies in their midst, for the avowed purpose of sending armed emigrants to overawe and defeat the expressed will of the citizens of Kansas in favor of slavery. Be it therefore resolved, that we regard the abolitionists as our dire and mortal foes, and denounce them as traitors to their God—who in His beneficient wisdom ordained the institution of slavery—as traitors to the laws of our common country, which acknowledge and sanction it, and as traitors to ourselves, whose injury and destruction, they wantonly seek.

Resolved, That we form ourselves into a society to be called "The Kansas Emigration Society," and that we solicit the junction of every friend of southern rights in the country.

Resolved, That we learn even from our enemies that unity and combination give strength and success, and that we invite the co-operation of our sister counties in the formation of societies to encourage vigorous and patriotic southern men, to emigrate to Kansas to meet their foes at the ballot box and if the necessiy requires it, with rifle balls.

Resolved, That each member upon admission, pay one dollar, and that the money, so raised and by voluntary contribution be devoted to the defraying of the expenses of the above named emigrants to Kansas.

Resolved, That if we send but five emigrants from this county, we will accomplish much, for if each county in each southern state, will do as much in proportion to their population and resources, the rights of the law-loving citizens of Kansas will be protected, and the Constitution and Union, be preserved from desecratino.

Resolved, That we appoint a President, a Secretary and committee of five, either of whom will be vested with the authority to admit members and to receive contributions.

Resolved, that the above officers be empowered to complete the object of the association and in case of disagreement, a majority of the members assembled by the President, shall decide the differences.

Resolved, That those patriotic Missourians who extended counsel, and assistance to their fellow citizens of Kansas, are entitled to the warmest gratitutude of the whole south.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the Legislature of Mississippi should place twenty-five thousand dollars, subject to the order of the Governor of this state, to be employed when deemed expedient, in aid of the people of Kansas in defence of their legal and constitutional rights.

Resolved That we transmit a copy of our proceedings to the legislature of this state, shortly to be convened, and that we respectifully invite their attention to them.

Resolved, That all papers in the state, favorable to the rights of Southern men in Kansas, be requested to publish these proceedings, and that copies be sent to each of our Senators and Representntives in congress, favorable to the "Kansas Nebraska Bill."

BOSTON ELECTION.—The citizens of Boston had a very spirited but peaceful election on Monday the 10th instant. All the lovers of order and economy, and all who esteemed the honor and welfare of the city, supported the "citizens' ticket," which was elected by a handsome vote. Last year, Smith, K. N., was elected Mayor by a majority of 1289 over both the other candidates. This year, Alexander H. Rice, is elected by 2000 majority over Shurtleff, Know Nothing! The total vote, at this election, is twelve hundred and eighty-seven more than last year.

PROSPECTS OF THE DEMOCRACY.

Under the above caption, the Albany Argus publishes facts and figures which indicates the certain triumph of the Democratic party in the approaching Presidential election, if common prudence, even, in the selection of candidates, is observed.

If there be any criterion whereby to judge of the future prospects of the respective political parties, it is to be found in the recent state elections, embodying as they do, popular opinion on the vital questions of the day.

Applying this test to the several political parties, we think no candid person can fail to see that the democratic party is destined to achieve a glorious victory next year. Twenty-one States have held state elections the present year, of which fourteen have gone democratic. We give them their order, with the majorities and the number of Presidential electors to which they are entitled:

	Electoral Vote.	Majorities.
Virginia,	15	10,000
Illinois,	11	20,000
North Carolina	10	8,000
Tennessee,	12	2,000
Alabama,	9	12,000
Texas,	4	7,000
Maine,	8	
Georgia,	10	11,000
Indiana,	13	20,000
Pennsylvania,	27	11,000
Louisiana,	6	3,000
Mississippi,	7	5,000
New Jersey,	7	
Wisconsin,	5	1,000
	144	110,000

As one hundred and forty-nine constitute a majority of the electors, it will be seen the democracy have but to get five more to carry the election. The Legislature of South Carolina is democratic, largely, and in that state the Legislature chooses electors. Taking therefore the elections of the present year as the basis, the Union is sure for the democracy.

The know nothing and republicans have carried the following states:

	Electoral votes.
Kentucky,	12
California,	4
Maryland,	8
New York,	35
Massachusetts,	13
Ohio,	23
Vermont	5
Total,	100

The following States have not held elections the present year.

Arkansas,	5
Connecticut,	6
Delaware	3
Florida,	3
Iowa,	4
Michigan,	6
Missouri,	9
New Hampshire	5
Rhode Island,	4
South Carolina,	8
Total electoral votes,	52

It will be thus seen, that in order to elect the next President—premising that the states which have held elections the present year will vote the same way in the coming Presidential election—the Opposition will have to carry all the states which have not held elections the present year, ten in all, every one of which rolled up handsome democratic majorities at the last election.

It will be seen, then, that the argument drawn from the elections which have occurred, indicate plainly that the democracy will achieve another triumph in 1856.

The Argus says truly, that but for the unfortunate division in the Democratic party of New York, that state would certainly have given us a great victory. "Next year," it says, "the Democracy of New York will be united, and the sons of the Empire state will vindicate themselves against the aspersions of the enemies of Democracy. Next year, the Union loving citizens of the Republic will rally to the support of those living national principles inherent in the Democratic party, and achieve a glorious triumph for the Union, the Democracy, and the Constitution."

THE CASE OF BELL VS. HUFTY.

The N. O. Delta of Monday evening gives "the last scene" in this case, which we publish below for the purpose of showing the "intensity" of the American feeling that pervades the minds of the ballot-box breakers of the Crescent city. After speaking of the confusion and chaos that seemed to reign in the court room, the Delta says:

Every one knows that Mr. Randell Hunt delivered a most violent and exciting speech before the close of the trial, which could have no effect but to arouse the worst passions of the noisy multitude. It was a discourse which might have been expected from a Marat, but not from a Vergniaud—from a jaundiced partizan, rather than from a justly distinguished lawyer—and the result, of course, was the increased fury of the rabble which had assembled in and around the court house, in a highly patriotic and combustible mood. We must congratulate the orator on the effect which